

# London 2004™

The annual events guide from [LondonTown.com](http://LondonTown.com)

## JANUARY 2004

### 8 - 18 January 2004

#### **The 50th International Boat Show**

*ExCel Exhibition Centre, Western Gateway E16*  
The 50th Boat Show will feature all the best in boats, equipment, water sports and holidays. The organisers have moved for the first time from Earl's Court to a huge purpose-built venue at the ExCel centre. Crafts will range from £300 to over £1 million, so there's something for everyone! Over 800 exhibitors are setting up for the biggest show ever, and there's plenty of opportunities for indoor canoeing and sailing, as well as chances to win boats and holidays. Great fun for buyers and dreamers alike.

**Box Office:** 0115 912 9111

**Admission:** adults £10, children £5

**Nearest Station:** Canary Wharf Tube

### 22 January

#### **Chinese New Year**

*Gerrard Street and the West End, W1*  
2004 is the year of the Monkey, one of the most intellectual and auspicious of the signs. Chinese New Year in London is always spectacular, with dancing lions and dragons, martial arts displays and plenty of tasty food. The main parade features beautiful hand-crafted costumes and all manner of food and drink stalls. The activity takes place around Soho, and the parade will visit both Trafalgar and Leicester Squares.

**Information:** 020 7292 2877

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Leicester Square Tube

### 29 January

#### **Charles I Commemoration**

*Banqueting House, SW1A*  
Every year a wreath is laid to commemorate the beheading of Charles I on the final Sunday of January. The wreath is placed outside the historic royal palace of Banqueting House, site of his execution.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Westminster Tube

### 27 November - 25 January

#### **Somerset House Ice Rink**

*Somerset House, Strand WC2*  
The fourth annual Ice Rink at Somerset House has been a real festive success this year, but will come into its own in January as we are set to experience some icy temperatures. As the crowds thin but the weather remains suitable, now is the time to glide in style protected from the bitter climate by all the fashionable wool-

lens received for Christmas.

**Box Office:** 020 7845 4670

**Pricing:** adults £10.50, children £6.00

**Nearest Station:** Temple / Embankment Tube

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### October 2003 - January

#### 2004

#### **Gothic: Art for England 1400 - 1547**

*Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road SW7*

A truly magnificent exhibition which brings to life a period of English history that is usually understood through the bloody dynastic struggles of Shakespeare's history plays. The exhibition includes over 300 works, and showcases the last great achievements of medieval England and the arrival of the European Renaissance in a country emerging as a major European player. From King's crowns and belts, to an early gold-bound edition of Chaucer and a beautiful, elegant Bishop's crosier (one of only three surviving) many of these pieces are literally priceless and taken together they are awesome.

**Box Office:** 020 7942 2000

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube



## FEBRUARY 2004

### 1 - 8 February

#### **Benson & Hedges Masters Snooker Tournament**

*Wembley Conference Centre, Empire Way HA9*  
The B & H Masters is the main tournament of the professional circuit featuring all 16 top-ranked players, and a number of qualifiers and wild cards. This year the talent on display is sure to include Mark Williams, Stephen Hendry, Jimmy White and Ronnie O'Sullivan. Game on!

**Box Office:** 0870 739 9777

**Admission:** £7 - £28

**Nearest Station:** Wembley Park Tube

### 8 February

#### **The British Academy Film Awards**

*The Odeon, Leicester Square WC2*

The British Film Industry gives out its gongs at this star-studded bash in Leicester Square. The awards are greatly valued as an indicator of performance in the subsequent Hollywood version, the Oscars. In order to prefigure the Oscars the awards are now very early in the year, but last year's ceremony was the most successful and widely watched ever. There'll be plenty of celebrities gracing the red carpet and a real buzz in the air, with several Brits in contention for acting and directing awards.

**Admission:** invitation only

**Nearest Station:** Leicester Square Tube

### 14 February

#### **St Valentine's Day**

*Worldwide*

Send your love a Valentine. If you're going out with a special somebody, be sure to book a table well in advance. Please see LondonTown.com's forthcoming Valentines feature for some suggestions for romantic outings and eateries.

### 17 February

#### **2004 BRIT Awards**

*Earl's Court Exhibition Centre*

This year's Brit awards will be surrounded with more secrecy than ever before, with nominees announced only as voting begins on January 12th. The star-studded awards ceremony has been moved to Earl's Court, and they have reintroduced alcohol after last year's 'dry' event saw even major celebrities arrive with bottles under their coats. A new category this year, 'Best British Rock Act', will celebrate the resurgence of guitar-led music from the UK and the USA which has taken the world by storm. The evening will include performances by the cream of British and International artists. Highpoints of last year's show included Kylie, Justin Timberlake and double winner Ms Dynamite.

**Admission:** invitation only

**Nearest Station:** Earl's Court Tube

**The show will be broadcast live on ITV1 at 21:00.**

### Last chance to see:

### 6 December 2003 - 6 February

#### 2004

#### **The Festival of Lights**

*National Theatre, South Bank SE1*

As the winter nights draw in, the National Theatre offers this enchanting antidote. On certain nights the sky, and the River Thames below, are lit up by spectacular light and dance shows. All shows are free to attend and most will make you gasp at the combination of acrobatic moves and extravagant pyrotechnics. Stroll down the riverbank and let the Festival of Lights warm you up. Astonishing stuff.

**Information:** 020 7452 3000

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Waterloo Tube / Rail



## MARCH 2004

### 1 March

#### **St David's Day**

*Wales*

St David was the founder and Abbot of a monastery at Menevia which is now called St David's. His teachings drew pilgrims from Ireland and Europe and he is the patron saint of Wales.

### 6 - 8 March

#### **London Book Fair**

*Olympia, Hammersmith Road W14*

One of the biggest book fairs in Europe, this huge event attracts crowds of specialist vendors and collectors, and has sections specifically for the trade and for retailers, but it's also a great day out for anyone with the slightest interest in books. Here under the vaulted roof of the Olympia Centre you can pick up and examine any one of millions of beautiful books. The event is well laid-out and supported with talks and displays. Refreshments are available.

**Information:** 020 7385 1200

**Admission:** £17 weekend pass, £10 per day

**Nearest Station:** Olympia Tube / Rail

### 10 March - 4 April

#### **Daily Mail Ideal Home Show**

*Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road SW5*

The largest ever home show this year will feature a spectacular Dream Village, celebrity home and cooking advice in the theatres and

stands by over 800 companies. This year's theme is 'Living By the River' so expect some inspired ideas for making the best use of waterside locations. The largest Home Show in the world is a great day out.

**Box Office:** 0870 606 6080

**Admission:** £8 - £12.50

**Nearest Station:** Earl's Court Tube

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### 25 February - 2 March

#### **Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair**

*Olympia, Hammersmith Road W14*

The first of three fairs that make up this hugely successful and popular season at Olympia. All items for sale are vetted for authenticity, and the fairs have a growing international reputation. This year's spring shows features over 20 loan exhibitions including Chinese imperial ceramics from the 9th to 18th century, the Kirkleatham centrepiece by David Willaume and Anne Tanqueray and a collection of works by Francis Bacon and Henry Moore. The shows are accompanied by a series of events and talks. For more details visit their website,

**Information:** 0870 126 1726

**Admission:** £10 single / £16 double

**Nearest Station:** Olympia Tube



### 14 March

#### **St Patrick's Day Festival and Parade**

*Central London*

For the third year running London is staging a huge parade to mark St Patrick's Day. Mayor Ken Livingston hopes this parade will one day rival New York and Chicago. Last year was certainly a huge success, with hundreds of stalls along the route and a fantastic Folk Music stage. More of the same is planned this year and this should be a huge, exciting and friendly day out. The Parade moves off from Park Lane at 13:00.

**Information:** 020 8735 9407

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Hyde Park Tube

### 17 March

#### **St Patrick's Day**

*Republic of Ireland and Worldwide*

Everyone's favourite saint day will see the Guinness flow across the capital and indeed across the globe in a celebration of Ireland and Irish culture.

### 17 - 21 March

#### **Country Living Spring Fair**

*Business Design Centre, 51 Upper Street N1*

A fair specifically designed for independent designers and craftspeople to sell their wares, this was a huge success last year. With interiors and gardens, outdoor living, craft lessons, food and drink and all manner of advice.

**Admission:** £14, £6 children

**Box Office:** 0870 739 9111

**Nearest Station:** Angel Tube

### 20 March

#### **Chelsea v Fulham**

*Stamford Bridge Stadium, Fulham Road SW6*

West London rivals Fulham and Chelsea face each other at the bridge. Al Fayed, the millionaire owner of Fulham, is small fry compared to billionaire Roman Abramovich. Fulham are the cash-strapped underdogs facing a team of superstars, but local derbies are always decided by more than key players. Expect a full throttle fight to the finish, and plenty of goals.

**Box Office:** 020 7385 5545

**Admission:** £31 - £67

**Nearest Station:** Fulham Broadway Tube

### 20 - 21 March

#### **London Classic Car Show**

*Alexandra Palace, Wood Green N22*

This year's event should be huge, with dedicated Autojumble sections (for those elusive parts) and hundreds of trade and club stands as well as the usual abundance of beautiful vintage automobiles. This is the curtain raiser for the classic car season and should break attendance records again. A must for car enthusiasts young and old.

**Box Office:** 0870 366 6542

**Admission:** adults £8, £3 children

**Nearest Station:** Wood Green Tube

### 17 - 21 March

#### **The Affordable Art Fair**

*Battersea Park*

The Affordable Art Fair is a well-loved institution in Battersea, an event that strips away the pretension of the art world and gives buyers a chance to pick up some really great art at fair prices, ranging from £30 to £2000. It's a fun, family event which is accessible to connoisseurs and the merely curious. A further attraction

this year is the art workshops for children, hosted by television legend Tony Hart, who has probably inspired more budding artists than any other figure. Hart will give his classes every day throughout the fair.

**Box Office:** 020 8871 6000

**Admission:** £8, concessions £6

**Nearest Station:** Battersea Park Rail

## 22 – 26 March

### Alternative Fashion Week

*Old Spitalfields Market, Brushfield Street E1*  
Shoreditch is renowned as a Bermuda Triangle of silly, silly styles, most notably the extravagant mullet, and it is a fitting venue for Alternative Fashion Week. This event is great fun, featuring lots of outfits too outlandish even for Milan, as well as a good number of designers whose clothes are not only suitable for real life, but also affordable. The ideas and themes of this indie crowd will filter through to the mainstream in a few years, so if you want to stay ahead, this event is ideal. Much better than the stale media circus that is the real London Fashion Week.

**Box Office:** 020 7375 0441

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Liverpool Street Tube / Rail

## 24 – 30 March

### BADA Fair

*Duke of York's Headquarters Kings Road SW3*  
The British Antique Dealers' Association (BADA) Fair is an annual showcase held at Chelsea's Duke of York's Headquarters. The show features the finest furniture, paintings, silver, glass, ceramics, clocks and jewellery from the various affiliated dealers. These are some of the biggest names in the business, and all objects for sale are vetted for price and authenticity. Most items are very expensive, but even if you're not keen to spend a fortune this fair is one of the best in the country, well worth a look for anyone with even a passing interest in antiques.

**Information:** 020 7589 6108

**Admission:** £6.50, concessions £5, under 17s £3, under 5s free

**Nearest Station:** St James's Park Tube

## 24 March – 7 April

### The 18th London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

*National Film Theatre, South Bank SE1*  
Dedicated to promoting sexual diversity and queer visibility in cinema, this festival goes from strength to strength. As in recent years there'll be debuts for flamboyant, big-budget features as well as the usual independents, documentaries and soaps. This is a non-competitive forum but over 150 industry delegates are expected to attend from all corners of the globe.

**Information:** 020 7928 3232

**Admission:** varying

**Nearest Station:** Waterloo Tube

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### 4 - 14 March

#### The 10th Annual Australian Film Festival

*Barbican Centre, Silk Street EC2*

This brilliant festival is now in its tenth year, and continues to go from strength to strength, not unlike the Australian film industry. Peter Weir is currently Hollywood's favourite following the release of *Master and Commander*, starring countryman Russell Crowe. Australian actors are found everywhere, and several independent films like *Heavenly Creatures* and *Chopper* have made a huge impact in recent years. Australia's depth and diversity of talent is fully reflected in this festival which features over 30 works, ranging from earnest documentaries and hand-held shorts to big-budget epics. This is one of the most interesting, and certainly the most entertaining, of the film festivals in London each year.

**Information:** 0845 120 7550

**Admission:** varies

**Nearest Station:** Barbican Tube



## 27 March

### Arsenal v Manchester United

*Highbury, Avenell Road N5*

Crunch time in the Premiership, as the defending champions Man U face the Gunners at Highbury. This match is sure to be a determined, fiery contest after the two sides erupted into a fist fight in the first leg. Apart from this age-old enmity, there's also the small matter of the Championship. Whoever wins here will give themselves a huge boost in the overall race.

**Box Office:** 0870 906 3366

**Admission:** £26 - £62

**Nearest Station:** Arsenal Tube

## 28 March

### Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race

*River Thames between Putney and Mortlake*

## Bridges

The world famous universities square off in this rowing race which inaugurates the summer season in London. This will be the 150th annual Boat Race. Thousands of fans line the banks of the river to roar their encouragement and the varsity event has millions of television viewers worldwide. The race begins at 14:10.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Putney Bridge / Fulham Broadway / Hammersmith Tube

## Last chance to see:

### 21 November 2003 – 7 March

## 2004

### The Fabergé Collection

The Royal Collection of more than 300 priceless works by Carl Fabergé (1846-1920) is unparalleled in size, range and quality. Inextricably linked with the Russian Romanov dynasty, the work of this master-jeweller was original, time-consuming and majestic. The finest works were commissioned by the Tsar, but later 'swapped' between Royal Households.

The centrepiece of the show is a set of three Fabergé Easter Eggs. These extraordinary, intricate pieces took a year each to produce. They are the apogee of Fabergé's work, incredibly sophisticated, with miniature scenes carved out of gold inside each egg and jewelled patterns. Truly impressive.

**Box Office:** 020 7839 1377

**Admission:** £6.50, concessions £5, under 17s £3, under 5s free

**Nearest Station:** St James's Park Tube

## APRIL 2004

## 4 – 10 April

### Cliff Richard

*The Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7*  
Sir Cliff is playing ten dates at the Albert Hall in April as part of his Live and Kicking Tour. As one of England's most enduring pop heroes, Cliff has had number ones in four different decades. He's also the model of the decent pop star, a God-fearing crooner who is loved by teens and grannies alike. This is sure to be a hot ticket as the man has a legion of fans. Expect rousing scenes as the entire packed hall sings along with his favourite hits.

**Box Office:** 020 7589 8212

**Admission:** £15 - £60

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube

## 9 April

### Good Friday

*Worldwide*

## 9 April

### Good Friday Services

Westminster Abbey, Parliament Square SW1  
Choral Matins and Litany at 10:30 in St Margaret's Church, Good Friday Liturgy at 12:00, The Last Hour, a Proclamation of the Cross at 14:00, Evensong 15:00.

**Information:** 020 7654 4900

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** St James's Park Tube

## 10 April

### Arsenal v Liverpool

Highbury, Avenell Road N5

The Clash of the Frenchmen, as Gerard Houllier's dynamic Liverpool take on the style and pace of Arsene Wenger's Gunners. In past years this has always been a really exciting fixture, and there's no reason to expect anything else here – both sides will desperately need the win.

**Box Office:** 0870 906 3366

**Admission:** £26 - £62

**Nearest Station:** Arsenal Tube

## 10 April

### Chelsea v Middlesbrough

Stamford Bridge Stadium, Fulham Road SW6

Another exciting game this weekend is this visit by Boro to Chelsea. This will be an exciting game for different reasons. Middlesbrough, traditionally hard to beat at home, are vulnerable in London and the Blues will be looking to score a hatful of goals.

**Box Office:** 020 7385 5545

**Admission:** £31 - £67

**Nearest Station:** Fulham Broadway Tube

## 11 April

### Easter Sunday

Worldwide

## 11 April

### Easter Sunday Service

Westminster Abbey, Parliament Square SW1  
Holy Communion at 08:00; Morning Prayer 09:30; Sung Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal Vows at 10:30, 11:00; Festal Evensong, Sermon and Procession at 15:00; Evensong Service at 18:30.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** St James's Park Tube

## 12 April

### Easter Monday - Bank Holiday

Nationwide, UK and Republic of Ireland

## 12 April

### London Harness Horse Parade

Battersea Park

You might not expect to see horse-drawn carriages in the city centre, but this annual Easter Monday event is a huge parade of working horses around Battersea Park. A great excuse for a walk in a small but perfectly formed riverside park.

**Information:** 01733 234 451

**Admission:** details to be announced

**Nearest Station:** Battersea Park Rail

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### 18 April

#### The Flora London Marathon 2003

Around London from Greenwich to the West End

The London Marathon is a massive event which brings throngs of spectators onto the street to watch the serious competitors and the not-so-serious streaming past the City's major landmarks. The race is one of the toughest street marathons, and the thousands of competitors make it one of the most visibly spectacular, as animal-suited pranksters, celebrities and serious athletes mingle. Competitors who have overcome serious physical disabilities surprise and inspire each year. Last year Paula Radcliffe beat her own world record (set in Chicago on a shorter course) by almost two minutes!

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Tube:** Greenwich Rail / Charing Cross Tube



## 17 April

### Chelsea v Everton

Stamford Bridge Stadium, Fulham Road SW6

Chelsea are a completely new side following their purchase of players totalling more than £100 million in value. Everton have relied on a product of their youth system, wonder-boy Wayne Rooney, to bring them good fortune. Neutrals around the country will be hoping that the underdogs can teach Chelsea a lesson.

**Box Office:** 020 7385 5545

**Admission:** £31 - £67

**Nearest Station:** Fulham Broadway Tube

## 17 April

### Arsenal v Leeds

Highbury, Avenell Road N5

Heaven knows who'll be managing Leeds by this stage of the season, but it's a fair bet they'll still be caught up in a relegation struggle, and Arsenal will be in touch or ahead at the top of the table. However, Leeds traditionally hate Arsenal and often beat them, and they killed off their title challenge last year. Expect fireworks, and a close-fought game.

**Box Office:** 0870 906 3366

**Admission:** £26 - £62

**Nearest Station:** Arsenal Tube

## 22 - 25 April

### The London Original Print Fair

Royal Academy of Arts Burlington House W1

London's premier Print Fair is a unique occasion, encouraging traditionally reclusive dealers to display their works in a fine setting, and over the past 18 years it has become a firm favourite with dealers and print fans alike. The 2004 show features Warhol, Picasso, Lucian Freud, Rembrandt, Henri Matisse and Cyril Power, alongside newly-published Prints of Damian Hirst, etchings by Michael Landy and woodcuts by Terry Frost. This excellent and completely welcoming event is one of the highlights of the year for fans of eighteenth and nineteenth century Prints. Utterly engrossing and highly enjoyable.

**Box Office:** 0118 932 0960

**Admission:** £7, concessions £3.50

**Nearest Station:** Piccadilly Circus Tube

## Last chance to see:

### 15 July 2003 until 1 May 2004

#### Ossie Clark

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road SW7

Fashion designer Ossie Clark had a huge influence upon the style of the 1960s. His clothes were worn by the greatest icons of the era, including Mick Jagger, Jimi Hendrix, Twiggy, Marianne Faithful, Verushka and Patti Boyd. The classic, colourful dresses and outfits balanced brilliant, careful design with the lightness of touch and free spirit of the times - he also expressed a wild side with extravagant creations like a fur-lined snakeskin coat made famous by Twiggy. This retrospective includes over 60 pieces as well as sketches and photographs. The V&A has shown a real forte for design exhibitions and this is one of the best shows in town this summer.

**Box Office:** 020 7942 2000

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube



## MAY 2004

### 1 May

#### **Baishaki Mela**

*Brick Lane, London E2*

All are welcome to join East London's Bengali community in celebrating their New Year along the streets around Brick Lane. The festivities begin with a parade at 11:00 led by the local children, and there's live music at Bangla TV's stand from 14:00 to 18:30. Thousands of stalls and restaurants will provide traditional delicacies along the 'curry mile' and there will be hundreds of street performers and craft stalls. This is the premier Mela event outside Bangladesh and is a truly vibrant and friendly occasion.

**Information:** 020 7375 0441

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Liverpool Street Rail / Tube

### 9 May

#### **Mothering Sunday**

*Nationwide, UK*

### 13 - 23 May

#### **London Comedy Festival**

*Venues across London*

A huge series of comedy events based mainly in the clubs of East London where hundreds of hopefuls will compete to win over audiences with brand new material. There are also scores of established comedians performing at benefit nights and several literary and film events. At the conclusion of the festival the World's Funniest Film as voted for by Londoners will be

screened outdoors at Trafalgar Square. A ten-day set of side-splitting events to raise money for good causes and showcase the diverse talents of comedians from around the country.

**Information:** 08700 119 611

**Admission:** varying

### 14 - 17 May

#### **Royal Windsor Horse Show**

*Windsor Home Park, Datchet Road SL4*

Founded in 1943 and attended by King George VI, this event still has strong royal connections and HM Queen Elizabeth II often enters home-bred horses in the show. HRH Duke of Edinburgh is a regular competitor. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Windsor Castle, it's a spectacular event. This year the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend the show on the 16th May.

**Information:** 0870 121 5370

**Admission:** adults £8 - £12, children £5 - £8

**Nearest Station:** Windsor Rail

### 31 May

#### **Spring Bank Holiday**

*Nationwide, UK*

### Last Chance to See:

### 18 October 2003 - 13 May 2004

#### **BG Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2002**

*Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road SW7*  
Humpback whales blowing, fiery volcanoes, mating lions, a deadly adder hiding in the sand. Take an international safari, across seven continents, without leaving town courtesy of the winners of this annual competition organised by The Natural History Museum and BBC Wildlife Magazine to find the best wildlife pictures taken by photographers world-wide.

**Information:** 020 7942 5011

**Admission:** £5, concessions £3, families £12

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube

## JUNE 2004

### 8 June - 16 August

#### **Royal Academy Summer Show**

*Royal Academy, Burlington House W1J*

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition is the largest contemporary art exhibition in the world and a big event in the London art world. Anybody can submit work to the selection panel which chooses work by painters, sculptors and printmakers to go on show in the massive Burlington House. Work by artists of international fame sits alongside pieces by unknowns and often students of the Academy.

Many of the works are for sale, and there's a huge price range. It's a truly impressive show that gives an excellent cross-section of contemporary art each year.

**Information:** 020 7300 8000

**Admission:** £8, £5 students

**Nearest Station:** Green Park Tube

### EDITOR'S CHOICE

### 25 - 28 May

#### **Chelsea Flower Show**

*Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Hospital Road SW3*

Founded in 1913, the Chelsea Flower Show is an extraordinary event, famous around the world as the premier event of its kind. The greatest exponents of imaginative garden design create a wonderland over an 11-acre site in Chelsea's Royal Hospital Gardens. Always innovative and using styles and techniques from around the globe, the model gardens form the centrepiece of an astounding show, and the new-look Great Marquees are a dramatic and airy space. Most of London society, including the Queen, regards the Chelsea Flower Show as a highpoint of the London summer season. This beautiful and inspiring event is a real treat, even for non-gardeners.

**Information:** 020 7881 5466

**Admission:** £10 - £28

**Nearest Station:** Sloane Square Tube



### 3 - 13 June

#### **Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair**

*Olympia, Hammersmith Road, W14*

This is the flagship event of the three Olympia Antique fairs, which have been running over 30 years. All items on sale have been vetted for authenticity and price. This show features a number of beautiful loan displays thanks to the generosity of over 20 different collectors. Whether you are keen to buy or just snoop around among the beautiful objects, this is a great day out.

**Information:** 020 7603 3344

**Admission:** £8

**Nearest Station:** Olympia Tube

## 5 June

### Derby Day

*Epsom Down Race Course, Epsom, Surrey*  
One of the oldest and greatest horse races in the world, for three-year-olds only, with prize money over a million pounds and crowds approaching a hundred thousand.

**Information:** 01372 726 311

**Admission:** £20 - £95

**Nearest Station:** Epsom Rail then bus

## 7 - 13 June

### Stella Artois Championships – Tennis

*Queen's Club, Pallister Road, W14*

Attracting the world's top players, this exhilarating warm-up for Wimbledon promises real excitement with the biggest names slugging it out in style on grass. Queen's is a serious and competitive tournament in itself and the perfect introduction to those likely to go far at Wimbledon. Corporate block and box seat options are available.

**Box Office:** 020 7385 3421

**Admission:** Varies depending on requirements

**Nearest Station:** Barons Court Tube

## 10 June

### Gun Salute to mark the birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh

*Hyde Park, W2 and Tower of London, EC3*

Annual gun salute to mark the birthday of HRH Duke of Edinburgh at 12:00 in Hyde Park and at 13:00 at the tower, by the Honourable Artillery Company.

**Nearest Stations:** Hyde Park Corner Tube

## 9 - 15 June

### Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair

*Le Meridien Grosvenor House, Park Lane W1K*

One of the most prestigious art fairs in the world, the Grosvenor House Fair has been running since 1934. It's a wonderful venue, and over £400 million worth of fine art and antiques, representing 500 years of artistic culture, will be displayed by over 90 of the top dealers. Prices range from £200 to over £1 million. From the ceramics of 3000BC to the work of David Hockney, this is a show of astonishing range and beauty.

**Information:** 020 7499 6363

**Admission:** £16 including handbook, 2-day ticket £27

**Nearest Station:** Marble Arch Tube

## 12 June

### Trooping the Colour

*Horse Guards, SW1*

This impressive parade marks HRH Queen Elizabeth II's official birthday. It's a spectacular piece of pageantry that also serves to demon-

strate the strength of the armed forces. A different Battalion gives the Royal Salute each year. At 12:50 there's a gun salute in Green Park and at 13:00 a fly-past by the Royal Air Force. Spectators line the Mall, but a limited number of tickets for excellent views are also available. Watch out for soldiers passing out in the heat as they stand stock-still under their heavy bearskins.

**Information:** 020 7414 2479

**Box Office:** Enter the draw for prime position by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Brigade Major, Household Division HQ, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX

**Admission:** free to all on the Mall

**Nearest Station:** Charing Cross Tube / Rail

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### 21 June – 4 July

#### Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championship

*All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Church Road, Wimbledon SW19*

The only Grand Slam Lawn tennis tournament to be played on grass, Wimbledon is the favourite of many players and a high-point of the tennis year. The surface is very fast and produces thrilling games when the world's best clash. Roger Federer of Switzerland Ana Serena Williams of the US will defend their singles titles this year against very strong fields. There's no better way to spend the summer days than watching the giants of this game in action at the All England Club.

**Information:** 020 8946 2244

**Admission:** £20 - £42



## 15 – 19 June

### Royal Ascot

*Ascot Race Course, Berkshire*

Royal Ascot may be focused on the horse-racing programme, but it is also about fashion and elegance. The Royal Family drive from Windsor each day in open horse-drawn carriages to watch a varied and high-quality programme of racing.

**Box Office:** 01344 876 456

**Admission:** Silver Ring £40 - £60 , Grandstand £10

**Nearest Station:** Ascot Rail

## 15 June - 19 June

### Official Marsh Classic

*Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens SW6*

One of the most popular fixtures on the senior tennis circuit, the Marsh Classic is staged in the refined setting of the exclusive Hurlingham Club. Great players from the past like Pat Cash, Ilie Nastase and Henri Leconte compete in teams for the grand prize, and this is a properly competitive event. Saturday sees the teams joined by celebrity doubles partners for the amusement of the crowd. Individual places at lunch are available, but this is primarily a corporate groups event – one of the most enticing in the calendar.

**Information:** 020 7736 8411

**Admission:** £69 - £299

**Nearest Station:** Fulham Broadway Tube

## 18 June – 21 August

### Watch This Space

*National Theatre, South Bank SE1*

The National Theatre's annual summer programme of events on the riverside is a firm favourite with Londoners. Almost any night of the week you can stroll down to this tranquil spot overlooking the heart of the city and the Thames, and enjoy a drink or bite to eat while being entertained by live performers. There's a huge array of acts, reflecting all the artistic fields and also the ethnicity of London, and on weekends the dancers and street theatre performers are followed by DJs spinning summer grooves late into the night. This is a perfect spot for a free family outing by day, or a date by night.

**Box Office:** 020 7452 3000

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Waterloo Tube

## 20 June

### Father's Day

*Worldwide*

## 20 June

### London to Brighton Bike Ride

This annual bike ride from London to Brighton in aid of the British Heart Foundation is suitable for riders of all different skill levels, including youngsters. The ride is fairly long but not too difficult, and this is one of the most popular fundraisers in the calendar. If you're interested in taking part in this excellent event you need to register and begin finding sponsors before mid May. Departs from Clapham Common.

**Information:** 09068 616 077

**Nearest Station:** Clapham Common Tube

## 30 June – 4 July

### **Henley Royal Regatta**

*Henley-On-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9*

One of the highlights of the London season is this rowing regatta just a short trip west of the city. The regatta has run since 1839 and is rich in tradition, as well as being attended by the cream of society and members of the Royal Family. It's an event to be seen at, and dressing up is obligatory. There's also over 100 rowing events, if you can see past the champagne and fancy hats.

**Box Office:** 01491 572 153

**Admission:** public enclosure £12

**Nearest Station:** Henley-on-Thames Rail

## JULY 2004

### July 2003

#### **Harrods Summer Sale**

*Harrods, Brompton Rd SW1*

The Knightsbridge store is a national institution and the twice yearly sales create unrivalled consumer excitement. For the sale over 3000 temporary staff are drafted in to cope with the frenetic activity on the six floors, with around 250,000 shoppers visiting on the first day alone. There are some real bargains to be had and an impressive range of goods, but be prepared to struggle with the huge crowds.

**Information:** 020 7730 1234

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Knightsbridge Tube

### 17 July

#### **Respect Festival**

The Respect Festival is a free open-air event celebrating multicultural London and making a stand against racism. It's a hugely popular event featuring a diverse musical line-up featuring the best in urban and roots, ethnic stalls and a comedy tent, and is attended by over 100,000 annually. As yet the venue and performers are unconfirmed, but wherever it takes place Respect is bound to be bigger and better than ever this year. It's a wonderful way to sample the atmosphere of a festival in London, hear some brilliant music, and give racism the kiss-off.

**Information:** 020 7983 6554

### 22 July - 25 July

#### **Artists & Illustrators Exhibition 2004**

*Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street N1*

This show is a calendar event for anyone with an interest in illustration or design. Over 16,000

professionals will be exhibiting under one roof, and there are plenty of workshops and opportunities to try new techniques and materials. A fantastic, enriching day out, whether you're buying or learning.

**Box Office:** 0870 735 5566

**Admission:** £6.50 advance, £8.50 on door

**Nearest Station:** Angel Tube

### 23 – 25 July

#### **Sprite Urban Games**

*Clapham Common*

Last year's event was a massive success and this year's Urban Games promise to be bigger and better than ever. There's no better place to perform outrageous stunts on your BMX, skateboard or motorbike than here, in front of a crowd of thousands right in the middle of London. The views at the top of a big jump are exceptional. This cool setting combines with the largest ramp in the UK and huge cash prizes to draw the cream of urban sportsmen to this event. There are plenty of other activities as well, including the hugely popular breakdancing tent, shops and skate space for the public. The main attraction however is the competitions – these guys are awesome.

**Information:** 020 8267 8300

**Admission:** Friday £13, Saturday £10, Sunday £7

**Nearest Station:** Clapham Common Tube

### EDITOR'S CHOICE

#### 15 July – 10 September

##### **The Proms**

*Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore SW7*

The most popular season of classical music in England goes from strength-to-strength each year. A varied but accessible programme draws huge audiences, concluding on the last night with seas of Union Jack-waving Britons belting out their national anthem. The concerts began over 100 years ago and were always meant to be populist, and this applies to pricing as well. The Proms offer high musical standards and a real sense of fun, they're affordable and the music is well chosen and superbly performed. A night at the Proms is an unforgettable experience, giving a taste of the bygone days of popular classical music and also a sample of British spirit at its best.

**Box Office:** 020 7589 8212

**Admission:** to be announced

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube

### 23 July – 1 August

#### **Jazz on the Streets**

*Outdoor venues across London*

For eight days at the end of July, London's West End is at the heart of a festival bringing jazz to the streets and selected venues around Covent Garden Market, Soho Square, Golden Square and Carnaby Street. The Festival is launched with a Dawn Chorus featuring over 200 musicians in Covent Garden Market. Venues and performers for the many events are as yet unconfirmed but in general anybody around the capital at the time from the jazz scene will get involved. Who could resist the chance to play jazz in the sunshine on the vibrant streets of summertime London?

**Information:** 07740 027 957

## AUGUST 2004

### 3-19 August

#### **Portobello Film Festival**

*Venues around Portobello Road, W11*

This film festival around one of London's 'coolest' areas began in 1996. As you might expect there's plenty of avant-garde and short films, including the winner of a local film-making contest, along with longer features. The real attraction of this festival is the many pleasant independent theatres like the Electric Cinema and the Coronet at which the screenings take place. There's also no better place in London for an evening drink before or after the shows. The Portobello Festival is a wonderfully relaxed and affordable cinema series.

**Information:** 020 8960 0996

**Nearest Station:** Ladbroke Grove Tube

### 3 - 7 August

#### **The Great British Beer Festival**

*Olympia Exhibition Centre, Hammersmith Road W14*

This massive and hugely popular event features over 400 real ales from the United Kingdom, as well as untold imported brews. The continental beers are dark and rich, particularly French monastic ale, and the Americas produce a huge number of unbeatable delicious lagers. Although this is a jolly event, do not be surprised to see a lot of very serious faces and concentration. The British are famed for their interest in beer and some real ale experts are almost obsessive. This event however is suitable for beer novices as well as the experts.

**Box Office:** 020 7385 1200

**Admission:** £2 - £6

**Nearest Station:** Olympia Tube

### 5 August – 28 September

#### **Buckingham Palace public opening**

*Buckingham Palace, SW1*

For two months visitors can look round the staterooms of the palace and see the interiors of the principle royal residence. Literally thousands have visited since the palace opened its

doors, and the remarkable atmosphere of the place has impressed most, as much as the understated but refined rooms. The tour includes a look at some exquisite Royal Gifts including Faberge Eggs, and a walk through the Royal Mews, still a functioning stable facility.

**Box Office:** 020 7321 2233

**Admission:** £12 adults, £6 children

**Nearest Station:** St James's Park Tube

## 9 August – 31 September

### **Stella Artois Screen: On Location Tour** *Clapham Common*

Thousands of movie lovers and a smattering of stars flock to Clapham to watch two nights worth of classic movies on a 30 by 60 foot screen. It's a simple but brilliant concept, and to top their achievement Stella have added a further dimension; there's beer for sale. These screenings were fantastic successes last year, it makes for real atmosphere watching with so many fans.

**Information:** 020 7553 3333

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Clapham Common / Clapham South Tube

## 28 – 29 August

### **Village Fête at the V&A**

*Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road SW7*

This event at the close of August throws open the elegant Pirelli Gardens to the public, and offers a platform for designers to show off their works to the public. Everything is on sale, and the atmosphere really is similar to that of a village fête. Except that alongside the youngsters whose work is displayed, there are works by some of the leading designers in Europe. Everybody mixes together in the sunshine and this is a wonderfully informal way of celebrating the vibrancy of British design. There's also a chance that you'll snap up a real bargain from one of the stalls.

**Information:** 020 7942 2000

**Admission:** £1, concessions 50p, children free

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube

bration will be more of the same. Expect a taste of Asia with hundreds of traditional wares and foodstuffs, and entertainment from street performers and musicians.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Liverpool Street Tube / Rail

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### 28 - 30 August

#### **Notting Hill Carnival**

*Ladbroke Grove Streets*

This fantastic party is a fixture on the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August. Somewhere in the region of one million revellers flood the streets around Ladbroke Grove and Portobello Road to follow the extravagantly decorated floats, check out the sound systems on various corners and eat West Indian food from the stalls along the roadside. Sunday is Family Day and Monday is a bit more raucous, but in general the Carnival is much improved in terms of safety, and the new route has reduced crowd congestion. There's brilliant music from diverse genres, spectacular costumes, sassy dancers and a general atmosphere of riotous enjoyment. What better way to spend this weekend than dancing like mad in a sunny London street with thousands of fellow carnival lovers? Dress to impress and sample a slice of London mayhem, West-Indian style!

**Nearest Station:** ring London Transport

**Information:** 020 8964 0544



## 5 – 18 September

### **Latin American Film Festival**

*The Other Cinema, 11 Rupert Street W1*

The festival will follow the same format as last year's highly successful event, with around 50 features made in Latin America or by Latin American directors, a host of short films and a documentary strand. Latin film has a rapidly growing reputation with several virtuoso directors producing massively popular and acclaimed films. Last year's festival was unfortunately cancelled at the last moment but the organisers are confident that the 14th Latin

American Film Festival will be the best yet.

**Information:** 020 7734 1506

**Admission:** varying

**Nearest Station:** Piccadilly Circus Tube

## 6 – 20 September

### **Banglatown International Curry Festival**

*Brick Lane E2*

Two major events in Bangla Town in one month! Hot on the heels of the Brick Lane Festival comes this internationally renowned curry festival, with scores of participating restaurants tempting visitors with their most exotic and lovingly prepared dishes. Delicious is the only way to describe this happening which is well worth checking out.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Liverpool Street Tube / Rail

## 11 September

### **The Great River Race**

*Richmond to Greenwich*

The Great River race is a magnificent floating festival. More than 250 traditional boats (skiffs, Chinese dragonboats, Hawaiian canoes, Viking longboats and currachs) race from Ham House in Richmond through the centre of London to Greenwich pier. It's an incredible spectacle, best viewed from the river bank at Richmond, or the start or finish. There's a huge party afterwards with a paying barbeque.

**Information:** 020 8398 9057

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Cutty Sark DLR for Island Gardens / Twickenham Rail for Ham House

## 11 - 12 September

### **Mayor's Thames Festival**

*River Thames*

A free public event bringing Londoners together in celebration of the Thames. Lantern parades, carnivals, river races, funfairs, live bands, food stalls and more. A relaxed day out on the south bank of the Thames.

**Information:** 020 7928 8998

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Waterloo / Southwark Tube

## 16 September

### **Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year**

*Worldwide*

## 17 – 26 September

### **Chelsea Art Fair**

*Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road SW3*

Chelsea Art Fair brings the very best of contemporary and 20th-century art to the Old Town Hall. For the sixth year running, 40 well-known

## SEPTEMBER 2004

## 4 September

### **Brick Lane Festival**

*Brick Lane, E2*

Bangla Town is the setting for the seventh annual celebration of trade and culture in Brick Lane. The area is always vibrant, humming with commerce and exotic products, and this cele-

British & international galleries offer paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures & ceramics. Prices range from £75 to £5000 and are independently vetted. The event has huge numbers of visitors, expected to exceed 4500 this year. It's a wonderful venue in which to admire works of art and while all of London's serious collectors will be attending, the Town Hall is very welcoming to casual browsers, and amateur art buyers will not feel intimidated. This is a great chance to sample the best of London's gallery art under one roof in the pleasant surroundings of Chelsea.

**Information:** 020 7361 22220

**Admission:** £6 including catalogue

**Nearest Station:** Sloane Square Tube

## 23 - 26 September

### 100% Design

*Earl's Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road SW5*

This Design fair features over 4000 of the leading designers of furnishings and fittings in the world. The event is trade only until the weekend when the public are granted free access. With acres of space filled with beautiful and interesting items priced between £5 and £10,000, this is a shopper's dream. There's some incredibly beautiful and pleasing pieces of work here.

**Box Office:** 0870 739 7499

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Earls' Court Tube

## 25 September

### Yom Kippur - Jewish Day of Atonement

*Worldwide*

## OCTOBER 2004

## 3 October

### Pearly King's & Queens Harvest Festival

*St Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square WC2*  
'Pearlies' date back to 1875 when a young orphan, Henry Croft, admiring the pearl button seams on some of the market traders, decided to go one better and cover his entire suit in buttons. With the attention this drew he set about collecting money to help the poor, deaf, dumb and blind. Today, over 40 East End families continue the tradition to raise money for various charities and churches. The Harvest Festival is their flagship event with everyone decked out in their shiniest clothing. The service starts at 14:30.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Charing Cross Tube

## 9 - 12 October

### The Chelsea Crafts Fair

*Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road SW3*

Chelsea Crafts Fair showcases a mix of new talent and established makers, and is one of the largest fairs for design-led crafts. Prices range from £5 to £20,000 and over 30,000 visitors are expected. It's hard to resist a trip shopping here as everything is superbly crafted and there's something for everyone. Some of the newer talents selling at affordable prices are only a few years from international celebrity at which point their pieces will greatly increase in value. This show is definitely worth a look for collectors and casual shoppers alike.

**Information:** 020 7361 2220

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Sloane Square Tube

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## 18 - 19 September

### London Open House Weekend

*Across the capital*

Over 500 buildings are taking part in this unique and brilliant event in 2003, opening their doors to the public for one weekend. It's a unique chance to see inside some famous and fascinating places, whether they're architectural landmarks or just buildings in which interesting work goes on. You might want to take a look at the interior of the Foreign Office, Bank of England or BBC World Service. Some of the most beautiful landmarks like India House and St Pancras House reveal themselves to be equally impressive inside. For more serious students of contemporary design, there's also the chance to visit the open houses of famous architects including Tom Pike and Nicholas Russell. An inspired idea, this weekend is a real treat whether you're a lover of architecture or just plain nosy.

**Recorded Information:** 09001 600 061

**Admission:** free



## 22 - 31 October

### Daily Mail Ski & Snowboard Show

*Olympia, Hammersmith Road, W14*

Anyone who's planning to hit the slopes in the coming winter should check out this event which offers the chance to buy all the latest gear and clothes at unbeatable prices, and features bargain ski-trips for sale at scores of holiday retail stands. It's great fun as well, with a dry and fake snow slope and competitions staged daily to wow the crowds.

**Box Office:** 08705 900090

**Nearest Station:** Olympia Tube

## 24 October

### Trafalgar Day Parade

*Trafalgar Square WC2*

Four hundred sea cadets invade Trafalgar Square to commemorate Britain's finest hour at sea - Trafalgar. Naval heritage bands and marching columns of cadets in full uniform parade under the statue of Nelson, who won the famous victory of 1805. A wreath is laid at the foot of Nelson's column to commemorate the fallen, but this is also a celebration of Britain's former naval might.

**Information:** 020 7928 8978

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Charing Cross Tube

## 31 October

### Halloween

*Worldwide*

Keep a stash of candy by your front door for Trick or Treating children, and get your costumes early for your Halloween party. This ghoulish night sees parties throughout the clubs of the capital with disturbingly attired clubbers dancing 'til dawn in a frenzied atmosphere of festive fear. What better place than London to spend this dark, atmospheric pagan festival? Sinister fun.

## NOVEMBER 2004

## 7 November

### London to Brighton Car Run

Now in its thirteenth year, the Classic Car Run allows enthusiasts from all over the UK and Western Europe to enjoy a picturesque drive down to the south coast, through some of Britain's loveliest scenery. Cars can be seen leaving every 30 seconds from Hyde Park Corner after 08:30. It's a unique chance to see hundreds of wonderful old cars. Wrap up warm!

**Admission:** free

**Information:** 020 7723 2813

**Nearest Station:** Hyde Park Corner Tube

## 5 November

### Bonfire Night (Guy Fawke's Day)

*Venues across London*

This huge celebration marks the occasion nearly 400 years ago when Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters were foiled in their attempt to blow up Parliament. Across the country 'Guys' are burned on huge bonfires and hundreds of fireworks are set off. There's no better place to experience Bonfire Night than London. Thousands turn out for the public fireworks displays which rival each other in scale and sophistication, there's a real community spirit across the capital and also several astounding displays. Alexandra Palace and the other famous public displays are usually held on the nearest weekend. (6, 7 November) Please see our comprehensive article on Bonfire Night nearer the time.

**Admission:** varies  
**Information:** visit [Londontown.com](http://Londontown.com)

## 5 - 20 November

### London Film Festival

*Various venues*

The largest event of its kind in Britain, with over 200 film premieres. There's avant-garde shorts, archive screenings, talks from film-makers, and of course the biggest new films. The event is a happy balance of artistic integrity and the glamour of the film business, with some star-studded occasions but also some challenging and rarely seen material. Most events are also very reasonably priced, making this a real treat for film lovers of all kinds.

**Information:** 020 7928 3535

## 3 - 7 November

### Spirit of Christmas Fair

*Olympia, Hammersmith Road W14*

With over 450 exhibitors offering the finest food, wine and gift ideas, this is an entertaining way to get into the festive mood, sample some delicious seasonal food for free, and perhaps get some gift ideas, all under one roof. Over 25,000 visitors are expected for this year. This fair will help sort out your Christmas and gives well-organised people the opportunity to get their shopping in early. If you get tired of shopping and eating you can try the ice rink or take a drink in one of the bars.

**Information:** 020 7603 3344

**Nearest Station:** Olympia Tube

## 6 November

### Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance

*Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7*

A moving and spectacular event held annually at the Albert Hall and attended by HRH the Queen, patron of the Royal British Legion, and other royals. During the final moments of the event, a million red poppies are released onto the audience in memory of those who fought and died.

**Box Office:** 020 7589 8212

**Admission:** TBA

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

**20 October 2004 - 23**

**January 2005**

### Turner Prize Exhibition

*Tate Britain, Millbank SW1P*

The most notorious prize in the world of contemporary art, this show is always both controversial and thought-provoking. It carries a large cash prize and the winners are immediately famous, and the shortlist always seems to feature figurative art of the most difficult-to-understand sort. Last year was particularly strong on pornographic art, notably the posed figures of Jake and Dinos Chapman. Despite the uproar from stuffer elements in the critical world, this show is always excellent fun, and some of the artists are not merely attention seeking but also genuinely talented. This event is a must for lovers of contemporary art.

**Box Office:** 020 7887 8000

**Admission:** £3.50, under 12s free

**Nearest Station:** Westminster / Pimlico Tube



## 7 November

### Remembrance Day Service and Parade

*Cenotaph, Whitehall SW1*

Members of the Royal Family join former and current members of the services to remember the dead of the UK and Commonwealth on the Sunday before Armistice Day. Wreaths are laid at the Cenotaph at 11:00, and after a short service there is a march past that memorial by thousands who served in the two World Wars.

**Admission:** spectators welcome

**Nearest Station:** Westminster / Charing Cross Tube

## 8 - 14 November

### Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair

*Olympia, Hammersmith Road, W14*

The last of three events at Olympia this year is themed around history and tradition. There'll be over 250 dealers in attendance and antiques of all prices and sizes. This highly accessible fair is recommended for casual buyers, though it will also be a last foray of the season for crowds of seasoned collectors.

**Information:** 020 7603 3344

**Admission:** £8

**Nearest Station:** Olympia Tube

## 11 November

### Armistice Day

*Nationwide, UK*

Annual day of remembrance to mark the moment that peace was declared in 1918, and remember the millions of dead from all nations. At the 11th minute of the 11th hour of the 11th day, the nation will observe a two-minute silence.

## 13 November

### Lord Mayor's Show and Fireworks

*City of London*

A huge parade involving over 6000 performers, 140 decorated floats and the gilded state coach in which the Lord Mayor travels. The procession leaves Guildhall at 10:50, then passes Mansion House, St Paul's, the Royal Courts of Justice and Victoria Embankment before returning to Mansion House. This is a very traditional celebration invoking the old spirit of London. The parade is followed by a spectacular fireworks display at 17:00, on the Thames between Waterloo and Blackfriars. The parade is quaint, the fireworks are astounding.

**Information:** 020 7332 1456

**Admission:** free, Grandstand £19

**Nearest Station:** St Paul's / Mansion House / Blackfriars Tube

## 15 - 23 November

### St Cecilia Festival of Music

*Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane EC4*

In 1692 Purcell's specially written Hail! Bright Cecilia was performed for the first time at Stationer's Hall. Written for the patron saint of music, the piece was not performed there again until 1992. Since then the annual festival celebrating British and Western classical music has grown to become a favourite event on the London music calendar, with performers of the highest calibre drawn to perform from all over the globe. At the time of press no programme had been confirmed, but St Cecilia will no doubt be marked by the very finest classical and choral music in this magnificently refurbished venue. Fans of classical music from across Europe will converge upon the Stationers Hall for a feast of excellent and unusual pieces, so book early.

**Information:** 020 7248 2934

## Mid-November

### London Jazz Festival

*Various venues*

London's biggest and best jazz festival attracts the best talents from all over the world but also so serves as a platform for aspiring locals. As yet no dates or performers have been clarified but the festival is sure to be the best in Europe this year, with hundreds of inspiring musicians playing a huge variety of venues at affordable prices. A real treat for Jazz lovers and casual fans alike.

**Information:** 020 7405 9900

## 30 November

### St Andrew's Day

*Scotland*

## DECEMBER 2004

## 1 December

### Christmas Tree

*Trafalgar Square WC2*

Donated by Norway each year, the tree dominates the square and symbolises the Christmas season. Lit with white lights and surrounded with carol singers on certain nights. The lights are turned on at 18:30 to huge cheers from Christmas fans from around London.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Charing Cross Tube

## Early December TBC

### Honda Challenge

*Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore SW7*

The highlight of the ATP seniors tennis circuit is definitely this event at the Albert Hall, which John McEnroe describes as 'our Wimbledon.' He's just one of the famous names who'll be appearing at this gala event, which features tennis mastery under a magnificent domed roof and attracts huge crowds each year. Petr Korda is the defending champion this time around, having defeated Michael Stich in a thrilling final last year.

**Information:** 020 7589 3203

**Admission:** £9 - £75

**Nearest Station:** South Kensington Tube

## 24 December

### Christmas Service at Westminster Abbey

*Westminster Abbey, Parliament Square SW1*

There's an excellent sung service at 16:00 and a short service at 22:30 in one of the country's finest places of worship. It's a fabulous setting and the choristers are sublime. A wonderful way to connect with the spiritual side of Christmas.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** St James's Park Tube

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### 28 November 2003 - 26

#### January 2004

### Christmas Ice Rink at Somerset House

*Somerset House, The Strand WC2*

Throughout the festive season there's ice skating on a huge rink behind Somerset House, around a majestic fir tree bedecked in lights, with refreshments available at the bar next to the rink. Since this event was launched a few years ago it has become a firm favourite of Londoners, the perfect outing for those fashionable winter togs and totally suitable for all ages. It even makes for a very romantic date. Everyone loves the Christmas Ice rink at Somerset House.

**Information:** 020 7845 4600

**Admission:** £9.50, children £6, family ticket £27

**Nearest Station:** Embankment Tube



## 25 December

### Peter Pan Cup Swimming Race

*Serpentine, Hyde Park W2*

Taking part in this historic race takes something beyond bravery. Huge crowds gather to cheer on the members of the swimming club as they plunge into the icy waters of the Serpentine and swim 100 yards for the coveted cup. They usually have to clear away chunks of ice before the race which begins at 09:00 and finishes very shortly afterwards. The Peter Pan Cup has been contested every Christmas Day since 1864.

**Admission:** free to spectators

**Nearest Station:** Knightsbridge Tube

## 27 December 2003 - 17 January

### 2004

#### Liberty's Winter Sale

*Liberty's, Regent Street W1B*

A classy sale of fabrics, interior design pieces and furniture in case you didn't get what you wanted for Christmas. Liberty's is a byword for refinement and currently their lines follow the

most cutting-edge Conran principles of beauty and usefulness.

**Information:** 020 7734 1234

**Nearest Station:** Oxford Circus Tube

## 30 December 2003 - 25 January

### 2004

#### Harrods Winter Sale

*Harrods, Brompton Road SW1*

Harrods Winter Sale has assumed iconic status among the London sales, with hopeful customers queuing for days to snap up the first bargains and a celebrity to cut the ribbon. The Christmas sales are something of a scrum but the sheer range of items on sale and scale of the event are truly worth a look.

**Information:** 020 7730 1234

**Nearest Station:** Knightsbridge Tube

## 31 December

### New Year's Eve

*Venues across the capital*

There's no better place to celebrate the New Year than London town! There's scores of extravagant restaurants, throngs of party people on the streets, and literally hundreds of nightlife options. Whether you want to stay up all night to the freshest House and BigBeat, lose yourself among the thousands of ravers at the Dome, or listen to some refined scratching or urban music at a plush DJ Bar, you're spoilt for choice in London. Or you can do something unusual like taking a river cruise or going up in the London Eye. You can't find a better town to celebrate New Year's Eve anywhere in the world. And that's guaranteed.

**Information:** please visit [LondonTown.com](http://LondonTown.com)

## JANUARY 2005

## 1 January 2005

### New Year's Day Parade

*Parliament Square to Berkeley Square, W1*

A major American-style parade, with extravagant floats, marching bands from around the country and beyond, street performers and a host of family activities. More than a million souls turn out for this relatively new but hugely popular start to the New Year. The Parade begins at 12:00.

**Admission:** free

**Nearest Station:** Westminster Tube (start) to Green Park Tube (finish)