

## Curious, creative and ever-changing Meet Lower Stable Street's locals and find a better way to shop

What does a sustainable Christmas look like? This year, Lower Stable Street in Coal Drops Yard – a curious, creative and ever-changing collection of design brands, makers and independent enterprises – aims to find out with a progressive programme of socially and environmentally conscious activities.

*“More than ever people are conscious of the impact of Christmas, so we tried to think of how to emphasise the undeniably good bits. A sustainable Christmas ticks all the boxes that you would normally expect – family, home, food, drink, presents, shopping – but gives you trimmings that are less frivolous, gifts that will last longer, and supports people who are trying to make our lives and activity have less negative impact on the planet.”*

– James Bowthorpe, founder, Kiosk N1C

Events continue into the new year but it is all kicking off the weekend of 6-8 December with a street party, STORE STORE curated mini-market and Granby Workshop pop-up...



Ceramics by Granby Workshop.

## Recycling, repurposing and reducing waste

Christmas is hands-down the most wasteful time of year, consigning tonnes of unnecessary plastic packaging, broken-bauble glass and discarded wrapping paper to landfill, and seeing around 160,000 tonnes of used Christmas trees dumped every January.

Lower Stable Street leads the way towards a waste-free festive season with a partnership with **Bloomsbury Distillery** in which Christmas trees returned to Kiosk N1C will be stripped and recycled into a pine-infused gin. Those recycling their trees will receive a voucher for a bottle, redeemable as soon as the first batch leaves the still, and the gin will also be sold in Kiosk N1C.

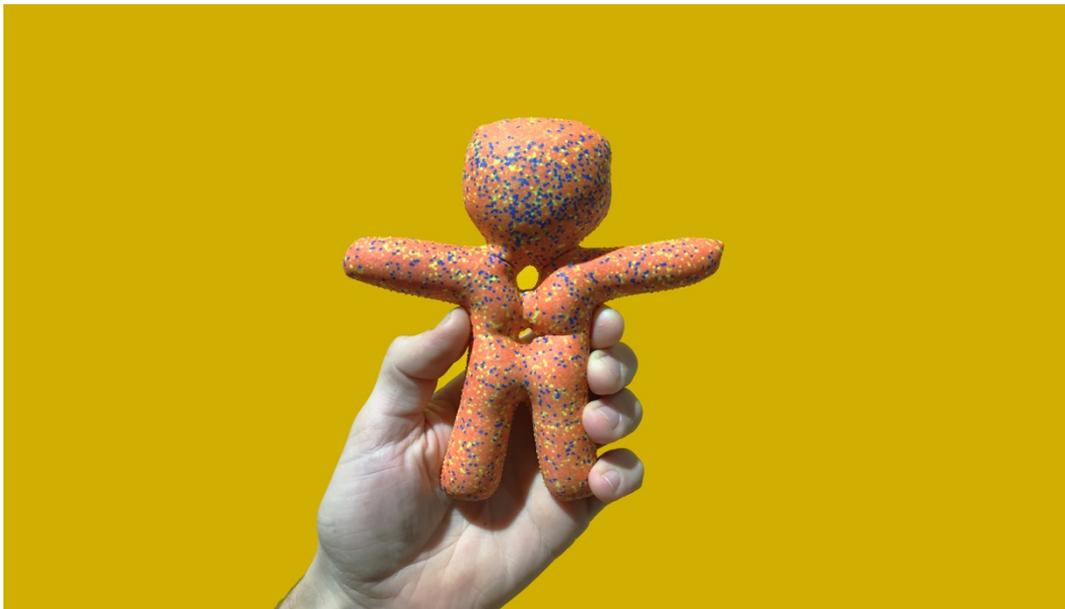
To reduce the post-Christmas glut of waste paper, Kiosk N1C will also be operating a free, on-demand wrapping-paper making service, courtesy of the risograph printer provided by **Hato Press**. Rather than generating waste with plastic-wrapped rolls, visitors buying gifts on Lower Stable Street will be able to have their purchases wrapped in FSC-certified, recycled papers, printed while they wait with an exclusive design created for Lower Stable Street by **IYA Studio**.



Seashell headphone by Unit Lab.

## Community engagement and investing in the next generation

The British retail landscape is largely dominated by impersonal big brands and multinational retail empires engineered to maximise profit above all else. In contrast, Lower Stable Street sets out to support and champion the independents and innovators who are set to shape the creative landscape of the future, as well as those who are actively involved in community initiatives and educational programmes.

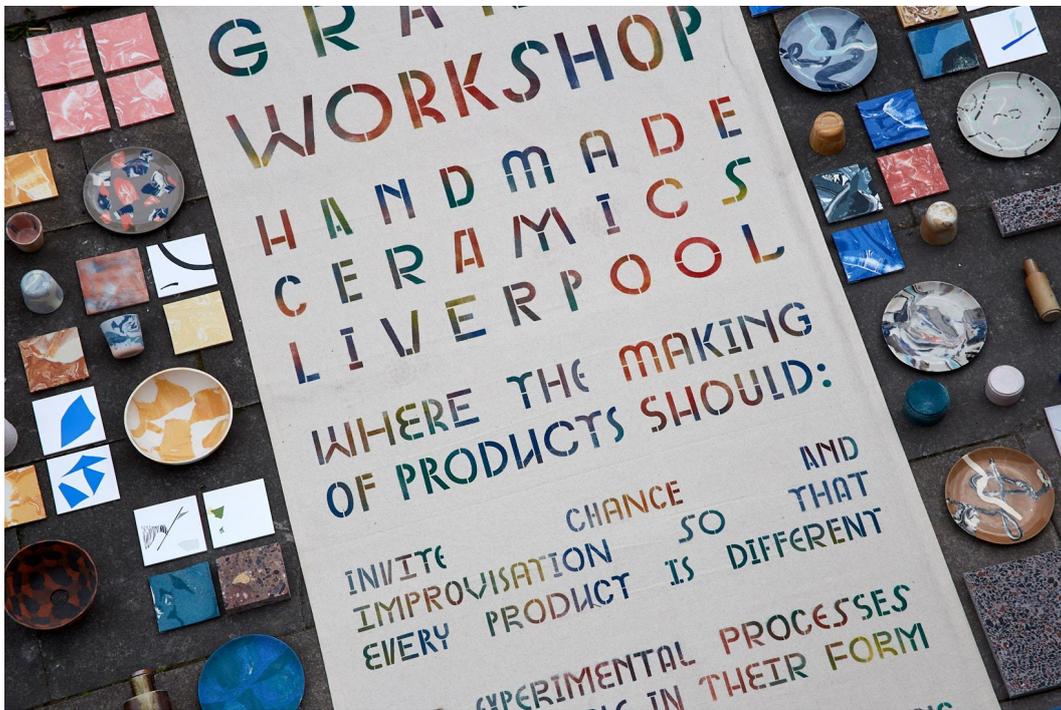


The After School club will be running at the STORE STORE mini market.

London-based artist, architect and designer association **STORE Projects** is a designated Community Interest Company that has been working to drive local change since it was established in 2011. On a mission to address social imbalances within the creative sector, it runs an educational programme in art and architecture, wide-ranging public events and exhibitions, and a socially engaged design studio. Its retail outlet on Lower Stable Street, **STORE STORE** – a permanent fixture on the street – hosts weekly after-school clubs for local school children and sells the products made in these workshops (with royalties going to causes of the creator's choice).

On 6 December STORE STORE presents a mini-market giving shoppers the chance to obtain unique Christmas gifts while directly supporting the next design generation of designers.

Travelling down from Liverpool to join Lower Stable Street's line up of designers for one weekend only is **Granby Workshop** – the ceramics studio set up by Turner Prize-winning architects Assemble.



Ceramics by Granby Workshop.

Founded in collaboration with the residents of the Granby Four Streets neighbourhood, the workshop was initially intended to create products for the area's homes, which were being restored and renovated by the community after years of dereliction and neglect. In the four years since, Granby Workshop has grown and now supplies architectural ceramics worldwide, with a number of its designs held in the permanent collections of the V&A and the Crafts Council. Despite its success, it remains a community-driven affair, and is still active in the ongoing renovation of its Granby Street neighbourhood.

In residence at Kiosk N1C for the weekend of 7–8 December, Granby will be selling the second edition of splatware – a range of colourful tableware produced by squashing different coloured clays together in a 60 ton hydraulic press to create totally unique pieces.

## Preserving a legacy of craft

A welcome festive antidote to mass production and cookie-cutter gifts produced at industrial scale, Lower Stable Street celebrates the hand-made, the small-batch and the personally crafted. Lower Stable Street provides a platform to support the work of such makers and help sustain British craft heritage.

Temporarily relocating to Lower Stable Street (until January 11) from **Country of Origin's** factory in Wigston, Leicestershire, is a knitting machine that will offer shoppers the chance to have personalised scarves custom-made before their eyes. Founded in 2014, Country of Origin has been instrumental in reviving the knitwear-industry tradition of Leicestershire, as well as traditional techniques, such as hand-linking, that have all but disappeared from modern manufacture. Country of Origin operates 12 knitting machines in a purpose-built factory and has employed many of the expert machinists who lost their livelihoods when the Wigston's once-thriving fashion industry collapsed.

Other champions of heritage craft include STORE Projects associate **Wax Atelier** who is revitalising the traditional beeswax craft techniques. Wax Atelier's hand-dipped beeswax candles are available to buy at the STORE STORE winter market and year round in STORE STORE.



Candles by Wax Atelier.

## Notes to editors

For more information about Lower Stable Street, Kiosk N1C, the Christmas programme or sustainable gift ideas, contact Grace Ridley-Smith at [grace@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:grace@zetteler.co.uk) or on +44 (0)7380 316637.

### **About Kiosk N1C**

Founded by James Bowthorpe, Kiosk N1C has evolved from its beginnings as an independent magazine about the people and brands behind the King's Cross renaissance to become one of the forces driving it. In 2018, the magazine was commissioned to create a design-led cultural hub on Lower Stable Street, curating a collaborative family of forward-thinking brands and hosting a year-round calendar of events – including exhibitions, installations and markets. As well as continuing to publish the magazine, Kiosk N1C now operates a design store and event space at the centre of Lower Stable Street.

[kioskn1c.com](http://kioskn1c.com)

[instagram.com/kiosk\\_n1c](https://www.instagram.com/kiosk_n1c)

### **About Coal Drops Yard**

Coal Drops Yard is a new shopping and restaurant district in London's King's Cross. The site was originally established in 1850 to handle the eight million tonnes of coal delivered to the capital each year, and was latterly the location of nightclubs Bagley's and the Cross. The area reopened in October 2018, reinvented by the acclaimed Heatherwick Studio, which has interwoven a contemporary design with the surviving structures and rich ironwork of the original Victorian coal drops. Located within a reimagined set of historic buildings and arches directly adjacent to Granary Square and Regent's Canal, Coal Drops Yard houses more than 50 stores from a unique mix of established and emerging brands, along with cafés, bars, top independent restaurants and new public spaces.

[coaldropsyard.com](http://coaldropsyard.com)

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