

Five things to do for free this spring

WITH the sun shining and the two May bank holidays coming up, it's time to get out and about in the capital and make the most of what's on offer.

Feast of St George (April 25)

This year, St George's Day (April 23) falls on Thursday so the celebrations in Trafalgar Square (right) will take place on Saturday April 25.

From midday to 6pm you can celebrate the antics of England's dragon-slaying patron saint with flag-waving and live bands playing on the main stage.

There's a definite foodie feel with an English farmers' market and live



demos from leading London chefs in Cook's Corner. For the first time there

will be a marquee dedicated to England's favourite cuppa – tea – with the opportunity to blend your own infusions.

www.london.gov.uk/stgeorges

■ Charing Cross and Piccadilly Circus Tube stations are nearby, while many bus routes pass the square including the 3, 6, 9, 11 and 24

Canalway Cavalcade, May Day bank holiday weekend (May 2 – 4)

There will be much messing about on the water at the Canalway Cavalcade, organised by Inland Waterways Association volunteers at Little Venice. It features a variety of boats, trade show stalls and boaters gathering to have a catch up and a knees up.

There's Morris dancing, a selection of food stalls, a real-ale bar and little shops selling the weird and wonderful. Best of all you get a lovely view of the many beautiful narrow boats that come to the area especially for the event.

www.facebook.com/canalway.cavalcade or follow the Twitter feed @canalcavalcade

■ The nearest station is Warwick Avenue and bus routes 18 and 46 run close by



London Craft Week (May 6 – 10)

This new annual event celebrates exceptional craftsmanship and aims to showcase the talent, people and techniques behind beautifully made things to a wider audience.

Demonstrations and exhibitions of glass blowing, shoemaking (at bespoke shoemaker Carreducker, above), watchmaking and weaving, many of which are free, will take place across London's creative neighbourhoods, but will centre around the construction of The Crafted City, a purpose-built pavilion at Contemporary Applied Arts in Southwark.

www.londoncraftweek.com

■ To plan your journey, go to tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner

VE Day 70th anniversary (May 8 – 10)

Three days of events will mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day this year.

On May 8, there will be a Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph starting at 3pm with a two-minute silence. After this, wreaths will be laid and the Last Post will be played by a Royal Marine bugler. Although the area immediately surrounding the Cenotaph will be cordoned off, Whitehall will be open to the public.

A ticketed concert – VE Day 70: A Party to Remember – will take place on the Saturday evening at Horse Guards Parade.

On the Sunday there will be a service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall. Following the service there will be a parade including Second World War veteran groups, from Westminster Abbey to Horse Guards Parade. The parade route will be open for members of the public to line the streets and show their support.

Go to www.gov.uk and search for VE day 70th anniversary

■ To plan your journey, go to tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner

Covent Garden May Fayre and puppet festival (May 10)

This family day out features puppeteers from all over the country as well as folk music, dancers, clowns, jugglers and a maypole.

At 11am there will be a toast to Mr Punch, with the Lost Marbles String Band leading a Grand Procession from St Paul's Church garden in Covent Garden. This is followed by a service with a sermon administered by Reverend Mark Oakley and Mr Punch himself.

www.punchandjudy.com/coventgarden.htm

■ Covent Garden and Charing Cross are the closest stations, while bus routes 14, 19, 38 and RV1 all serve the area

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www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

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