
17-18 JUNE 2023

FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL

FREE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Lowestoft's solstice arts festival returns to celebrate the cycles of the midsummer sun in Britain's most easterly town



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WELCOME

As the days stretch to their longest and the sun shimmers at its highest point in the midsummer sky, we come together on glorious South Beach for First Light Festival 2023: a feast of creativity, community and culture.

Venture into venues around town for our new late-night Sundown Events with your choice of classical and contemporary music, comedy and our signature Silent Disco - for the first time in the redeveloped East Point Pavilion.

From noon to twilight and dawn to dusk, discover new ideas with the UK's foremost artists, scientists and performers, or dance on the sand to legendary musicians and the sounds of soul, folk, techno and afro-jazz.

This year's festival programme shines a particular spotlight on time and tide, imaginatively exploring the relationship between the sea and the stars as we celebrate 2023 as the Year of the Coast.

Join the 'sunrise club' with exquisite new dance, music and art commissions at Dawn. Connect with yourself and each other in our active and wellbeing zones in the day.

Sing, dance, make and create - but above all make your own First Light memories - in your own way.

The First Light Team!



FESTIVAL TIMINGS

This year's festival timings take inspiration from the cycles of the sun, with the introduction of our Sundown Events and our longest Sunday yet!

Saturday 17 June 12:00-21:30

Hit the beach from noon to dusk for a packed day 1 of our free summer solstice shindig. Get there early to catch the 'Welcome to Lowestoft' Opening Parade walk through town and kick off the fun!

See website for full parade timings, locations and how to join in

21:30-02:30

As night falls, the free beach programme finishes but the party moves in to venues around town with our ticketed Sundown Events.

See Page 8 & 9 for full details of the Sundown Events

Sunday 18 June 03:45-05:30

Gather at dawn on the shoreline for an unforgettable experience, featuring new music and dance as the first light breaks...

10:00-16:00

We're extending the second day of our free festivities for a festival Sunday as long and bright as the solstice sun itself.



FREE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Soak in the Sunlight

Our main Sunlight Stage offers everything from world-class soul and cult DJs, to new community arts commissions. The beating heart of First Light, a Sunlight moment is a must for the full festival experience.

Emerging Music from the East

Our New Dawn and Playbreak programmes provide a stunning line-up featuring the best new music from our region's rising talents.

Belly Laughs & Powerful Theatre

Our comedy, performance and spoken word line-up includes big hitters like Josie Long, Linton Kwesi Johnson and Joelle Taylor.

Big Ideas for Little Hands

Across our MoonDance, Cosmic Pirates and Planet Positive zones, we've got childrens' activities and workshops to keep brains imaginative and little hands busy.

Positively Powerful

Our new renewables zone gets you up close and hands-on with the latest technological research that's transforming the East of England into a hub of green energy.

Getting Everyone Active

Join in bootcamps, gym challenges and sporting taster sessions on the beach with our friends at Waterlane Leisure Centre.





15th & 16th July

Lowestoft 1940'S WEEKEND

CRAFT FAIR

VINTAGE
CLOTHING

PERIOD
CHARACTERS

LIVE MUSIC

STREET
PERFORMANCE

KEY

- Toilets
- Info + Box Office
- Steps
- Step-free
- Ramp
- First Aid
- Bar
- Food
- Bicycle Rack
- Water Point



SUNDOWN EVENTS

This year's free Saturday programme wraps up at Dusk (21:30) on the beach, but that doesn't mean you can't party your way through to the small hours.

Our ticketed Sundown Events take the fun into new spaces around Lowestoft, offering unique experiences until the sun breaks over the horizon for Dawn.

KEY

SUNDOWN EVENT VENUE

LOCAL LANDMARK

TO LONDON ROAD NORTH AND HISTORIC HIGH STREET

TRAIN STATION

MOSSY'S NIGHTCLUB

ROYAL NORFOLK & SUFFOLK YACHT CLUB

EAST POINT PAVILION

KIRKLEY SHOPPING AREA

CLAREMONT PIER

ST JOHN & ST PETER'S CHURCH

FESTIVAL SITE

SEAGULL THEATRE

KENNINGTON GARDENS

UPPER ESPLANADE

JUBILEE PARADE

WILD BEACH CAMPING

SOUTH BEACH

LONDON ROAD SOUTH

SEAFRONT PROMENADE

SUNDOWN EVENT LISTINGS



Luke Una Afterparty

Luke Una Afterparty

21:30-02:00

Mossy's Nightclub

The cult DJ and counterculture pioneer spins an eclectic melting pot of feel-good sounds from across his acclaimed career.

Moonlit Soundscapes

21:30-02:30

St John & St Peter's Church

A smorgasbord of dreamy performances from Arcani Ensemble, Ensemble Variances, Jake Raywood, Noel Vine's #ClassicalChill, Stevie Wishart, Tom McRae & Trinity Laban.



Robin Ince
Monika S Jakubowska

Pangaea

21:30-00:00

Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club

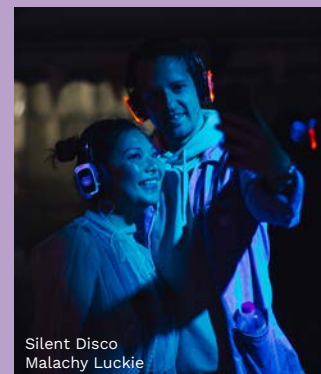
A globally-inspired contemporary take on groove orientated, modal jazz.

Robin Ince: Weapons of Empathy

21:30-23:00

Seagull Theatre

The celebrated comedian and 'Infinite Monkey Cage' podcaster brings his latest show to the Seagull Theatre.



Silent Disco
Malachy Luckie

Silent Disco: The Intergalactic Get Down

East Point Pavilion

21:30-02:00

A space-age shindig set amongst the stars, with DJs Alina, LU and Purple City. Set phasers to stun. Get ready for blast-off.

Tickets £10 - Book and find out more at firstlightlowestoft.com/ticketed



	12.00	12.30	13.00	13.30	14.00	14.30	15.00	15.30	16.00	16.30	17.00	17.30	18.00	18.30	19.00	19.30	20.00	20.30	21.00	21.30	
Sunlight Stage	Herring Girls		The Coal Porters			Bollywood Brass Band		Rabble Chorus	\$ëbbuku		Tom McRae		Lynda Dawn			Luke Una			Jembaa Groove		
New Dawn		Retro Firefly			Grace Calver			John Harry Green		Brayden Jay		Gabby Rivers			Chloe Lupton			\$ëbbuku			
First Word		James Campbell	Francesca Beard	Brigitte Aphrodite	Jasmine Gardosi		Linton Kwesi Johnson		Caleb Femi	Luke Wright's Silver Jubilee	Brigitte Aphrodite		Joelle Taylor	Harry Baker			Marcel Lucont				
DJs in the Dunes	Soul Stew	Deadly Majestic					Hemingways						Effy Mai	Thomas & Vialli	Levi Fruits & Range						
Kensington Gardens	Have a Go: Lawn Bowls Easterly Artists' New Beginnings exhibition Noon to Moon installation Makers Market																				
Gardens Stage	Percy's Pearls	ROCK CHOIR	Sunset Bamboo	Marina Ukulele	My Choir Rocks		Dan Ball		Peter Turrell		Rebecca Waller		Cubanda		Murphy's Lore		Spectacular Man				
East Point Pavilion	New Dawn x East Point Pavilion Takeover											Deadly Majestic x Soul Stew									
MoonDance	Saturday's highlights include Dance-along Mary Poppins, Line Dancing Sessions and The Playground Tour. See website for full lineup!																				
Cosmic Pirates Library Teepee		Storytime: Snail and the Whale		The Old Green Time Machine		Storytime: Owl Babies		The Old Green Time Machine		Storytime: Going on a Bear Hunt		Shakespeare Rhythm and Beat									
Cosmic Pirates Workshops	Postcards from Lowestoft with Suffolk Artlink & Mask Making Workshop with Re-Utilise					Brave Artists Workshop & Jellyfish Lanterns with Willow Phoenix					Sea Themed Crafts with Kirsty Tallent										
Planet Positive Tent	Cefas Discovery Zone					Suffolk Wildlife Trust					Future of Our Countryside exhibition										
	Natural History Museum					Norwich Astronomical Society															
Interstellar Ideas on the Green	A Tidal Year	Floodlines: England Under Water		Bison Rewilding		Culture Declares Emergency		The Sea as Whale as Art		Secrets of the Seaside											
Power Positive	See website for full line-up of hands-on activities around renewable energy																				
Making Waves Workshop	Drop in for Stop Motion Animation & Imagine a Deep Sea Creature Workshops with Norwich University of the Arts																				
Wellbeing by the Waves	Leanne Isi Yoga	Breath & Meditation		Goddess Dance		Breath & Meditation		Leanne Isi Yoga		Family Singalong		Drumming Circle		Sunset Yoga & Ecstatic Dance							
Everyone Active	Join in with beach bootcamps, gym challenges and sports across the weekend. See website for a full timetable																				
Elsewhere on the Beach	Chthonic Head					Street Food		Alexander Costello		Soul Space on the Beach			Gainsborough's House's Camera Obscura								

Ticketed Sundown Events in venues across Lowestoft

Dance, laugh or party through the shortest night of the year

See pages 8 & 9 for more info

A highlight of First Light, Dawn is an extraordinary, reflective experience unique to the festival

03:45

Nic Pendlebury performs Terry Riley's 'Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector'

04:10

Witness a new collaboration between Dancer Hannah Rudd and Violinist Kerenza Peacock

04:45

Join our free sunrise feast, accompanied by music from Pearl in the Egg and Alexander Costello's participatory new piece, 'Jumping Over the Sun'

Want a larger version? Scan below to download our latest digital grid



	10.00	10.30	11.00	11.30	12.00	12.30	13.00	13.30	14.00	14.30	15.00	15.30
Sunlight Stage	Trinity Laban		The Manifest			Honey & The Bear		DJ Paulette			FolkEast present Eliza Carthy Trio	
New Dawn	Jehenna			Tiah Jean		The Marijanovic			Esme Emerson			
First Word	The Feathered Thorns		Luke Wright	John Osborne's A Supermarket Love Story		Luke Wright	The Best of INK Festival		Jonny Fluffypunk		Josie Long	
DJs in the Dunes	Bobby Bucys		Neil Thornton		Ben Osborne x Chris Coco b2b							
Kensington Gardens	Have a Go: Lawn Bowls			Easterly Artists' New Beginnings exhibition			Noon to Moon installation		Makers Market			
Gardens Stage	Ukulele Strum		Lisa Redford		The Vibettes		String Fillies		Kerenza Celtic with John & Lynne Ward		Rogue Shanty Buoys	
East Point Pavilion	New Dawn x East Point Pavilion Takeover						Playbreak Showcase					
MoonDance	Sunday's movement highlights include Baby Loves to Boogie and Tea Dance. See website for full lineup!											
Cosmic Pirates Library Teepee	Storytime: Sharing a Shell		HOCUS POCUS Like a Tree		Storytime: The Hungry Caterpillar		Kirsty Tallent: Storyteller in Residence		Storytime: The Gruffalo's Child		HOCUS POCUS Like a Tree	
Cosmic Pirates Workshops	Creative Workshops with Woodworks Art Cafe				Enchantment Under the Sea with Get Suffolk Reading							
Planet Positive	Cefas Discovery Zone		Suffolk Wildlife Trust		Future of Our Countryside exhibition		Natural History Museum		Norwich Astronomical Society			
Interstellar Ideas on the Green	Corals and Seagrasses		From The Ground Up			Flood/Fire with Gideon Mendel		Landmarks with Laurence Edwards				
Power Positive	See website for full line-up of hands-on activities around renewable energy											
Making Waves Workshop	Drop in for Stop Motion Animation & Imagine a Deep Sea Creature Workshops with Norwich University of the Arts											
Wellbeing by the Waves	Sunday Morning Yoga		Meditation Workshop		Yoga Session			Essential Oils Workshop		Hot Yoga on the Beach		Closing Meditation Session
Everyone Active	Join in with beach bootcamps, gym challenges and sports across the weekend. See website for a full timetable											
Elsewhere on the Beach	Chthonic Head		Street Food	Alexander Costello		Soul Space on the Beach		Gainsborough's House's Camera Obscura				

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PHOTOS: JOHN FERGUSON, STEVE AYLWARD, ALAMY

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‘WELCOME TO LOWESTOFT’ OPENING PARADE

We’re kicking off this year’s festival with a special walking parade that celebrates Lowestoft’s unique natural geography: where the fauna-rich Broads meet the diverse ecosystems of the North Sea, and where resilient urban animals coexist with our creative human population.

As part of Hi! Street Fest, a nationwide project from Emergency Exit Arts in partnership with Historic England, the Parade will feature large-scale puppets amongst a swirling spectacle of land and sea creatures, as we welcome a mystery visitor to the town...

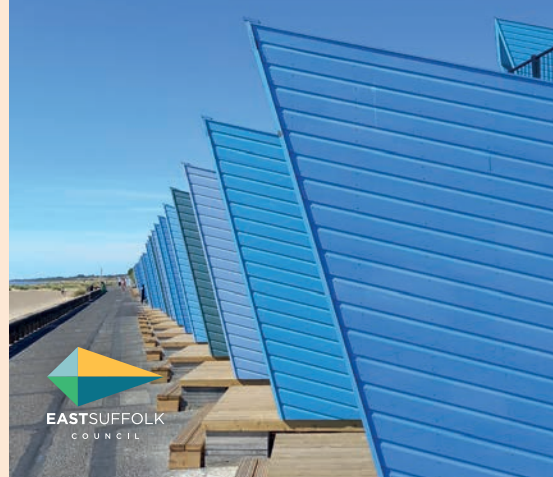
Co-created with the local community, the Parade is the culmination of months of open workshops, public sharing sessions and in-school activities, and there are still plenty of chances to get involved.

To find out more (and join in!), head to firstlightlowestoft.com/parade

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EXPLORING LOWESTOFT

Welcome to our beautiful seaside town!

The main First Light Festival site is spread across the golden sands of South Beach. It's a 20-minute walk from Lowestoft Train Station, with regular Greater Anglia trains from Ipswich and Norwich running across the weekend. The site is a 30-minute walk south of the Bus Station.

If you're driving to First Light, the best way to find a parking space is via the Ringo App.

We highly recommend visiting London Road South along the way, and checking out the buzzing Kirkley shopping area, which is filled with independent cafes and shops.

With broad promenades, beautiful architecture, stunning landscapes and a rich, varied history of industry, Lowestoft has been a holiday destination since Victorian times. Nowadays, Lowestoft is emerging as a hub of renewable energy and a thriving centre for creativity in the East.

We're a dynamic, lively, ever-changing town, and we can't wait see you on the beach!



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Mykola Romanovsky



Makers Market
Mykola Romanovsky

Restaurant & Bar

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16+. For further details visit everyoneactive.com/haveadayonus. Classes must be booked in advance to avoid disappointment and will be subject to availability. New customers only.



Sustainability by the Sea...

Environmental sustainability is at the heart of our mission, with our goal for 2023 to benchmark our waste and resource output. Find out more and follow our environmental journey at firstlightlowestoft.com/sustainability

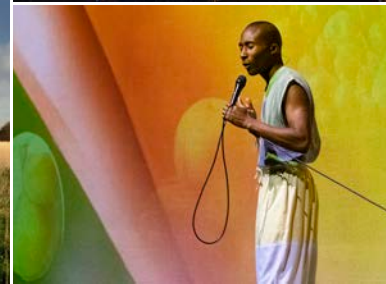
An Accessible Festival For All

With BSL-interpreted performances, access maps, free companion tickets, what to expect information and more, we're making this year's First Light our most open and accessible yet. Explore our offer at firstlightlowestoft.com/accessibility

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 deathcrash ■ ■ DITZ ■ ■ Flip Top Head
 Gaffa Tape Sandy ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Gengahr
 Group Listening ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Isaiah Dreads
 Ishmael Ensemble ■ ■ ■ ■ Jehst ■ ■ ■ ■ Jords
 Joshua Idehen ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Karma Sheen
 Kyoto Kyoto ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Lande Hekt ■ ■ ■ ■ MEMORIALS
 Moreish Idols ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ muva of Earth
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THANKS

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 Cefas, East Coast College, Enabling Kirkley, Friends of Kensington Gardens, Kirkley People's Forum, Lowestoft Rising Local Cultural Education Partnership, Lowestoft Sixth Form College, Lowestoft Town Council, Marina Theatre, Norwich University of the Arts, Seagull Theatre, Suffolk Police, TrueColours Lowestoft, University of Essex

First Light is grateful to its Supporters and Sponsors:
 Arts Council England, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, Associated British Ports, East Suffolk Norse, Essex and Suffolk Water, Everyone Active, Greater Anglia, FolkEast, Lowestoft Rising, Lowestoft Town Council, Molson Coors, Norwich Arts Centre, River Waveney Trust, The Suffolk Coast, University of Essex

Programme Partners:
 BBC Radio Suffolk, BBC Introducing, Britten Pears Arts, Cefas, Climate UEA, Creative Arts East, DanceEast, Deadly Majestic, Emergency Exit Arts, FolkEast, HighTide Theatre, Historic England, Lowestoft Library, Marina Theatre, Messums, National Centre for Writing, Natural History Museum, Noise of Art, Norwich Astronomical Society, Norwich University of the Arts, Our House, Soul Stew, Suffolk Art Link, Suffolk Libraries, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance, University of East Anglia, Wild Paths

Our Directors (Clare Matterson CBE, Mary Graham, Sarah Kemp, Wayne Hemingway MBE) and CEO (Genevieve Christie) would like to say a huge thank you to our tireless festival team and our brilliant festival volunteers!

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