

# SOUTH DOWNS DARK SKIES FESTIVAL 2022

## PROGRAMME (LIVE/VIRTUAL EVENTS) 11–27 FEBRUARY

A celebration over two weeks to explore the dark skies of the South Downs and the nocturnal wildlife that lives there. This year we have a wonderful mix of inspiring online content and some in person outdoor events.

- Explore each of our 10 Dark Sky Discovery Sites through our helpful short films before visiting them yourself
- Take a live online tour of the winter night sky
- Discover recent findings in astronomy and space exploration
- Facebook Live – join a moon-gazing and astrophotography session
- Find out about nocturnal wildlife and learn how to build your own bat box
- Walk the Solar System and discover each of the planets along the way
- Join a star party on Brighton seafront and at Goodwood Counters Gate
- See prize-winning night time photography
- Download craft activities and colouring sheets

Please note that all in person events are weather dependent and are subject to cancellation at short notice. Please check [southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022](https://southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022) on the day.



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## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

## WHAT'S ON

### FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY

▶ **SHORT FILM – SOUTH DOWNS DARK SKIES FESTIVAL LAUNCH WITH 'DARK SKIES DAN'** **V** Dan Oakley, Dark Skies Lead for the South Downs National Park, welcomes you to this year's festival.

### SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY

▶ **TWO SHORT FILMS – TOP TIPS FOR STARGAZING WITH 'DARK SKIES DAN'** **V** Dan introduces stargazing in the National Park and runs through what you might see in our night skies.

▶ **6.30PM – STARGAZING EVENING AT THE OBSERVATORY SCIENCE CENTRE AT HERSTMONCEUX** **L** Come and enjoy the Observatory at night and, weather permitting, look through some of the largest telescopes in the country. For more details and to book: [the-observatory.org/events/stargazing-evenings](https://the-observatory.org/events/stargazing-evenings)  
*Partner event, Herstmonceux Observatory.*

### MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY

▶ **WINTER NIGHTS ACTIVITY PACK AT QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK** **L** Try QECP's Winter Nights Activity Pack full of activities, games and information surrounding our amazing planet at night. From nocturnal creatures to the stars that fill our night sky. Pack includes – activity sheet, craft and a pack of pencils. Priced at £3.50 per pack and available to buy from the Visitor Centre from 14 February–31 March 2022.

*Partner event, Queen Elizabeth Country Park*

### TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

▶ **11.00AM – MOON WATCH AT THE OBSERVATORY SCIENCE CENTRE AT HERSTMONCEUX** **L**

Half day workshop for ages 6-8 years. For more details and to book:

[the-observatory.org/events/moon-watch](https://the-observatory.org/events/moon-watch)  
*Partner event, Herstmonceux Observatory.*

▶ **6.00PM – WALK THE PLANETS AT SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK** **L**

Join us for a free event at Seven Sisters Country Park to walk our planet trail, with the planets laid out to scale. If the night is clear, there will be telescopes at the end of the walk to look through. For more details, see

[southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022](https://southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022)

▶ **8.30PM – WALK THE PLANETS AT SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK** **f**

If you can't make it to Seven Sisters, never fear – join us on Facebook for a live walk along the trail with Dark Skies Dan

### WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY

▶ **2.00PM – EXPLORE THE MOON TWILIGHT AT THE OBSERVATORY SCIENCE CENTRE AT HERSTMONCEUX** **L**

Twilight workshop for ages 9-11 years. For more details and to book: [the-observatory.org/events/explore-the-moon-twilight](https://the-observatory.org/events/explore-the-moon-twilight)

*Partner event, Herstmonceux Observatory*

▶ **7.00PM – MOONGAZING AND ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY** **f**

Join University of Sussex lecturer & astronomer, Dr Darren Baskill, on Facebook for a spot of moongazing and a live introduction to astrophotography.



**L** In person **V** Virtual (Facebook/Instagram) **f** Facebook live

## THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY

### ▶ 6.30PM – STARGAZING ON BRIGHTON SEAFRONT **L**

Join National Park Rangers and Brighton Astro on Brighton seafront for a free event to look at the night sky. For more details, see [southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022](https://southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022)

## FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY

### ▶ 5.15PM – NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE WALK **f**

Join National Park Ranger, Jan Knowlson, and Sussex Bat Group's Kim Dawson as they take an evening walk around their local village.

### ▶ 7.00PM – STARGAZING AT FINDON PLACE **L**

Head over to Findon Place to enjoy the fabulous Dark Skies above the South Downs National Park with enthusiastic astronomers from the Worthing Astronomers Club. For more details and to book: [ticketsource.co.uk/findonplace/e-omaxqd](https://ticketsource.co.uk/findonplace/e-omaxqd)  
*Partner event, Findon Place & Worthing Astronomers*

## SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY

### ▶ SHORT FILM – HOW TO BUILD A BAT BOX **V**

Assistant National Park Ranger Gemma North shows us how to build a home for bats.

### ▶ 6.30PM – STAR PARTY AT GOODWOOD COUNTERS GATE **L**

Join National Park Rangers and South Downs Planetarium for a free event exploring the night sky. So long as the night is clear, we will have telescopes available

to look through and experts to guide us. For more details, see [southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022](https://southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022)

### ▶ 7.00PM – STARGAZING AT FINDON PLACE

**L** Head over to Findon Place to enjoy the fabulous Dark Skies above the South Downs National Park with enthusiastic astronomers from the Worthing Astronomers Club. For more details and to book: [ticketsource.co.uk/findonplace/e-omaxqd](https://ticketsource.co.uk/findonplace/e-omaxqd)  
*Partner event, Findon Place & Worthing Astronomers*

## SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

### ▶ SHORT FILM – WINTER NIGHT SKY TOUR **V**

Join Dr John Mason and the South Downs Planetarium for a wonderful winter night sky tour.

▶ 7.15PM – OPEN EVENING **L** with Hampshire Astronomical Group and National Park staff at Clanfield Observatory. For more details and to book: see [southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022](https://southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022)

*SDNPA with Hampshire Astronomical Group*

## MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY

### ▶ SHORT FILM – HOW TO DO YOUR BIT TO REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION **V**

Dark Skies Dan explains about light pollution and what we can all do to reduce it.

## TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

### ▶ CHILDREN'S CRAFT DAY – SOLAR SYSTEM MOBILE AT QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK **L**

Join QECP for their children's half-term craft session! Decorate a solar system mobile

using pens, glue, and glitter, environmentally friendly of course! For more information, please visit [hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/qecp](https://hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/qecp)

*Partner event, Queen Elizabeth Country Park*

### ▶ 6.00PM – WALK THE PLANETS AT QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK **L**

Join us at Queen Elizabeth Country Park for a free event to walk our solar system trail, with the planets laid out to scale. If the night is clear, there will be telescopes at the end of the walk to look through. For more details, see [southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022](https://southdowns.gov.uk/DarkSkiesFestival2022)

## WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY

### ▶ SHORT FILM – LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ASTRONOMY AND SPACE EXPLORATION **V**

Dr John Mason of South Downs Planetarium brings us up-to-date with space news!

▶ 6:30PM – Q&A SESSION WITH DR JOHN MASON **f** Send your questions to [darks skiesfestival@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:darks skiesfestival@southdowns.gov.uk) for a chance to hear them answered by Dr John Mason of South Downs Planetarium during the Facebook Live session!

## FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY

### ▶ SHORT FILM – DARK SKIES IN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK **V**

Explore the dark skies over the South Downs National Park through this 360° film.

## SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY

### ▶ SHORT FILM – TOP TIPS FOR STARGAZING: ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY AND TELESCOPES **V**

Dark Skies Dan gives his tips on equipment to enhance your stargazing experience and how to get started with astrophotography.

### ▶ 6.00PM – STARGAZING EVENING AND PUBLIC OBSERVING AT THE BEACHY HEAD STORY **L**

Explore the skies with Eastbourne Astronomical Society. The event is free and the Beachy Head Story Exhibition and Shop will also be open. For more details: [HeritageEastbourne.com](https://HeritageEastbourne.com)  
*Partner event, Eastbourne Astronomical Society and Heritage Eastbourne*

### ▶ 6.30PM – STARGAZING EVENING AT THE OBSERVATORY SCIENCE CENTRE AT HERSTMONCEUX **L**

Come and enjoy the Observatory at night and, weather permitting, look through some of the largest telescopes in the country. For more details and to book: [the-observatory.org/events/stargazing-evenings](https://the-observatory.org/events/stargazing-evenings)  
*Partner event, Herstmonceux Observatory*

## SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY

### ▶ PEOPLE'S CHOICE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY OPENS **V**

Here's your chance to pick your favourites out of the entries to this year's astrophotography competition. Winning entries to the South Downs annual Astrophotography Competition will be shown throughout the festival.

**L** In person **V** Virtual (Facebook/Instagram) **f** Facebook live

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