

# FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL

20-21 JUNE 2026

2026 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The UK's only free beach festival returns to Lowestoft for the summer solstice weekend in Britain's most easterly town.



## WITH THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



## WITH THANKS TO OUR PROGRAMME PARTNERS WHO DELIVER SUCH EXCITING FESTIVAL WORK AND EXPERIENCES



### FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL STEERING GROUP

Cefas, East Coast College, Enabling Kirkley, Friends of Kensington Gardens, Kirkley People's Forum, Kirkley Youth Voice Group, Local Cultural Education Partnership, Lowestoft Sixth Form College, Lowestoft Town Council, The Marina Theatre, Norwich University of the Arts, The Seagull Theatre, Suffolk Police, Lowestoft Vision, ESC Communities Team.



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# WELCOME **FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL 2026**

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Join us at First Light Festival 2026 as we celebrate the UK's most easterly summer solstice as part of our unique midsummer festival. We're packing the longest days of the year with music, dance, new commissions, visual art, engrossing talks and engaging science - plus the chance to camp right by the waves or park your campervan overlooking the sea. Whether you are solo or with companions, First Light's infectious community vibe brings our wonderful beach and gardens locations alive! Join in our 13 Moons parade, be part of our uplifting community catwalk, help your little ones build a rocket to the moon and your teens try their hand at DJing and gaming on the beach...

Year on year our Sunrise celebration at First Light brings a growing community of people together in kinship. This year, at dawn, on Sunday June 21st we will welcome the summer solstice with a special Indian Sunrise raga, a new music commission in homage to Lowestoft-born composer Benjamin Britten and the haunting electronic notes of a new musical work that uses shells and ships bells.

Salute the sun and dance by the light of the moon...

Welcome to First Light.

*The First Light Team*

# FESTIVAL TIMINGS



Intergalactic Silent Disco

## FRIDAY 19 JUNE

On 19 June, pre-festival buzz begins with a lively mix of events easing you into the celebrations. Theatre lovers can immerse themselves at 'It Comes in Waves' by Eastern Angles at The Seagull Theatre, while music lovers can head to our Intergalactic Silent Disco - where glowing headphones, cosmic beats and a dancefloor under the stars create a truly out-of-this-world experience.

## SATURDAY 20 JUNE

**11:00 – 12:00**

Get ready to blast off... as the Big Bang Boogie lands in our community! Join the community flash dance to get Parade off to a high stepping start and set off with our Opening Parade, making your way from East Point Pavilion to the Sunlight Stage where the Festival kicks off!



MoonDance

**12:00 – 21:30**

Be on the beach from noon till nightfall for an inspiring first day of our free summer solstice spree. With a packed programme of music, performance, workshops, talks, creative experiences and family-friendly activities spread across the Festival.

**21:30 – 02:00**

As our programme on the beach winds down, the Festival moves to venues around Lowestoft. Check out our ticketed Sundown Events at newly opened The Venue at Claremont Pier, The Seagull Theatre, East Point Pavilion, Royal & Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club and St Peter & St John Church – all just a short walk from the Festival site.



Dawn Yoga

## SUNDAY 21 JUNE

**03:30 – 05:00**

Join us for a special celebration of the Summer Solstice sunrise from the UK's most easterly beach. Converge at the shoreline at dawn, salute the sun with yoga, howl at the moon, wallow in the waves, listen to new, original music and break your fast with our unique signature fresh Fish Feast.

**10:00 – 16:00**

Day 2 begins with gentle wellbeing activities like yoga and meditation, then grows into live music, creative sessions, and family-friendly fun across the beach, promenade, gardens and town. It's a chance to explore, discover hidden gems, and enjoy a slower pace—ending the weekend on a warm, uplifting note.

Find out times and bookings on the website at [www.FirstLightFestival.com](http://www.FirstLightFestival.com) or scan



# FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



Another Taste

## SUNLIGHT SOUND SYSTEM

Rock up to the Sunlight Stage, the dance spot for an exceptional line up of world-class musicians, DJs, and get down dawn-to-dusk festival moments from DJ Jamz Supernova, Another Taste, Year of the Dog, Cut Capers, N’Famady Kouyaté, Lizzie Berchie, Ashton Jones and Seth Lakeman.



First Word

## BRIGHT SHINING COMETS

Get wise to the region’s upcoming musicians in our New Dawn and Playbreak programmes, with performances from exciting new talent including Magnolia, Like Optimists, PleasureInc, Gabby Rivers, Taf Royale and Oli Harris.

## WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Orbit exceptionally crafted poetry, strong spoken word and comedy performances from John Hegley, Inua Ellams, Georgie Jones, Caitlyn O’Ryan, Andrew O’Neill, Elf Lyons and Luke Wright plus many more.



Patrick Grant

## GO SUPERNOVA

Our MoonDance, Cosmic Pirates, Vertical Space and Planet Positive zones are guaranteed to keep children and young people busy and active all day long. Don’t miss Monkey Business Circus, drop in DJ sessions and gaming.

## SO PLANET POSITIVE

Illuminating ideas, talks, and hands on experimentation in our Planet Positive zone, including BBC Sewing Bee presenter Patrick Grant, TV & radio presenter Mark Thompson, Charity Super.Mkt, UEA, CEFAS, Norwich University of the Arts and the Natural History Museum.



The Long Wait

## LOOK TO THE COSMOS

Immerse yourself in art on the beach with Laurence Edwards’ The Long Wait’, Maddie Exton’s Meet Me at First Light and Hotel Kittiwake+, visit The Battery to see SPILL Festival’s Leviathan and head to Kensington Gardens for works by Easterly Artists and Noon to Moon; the Festival’s open-air art exhibition.

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Bird's-eye view of the Sainsbury Centre and Sculpture Park. Photo: Donovan Jones.

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**Sainsbury Centre, Art Museum**  
University of East Anglia, Norwich

**UEA** University of  
East Anglia  
Norwich

Join us for the Big Bang Boogie to get the parade underway. Learn the dance moves and grooves via our website!



## PARADE 2026 MOON WALK & BIG BANG BOOGIE!

This summer we're celebrating the 13 Moons which will be gracing our skies this year.

Follow The Marina Samba Band, our schools and community groups, and Lowestoft's own SOL, NEPTUNE and SPECTRUM, as well as 13 Moons from The Unit, as we moon walk to the opening of the festival on the beach.

Parade is the culmination of our work with local community groups, in-house school workshops, assemblies, and public sharing sessions, which are delivered in partnership with CEFAS and Space East. It'll be out of this world!

### First Light Fundays at East Point Pavilion

Join us at our community workshops at East Point Pavilion where we will be making planets, moons, plankton and more to wear in the parade, and learning The Big Bang Boogie – our mass community dance!

Visit  
[www.eastpointpavilion.com](http://www.eastpointpavilion.com)  
for more information



### How & When to Watch the Parade

Parade starts at East Point Pavilion on Saturday 20 June at 11:00 with an exciting community dance (keep an eye on our social media for hints on how to join in) and then we walk and strut down the sea front to the beach where it will open the festival's main Sunlight Stage at 12:00

Catch the parade anywhere along the route, but we recommend finding a spot somewhere between East Point Pavilion and Claremont Pier and join on the end!

### Accessibility

The parade route from East Point Pavilion to Claremont Pier is entirely step-free and wheelchair accessible. From Claremont Pier, the parade goes down a short, steep slope onto the lower seafront promenade (Jubilee Parade), where it continues along flat paving until the main Sunlight Stage.

The final section of the parade route goes across the sand of South Beach. While this section is not wheelchair or buggy accessible, the parade will be visible from Jubilee Parade.

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**Ella Al-Shamahi:**  
**Becoming Human** 11 Jun



**The Tiger Who  
Came to Tea 2** - 5 Jul



**Olga Koch:**  
**Fat Tom Cruise** 14 Nov



**Olaf Falafel's Stupidest  
Super Stupid Show** 20 Jun



**Daliso Chavonda:**  
**Topical Storm** 29 Jul



**Ginger Johnson:**  
**Show Pony** 12 Sep



**Juliette Burton: Going Rogue**  
31 May

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# SUNDOWN EVENTS

TICKETS: £8 - £20

Book and find out more at  
[www.firstlightlowestoft.com/  
zones/sundown-events/](http://www.firstlightlowestoft.com/zones/sundown-events/)



## SIMON DAY 22:00 – 23:00 The Seagull Theatre

Simon Day — one of Britain's finest character comedians and a defining voice of The Fast Show — joins us for a special one-night performance at The Seagull Theatre.



## JAMZ SUPERNOVA AFTERPARTY 22:00 – 02:00 The Venue, Claremont Pier

After the fun finishes on the beach, the party continues with an exclusive DJ set from Jamz at the latest hot spot in town, Claremont Pier's brand new club – The Venue. With support from The Hemingways.



## THE WRONG END OF THE PIER SHOW 22:00 – 23:00 East Point Pavilion

A speciality pic n mix of international cabaret and circus will be slapping on their greasepaint, buffing up their sequins, and preparing to amaze at East Point Pavilion.



## POLLY GIBBONS 'NO MOON AT ALL' 22:00 - 23:10 Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club

Enjoy an intimate performance with singer Polly Gibbons at the Yacht Club. She delivers jazz standards and soulful classics with warmth, humour, and a touch of blues, joined by pianist Phil Merriman and a special guest on bass.



## SILENT DISCO 22:00 – 02:00 East Point Pavilion

Following on from 'The Wrong End of the Pier Show' keep the party going with First Light's famous 'Silent Disco'; step inside—headphones on—and become immersed in your own Summer Solstice soundtrack.



## MOONLIT SOUNDSCAPES 22:00 – 00:30 St Peter & St John Church

Featuring standout international and local artists—Daisy Green, Steve Pretty & Harriet McKenzie, BOSCH, and Molly Chadwick & Laurence Penman—this atmospheric concert offers a rich mix of styles, taking you on a magical moonlit journey.



# KEEPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

It's important that everyone has a fun and safe experience at First Light, so we have put together some useful tips to support you and your family during your visit.

## Wristbands

If you are attending the festival with children and young people, make the Kids Hub in the Cosmic Pirates Zone your first stop to pick up a wristband and write your contact number on it. Should you become separated this will help us to reunite you quickly.

## Agree a meeting point

Visit it first together so you know exactly where to meet should you become separated.

## Lost Children

If you do become separated from your child, inform a member of staff immediately. We have trained staff and procedures to help find them. Over the weekend point out 'Safe Adults' – festival staff, volunteers, security, first aid, and police, to your child/ young person so they know who to approach if they need help.

## Teens and Young Adults

First Light can be an exciting first festival experience for young people, however they can easily become vulnerable due to drink and drugs. Its important to plan with parents and friends on how to stay safe, get a wristband too, and our roving festival pastoral team are here to help.

The festival can be a loud and overwhelming place, if you're in need of a quieter moment or someone to talk to we recommend visiting

- Pakefield Pastures, located at Pakefield Church
- Soul Space, located in the Wellbeing Zone on the beach

## An accessible festival for all

With BSL - interpreted performances, trackway on the beach, beach wheelchairs, free companion tickets, what to expect information and more, we're making this year's festival our most open and accessible yet.

Explore our offer at [firstlightlowestoft.com/accessibility](http://firstlightlowestoft.com/accessibility)

For further information and advice visit [www.firstlightlowestoft.com/keepingsafe](http://www.firstlightlowestoft.com/keepingsafe)



Aimed  
at ages  
13+

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW ZONE: VERTICAL SPACE

Vertical Space is a free new zone for young people offering drop-in creativity, games, DJ sessions and activities on the beach.

Created from feedback from young people in Lowestoft, here you can create your own unique merchandise sweatshirt with our heat press in Merch Me Up, using First Festival designs from previous years; put a record on (and mix it) at the Drop in DJ sessions with Raving 4 a Reason; try out and experience new and popular games with Game Anglia, Norwich Gaming Festival and The Fort; and join in with workshops, quests, tournaments and table-top gaming with Skyward Fire Games.

If you're looking to push yourself to the max, head to 'Mussel Beach' where the team from Delta Fitness will challenge you to the max with strength, cardio and endurance competitions.

Vertical Space is built around what young people asked for — a safe spot to chill, a chance to get creative, and somewhere you can just be yourself.

Check out the full programme at [www.firstlightlowestoft.com/zones/vertical-space/](http://www.firstlightlowestoft.com/zones/vertical-space/) or scan QR



SOUTH BEACH, LOWESTOFT

# FIRST LIGHT FEST

• **SUNLIGHT**

## JAMZ SUPERNOVA

YEAR OF THE DOG  
ASHTON JONES  
N'FAMADY KOUYATE

## ANOTHER

SHUN  
LIZZIE BE  
SEA CHANGE: BEN  
IN LOWE

• **NEW DAWN**

SCARLETT HOGG  
THOMAS HUBERY  
WARN

CHANCE FOR GOOD  
TAF ROYALE  
OLI HARRIS

• **FIRST V**

JOHN OSBORNE  
KATE IRELAND  
GEORGIE JONES  
SAM BROWNE

THERESA LOLA  
BRADLEY TAYLOR  
INUA ELLAMS

CAITLIN  
LUKE W  
MARCEL L

• **INTERSTELL**

PATRICK GRANT / ASHLEY HICKSON-LOVENCE / ANDREA LUKA ZIN  
STEVE PRETTY / CHRIS LINTOTT / GEORGE MCKAY / JON ABLETT

• **AROUND THE**

SIMON DAY / LAURENCE EDWARDS 'THE LONG WAIT' / POLLY G  
SOUNDSCAPES / MADDIE EXTON 'MEET ME AT FIRST LIGHT  
EASTERLY ARTISTS

• **AURO**

LEVI FRUITS & FRIENDS / JASON SINGH / BEN OSBORNE: NOISE

PLUS GARDENS STAGE, SUFFOLK SOUND STAGE, COSMIC PIRATES, PLANET PC

# ST HT TIVAL

20-21  
JUNE

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## HT STAGE •

### ER TASTE

UNTA!

BERCHIE

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

WESTOFT

### SETH LAKEMAN

MAGNOLIA

LIKE OPTIMISTS

CUT CAPERS

WELCOME THE LIGHT

## WN STAGE •

PLEASUREINC

GOURDS

LARA PRICE

ROBIN TORBITT

GABBY RIVERS

## T WORD •

IN O'RYAN

WRIGHT

L LUCONT

ELF LYONS

ANDREW O'NEILL

KATIE BONNA

TYRONE LEWIS

OLIVER JAMES LOMAX

CARYS ELERI

JOHN HEGLEY

## LLAR IDEAS •

ZIMMERMAN / JULIAN BARNWEL / ERROL MCGLASHAN / CEFAS

TT / MARK THOMPSON WITH NORWICH ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## HE FESTIVAL •

Y GIBBONS / THE WRONG END OF THE PIER SHOW / MOONLIT

HT' / LEVIATHAN / KITTIWAKE HOTEL+ / NOON TO MOON

TS / SILENT DISCO

## RORA •

ISE OF ART / HOTLINE HOWARD AND ANNA B / TADI THE GREAT

T POSITIVE, WELLBEING BY THE WAVES, SUNDOWN EVENTS AND MUCH MORE!



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# DAWN - CELEBRATE THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

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This year our Moon theme celebrates the 13 full moons of 2026. Our closest neighbour in the universe, the moon is our constant companion, whose light fires imaginations and drives scientific exploration. From our most easterly UK location in Lowestoft, we salute the power of the moon across our programme of music, ideas, visual art, dance, science, spoken word and community.

**Dawn** this year is a very special Solstice celebration with three new music works to herald midsummer, with **Jason Singh's Suraj**

(Punjabi for "Sun") an immersive, soundscape inspired by the morning raga Bhairav, a new work by **Tendertwin** that pays homage to Benjamin Britten's Lowestoft birthplace and **Shells and Bells**, a piece by our musician in residence **Steve Pretty** that brings shells into dialogue with the haunting resonance of **ship's bells**, blending two maritime sound worlds into something immersive, elemental and alive to the moment of sunrise.

Supported by  Sizewell C  
**Tourism Fund**

## Dawn Programme

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- 04:00 – Prepare for dawn with Jason Singh's Suraj
- 04:20 – With the first glimmer of solstice sunrise, be part of the yoga welcoming party.
- 04:30 – Listen to Steve Pretty's 'Shells & Bells'.
- 04:33 – Watch the summer solstice sunrise over the horizon
- 04:35 – Join the sunrise club and tuck into a delicious fish feast.
- 04:40 – Listen to a new co-commission between Britten Pears Arts and First Light Festival, written by Tendertwin.
- 04:50 – Join in or listen to our call to the wild as we summon the selkies.

SOTTERLEY, SUFFOLK - 21 22 23 AUGUST 2026

# FOLKEAST

## FESTIVAL

FEATURING

**RICHARD THOMPSON**

WITH ZARA PHILLIPS

**EDDI READER**

**THE YOUNG'UNS**

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**JIGGY, PROJECT SMOK, THE MAGPIES**

**SAM KELLY & THE LOST BOYS**

**SAM CARTER SINGS NIC JONES, ELLIE GOWERS**

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# SUSTAINABILITY

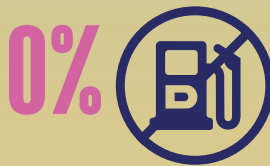
Our commitment to sustainability runs through everything we do from the programming, our décor – which we reuse each year - and our site.

We work with amazing partners who study the very bottom of the sea and the planets millions of light years away in our skies as well as looking at events and stories past, present, and future.

We strive to improve every year and want our audiences to actively engage with their environment and be part of positive change.

## WASTE

The team at Suffolk Waste Partnership and East Suffolk Services work alongside us to help keep the beach and our site as clean as possible. This year we have more bins than ever, with additional glass, food and recycling bins around the site for the first time. Our mighty team of volunteers litter pick throughout the festival to ensure we leave no trace.



## POWER

We've used zero diesel in our generators over the last 3 years, making the switch to HVO in 2023 and we're always on the lookout for new technology to help us push what we can achieve.

## PRINT

Our printers nearby in Norfolk are committed to responsible print production. The print processes focus on reducing waste, improving energy efficiency, and using materials that minimise environmental impact. This publication has also been printed using vegetable-based inks.



## TRAVEL

We actively encourage festival goers and our artists to travel to the festival via the most sustainable means possible. 42% of our audiences came on foot last year, more than ever, and over 20% came by train, bus or bike. Our travel partner Greater Anglia put on an extra train, and reported that more passengers from Beccles, Saxmundham and Ipswich attended the Festival than in previous years and that the number of passengers was nearly 100% more than in 2024. Most of our audiences are local with nearly 60% within 4 miles.

60%



42% 20%



## PARADE

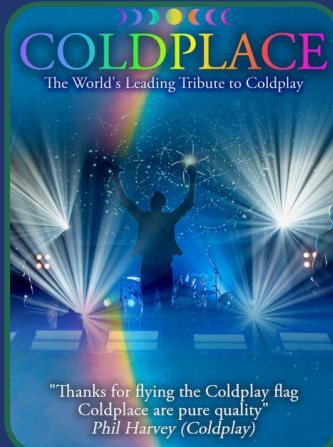
Our workshops use recycled materials and the theme allows a meaningful conversation about the environment with community groups and schools. We reuse as much as we can, transforming unwanted household items into moons, stars and more!

# MARINA THEATRE

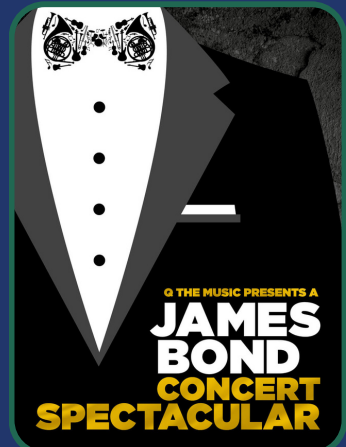
Comedy | Music | Drama | Classes



Fri 3 Jul



Sat 4 Jul



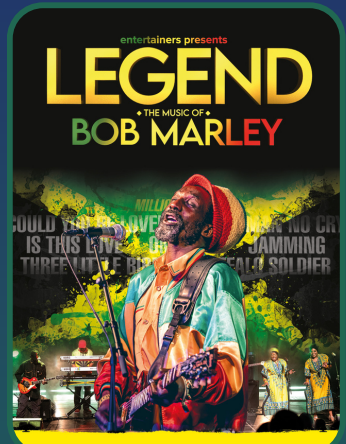
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Fri 17 Jul



Fri 24 Jul



Thu 30 Jul

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# A FULL YEAR OF FIRST LIGHT



## Game Lowestoft

Back for a second year on 13 & 14 November, we're programming another 2 days of epic gaming in the East. Working with partners across the region and award-winning Games Developers', we've got an inspiring education day for schools and colleges and a day for gamers and families at East Point Pavilion - building on the success of last year with tournaments, VR, new games and old favourites.



## East Point Pavilion

Our year-round coastal-home, at East Point Pavilion, First Light hosts a diverse range of events. From monthly markets and regular workshops for children and adults alike, to live music events including our Sails & Ales maritime festival, classical music concerts, open mic nights and a monthly folk night. Visit [eastpointpavilion.com](http://eastpointpavilion.com) to find out what's on.



## Lowestoft's New Cultural Quarter

First Light Festival CIC is excited to be chosen as the operator for the planned Cultural Quarter in Lowestoft, which is being developed on the site of what was the Battery Green multi-story car park. In the coming months, the car park and its surrounding area will be transformed into a creative hub. During that time we will be developing our plans - for a dynamic space for culture, creativity, learning, and community engagement, to bring our vibrant First Light Festival USP into the town centre!

**FIRST  
LIGHT  
FESTIVAL**

## Support the Festival

Keep the festival free and support our year-round work, scan to donate



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INK Festival 15-18 April 2027

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# MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT AND STAY AT FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL...

Camping, campervan and glamping pitches are available for both Friday 19 and Saturday 20 June – so pack your sleeping bag, sandals and suncream and we'll see you on the beach!

Spend a night or two under the stars and get the full First Light Festival experience with a camping, campervan or glamping stay at First Light Festival. Offering the unique opportunity to pitch up on the UK's most easterly beach, right next to the Festival site, or roll up in your campervan and soak up cliff-top views of the beach and Festival.

A short stroll from the Festival site, Kirkley & Pakefield Football Club also hosts a number of campervan pitches; here you can experience First Light Festival with all the familiar comforts of your home away from home.

## NEW FOR 2026

We've teamed up with CampRolo to offer festival-goers a glamping experience and the chance to stay in their very own fully kitted-out campervan!

Scan to book your pitch

