

# FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL

## First Light Festival 2024

First Light Festival returns on 22 and 23 June. The 2024 festival theme is on the Cardinal Points to allow a strong focus on our most easterly location with the theme of North, South, East and West threaded through the programme.

This year's festival parade is Resonance! Working with schools and community groups and welcoming two more large puppets to be part of the parade which will start at the East Point Pavilion – and all about blowing to the North, South and West of the country. In-school workshops around making an instrument will take place with our musician in residence and with our arts practitioner there will be free making sessions in the EPP. In addition, there will be a CPD event for teachers to learn how to make instruments and headresses to enable as many children as possible to take part. The Marina Samba band will be giving it plenty of oomph!

Welcome the Light is our community music project for opening the main Sunlight Stage and this year takes the theme of House of the Rising Sun. Working with the local high schools, Lowestoft duo Lincoln Skins, Group A singing group and Tapestry and Seagull Theatre community choirs, the project explores the local folklore that attributes the song to coming from Lowestoft and reimagines the lyrics... looking forward to a rousing performance.

This year the Planet Positive zone moves to the beach where a new CharitySuper.MKT area will be working with four local charities as part of this new national venture that highlights sustainable shopping with pre-worn items plus a community catwalk event! Messums East zone will run an arts workshop with a renowned artist whose work explores seaweed as a medium for sculpture, to give a flavour of their focus on 'making' which will be an important part of their new arts hub in the town.

With St Elizabeth Hospice there will be dawn 'in memory' walk. The Dawn programme will include yoga, Scottish pipes, new music commissions and an ambient DJ set.

We are working with Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club, St Peter and St John Church, Mossy's, Seagull Theatre and East Point Pavilion for a variety of music on the Saturday night.

Suffolk Libraries will once again be running the Cosmic Pirates zone with Lowestoft Library, East Coast College is coordinating the Power Positive zone and Dance East the

Moon Dance tent. This year as well as working with Everyone Active we are also delighted that Access Sport and Lowestoft Town Football Club are coming together to run the active / sports area on the beach.

The Garden Stage will be in Kensington Gardens with a great programme of performers plus stalls from the Easterly Group of artists, Friends of Kensington Gardens and Britten as a Boy. Our 2024 Noon to Moon project is 'Weather Vane' for local professional and community artists and groups and will be in the sunken garden area. Food and drink with a focus on local and regional producers will be offering a street food experience on the upper Esplanade and a Makers Market will showcase lots of great local making talent. Our New Dawn stage will showcase the amazing array of talent from emerging musicians who will also be performing at the East Point Pavilion.

Thank you very much to Lowestoft Town Council for all their support.