



Christmas Past: 400 Years of Seasonal Traditions in English Homes Tuesday 21 November 2017 - Sunday 7 January 2018. Free entry



Escape from the hustle and bustle of Christmas today and step back through time to Christmas Past.

Authentic festive decorations, lighting, music and greenery transform the museum's period living rooms, giving an evocative glimpse into how Christmas has been celebrated in English homes over the past 400 years.

From feasting, dancing and kissing under the mistletoe to playing parlour games and hanging up stockings, from sending cards and decorating the tree to pulling crackers, giving gifts and throwing cocktail parties, *Christmas Past* reveals the stories behind the rich and vibrant festive traditions that have evolved through the centuries.

Christmas Past has taken place at the Geffrye for over 25 years and for many visitors, an annual trip to the show has become part of their own Christmas rituals.

Related events will include Christmas fairs, festive late nights, carol concerts, and Christmas decoration and greenery workshops. Seasonal food and drink will be on the menu in the café and the shop will be full of Christmas decorations and cards, stylish home-wares, gifts and treats.

A special weekend closing party will take place on 6 and 7 January to bid farewell not only to Christmas, but also to the museum which will be closing for two years to undergo a transformational development project. Visitors will have the chance to visit the Christmas rooms for the last time, join in Epiphany celebrations around the bonfire, enjoy street food, winter cocktails, live music and bargains in the shop's sale, and meet the Geffrye team to hear all about the museum's exciting development plans.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For further details or to arrange an interview with the exhibition curator, please contact Nancy Loader at press@geffrye-museum.org.uk or on 020 7749 6026. *Christmas Past* press images can be viewed and downloaded here: [Christmas Past press images](#)
2. On-going, original research into the history of Christmas adds a new dimension to the displays each year. A well-illustrated book, *Christmas Past, Christmas Present*, written by Geffrye curators, tells the history of Christmas in English homes and is available in the museum's shop.
3. The Geffrye explores the home from 1600 to the present day. Evocative displays of urban living rooms and gardens illustrate homes and home life through the centuries, reflecting changes in society, behaviour, style and taste. The museum is set in beautiful 18th-century almshouse buildings surrounded by gardens in Hoxton, East London. www.geffrye-museum.org.uk
4. The museum will be closing its doors to the public on Sunday 7 January 2018 for a transformational, £18m re-development: <https://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/aboutus/unlocking-the-geffrye/>. Throughout closure, a full programme of special events, markets, activities, pop-ups and installations will take place in the front gardens. The Geffrye is scheduled to re-open in late 2019/early 2020.
5. Address 136 Kingsland Road, Hoxton, London E2 8EA. 020 7739 9893
Travel: Overground: Hoxton (directly behind the museum)
Underground: Old Street, exit 2 then bus 243 or 15 minute walk;
Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate exit then bus 149 or 242 or 20 minute walk
Open: Tuesday - Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays 10am - 5pm
Closed: 24, 25, 26 Dec 2017 and 1 January 2018 - check www.geffrye-museum.org.uk nearer the time for full details of Christmas opening