ALL ABOUT IPSWICH



Follow the Stars

IPSWICH 2026
Christmas Guide

Events Attractions Gifts For Kids Markets Crafts

allaboutipswich.com/Christmas

Christmas in Ipswich

Look up, look out and see where the stars take you...

We're excited for Christmas in Ipswich, there's so much to look forward to. From the Waterfront to Cornhill, from park to spire, the whole town is coming together to create a constellation of festive experiences. From lights and lanterns to festive markets, live music, family fun and unique gifts. With so much happening across our town, there's something for everyone to enjoy and we're very proud to in sharing these with you.

Lee Walker | CEO Ipswich Central



New for 2026

NEW TOWN CENTRE LIGHTS & NIGHTLY TREE LIGHT SHOWS
Brought to you by Ipswich Borough Council in partnership with Ipswich Central, with new tree generously sponsored by ITFC.

EKO SEA GIANT + LANTERN WORKSHOPS
SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER
Meet Eko, a 13-foot-tall Sea Giant, brought to life by five world-class puppeteers. Performances by Autin Dance Theatre presented by DanceEast along with FREE lantern workshops.

FREE 'FOLLOW THE STARS' LANTERN PARADE
SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER |18:00
Join us for a magical evening of light, music and festivities. FREE lantern workshops. See back page for more details.

Our what's on guide is a snapshot of festive events, activities & ways to shop local. For more details visit: allaboutipswich.com/Christmas

Where is Father Christmas?

It's a very busy time for Father Christmas, but there's one place he simply can't stay away from... Ipswich! He loves our Christmas town so much that he's making multiple stop-overs.

21 & 22 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS FAYRE GROTTO
Ipswich Town Hall
£15 per child, accompanying adult is free | Booking required

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER
MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS
The Thomas Wolsey Pub
Includes a gift and sweets!
10:00–16:00 £15 per child + booking fees



TUESDAY 1, SATURDAY 5, WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER
MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS
Cub Café
Private Father Christmas Meet & Greet.
Various times available
£19.95 | Booking required

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
SANTA'S FESTIVE FUN DAY AT ITFC
Portman Road
Festive family day out, breakfast or lunch with Santa, Christmas crafts, Santa's grotto and gifts for every child, plus an optional festive stadium tour. See online for more information.
From £30 | Booking required

30 NOVEMBER–18 DECEMBER
IPSWICH GREYFRIARS ROUND TABLE 56TH SANTA AND RUDOLPH
Around Ipswich
Including:
1 Dec The Woolpack
and 18 Dec The Greyhound.
Live Tracking:
facebook.com/ipswichroundtable
FREE Local charity collection



THROUGHOUT DECEMBER
MEET SANTA
The Mermaid
Share your festive wishes with Santa and receive a special gift!
Booking required



SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER
SANTA PAWS AT THE HOLD
Bring your furry friends to meet dog-friendly Santa Paws.
£7 per dog accompanying children £3 per child
Booking required

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS
The Hold
Meet Father Christmas and his elves with festive crafts.
£8 per child | Booking required

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
MEET SANTA
Glasswells
Share your festive wishes and receive a special gift.
£12.50 per child
Booking required

5 DECEMBER–20 DECEMBER
MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS: GROUP SESSIONS
Christchurch Mansion
Seasonal stories and singing with the elves. Meet Father Christmas and receive a gift.
Ages 3+ | From £12.95
Booking required



SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS FAMILY RIVER TRIP
Orwell Lady
Fun, festive one hour river trip, leaving at 13.30.
A gift for every child!
Adults £20, Concession £18, Children £12, under 3s free, Family ticket (2+2) £54
Booking required

November Highlights

NOVEMBER 1 ONWARDS
CANDY CANE LANE
FESTIVE ESCAPE ROOM
Cluetopia
10:00–20:00 | Book sessions | £32pp

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER
STEP INTO CHRISTMAS
Twenty5
DJ & festive vibes.
FREE Christmas jumpers compulsory!

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND
Ipswich Regent Theatre
Seven Drunken Nights production.
Music, laughter and storytelling.
Doors open at 18:30 | From £22.50



SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER
GHOST STORIES FOR CHRISTMAS
The Hold
Haunting ghost stories, featuring classic tales by H.R. Wakefield and Algernon Blackwood and more.
Start time: 19:30 | Ages 10+ | From £15.87

TONY HADLEY:
THE CHRISTMAS BIG BAND TOUR
Ipswich Regent Theatre
Timeless swing and crooner classics from Sinatra, Bennett, Presley...
Doors open 18:45 | From £45.40

Our what's on guide is a snapshot of festive events, activities & ways to shop local. For more details visit: allaboutipswich.com/Christmas

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON
Cornhill
Join the festive celebrations as the town's brand-new Christmas lights are switched on!
16:30 FREE

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS WINE TASTING
Ipswich Town Football Club
Festive wine tasting with Wines of Interest.
Tickets £32 for two. Includes £20 redeemable against 12+ bottles

20 NOVEMBER 2026–16 JANUARY 2027
CINDERELLA:
THE ROCK 'N' ROLL PANTO
The New Wolsey Theatre
Evenings and Matinees | From £15–£39



20 NOVEMBER 2026–1 JANUARY 2027
ILLUMINATE IPSWICH
Christchurch Park
A magical winter light trail around the park.
Times available 16:00–19:45 | From £11.95

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER
JAMES B PARTRIDGE –
THE BIG CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY
Ipswich Corn Exchange
A nostalgic Christmas singalong packed with festive classics and throwback mashups.
Doors open 18:45 | From £29.50

27 NOVEMBER 2026–2 JANUARY 2027
OLIVER TWIST:
THE BOY WHO WANTED MORE
Eastern Angles
A festive new adaptation with live music, puppetry and adventure as Oliver journeys from Suffolk to Victorian London.
14:00 & 19:00 | £16 adults & £10 children



27 NOVEMBER–6 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
Ipswich Minster
Featuring 100 decorated trees, family activities, concerts and carol services. Fundraiser supporting Ipswich Mayor's Charities and Ipswich Minster.
Open daily FREE

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS QUIZ
Honey + Harvey, Ipswich
Enjoy a festive quiz night with a welcome drink, two-course Christmas meal and plenty of festive fun.
18:00–23:00 | £35pp | Booking required

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
CINEMA CLUB: POLAR EXPRESS
The Hold
11:00–12:30 | £2 per adult/child

ITFC V ASTON VILLA
ITFC Portman Road
Kick-Off 17:30 | See ITFC.co.uk for details



MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER
GRIFF RHYS JONES –
HAPPY CHRISTMAS IPSWICH 7
Ipswich Regent Theatre
A festive evening of comedy, stories and seasonal entertainment with Griff Rhys Jones.
Doors open 18:30 | From £41.50

December Highlights

1 DECEMBER 2026–3 JANUARY 2027
THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER
Red Rose Chain
13:30 & 16:30 | £15–£32



THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER
STEP INTO CHRISTMAS
Ipswich Corn Exchange
A festive celebration of Christmas classics and seasonal singalong favourites.
19:30 | £39.60

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS KARAOKE
The Mermaid
19:00–23:30 | Booking required

SATURDAY 5 & SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
STARCHITECTS SAVE SANTA (MOTIONHOUSE)
DanceEast
A fun-filled festive dance adventure for all the family, as the Starchitects set out on a mission to save Santa and Christmas!
Ages: 3+ From £18, Concessions £14
Family tickets from £50



SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
LIVE AT CHRISTMAS
Ipswich Corn Exchange
A festive night of live comedy, featuring hilarious stand-up and seasonal fun.
19:30 | From £30.50



SUNDAY 6 & SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER
GINA CRISTALLINO
LIVE CHRISTMAS MUSIC.
Bistro on the Quay
15:00

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS MINI PANTO
Glasswells
Perfect for little ones aged 5+.
15:00 | £12.50 per child.
Includes free adult & snack bag

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER
THE UNTHANKS AT THE CHURCH
The Church
Mercury nominated English folk group from the North East.
Start: 20:00 | £35 + booking fee | Age: 14+

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER
ITFC V NEWCASTLE
ITFC Portman Road
Kick off 15:00 | See ITFC.co.uk for details

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER
EVERY CHRISTMAS MOVIE EVER
Gallery Studio Theatre
A hilarious festive parody from The Pantaloons, packed with Christmas movie clichés, romance, music and puppetry.
19:30 | From £14 All ages

SATURDAY 12–THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER
SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS
Ipswich Regent Theatre
Join Snow White, Prince Charming, the Wicked Queen and Muddles for a magical festive family panto.
Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult
From £16.50



SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER
LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE
ST ELIZABETH HOSPICE
Ipswich Minster
A special festive service offering a peaceful moment of reflection and remembrance. Everyone is welcome, no booking required.
15:00–16:00 FREE Live streamed for those unable to attend in person

PROUDLY st elizabeth hospice SUPPORTING

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS COMEDY CRACKERS
Ipswich Corn Exchange
A hilarious night of stand-up comedy featuring Joel Dommett, Charlie Baker, Angela Barnes, Peter Rethinasamy and Elliot Steel.
Doors open 18:30 | From £33
Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER
CANDLELIGHT:
CHRISTMAS MOVIE SOUNDTRACKS
St Peters by the Waterfront
21:00 | From £18.50 | Booking required

FESTIVE MUSIC AT THE MANSION
Christchurch Mansion
An atmospheric evening of festive music from the acclaimed Gainsborough Quartet, performing a repertoire spanning four centuries in the beautiful Great Hall.
Doors open 18:30 | £20 | Booking required



SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER
BELL RINGING CEREMONY
THE SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS
Ipswich Town Centre
Communal bell ringing across Ipswich's historic town centre churches.

St Matthew's	09:30–10:15
St Margaret's	10:30–11:15
Ipswich Minster	11:15–12:00
St Lawrence	12:00–12:45
St Clement's	13:00–13:45

FREE

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER
EKO THE SEA GIANT
Walkabout performances by Autin Dance Theatre presented by DanceEast in association with All About Ipswich.
13:00 Town centre & 15:00 DanceEast FREE

FOLLOW THE STARS
COMMUNITY LANTERN PARADE ORGANISED BY ALL ABOUT IPSWICH.
DanceEast to Ipswich Town Hall
Bring your lantern, torch or mobile phone and join the precession, from the Waterfront to the Cornhill. Fundraising for St Elizabeth Hospice: Be a Star appeal. Everyone welcome.
Parade starts at DanceEast at 18:00 FREE

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER
PHOENIX BRASS BAND
The Cornhill
17:45–19:00 FREE

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER
MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL
King Street Cinema
18:30 | Children from £6, adult from £7
Booking required

MONDAY 21 DECEMBER
FESTIVE AMAZING ANIMALS
Christchurch Mansion
Meet festive rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, hamsters, gerbils, hedgehogs, sugar gliders and more! Discover how they live and survive in their world.
£6pp | Booking required | 10.30–16.00 sessions



MONDAY 21–TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER
WINTER LET'S DANCE!
HOLIDAY CLUB
DanceEast
£80 | Free Spaces Available | Booking required
Suitable for ages 4–7 and 8–11

MONDAY 28 DECEMBER
COES WINTER SALE
Coes
Doors open 11:00
Usual hours 9:00–17:30 Monday-Saturday

FRIDAY 30 DECEMBER
MID WINTER WANDER
BY IPSWICH TOURIST GUIDES
Cornhill to Waterfront
Fun, informative and great exercise, inbetween Christmas and New Year's.
11:00 | £6 | Booking required

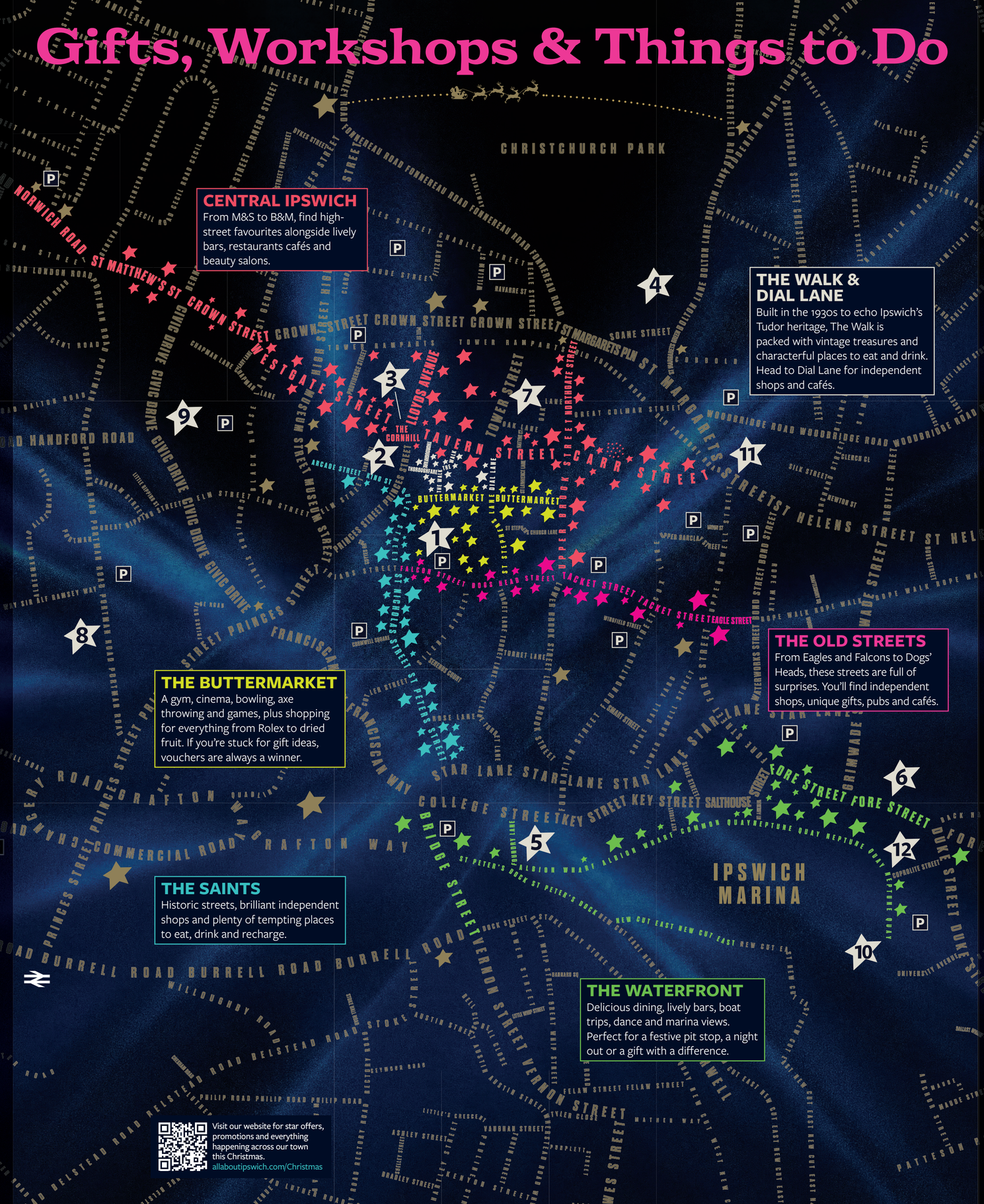
Our what's on guide is a snapshot of festive events, activities & ways to shop local. For more details visit: allaboutipswich.com/Christmas

Gifts, Workshops & Things to Do

Follow the stars around Ipswich and discover the town, one constellation at a time. From high street favourites and independent shops to vintage finds, thoughtful gifts, cafés, waterfront drinks and experiences worth giving, there's more here than you might think.

Key

1. BUTTERMARKET
2. CORN EXCHANGE + KING ST CINEMA
3. CORNHILL PORTAL
4. CHRISTCHURCH MANSION
5. DANCEEAST
6. THE HOLD
7. IPSWICH MINSTER
8. ITFC PORTMAN ROAD
9. NEW WOLSEY THEATRE
10. ORWELL LADY
11. REGENT THEATRE
12. UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK



CENTRAL IPSWICH
From M&S to B&M, find high-street favourites alongside lively bars, restaurants cafés and beauty salons.

THE WALK & DIAL LANE
Built in the 1930s to echo Ipswich's Tudor heritage, The Walk is packed with vintage treasures and characterful places to eat and drink. Head to Dial Lane for independent shops and cafés.

THE BUTTERMARKET
A gym, cinema, bowling, axe throwing and games, plus shopping for everything from Rolex to dried fruit. If you're stuck for gift ideas, vouchers are always a winner.

THE OLD STREETS
From Eagles and Falcons to Dogs' Heads, these streets are full of surprises. You'll find independent shops, unique gifts, pubs and cafés.

THE SAINTS
Historic streets, brilliant independent shops and plenty of tempting places to eat, drink and recharge.

THE WATERFRONT
Delicious dining, lively bars, boat trips, dance and marina views. Perfect for a festive pit stop, a night out or a gift with a difference.

Festive Markets

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER
IPSWICH WINTER VEGAN MARKET
St Clement's Arts Centre
10:00–15:00 FREE Dog friendly | Accessible

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER
UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK CHRISTMAS FAIR
UOS Waterfront Building
14:00–19:00 FREE

SATURDAY 21 & SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Ipswich Town Hall
10:00–17:00 | £2 per adult, per day
Children 14 & under go free

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER
THE SAINTS FESTIVE MARKET
St Nicholas Street & St Peter's Street
10:00–16:00 FREE

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS SWEET TREAT FESTIVAL
Cornhill
10:00–16:00 FREE

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS MARKET
The Hold
10:00–16:00 FREE

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
ARTIST AND MAKERS MARKET
Stoke Bridge Workshops
10:00–17:00 FREE

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
FESTIVE STREET MARKET
The Walk
10:00–16:00 FREE

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
WINTER MARKET
The Church, St Stephen's Lane
11:00–17:00 FREE

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER
VINTAGE STREET MARKET
The Walk
10:00–16:00 FREE

Whilst every effort has been made to check details shown, Ipswich Central accepts no liability for errors or omissions.

Visit our website for star offers, promotions and everything happening across our town this Christmas.
allaboutipswich.com/Christmas

Christmas Crafts

FREE
LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS

DANCE EAST MOVE | BE MOVED · Buttermarket

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER
DanceEast 12:00–13:30 & 16:00–17:30
Buttermarket 12:00–13:30 & 16:00–17:30
FREE wicker/paper lantern making workshops led by Autin Dance Theatre. Make your lantern for the 'Follow the Stars' parade on Saturday 19 December, 18:00, starting from DanceEast. Booking required.
FREE Book at www.danceeast.co.uk

AMPP CREATIVE POWERHOUSE

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER, 12:30–14:30
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER, 18:00–20:00
SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER, 12:30–14:30
MONDAY 14 DECEMBER, 18:00–20:00
Make your own paper lantern and get parade-ready! Booking required.
FREE Book at www.ampp.studio



27 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER
WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS
Christchurch Mansion
18:00–20:30 | £60 | Booking required

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
LET'S GET CRAFTY: CHRISTMAS
The Hold
Festive family crafty fun!
£5 | Ages 4–11 | Adult supervision required
Booking required

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
FESTIVE PAPER CRAFT
Ipswich Institute
13:00–16:00 | Members £15
Non-members £20 | Booking required

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
STAR ORIGAMI WORKSHOP
AMPP Studios
Make your own origami Christmas decorations.
19:00–21:00 | 2 hours | £36

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER
CREATIVE WATERCOLOURS AND CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP
Stoke Bridge Workshops
10:00–15:00 Multiple Sessions | £40
Booking required

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER
FELTING – ROBINS IN DOME
Craftability
10:00–13:00 | £25

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER
COPPER FOIL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS WORKSHOP
Stoke Bridge Workshops
Make your own glass Christmas decorations.
10:00–15:00 | £95 | Booking required

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS
Glaswells
Wreath making led by local florist Carly Marie.
10:00 & 13:30 | £60 | Booking required

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP
Marinero Lounge
19:00–21:00 | £44 | Booking required

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER
LATES: CHRISTMAS CRAFTY
The Hold
19:00–22:00 | £20 | 18+

Eko the Sea Giant

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER
FREE PERFORMANCES

Join us for a magical family adventure. Standing 13 feet tall, Eko is a spectacular giant brought to life by a team of world-class puppeteers and dancers.
Follow Eko through the streets of Ipswich on a magical 30-minute journey, ending with a captivating dance performance.
A **FREE** experience for everyone.

Eko the Sea Giant by Autin Dance Theatre, presented by DanceEast in association with All About Ipswich, supported by Ipswich Borough Council.

13:00 | Town Centre Performance
TAVERN ST TO THE CORNHILL

15:00 | Waterfront Performance
DANCEEAST TO UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK

18:00 | Eko leads the Lantern Parade
DANCEEAST TO THE CORNHILL





IN ASSOCIATION WITH

AUTIN DANCE THEATRE · DANCE EAST MOVE | BE MOVED · IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL · ALL ABOUT IPSWICH

ALL ABOUT IPSWICH

Follow the Stars
Lantern Parade

THE CORNHILL

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 18:00–19:00 | FREE

Starting at DanceEast, Eko the Sea Giant leads the parade up St Peter's Street, St Nicholas Street, past Giles Circus before ending on the Cornhill with Suffolk Phoenix Brass Band & Christmas Tree light show.

QUEEN STREET – ST NICHOLAS STREET ST PETERS STREET STAR CO BRIDGE



Get Parade Ready!

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER
MAKE YOUR OWN LANTERNS

FREE workshops with Autin Dance Theatre.

DanceEast: 12:00–13:30 &16:00–17:30

The Buttermarket: 12:00–13:30 & 16:00–17:30

More Workshops Across Town

Lantern making workshops will be taking place across the town, see website for details.

Make Lanterns at Home

Find easy tutorials and printable instructions at allaboutipswich.com/Christmas

No lantern? No problem! Just wave your phone in the air and join the procession!

PROUDLY SUPPORTING st elizabeth hospice

Our charity partner is St Elizabeth Hospice. Supporting their 'Be a Star' appeal to help care for patients and families who may be spending their last Christmas together.

stelizabethhospice.org.uk

DANCE EAST
MOVE | BE MOVED

IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Start 18:00 DanceEast

ST PETER'S DOCK

Please take your lantern home and save it for next year.
No glass or real flames, please. LED lights only!

Our what's on guide is a snapshot of festive events, activities & ways to shop local. For more details visit: allaboutipswich.com/Christmas