

First Light Festival CIC has been hard at work over the past year, making opportunities for connection, creativity and celebration around Lowestoft. In place of a 2021 solstice Festival, we presented *Longest Days of Summer*, a series of projects around the town and coast that brought us back together after months of lockdown through visual arts and music. Our First Flight project saw Kensington Gardens festooned with beautiful, original birdboxes made by 3000 school children, community groups and artists; the You are the Dawn After My Dark typographic artwork was enjoyed by thousands of people on South beach from June to November – including many brides and grooms!

Throughout winter, our *MarketPlace* project has toured to Saxmundham, Beccles, Lowestoft and Leiston, exploring how pop-up arts markets can bring energy, dynamism and investment to Suffolk towns.

We now look forward to First Light Festival 2022, which returns for a free multi-arts and science festival on South Beach and the seafront gardens over the weekend 18-19 June, with a new Friday night offer of film on the beach and beach feast and extra 'wild camping'. Alongside the Festival, we're preparing to launch the newly renovated East Point Pavilion, a new venture that will see the Pavilion become a hub of food, events and community, and will host workshops, music, performances and more throughout the year.