

THINGS TO DO

Christmas Holidays 2010

Islington Family Information Service

www.islington.gov.uk/fis

020 7527 5959



ISLINGTON

Festive Things to Do, Winter 2010/2011

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This leaflet has information about a selection of family friendly activities for all ages taking place in Islington and the surrounding area over the festive period.

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FAMILY FRIENDLY SHOWS

Alice in Wonderland

Filled with verbal and visual nonsense and peppered with witty songs, this production uses puppetry and object-theatre, hand shadows and a supporting cast of Victorian photo portraits, to cast a fresh eye on this well-loved story.

When is it? **Saturday 20 November 2010–
Sunday 30 January 2011**

Address **Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar
Passage, off Cross Street, N1 2DN**

How much does it cost? **£10–£13**

Do I have to book? **Yes**

020 7226 1787

www.littleangeltheatre.com

Beasts and Beauties

Grisly and gruesome, hilarious and hair-raising, Hampstead Theatre's festive treat brings you Brothers Grimm and other European fairytales. Featuring a beast with bad table manners and a gold-producing goat, *Beasts and Beauties* includes classic stories such as 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'The Emperor's New Clothes'.

When is it? **Tuesday 14 December–Friday
31 December 2010**

Address **Hampstead Theatre, Eton Avenue,
Swiss Cottage, NW3 3EU**

How much does it cost? **£10–£15**

Do I have to book? **Yes**

020 7722 9301

www.hampsteadtheatre.com

Cinderella

This magical Christmas favourite is given a fresh, modern twist in Emma Rivlin's witty new production.

When is it? **Tuesday 21 December 2010–
Tuesday 18 January 2011**

Address **Kings Head Theatre, 115 Upper
Street, N1 1QN**

How much does it cost? **£13–£15**

Do I have to book? **Yes**

08444 881 000 (booking fee applies)

www.kingsheadtheatre.org

Charlie and Lola's Best Bestest Play

Everyone's favourite brother and sister are back with their extremely ever-so wonderful stage show! A magical mix of puppets, live action and music, adapted from some of the freshest and funniest episodes of the hit TV series.

When is it? **Wednesday 1 December 2010–
Sunday 2 January 2011**

Address **Pleasance Theatre, Carpenters
Mews, North Road, N7 9EF**

How much does it cost? **£9.50–£11**

Do I have to book? **Yes**

020 7609 1800

www.pleasance.co.uk/islington

Catching Father Christmas

As her clothes, furniture and even the sneaky Christmas decorations come to life, Amy quickly realises that she has to protect Father Christmas instead of catching him. Can our young heroine save Christmas and get back to bed in time?

When is it? **Friday 3 December 2010–
Sunday 2 January 2011**

Address **Arts Depot, 5 Nether Street, Tally
Ho Corner, N12 0GA**

How much does it cost? **£10**

Do I have to book? **Yes**

020 8369 5454

www.artsdepot.co.uk

Flyboy is Alone Again this Christmas

Matthew tells the heart-rending story of Flyboy, half-human, half-fly, trying to live a normal life in a small town, despite visits from a mournful robot, aliens from other planets, a haunted snowman, and his neighbour Tony the local bully.

When is it? **Wednesday 15 December
2010–Sunday 2 January 2011**

Address **Barbican Theatre, Silk Street,
EC2Y 8DS**

How much does it cost? **£15**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
020 7382 211
www.barbican.org.uk

Hold on Mr Rabbit

Inspired by the *Alice in Wonderland* story, and using some of the stunning puppets from that production, this tale has been designed for an under 5s audience. *Hold on Mr Rabbit!* draws on old recordings of music hall songs and other vintage records to create a nonsense world that will appeal to a younger audience.

When is it? **Wednesday 8 December 2010–Sunday 30 January 2011**
Address **Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, off Cross Street, N1 2DN**
How much does it cost? **£6–£8**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
020 7226 1787
www.littleangeltheatre.com

Jack and the Beanstalk

Join Jack and the gang for another Hackney Empire smash-hit extravaganza filled with all your panto favourites. Come and see the singing harp, the golden hen, the giant of all giants and not forgetting Buttercup – the break-dancing cow.

When is it? **Saturday 27 November 2010–Sunday 9 January 2011**
Address **Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, E8 1EJ**
How much does it cost? **£9.50–£24.50**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
020 8985 2424
www.hackneyempire.co.uk

Jack and the Beanstalk

Let us take you on a GIANT journey, through fairytale lands with chatty hens, clowning cows, dazzling dames, fabulous fairies and villains to make your flesh creep.

When is it? **Thursday 25 November 2010–Sunday 2 January 2011**

Address **Millfield Arts Centre, Silver Street, N18 1PJ**

How much does it cost? **From £9.50**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
020 8807 6680
<https://forms.enfield.gov.uk/peo/>

Mole in the Hole

This is an adventure for all the senses to be enjoyed by children from 3 to 6, their families and friends. Everyone will be asked to muck in, so please don't wear your best outfit! So that everyone will have a chance to play their part, audiences are limited to just 50 per show as the audience will be required to move around the performance space.

When is it? **Saturday 4 December 2010–Sunday 2 January 2011**
Address **Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley St, City of London, SE1 2HZ**
How much does it cost? **£10.50**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
020 7645 0560
www.unicorntheatre.com

Peter Pan

Meet an array of wonderful and hilarious characters including Peter, Wendy, John, Michael and the evil Captain Hook. Just keep an eye out for the wily ticking crocodile!

When is it? **Friday 10 December 2010–Sunday 16 January 2011**
Address **New Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1QG**
How much does it cost? **£17–£30**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
0844 871 7646
www.ambasadortickets.com/Wimbledon

Pinocchio

Geppetto uses the objects of a carpenter's workshop to tell the tale of the puppet that wants to be a real boy, and the puppet-maker who wants to be a real father.

Puppetry, shadows, illusion and especially composed music combine to create a show with something for all ages.

When is it? **Monday 22 November–
Friday 24 December 2010**
Address **The Roundhouse, Chalk Farm
Road, NW1 8EH**
How much does it cost? **£9**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
0844 482 8008
www.roundhouse.org.uk

Rapunzel

A beautiful girl is locked in a high tower by a Wicked Witch. There is no means of escape – no television, no computer, no phone to call home. All because her father couldn't keep away from his neighbours' vegetables! Is there a Prince brave enough, or even crazy enough to save this poor girl? A puppet show for children aged 3 to 8 years old.
When is it? **Tuesday 21–Thursday 23
December 2010**
Address **Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill,
N6 5HG**
How much does it cost? **£4–£6**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
020 8348 8716

Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox

Roald Dahl's classic tale of wit and determination is brought to life with ingenious puppets and enchanting music. Mr Fox's incredible story is told by the internationally renowned company Little Angel Theatre.
When is it? **4–31 December 2010**
Address **Jacksons Lane, 269A Archway
Road, N6 5AA**
How much does it cost? **£10–£14**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
020 8341 4421
www.jacksonslane.org.uk

Snow Play

Interactive show *Snow Play* invites children aged 2 to 7 into Patrick's house to watch his hilarious attempts to get rid of Mr Winter (and lots and lots of snow). Children can throw snowballs, decorate a Christmas tree

and get creative. Afterwards, everyone is invited to stay and make their own Christmas decorations to take home.
When is it? **Wednesday 8 December 2010–
Sunday 2 January 2011**
Address **Lyric Hammersmith, Lyric Square,
King St, W6 0QL**
How much does it cost? **Adult £8 Children
£6**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
08712 211 729
www.lyric.co.uk

The Snowman

When a young boy's snowman comes to life on Christmas Eve, they set off on a night-time quest for adventure. On their travels they meet dancing penguins, reindeer and, of course, Father Christmas.
When is it? **Wednesday 1 December 2010–
Sunday 9 January 2011**
Address **Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street,
WC2 2HT**
How much does it cost? **£12–£32**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
0844 412 4300
www.sadlerswells.com

The Just So Stories

Have you ever wondered how it is that the moon pulls the tides, or the reason why the elephant's nose is so long? Get some answers at the King's Head as Rudyard Kipling's classic children's stories are brought to vivid life in this enchanting new production. Perfect for children aged 5+ and for adults of all ages.
When is it? **Wednesday 15 December
2010–Monday 3 January 2011**
Address **Kings Head Theatre, 115 Upper
Street, N1 1QN**
How much does it cost? **£6–£10**
Do I have to book? **Yes**
08444 881 000 (booking fee applies)
www.kingsheadtheatre.org

The Gruffalo

Join Mouse on an adventurous journey through the deep dark wood... meet a wheeler-dealer Fox, an eccentric old Owl and a maraca-shaking, party-mad Snake. Mouse can scare these hungry animals away with tall stories of the terrifying Gruffalo, but what happens when he comes face to face with the very creature he imagined?

When is it? **Wednesday 24 November**

2010–Sunday 16 January 2011

Address **Garrick Theatre, 2 Charing Cross Road, WC2 0HH**

How Much does it cost? **From £15**

Do I have to book? **Yes**

0844 412 4662

www.garrick-theatre.co.uk

Sunflowers and Sheds

M6 Theatre presents a tender and heart-warming story of discovery, underscored with music, taking you on a journey that will capture your heart and imagination.

When is it? **Saturday 4 December, 11am and 2pm**

Address **Rich Mix, 35–47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA**

Age Range **4+**

How Much does it cost? **£4**

Do I have to book? **Yes**

020 7613 7498

www.richmix.org.uk

GENERAL EVENTS

Christmas Crafts at Islington Libraries

Archway Library

Hamlyn House, Highgate Hill, N19 5PH
020 7527 7820

Make a glittery decoration for your tree.

Age Range **5–10 yr olds**

When is it? **Tuesday 21 December 2–4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 15 places available

Central Library

2 Fieldway Crescent, N5 1PF

020 7527 6900

Drop in and make all sorts of Christmas decorations and craft items.

Age Range **5–12 yr olds**

When is it? **Thursday 23 December 2–4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 20 places available

Finsbury Library

245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

020 7527 7960

Christmas gift and decoration-making.

Age Range **4+**

When is it? **Saturday 18 December
2.30–4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 15 places available

John Barnes Library

275 Camden Road, N7 0JN

020 7527 7900

Decorate your own Christmas stocking for Santa to fill up!

Age Range **3–11 yr olds**

When is it? **Wednesday 22 December
2–4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 20 places available

Lewis Carrol Library

166 Copenhagen St, N1 0ST

020 7527 7936

Get ready for Christmas by making Christmas cards and tree decorations

Age Range **5–12 yr olds**

When is it? **Tuesday 21 December 2–4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 20 places available

Mildmay Library

21-23 Mildmay park, N1 4NA
020 7527 7880

Christmas crafts – come and make reindeer hats!

Age Range **Under 5's**

When is it? **Monday 13 December 11-12am**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 20 places available

Mildmay Library

21-23 Mildmay Park, N1 4NA
020 7527 7880

Make a Christmas traditional holly wreath

Age Range **7+**

When is it? **Tuesday 21 December 2.30-3:30pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 20 places available

N4 Library

26 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW
020 7527 7800

Make your own Christmas angel and choir boy decorations

Age Range **4-11 yr olds**

When is it? **Saturday 18 December 2.30-4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 20 places available

North Library

Manor Gardens, N7 6JX
020 7527 7840

Make your very own stained-glass window with a Christmas theme

Age Range **5+**

When is it? **Saturday 11 December 11-12.45pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 20 places available

South Library

115-117 Essex Road, N1 2SL
020 7527 7960

Make cards, paper plate angels, tree ornament, candles and pencil topper with our resident elf, Debbie

Age Range **5+**

When is it? **Monday 20 December 2-4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes**

There are only 10 places available

West Library

Bridgeman Road, N1 1BD
020 7527 7920

Make a glittery hanging Christmas gift of your baby's or toddler's hand print. Also stories and rhymes

Age Range **Under 5's**

When is it? **Tuesday 21 December 2.15-4pm**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

There are only 10 places available

Nags Head Christmas Extravaganza

This free event caters for all of the family as we celebrate the launch of Christmas in the Nag's Head Town Centre with the switching on of the Christmas lights. Browse the visiting market, enjoy music and dance performances on the community stage, take a trip on the flight simulator, meet Santa's reindeer, sample some fantastic hot food or tackle the climbing challenge.

When is it? **28 November 11.30am-5pm**

Address **Nag's Head Town Centre, Holloway Road, N7 6PZ**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

Angel Christmas Event

Christmas Lights switch-on event with a performance by Cllr Martin Klute's live jazz band. Celebrity Larry Lamb will switch on the lights.

When is it? **Saturday 27 November 4-6pm**

Address **Islington Green, Upper St. N1 8DU**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

Christmas Farmers Market

Get the taste of Christmas at the Islington Farmers Market.

When is it? **23 December 10am–1pm**

Address **Chapel Market, N1**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

Santas Secret Village

A special treat for kids of all ages this Christmas, Santas Secret Village London event gives your child the chance to meet Santa Claus himself for a magical storytelling session.

When is it? **Friday 19 November–Thursday 23 December 10am–6pm**

Address **Belvedere Road, South Bank, SE1 8XX**

How much does it cost? **£10–£15 (one adult and one child)**

Do I need to book? **Yes**

www.viewlondon.co.uk/christmas.aspx

Reindeer at Covent Garden

The famous piazza hosts a reindeer petting corner over the festive season. There is also a series of family friendly events in the run up to Christmas, including musical performances and the chance to see the stunning Christmas decorations.

When is it? **Every Saturday from 13 November – 29 December 2010**

Address **Covent Garden Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2 8RF**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

Winter Wonderland

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland now offers almost seven whole weeks of festive fun – with London's biggest outdoor ice rink, the iconic Giant Observation Wheel and the return of Zippos Circus. There are also new and exciting rollercoaster rides and a Santa Land with free Santa's grotto.

When is it? **Friday 19 November 2010–Tuesday 4 January 2011**

Address **Hyde Park, Serpentine Road, W2 2UH**

How much does it cost? **Various**

Do I need to book? **Yes**

0871 620 7064

www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com

Trafalgar Square Christmas Carols

Different groups perform Christmas carols, raising funds for voluntary and charitable organisations. All are welcome to come to the square to listen and perhaps join in.

When is it? **Tuesday 7 December–**

Wednesday 22 December 5pm–9pm

Address **Trafalgar Square, W1**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

Christmas Lantern Making

A family afternoon to get you into the swing of Christmas and leave you with a delightful decoration! Bring your lantern along to the Gallery for carol singing and Christmas songs. Bring a parent/carer to help you – plus an empty jam jar!

When is it? **Monday 20 December 3pm–5pm; arrive before 4.30pm**

Address **Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N6 5HG**

How much does it cost? **£6**

Do I need to book? **No**

Christmas Sing-Along: Carols and Songs by Candlelight

Join us to celebrate the festive season in style in the atmospheric Long Gallery. Song sheets provided, but bring your own lanterns to add to the magic!

When is it? **Monday 20 December 5pm–6pm**

Address **Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N6 5HG**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

Green Living Centre Christmas Party

Get creative this Christmas! Green Santa will be dropping by with some fun activities, great giveaways and ideas on how you can have a greener Christmas.

When is it? **Tuesday 21 December**
2pm-4pm

Address **Green Living Centre, 222 Upper St N1 1XR**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No.**

The Great Christmas Pudding Race

Teams of contestants wearing fancy dress run around Covent Garden piazza while trying to balance a Christmas pudding on a plate! Obstacles, such as balloons full of flour, are put in their way to make it even more fun to watch.

When is it? **Saturday 4 December**
Address **West Piazza, Covent Garden Market, WC2E 8RF**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No, but arrive early.**

London Christmas Lights

London lights up at Christmas - literally! Visit Oxford Street and Regent Street any time after sunset.

When is it? **From mid November**
Address **West End**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

Cologne Christmas Market

The real spirit of a German Christmas comes to the Thames from the Southbank Centre to the London Eye.

When is it? **Friday 19 December –
Thursday 23 December**

Address **Belvedere Road, Southbank, SE1 8XX**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No.**

Storycraft Workshops with Apples and Snakes

Using puppets, percussion instruments, songs and rhymes, these sessions encourage children and adults to enjoy stories together in an active and fun way. All sessions feature a hands-on craft activity and children are able to take home their creations!

When is it? **Saturday 11 December 1.30-3pm** for 5 to 12 year olds; **Monday 13 December 1.30-2.30pm** for 2 to 5 year olds

Address **Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA**

How much does it cost? **£2 per child, accompanying adult free**

Do I need to book? **Yes**

Wiggly Jigglers!

At these creative movement sessions babies and toddlers get the space, the freedom and the time to move in ways that support their development, and that stimulate their imaginations.

When is it? **Monday 6 & 20 December 1-3pm**

Address **Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No**

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS

Find Your Christmas Spirit

Join us for our annual Christmas open evening. Enjoy a seasonal food talk with food historian Kate Colquhoun, sing along to live festive music or bring the children to a 'glow in the dark' decoration making workshop.

When is it? **Tuesday 2 December**

5pm-8pm

Address **Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E2 8EA**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No.**

Farewell to Christmas

Join us in the Geffrye's own traditional burning of the holly and the ivy, celebrated with carol singing, stories about epiphany and a taste of mulled wine and Twelfth Night cake. Please note that this event takes place in the garden, so wrap up warm!

When is it? **Thursday 6 January 4-5pm**

Address **Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E2 8EA**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No.**

A Christmas Carol

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* comes to life in this family-friendly production of the classic London story. Minimum age 7.

When is it? **Thursday 30 December 1.30-2.30pm; Friday 31 December 1.30-2.30pm**

Address **Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN**

How much does it cost? **Free tickets allocated on arrival.**

Do I need to book? **No.**

Scrooges Grotto

"Bah! Humbug!" Visit Mr Ebenezer Scrooge in our Victorian Sailor Town and share your Christmas cheer or Christmas grievances. You might be surprised and come away with a gift...if he's in a good mood. There will also be an opportunity to have a picture taken with the Christmas grouch.

When is it? **Monday 27 December**

Address **Museum of London Docklands, West India Quay, Canary Wharf, E14 4AL**

How much does it cost? **£5**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

020 7001 9844

Thrifty Gifts for Christmas

Get creative this Christmas and make some fantastic, imaginative Christmas presents, as well as enjoying Sutton House in the festive season.

When is it? **Sunday 28 November 12.30-4pm**

Address **Sutton House, 2-4 Homerton High St, E9 6JQ**

How much does it cost? **Free**

Do I need to book? **No.**

Christmas Craft Fair and Santa's Grotto

Beautiful handcrafted gifts and festive inspiration. Come and visit Santa in his Grotto.

When is it? **Saturday 4 December 11am-5pm**

Address **Sutton House, 2-4 Homerton High St, Hackney, E9 6JQ**

How much does it cost? **£1.50 for Adults**

Do I need to book? **No.**

Christmas Carols and Santa's Grotto

Last chance to see Father Christmas at Sutton House before enjoying a good old fashioned sing-along to your festive favourites!

When is it? **Saturday 18 December 5pm-6.15pm**

Address **Sutton House, 2-4 Homerton High St, Hackney, E9 6JQ**

How much does it cost?

£5 Adults, £2.50 Children

Do I need to book? **No.**

SKATING

Canary Wharf Ice Rink

Canada Square Park will be decked out in festive lighting, transforming the area into a winter wonderland.

When is it? **Saturday 13 November 2010–
Sunday 20 February 2011**

Address **Canada Square Park, E14**

How much does it cost? **Various**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

0844 847 1556

www.canarywharficerink.com

Somerset House

Whether it's a romantic night out, an after-work catch up with friends or a family treat, book your tickets now for one of London's must-do winter experiences.

When is it? **Tuesday 23 November 2010–
Sunday 23 January 2011**

Address **Strand, WC2 1LA**

How much does it cost? **Various**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

0844 847 1520

www.somersetshouse.org.uk

Natural History Museum

Embrace winter at the Natural History Museum Ice Rink.

When is it? **Friday 5 November 2010 –
Sunday 9 January 2011**

Address **Cromwell Road, SW7 5BD**

How much does it cost? **Various**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

0844 847 1576

www.nhm.ac.uk

Tower of London Ice Rink

The Tower of London plays host to a magnificent real ice rink situated in the dry moat beneath the outer wall.

When is it? **Saturday 20 November 2010–
Sunday 9 January 2011**

Address **HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AP**

How much does it cost? **Various**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

Enquiries 0208 241 9818

www.toweroflondonicerink.com

Hampton Court Palace

One of London's most dramatic ice rinks returns to the banks of the River Thames. The real ice rink is set against the stunning backdrop of Henry VIII's historic palace.

When is it? **Saturday 27 November 2010 –
Sunday 9 January 2011**

Address **East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU**

How much does it cost? **Various**

Do I need to book? **Yes.**

0844 871 8815

www.hamptoncourticerink.com

Islington Family Information Service

We provide free and confidential information and advice to help children, young people and families in Islington find the services they need.

- Nurseries and playgroups
- Childminders
- Holiday activities
- Services for disabled children and young people
- Parenting and family support services
- Money advice
- Getting into work or training
- Local information on health and housing
- Things to do: Babies and children under 5
- Things to do: Children 5 to 11
- Things to do: Young People



Family Directory

You can also visit the Family Directory, a quick and easy online guide to services for children, young people and families in Islington www.islington.gov.uk/familydirectory

Contact

Islington Family Information Service, 222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR

020 7527 5959 fis@islington.gov.uk

Our information and advice line is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Out-of-hours voicemail service.

Our information is regularly updated onto the internet at www.islington.gov.uk/fis

Complaints

If you have a complaint about any service, please raise it with the provider first. If your problem is not sorted out, you can go through Islington Council's complaints procedure for services that the council provides. For services provided by voluntary groups, you need to complain to the management committee. For services provided by private groups, complain to the owners. For Ofsted-registered providers speak to Ofsted on 08456 404040.

Whilst every effort has been made to make sure that information in this list is accurate, Islington Family Information Service cannot accept responsibility or liability for errors. We strongly recommend that you check the details with the service you want to use. We do not recommend or endorse any of the services listed.