

WHAT'S

ON

SUMMER 2026

UEA University of
East Anglia
Norwich

**SIR
MICHAEL
PALIN**

FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL

THE ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW

NORWICH HISTORY FESTIVAL

MUSIC

FESTIVALS

LITERATURE

EVENTS

ART

WHAT'S ON

CONTENTS

 **MUSIC** 4

 **EVENTS** 6

 **LITERATURE** 7

 **FESTIVALS** 8

 **ART** 18

ICON KEY

 Booking essential

 Free event

 Email

 Instagram

Front cover: Michael Palin © John Swannell

Below: © Tom Barrett



UEA OPEN DAYS

Sat 4 Jul • Sat 26 Sep • Sat 24 Oct • Sat 28 Nov



DON'T MISS

Thurs 28 May

Sir Michael Palin in Conversation

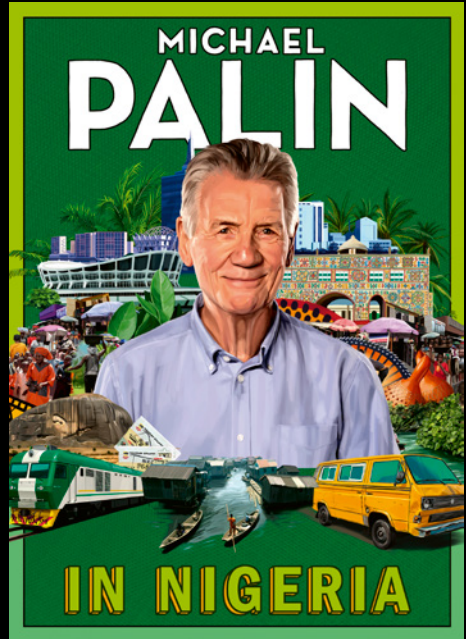
Join us for a very special event with actor, comedian, writer and presenter Sir Michael Palin.

Sir Michael first rose to fame for his work with the Monty Python comedy group, co-writing and starring in classics such as *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Life of Brian* and *The Meaning of Life*. He received the BAFTA fellowship in 2013 and has most recently appeared in the BBC series *Small Prophets*.

Sir Michael is also a prolific travel writer and documentarian, and he will be in-conversation with Arts Editor Nina Nannar at UEA to discuss his new book *Michael Palin in Nigeria*, as well as his lauded career as a whole.

In partnership with Norfolk Screen.

Norfolk Screen is a one-stop shop for incoming productions, serving as the official Film Office for the county. They provide a dedicated service that champions Norfolk as an outstanding destination for screen production by promoting the region's locations, talent, suppliers, and studios. Visit norfolkscreen.co.uk.





MUSIC

May

Tue 9 May

The Lemon Twigs

The Adrian Flux Waterfront

Fri 22 May

DMA's

The Nick Rayns LCR

June

Thu 4 June

Levellers

The Nick Rayns LCR

Sat 27 June

The Divine Comedy

The Nick Rayns LCR

July

Sun 5 Jul

Free Throw

The Adrian Flux Waterfront

Thu 16 Jul

Blue

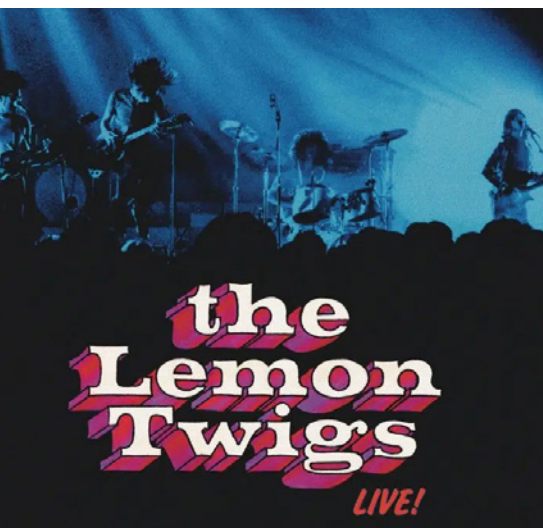
The Adrian Flux Waterfront

Mon 20 and Tue 21 Jul

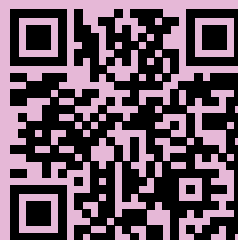
Gary Numan

The Adrian Flux Waterfront

Ticket prices vary, please see website for more details.



MORE INFO



@officiallcr / @adrianfluxwaterfrontnr1

@ boxoffice@uea.ac.uk

ueaticketbookings.co.uk/whats-on



UEA Choir and UEA Chamber Choir auditions

Fri 18 Sept, 11am – 5.30pm

Mon 21 Sept, 12pm – 6pm

UEA Symphony Orchestra auditions

Fri 18 Sept, 12pm – 6pm

Mon 21 Sept, 3pm – 8pm

Media and Music Building, UEA

UEA Music Centre

Auditions are coming this September! There are opportunities for keen amateur singers, those with choral or trained experience, and instrumentalists who want to get involved in ambitious music-making within the dynamic music community at UEA.

MORE INFO



 @UEAmusiccentre

 musicevents@uea.ac.uk

uea.ac.uk/search/events

Third Year Production

20 – 23 May, 2.30pm or 7.30pm

The Way of The World

First performed in 1700, William Congreve's comedy play scandalised theatregoers by focusing on sexual intrigue and money-chasing.



Playhouse Creatures

April De Angelis's 1993 play follows the first female acting troupe of the Restoration period as they face new careers and new dangers.



Third Thursday Lectures

The Third Thursday Lecture series brings together experts from across studies in Japanese arts and cultures.

Thu 14 May, 6pm

Towards 150 years of Japanese archaeology and its broader Asian connections

Professor Simon Kaner

In-person at the Royal Asiatic Society, London and online via Zoom.

Thu 18 June, 6pm

Women and Traditional Craftsmanship in Contemporary Japan

Dr Clara Momoko Geber-Mérida

In-person at The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral and online via Zoom.





Noirwich

Wed 9 Sept

Established in 2014, Noirwich explores, interrogates and promotes progressive and inclusive crime writing. Many incredible crime writers have attended in the past, including Lee Child, Louise Doughty, Nicci French, Mick Herron and Val McDermid.

Sign up to the Noirwich network to be the first to receive updates and announcements about this September's event.

noirwich.co.uk

 @NOIRwichFest

NOIRWICH

MORE INFO



N National Centre
for Writing

DISCOVER
WHAT'S ON
THIS SUMMER



nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk





FESTIVALS

UEA End of Year Festival

Sat 9 – Sat 16 May

Visitors to UEA are invited to join a celebration of the end of the academic year with a showcase of creative work, creative thinking, and above all student success.

Throughout the week, our campus will be in festive mood, with pop-up exhibitions of student work in creative writing, drama, publishing, film and media, journalism, science and computing, and much more. Visitors will be able to follow a trail around campus, viewing and interacting with the exhibitions while experiencing the splendour of our iconic buildings, the sculpture park, Broad and woodlands.

We will be playing host to some exciting events during the festival week, from the production of UEA alum Martha Loader's play **Albatross** on 9 May (see p.11), **Clive Myrie in Conversation** (now sold out) on 12 May, **Professor Nick Pidgeon's British Academy Lecture** on sustainability on 13 May, an alumni event on 14 May and the **Student Union's Big Free Music** event on Saturday 16 May. We will also be in a celebratory mode, with events marking excellence in new creative writing (readings at **New Writing Live**) and the annual award of the **Snoo Wilson Prize** for innovative and inventive work in scriptwriting.



UEA SU Presents



THE BIG FREE CONCERT

FOOD, STALLS & LIVE MUSIC



STUDENT ACTS & LOCAL TALENT

LINEUP TO BE ANNOUNCED



SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026

UEA CAMPUS ★ THE SQUARE



FESTIVALS

Green Film Festival

Wed 27 May

Every Little Thing (2024)

A film by Sally Aitken

A film of joy and wonder, *Every Little Thing*, offers profound truths in a deceptively simple story about an inspirational woman who has devoted herself to rescue & rehabilitation of injured hummingbirds.

Sally Aitken is a twice Emmy®-nominated director and writer highly regarded for her visually arresting work characterised by compassion, and humour.

This is a free event and tickets must be booked in advance.

FREE



MORE INFO





Norfolk and Norwich Festival

Sat 9 May, 7.30pm

UEA Drama Studio

Albatross

Do family ties make us act with more care or blind us to the facts? *Albatross* takes us to the very boundaries of love in the age of climate catastrophe. Award-winning Martha Loader is one of the finest young playwrights working in Britain today. In *Albatross* she asks us what we're willing to sacrifice for a better future.



General Admission: £16

Concessions: £12

Students: £10



Photography by: Ashley Day

Thu 21 May, 6.30pm

Town Close Auditorium, Norwich Castle

Culture, The Environment & Social Transformation

This unique event with UEA and Norfolk & Norwich Thinker In Residence, Karina Aveyard, and internationally renowned museum curator, art historian and writer Frances Morris CBE, will combine a public lecture with short cultural performances (film and poetry) from local artists in a creative dialogue on culture, the environment and the possibilities of positive social change.



General Admission: £10

Concessions: 10% off

Students: £10



Photography by: Hyunjun Lee



First Light Festival

Sat 20 – Sun 21 June

Sat 20, 12.30pm – 1.30pm

UEA Live: Ashley Hickson-Lovence

UEA Live heads out on the road with graduate Ashley Hickson-Lovence to discuss his latest novel, *About to Fall Apart*. Ashley is the author of the novels *The 392*, *Your Show* and *Wild East* (overall winner of the East Anglian Book Awards 2024) and his nominations include the Black Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution to Literature 2023.

Sat 20, 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Discovery of Norfolk's 'Mary Rose', The Wreck of Gloucester 1682

Julian Barnwell shares his story of *Finding the Gloucester* – how two diving Norfolk brothers and their friend discovered the wreck of a 17th-century warship.



Sun 21, 1.45pm – 2.35pm

Dancing in the Moonlight: A Cultural History of Music Festivals

From jazz gatherings to muddy fields and moonlit crowds, Professor George McKay explores how festivals shape communities, rebellion, creativity and the enduring human desire to celebrate together.

All weekend

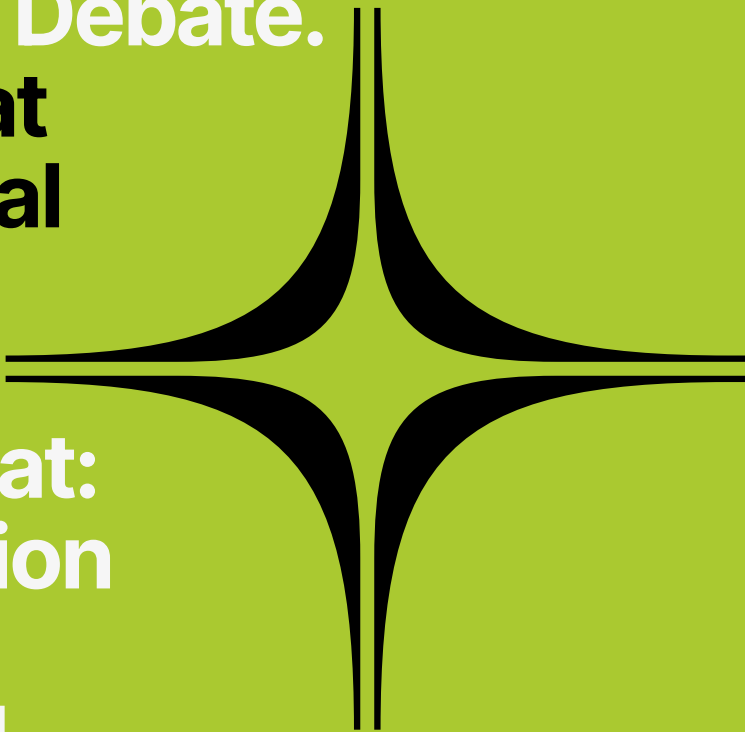
The Galaxy of Planet- Positive Ideas

If reaching the moon was once thought impossible, what might be possible now for a planet-positive future? Using the moon as a shared symbol, local school children have been asked to explore ideas of agency, responsibility, and hope, and to express their thinking creatively.

View a display of their poems, short stories, speeches and songs.



Village.
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The Big Debate.
UEA is at
the Royal
Norfolk
Show.
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Hub.
STEMM
Village.
Sports Zone.
Wellbeing
Village.
Business



We partner with Norfolk businesses, train its workforce, research its challenges and invest in its future. **That is what it means to be a civic university.**

 Find out more:
uea.ac.uk/civic

Original
By Nature



14 **Visit:** royalnorfolkshow.co.uk



Norwich History Festival

Tue 14 – Fri 24 July

Norwich History Festival returns for its second year, bigger and better, with UEA as the main partner. The festival will be a mixture of talks, walks, films, music, family events and exhibitions on the theme this year of 'Why History Matters'.



Wed 15 July, 6pm

Hester Street screening and Q&A

Marking the landmark film's 50th anniversary, join Dr Julia Wagner in conversation with Dr Sarah Godfrey to discuss its importance as a milestone in cinema.

Cinema City

Fri 17 July, 6.30pm

Why the Bacon Papers matter: Celebrating a Tudor publishing triumph

The Norfolk Record Society's annual volume launch with Rev. Professor Diarmaid N.J. MacCulloch, Kt, DD, FBA. Chaired by Dr Joel Halcomb.

St Peter Mancroft

Sat 18 July, 3pm

Antony Beevor in conversation

Join the renowned historian and author as he discusses his career and latest book, *Rasputin: And the Downfall of the Romanovs*.

Lecture Theatre 1, UEA

Mon 20 July, 1pm

Why History Matters

Take part in the discussion in this panel debate featuring Norwich South MP Clive Lewis.

Octagon Chapel

Mon 20 July, 3pm

Why the Gloucester shipwreck matters

Professor Claire Jowitt gives a unique insight into the most significant historic maritime discovery since the Mary Rose in 1971.

The Auditorium, The Forum





Thu 23 July, 7.30pm

Charlie Higson in Conversation

Charlie Higson is an author, actor, producer, comedian and writer for TV, film and radio. In the 90s he co-created, co-produced and starred in the BAFTA winning sketch show, *The Fast Show*, with Paul Whitehouse.

Since 2023 Charlie has hosted a weekly history podcast about the British monarchy called *Willie Willie Harry Stee*, and a companion book of the series was published last October.





Latitude

Thu 23 – Sun 26 July

If you're heading to Henham Park this summer to celebrate Latitude's 20th anniversary, be sure to stop by the UEA talks, workshops and activity stands. Find us at The Apollo Stage, Listening Post and Bookshop – and we'll have our very own beach hut!

The Bookshop – UEA Live takeover!

The home of creative writing and the home for Latitude's literature events collide for one weekend only. As an intimate hub for booklovers, The Bookshop is the perfect spot to unwind, laugh, learn and look at the world different with our bright and brilliant speakers.

Beach hut

Step inside the UEA beach hut and 'take a leaf out of someone's book'. Share a story that matters to you, discover someone else's, and add your voice to a growing tree of reader recommendations for all ages. Have a favourite Latitude memory? We want to hear from you too!

See Latitude website for further UEA events and to find out more.





Sainsbury Centre

Living Area

Discover this world-class collection transcending art, architecture, archaeology and anthropology. Explore artists such as Henry Moore, Leilah Babirye, Yinka Shonibare, Francis Bacon, Pablo Picasso and Barbara Hepworth.

The Terrace Café

Offering specialty award-winning coffee and a range of delicious cakes and savoury snacks.

Sit inside overlooking the permanent collection, or outside admiring the Sculpture Park.

Modern Life Café

A diverse selection of hot meals for adults and children and full range of hot and cold drinks are available.





What is the Meaning of Life?

This season of exhibitions delves into the fundamental questions of human existence, from rule-making, to time and play.

Living by the Rule: Contemporary meets Medieval

Sat 16 May – Sun 4 Oct

Exploring the idea of routine and regulation, this exhibition reflects on the 'rules' that we live by today, through a dialogue between medieval experiments in a different way to live, and modern reflections upon how life is organised.

***Life in the Multiverse* by Libby Heaney**

Sat 16 May – Sun 4 Oct

Sainsbury Centre Living Area

Libby Heaney uses quantum computing to create immersive and participatory installations. *Life in the Multiverse*, commissioned for this season, includes a two-part digital installation and a new series of paintings. Heaney layers diverse experiences to explore ideas around interconnectedness.

 Pay If and What You Can

Play Power

Sat 16 May – Sun 4 Oct

Investigating the concept of play in human cultures, *Play Power* reflects on the broader significance of play and how this is integrated into our daily lives.

***Tree of Life* by Seyi Adekun**

Sat 20 Jun - Sun 30 May 2027

Woven from hand-dyed sisal rope, the tactile and immersive installation invites visitors to move in and around the tree's central hollow trunk. Drawing on multiple traditions, the tree emerges as a universal symbol of the interconnectedness of all life, personal growth, the cyclical nature of existence and acts as a bridge between physical and spiritual realms.

Joy Like Time

Sat 20 Jun – Sun 15 Nov

This exhibition explores how memory, ritual and renewal intersect through the work of internationally renowned artists – and how they have found life's meaning through their practice via craft and repetition.



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Public Events & Engagement
University of East Anglia
Norwich Research Park
Norwich, NR4 7TJ

Visit: uea.ac.uk/events
Email: events@uea.ac.uk
Call: 01603 592130



JOIN THE WHAT'S ON MAILING LIST

Please note: information in this edition of What's On was correct at time of print, but details may be subject to change. Please check our online listings and related websites before attending an event.