

First Light Festival

We were delighted to be able to deliver First Light Festival last year in June where in spite of poor weather (including a dramatic storm) we welcomed thousands of people to South Beach and Kensington Gardens. Our new Planet Positive zone was a great attraction for families as was the Incredible Oceans area on the beach which saw more than 3000 people take part in their activity. Our New Dawn stage was another first for the year and we were thrilled that more than 70 young musicians and bands from the town and locality applied to play. The festival involved 448 artistes, performers and facilitators and 116 brilliant volunteers. Feedback was fantastic including:

'The whole weekend was brilliant - there was so much to do. We loved the variety of music, art, environmental education, food & drink on offer.... It shone a gorgeous light on Lowestoft, we had no idea how lovely it is there. The seafront is incredible!' Audience member e-survey.

We are now starting to plan for First Light Festival 2023 which will take place on the 17th & 18th June. We're excited to be expanding our Planet Positive zone and alongside our New Dawn project for 14-25-yrs musicians to be launching *Playbreak*, a call out for musicians over 25-yrs living, working and gigging in Lowestoft, to perform at the 2023 festival. This year we are part of a national project Hi! Street Fest as one of 6 towns across England involved in the project, which will see artists, trainee producers and local people collaborate on First Light's opening parade, including the building of a large-scale Lowestoft puppet. Centred around a celebration of local biodiversity, the parade will echo themes highlighted in our extended Planet Positive zone programme, which will build on the success of previous years in offering audiences hands-on, relevant experiences around issues of climate, science and research. As well as community workshops we will also be working with the LCEP to offer a large scale programme of schools workshops. Music, dance, arts and science together with local food and drink traders, beach camping and a dawn celebration with a new dance work plus an extended timeline for the Sunday will see a vibrant First Light Festival celebrate the most easterly midsummer.