THE ELEPHANT

CHRISTMAS EDITION

CASTLE CHRONICLE

The Elephant is changing fast – and 2025 has been the year you can finally see it. New buildings have topped-out and finishing touches are being applied inside, the new streets and public spaces are taking shape, and The Elephant is beginning to look and feel like the place we've all been working towards: a lively new heart of Elephant & Castle.

INTRODUCING THE ELEPHANT OUR STORY SO FAR

With 2026 on the horizon, we're working hard to bring The Elephant to life. And as the physical transformation accelerates, so too does the energy on the ground. Thousands of local people joined our events this year, from the Urban Elephant festival, to our Easter Eggstravaganza, to the range of free events taking place at the Community Hub each week.

This winter, that community spirit will be on full display as we come together for the Elephant & Castle Christmas Lights Switch-On, returning on Saturday 29 November. Expect music, performances, festive food, family activities and plenty of community cheer as we celebrate one of the biggest dates in the local calendar.

FOR THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE COMMUNITY

"Elephant & Castle has always been a place powered by its people – full of creativity, energy and community pride. As the The Elephant transforms, we're determined to make sure everyone feels part of that journey. I hope you'll join us for this year's Christmas Lights Switch On and all the brilliant moments still to come."

DIANA BARRANCO
PARTNERSHIPS DIRECTOR, GET LIVING

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON!

Join us in Castle Square on Saturday 29th November at Castle Square for the Annual Christmas Lights Switch On to mark the start of the holiday season.

Step into the magic of Christmas as Castle Square comes alive with lights, music, and the warm glow of festive spirit. Treat yourself to a delicious cup of mulled wine or rich hot chocolate, and indulge in a variety of seasonal treats.

Wander through the Elephant Christmas Market, where local independent traders will be offering a wide range of unique, handcrafted gifts, decorations, and festive goodies – perfect for finding that special present for someone you love or a treat for yourself.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Visit Santa's Grotto in the Community Hub and meet Santa himself, who will be ready to hear all your Christmas wishes.
- Enjoy enchanting performances from local community choirs and children's dance groups, spreading holiday cheer through music and movement.
- Let your creativity shine with face painting and arts & crafts workshops, ideal for children and adults alike.

This day of festivities is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. Bring your family, friends and loved ones and soak up the Christmas spirit!

Location: Castle Square
Date: Saturday 29th November
Time: 12pm – 7pm

Celebrate the season, support local traders, and enjoy a day of lights, music and festive fun at Castle Square this Christmas!

BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE ELEPHANT.

Keep an eye on our website and socials for the opening of our new Marketing Suite and discover the next chapter in Elephant's story.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
TheElephant.com

The new town centre is taking shape, bringing new life, colour and energy to the heart of SE1.

Launching in 2026, The Elephant will deliver:

- Hundreds of new and affordable homes
- 50 new shops, cafés and restaurants
- A new university campus for the London College of Communication
- Bright, modern spaces for work, leisure and culture
- A brand-new Underground ticket hall and entrance
- It's a place to live, learn, eat and explore.

The Elephant, a place that celebrates everything we love about Elephant & Castle.

THE ELEPHANT

getliving

URBAN ELEPHANT FESTIVAL RETURNS TO CASTLE SQUARE

On Saturday 20th September, Castle Square became the vibrant heart of Elephant & Castle as thousands came together for the latest edition of the Urban Elephant Festival. Across three stages, Castle Square, Sayer Street and Walworth Town Hall Square, more than 5,000 visitors enjoyed a packed programme of art, music and dance that celebrated the area's rich cultural diversity.

The day was not only a showcase of local creativity but also a boost for the neighbourhood, with businesses reporting a welcome uplift in trade during what is usually a quieter period. Building on the success of September's festival, the Urban Elephant will return in March for its spring edition – another opportunity for the community to gather, celebrate and support local enterprise.

To find out more visit www.urbanelephant.co.uk

SOUTHWARK AT 60

This year marks 60 years since the formation of the London Borough of Southwark.

To celebrate, a new free exhibition exploring six decades of Southwark's history is now open at the Southwark Heritage Centre and Walworth Library in Elephant and Castle.

Although Southwark has existed since Roman times, it wasn't until 1965 that the modern London Borough of Southwark was officially created, following the merger of three smaller local authorities. Today, the borough stretches from the Thames in the north down to Crystal Palace in the south.

Organised by the council's Heritage and Archive teams with contributions from the local community, Southwark at 60 celebrates the borough's history, its vibrant communities, and its rich cultural life from 1965 to the present day.

The exhibition is complemented by a series of events featuring local schools and community groups and will run until April 2026. Come along to find out about the borough's long and fascinating history!

Location: Southwark Heritage Centre & Walworth Library, 145-147 Walworth Road, London, SE171RW

THE ELEPHANT MARKET RETURNING SPRING 2026!

The heart of Elephant & Castle is coming alive again: Castle Square Market is officially reopening in Spring 2026, welcoming back the vibrant community of traders, makers, cooks, and creatives who have long made this space a local favourite.

The market will return as a hub of culture, flavour, and neighbourhood energy. After its seasonal break, the 2026 return promises new excitement alongside all the familiar faces the community has missed.

Expect to see:

- Authentic street food prepared by local chefs
- Independent boutiques showcasing fashion, jewellery, and accessories
- Hair, beauty, and wellness traders offering their signature services
- Artistic and cultural pop-ups from Elephant & Castle's creative community

Rooted in Community

Castle Square has always been a place where long-term local businesses and rising entrepreneurs can grow side by side. The Elephant Market puts community at the centre once again, strengthening ties across the neighbourhood and offering a platform for diverse cultural expression.

SAVE THE DATE

The market officially reopens in Spring 2026. Whether you're coming for the food, the shopping, or simply to soak in the atmosphere, The Elephant Market will be ready to welcome you back.

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR ELEPHANT

The redevelopment of Elephant and Castle is about far more than new buildings; it's about creating a lasting legacy of inclusivity, sustainability, and community pride.

Central to this vision is our Inspiring Elephant Community Fund. Since launching in 2022, it has awarded £100,000 across two rounds of grants, with £50,000 set to be distributed each year until 2026. This year, 14 local groups received grants of £2,000–£4,500 to deliver projects that benefit residents. The full list of recipients is available on the Elephant and Castle Town Centre website.

Get Living is also proud to contribute £25,000 annually to the Elephant and Castle Community Fund, supporting initiatives across education, skills, arts and culture, the environment, youth programmes, and wellbeing.

Throughout the year, Get Living and the Town Centre team bring the community together with free events in Castle Square, from last year's Christmas Lights Switch-on with Professor Green to the Urban Elephant Festival, the Latin American Film Festival, the Fiesta Latina procession, and more.

Together, these efforts ensure the new town centre grows with and for the people who call Elephant and Castle home.

CASTLE SQUARE OFFERS

Only available Black Friday Weekend, 28th Nov - 30th Nov!

www.castlesquarelondon.com
Instagram: @CastleSquareLondon

AR Accessories
25% off everything

Magic Carpets
20% off everything

Maya Clothing
20% off everything

Forever Hairdresser
20% off everything

Glow Aesthetics
20% off any facial or skin treatment for all new clients.

Valid for bookings made in November/December

Andreas Hairdresser
50% off eyebrow threading and eyebrow waxing

AA Grocery Store
10% off on sweets and drinks

Ana Castro
15% off women's jeans and denim

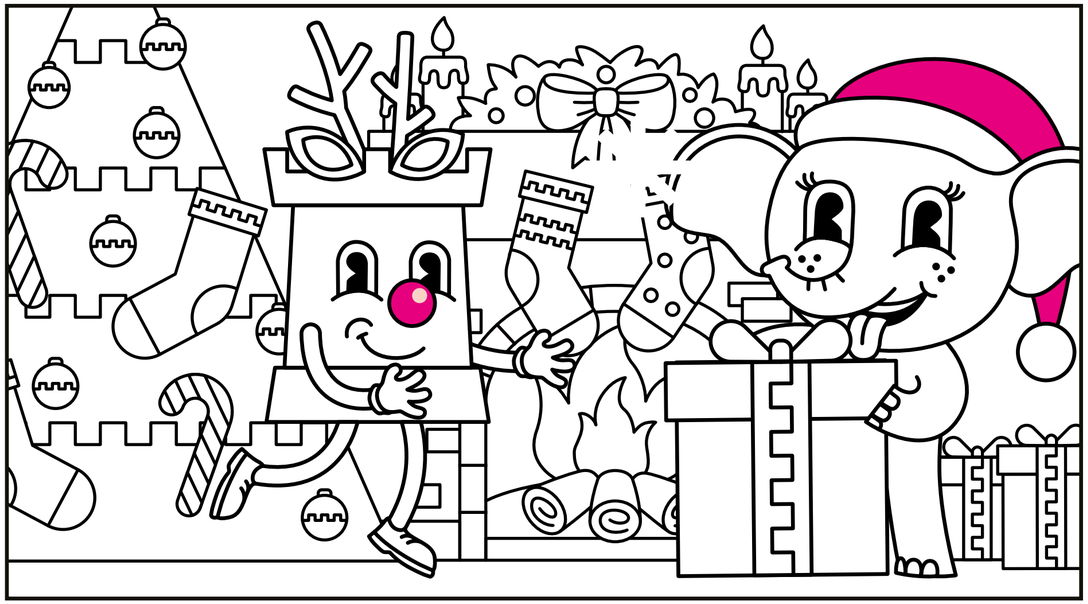
Laughland Communications
20% off chargers, cables and headphones

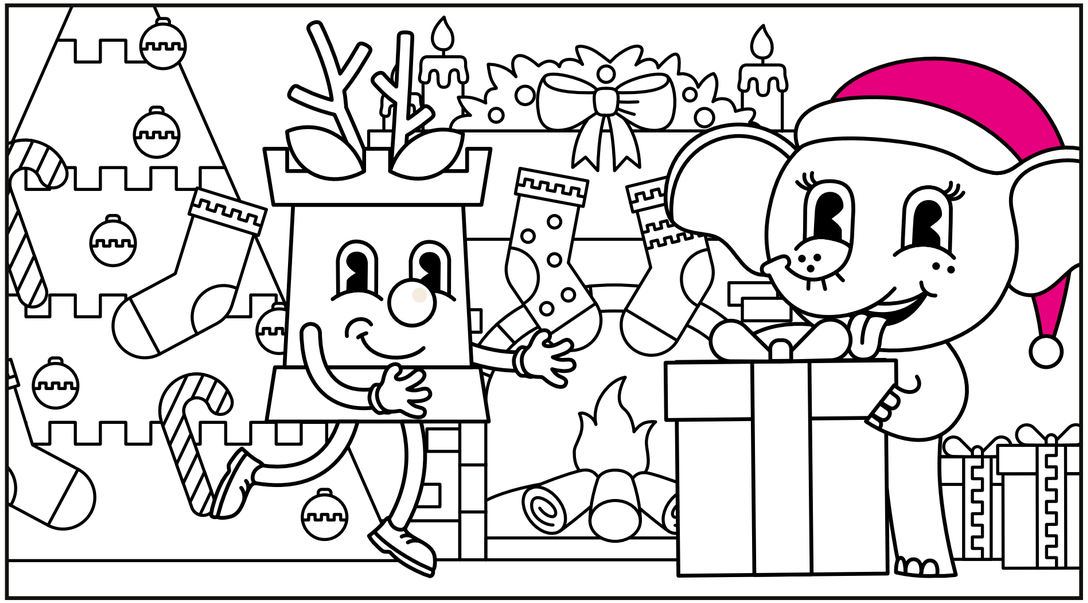
KIDS' CORNER

Ella and Chico are celebrating Christmas! Can you help them spot all 12 sneaky differences as they exchange presents by the cosy fire and sparkling Christmas tree?

Answers

1. Candy cane flipped
2. Red nose
3. Stocking swap
4. Missing candle
5. Missing bauble
6. Present ribbon
7. Bow folds
8. Elle's missing freckle
9. Chino's missing inner ears
10. Log rings
11. Smaller bobble
12. Fire





IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED

As The Elephant evolves, our commitment to community remains constant. Whether you live, work or study in Elephant & Castle, there are more ways than ever to stay connected and be part of the journey.

To keep up with news, events and opportunities – and to have your say – visit our website or sign up to our mailing list.

STAY CONNECTED

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

TheElephant.com

info@elephantandcastletowncentre.co.uk