

Entertainers 2026

Rembrandt Gardens:

Throughout the weekend there will be activities for children to enjoy in the gardens. Wild over Waterways (WoW) will be in their dedicated tent throughout the weekend with a wide variety of canal themed activities for children to enjoy including wordsearches, quizzes, games and crafts. Outdoor activities will include puppet shows, circus skills and children's acoustic songs. In the case of wet weather, these will be held in the big marquee, where there will also be an exhibition on canals past, present and future. There will also be face painting, 'Bubble of Fun' on all 3 days. We will be welcoming you and your teddies to the Teddy Bears' Picnic at 3pm on Sunday afternoon. The RNLI will be here to teach children and adults about water safety including correct use of throw lines.

Mandolin Monday 3pm – 5pm Saturday and Sunday in the Bar

This band are a firm fan favourite at IWA Canalway Cavalcade. They are a 5-piece band playing the mandolin, guitars, fiddles, tin whistles. Described as 'slightly pirate' they perform a whole range of Folk, Rock, Irish and Country music with awesome harmonies from 1000 years ago to recent numbers. Don't miss their sets at 3pm on Saturday and Sunday in the Bar Marquee on Stone Wharf.

Alarum Theatre

"Roses & Thorns" show at 6pm on Sunday in Rembrandt Gardens Marquee

Women have played a part in the canals from the very early days. Come and join Kate Saffin of Alarum Productions for her final show at Cavalcade, with a romp through a hundred years (possibly more!) of stories of women and the canals. Women as early shareholders; women raising families and keeping the boats going through two world wars; women 'off the bank' doing their bit; women putting their foot down and saying enough's enough; women finding new ways to make a life on the water...

"Boat life 100 years ago: would you have loved it, or hated it?" at 2.30pm on Monday in Rembrandt Gardens Marquee For families and children aged 6-12 (ish – we're flexible!)

Would you have survived life getting up at dawn, not going to school, learning to steer the boats, being on the move all the time? Living in a cabin 10ft x 7ft, working the locks, polishing the brass - would you have loved it? Or hated it? Come and try on the clothes you might have worn; find out what was different to life now, what was hard and what was fun!

“You learned by watching, you ‘ad to watch as careful as if your life depended on it - because sometimes it did!”

RNLI Water Safety & Throwline Practice in Rembrandt Gardens

There have been lifeboats stationed around the coast of Britain for over 200 years, the anniversary of which we celebrated in 2024. Many of you will have seen the programme ‘Saving Lives at Sea’ on television. There have been lifeboats on the River Thames since January 2002. These are at Teddington, Chiswick, Tower and Gravesend and they came about as a result of the Marchioness inquiry. We are currently working on a new station at Wandsworth Riverside Pier which will replace the Chiswick station in 2026. Members of the crew and other volunteers will be here to teach children and adults about water safety including correct use of throw lines. There will also be other children’s educational activities and items to buy, and a Lifejacket Clinic on the Monday.

Wild Over Waterways ‘WoW’ in Rembrandt Gardens

Teddy Bears Picnic 3pm on Sunday in Rembrandt Gardens

Puppeteer Lori Hopkins brings us "Nutcracker in Spring" runs 30minutes with a Q&A afterwards (10mins) Saturday 12pm / 1.30pm / 3.15pm in Rembrandt Gardens

Nutcracker in Spring is a fresh new interpretation of the well-loved festive tale, reimagined for Spring and Summertime. Lori Hopkins fuses her unique blend of storytelling and intricate puppetry to take family audiences on a journey into young Clara's world on the day of her birthday. Clara receives an unusual gift from her odd relative - a handmade, funny-looking nutcracker. Clara finds herself catapulted into a world of magic, sweets and sunshine on a mission to save her nutcracker! The show features ballet-dancing puppets, a sinister Mouse King, an abundance of flowers and plenty more surprises.



Lori Hopkins
presents
Nutcracker
In
Spring



Chris Allen & The Suitcase Band - Children's Songs Acoustic Set (30 mins) Saturday 2.30pm & 4pm, Monday 2pm in Rembrandt Gardens

Join Chris Allen & Vince Szekeres for a children's acoustic set as they play songs from Chris Allen's forthcoming album, including the new hit single 'The Tooth Wizard'



Chris Allen - Author Storytime (30 mins) Saturday 5pm, in Rembrandt Gardens

Chris Allen is a picture book author & children's poet. Join Chris for a book reading on the release weekend of his brand new picture book, 'Tom's Ice Cream Sailboat & the Hungry Animals of the Ocean.' As well as his other book readings and poetry.

Solar Sister Puppet Walkabout : Sunday at 11:30am, 1pm, 2.30pm, 4pm around Rembrandt Gardens

Solar Sister is an interactive walkabout performance designed to entertain, educate and astonish. Featuring a galactic costume adorned with the 8 planets of our solar system and a highly expressive astronaut puppet, Solar Sister will delight in meeting audiences of all ages. Solar Sister will share facts and tales related to the planets and will perform feats of puppet-agility in and amongst the crowds. Don't miss this unique opportunity to meet this cosmic lady and her astronaut companion. This roving performance is sure to be out of this world.



Circus Skills with Jo Gailbraith from Other Half Productions in Rembrandt Gardens on Sunday 12pm, 1.30pm, Monday 12:15pm

You're never too old or too young to run away with the circus! The circus team from Other Half Productions are back, yet again, to facilitate this. There's diabolo, juggling, plate spinning and loads more! Other Half Productions have taught and performed on 5 continents, from Castles and Palaces to refugee camps.



Children's Morning Yoga & Interactive Storytelling : (30 mins) Monday 11.30am

A fun set of yoga postures & breathing exercises followed by an interactive story written and read by author Chris Allen.



Children's Improv Games (30 mins) Monday 3.30pm

A series of interactive improv games & scenarios for children's participation. Hosted by teaching assistant & Stand-Up Comic, Chris Allen.



Pirate Castle

The Pirate Castle is a community boating charity located a stone's throw from Camden Lock and Camden Market. Throughout the weekend there will be activities on and around 'Pirate Prince', moored by the Paddington towpath. On Saturday and Sunday, 'Come and Try' kayaking sessions will take place and throughout the weekend they will have arts and crafts sessions on board 'Pirate Prince' including making pirate boats and hats. Pirate Castle is the nearest centre to Little Venice where you can go for Paddlesports, fully accessible boating and holiday scheme.

<https://www.thepiratecastle.org/>

Arts & Crafts with Pirates Aboard Pirate Prince, Paddington Basin on Saturday, Sunday, Monday

Paddlesports with Pirates Paddington Basin on Saturday and Sunday

Puppet Barge

Puppet Barge is located on the north side of The Pool, access is from Blomfield Road. The Enormous Turnip / Duration 40mins, no interval / Age recommendation 3 – 8

High Town Crows

A guitar / double bass string duo band to play on narrowboat Widgeon (moored on Delamere Terrace just beyond the Horsebridge) on Sunday afternoon at 2.30pm