

28 November-10 January
Admission free. Booking essential
for workshops with groups.

Drop-in public workshop dates:
Saturday 28 November
Saturday 12 December
Sunday 20 December

Wednesday 6 January:
Twelfth Night Party, 4-7pm,
performance 5pm
Admission free. Booking essential
Featuring the shadow puppetry
of *Raventales*

The Evergreen Project

During the Evergreen Project, CCANW is hosting workshops for school and community groups which will focus on winter festival themes and associations with the evergreen. By sharing stories, craft activities and friendship, we celebrate the symbol of the evergreen and the meaning of simple gifts. The evergreen has significance in many cultures around the world, often symbolising steadfastness and longevity as the trees do not lose their leaves in winter. They were used in pre-Christian cultures – by such as the Celts and Romans - during Winter Solstice festivals which fell on the shortest day and longest night of the year and marked the return of the light.

In ancient Rome, the Winter Solstice celebrated and symbolised re-birth, new growth and the abundance of nature. Saturnalia, which originally ran from 17-23 December, was observed by feasting, gambling and gift-giving. Saturnalia centered on giving thanks for the fruits of the earth, for plentiful crops, and praying for the same in the coming year. Business transactions were forbidden

and merry-making encouraged. Roles were reversed in Roman households with slaves waited on by their masters. Gift-giving included, the making of wax candles and small clay figures.

In traditions springing from Celtic origins, holly and ivy – symbolising the eternal nature of the sun – were traditionally brought into the home to celebrate Winter Solstice or 'Yule'. The tradition of lighting a Yule log began with the Druids. The log was lit to banish evil spirits, defeat darkness and bring good luck for the coming year. Yule logs would smoulder for twelve days before another ceremony was held to put them out. A part of the log was kept to be strapped to the plough to bless the land the following spring, and another piece was taken to light the next Yule's log.

During the Evergreen Project, we will also be sharing the stories, heritage and landscape of Haldon as visitors and workshop participants will have another opportunity to see some of the panels of our exhibition 'Haldon's Hidden Heritage'.

CCANW
Haldon Forest Park
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