# London Region of U3As

**LONDON REGION u3a PROGRAMME FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2026/27**

**WALKS/VISITS FOR u3a MEMBERS**

The London Region is pleased to offer its guided walks for the festive season 2026 into the New Year of 2027.

These events have been carefully selected for our members. Each walk is organised and led by a qualified guide and lasts between 1.5 - 2 hours.

Each walk is bookable separately and costs £10.00 with a maximum of 15 – 20 participants.

This notification is for advance information only with the booking links going live on Tuesday 1st December from 17.00

**Please apply and pay online in advance** – it's quick and easy, saves paper and helps with administration.

If you have a PayPal account, you can no longer "Pay as a Guest" so please use it.

To pay without opening a PayPal account, please follow these instructions.

Alternatively, contact us to request the BACS payment details. Note: this is slower than paying online. Your place is only confirmed upon receipt of payment.

Please note that every unpaid application counts towards our capacity limits, so avoiding duplicate applications helps ensure places remain available.

**Booking/Payment Confirmation**: Your booking and payment confirmations will be sent to you by email. Your place is only confirmed on receipt of your **payment confirmation not the booking confirmation.** If you think that you have not received these, please check your spam/junk folder before emailing the contact below.

***Contact for enquiries: Bookings.lru3a@gmail.com***

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY
## See page reference for event details

## Due to the proposed tube strike date the walk on 18th December is cancelled and is now 30th December

| Date & Time | Event Type | Event Title | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thu 10th December, 16.00-18.00 approx. | Walk | Christmas Lights Walk | 3 |
| Tue, 15th December, 14.00-16.00 approx. | Walk | The Man who Reinvented Christmas : A Dickens Walk in the City of London | 4 |
| Wed 30th December, 16.00-18.00 approx. | Walk | Christmas Lights Walk | 5 |
| Sun, 3rd January, 17.00-19.00 approx. | Walk | Foodie Themed Christmas Lights Walk | 6 |
| | | | |

### Notes

Our experienced Guides have noted any significant points for their own walk in the Programme description.
On the day, Guides will brief their groups in more detail about the route and any specific instructions.
However, the following general points apply to all walks:

- A back-marker will be nominated by the Guide to keep an eye on those at the back of the group.
- Guides may be equipped with voice amplification equipment.
- All Guides are qualified and full members of Guiding associations with third party insurance but if Applicants have any issues that the Guide needs to know about, please indicate this in your application form.
- Please wear suitable footwear and clothing; bring drinking water and other essential personal items; coins (50p recommended) for public toilets.

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# WALK FOR u3a MEMBERS

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALK
## THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2026,
## 16.00 - 18.00 approx.

## GUIDE:ELENA PAOLINI

| Time | Session Type | Session Description |
|---|---|---|
| 16.00-18.00 approx. | Walk | **MEETING PLACE**: Forecourt of Charing Cross station, next to the red post box.<br>Nearest underground lines – Northern, Bakerloo, Circle and District. Charing Cross is also served by National Rail.<br><br>**The walk will end** at the Shakespeare's Head Pub on Carnaby Street.<br>Closest underground stations Piccadilly Circus on Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines or Oxford Circus on Central, Bakerloo and Victoria lines.<br>Suggest participants consult the TFL Step-free tube guide.<br><br>**DESCRIPTION :**<br><br>Experience the magic of London at Christmas on this festive guided walk through some of the city's most elegant and historic neighbourhoods. Our walk begins along the Strand and at Trafalgar Square, home to the magnificent Christmas tree gifted annually by Norway, a cherished symbol of friendship and one of London's most enduring festive traditions. From here, we cross the lively Leicester Square Christmas Market before making our way into the quieter streets of St. James's, where charming Georgian terraces, hidden churchyards, and beautifully decorated Victorian shopping arcades evoke the spirit of a traditional London Christmas. Along the way, we pause at the iconic Fortnum & Mason, famed for its festive displays, long-standing Christmas traditions, and its claim as the home of the original Christmas hamper. Continuing into Mayfair, we admire Bond Street's spectacular seasonal illuminations and imaginative window displays before winding our way beneath the famous angels of Regent Street. Our walk concludes at Carnaby Street, where creative decorations provide a fitting finale.<br>Filled with stories about Christmas traditions, fascinating history, and plenty of festive cheer, this walk offers a delightful way to experience London at its most magical.<br><br>Max 15 participants.<br><br>Cost: £10.00. No refunds. |

**ELENA PAOLINI:** Is a qualified and accredited Camden guide and City of London guide, and has guided professionally since 2021. She is fascinated mostly by history with a small "h": the everyday lives of the people who walked, lived and occasionally misbehaved on the very streets we are exploring today. Elena enjoys uncovering the small clues they left behind and piecing together their stories as we wander through the city. Her favourite topics include women's history, medicine and crime, and she has a particular soft spot for London's lesser-known corners. In her spare time she volunteers as a tour guide at Highgate Cemetery or pokes around the Thames foreshore as a volunteer for the Thames Discovery Programme. She is also a member of London Historians.

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## WALK FOR u3a MEMBERS

## THE MAN WHO REINVENTED CHRISTMAS: A DICKENS WALK IN THE CITY OF LONDON

## TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2026, 14.00 - 16.00 approx.

## GUIDE: CHRIS WILKINS-MOLLOY

| Time | Session Type | Session Description |
|---|---|---|
| 14.00-16.00 approx. | Walk | **MEETING PLACE:** Peter's Hill/Sermon Lane/Carter Lane EC4 by the National Fire fighters Memorial sculpture.<br>Nearest underground: St. Paul's on the Central Line or rail on City Thameslink.<br><br>**Finish:** Leadenhall Market.<br>Nearest underground: Monument on District & Circle lines. Bank on Central, Northern, Waterloo & City lines and Docklands Light Railway.<br><br>Suggest participants consult the TFL Step-free tube guide.<br><br>**DESCRIPTION:**<br><br>This walk explores how Charles Dickens, the great British novelist of the Victorian era, reinvented Christmas for his own generation and those to come, through his novella "A Christmas Carol" and other writings. We will find locations for key scenes from his novels and his life, and unwrap the influences his own walks and family experiences had on his writing and his social and political views. At the same time we can enjoy the sights of the City of London all wrapped up for Christmas!<br><br>Max : 20 participants<br><br>Cost: £10.00. No refunds. |
| **CHRIS WILKINS MOLLOY:** She is a qualified City of London Green Badge Guide who also holds guiding qualifications from the City of Westminster and London Borough of Camden. She has been leading walks in London for 8 years since retiring from teaching. Her enthusiasm for our city never wanes – and she now has a 6 year old grandson who can give directions all around the Transport of London network! | | |

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# WALK FOR u3a MEMBERS
# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALK
## PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DATE CHANGE DUE TO THE PROPOSED TUBE STRIKE
## MONDAY 30th DECEMBER 2026
## 16.00 - 18.00 approx.
## GUIDE: ELENA PAOLINI

| Time | Session Type | Session Description |
|---|---|---|
| 16.00-18.00 approx. | Walk | **MEETING PLACE** : Forecourt of Charing Cross station, next to the red post box.<br>Nearest underground lines – Northern, Bakerloo, Circle and District. Charing Cross is also served by National Rail.<br><br>**The walk will end** at the Shakespeare's Head Pub on Carnaby Street.<br>Closest underground stations Piccadilly Circus on Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines or Oxford Circus on Central, Bakerloo and Victoria lines.<br><br>Suggest participants consult the TFL Step-free tube guide.<br><br>**DESCRIPTION :**<br><br>Experience the magic of London at Christmas on this festive guided walk through some of the city's most elegant and historic neighbourhoods. Our walk begins along the Strand and at Trafalgar Square, home to the magnificent Christmas tree gifted annually by Norway, a cherished symbol of friendship and one of London's most enduring festive traditions. From here, we cross the lively Leicester Square Christmas Market before making our way into the quieter streets of St. James's, where charming Georgian terraces, hidden churchyards, and beautifully decorated Victorian shopping arcades evoke the spirit of a traditional London Christmas. Along the way, we pause at the iconic Fortnum & Mason, famed for its festive displays, long-standing Christmas traditions, and its claim as the home of the original Christmas hamper. Continuing into Mayfair, we admire Bond Street's spectacular seasonal illuminations and imaginative window displays before winding our way beneath the famous angels of Regent Street. Our walk concludes at Carnaby Street, where creative decorations provide a fitting finale.<br>Filled with stories about Christmas traditions, fascinating history, and plenty of festive cheer, this walk offers a delightful way to experience London at its most magical.<br><br>Max 15 participants.<br>Cost: £10.00. No refunds. |

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# FOODIE THEMED CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALK

## SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY 2027
## 17.00 – 19.00 approx.

## GUIDE: JOANNA MONCRIEFF

| Time | Session Type | Session Description |
|---|---|---|
| 17.00 – 19.00 approx. | Walk | **MEETING PLACE**: Outside the Angel in the Fields pub, 37 Thayer Street W1U 2QY.<br>Nearest underground Bond Street on the Central, Jubilee and. Elizabeth lines.<br><br>**Finish** near Piccadilly Circus underground on the Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines.<br><br>Suggest participants consult the TFL Step-free tube guide.<br><br>**DESCRIPTION:**<br><br>See the West End's best Christmas lights whilst hearing about the history of Christmas food and traditions.<br><br>The walk starts outside a cosy Marylebone pub then meanders through the back streets of the West End, through Mayfair and into Soho. The walk includes hidden passages, superbly decorated posh shops and lots of historical snippets along the way.<br><br>**Please note: No food or drink is included on this tour.**<br><br>Max 20 participants.<br><br>Cost £10. No refunds. |

**JOANNA MONCRIEFF:** Joanna is a qualified City of Westminster Guide (and Clerkenwell & Islington Guide) and has been leading walks mostly off the beaten track in the West End and further afield since 2009.

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