

CHERITON LIGHT FESTIVAL – ORGANISERS ANNOUNCE 2018 PROGRAMME



Ross Ashton, *Spiritus* (2016). All Souls Church, Cheriton, Kent.

*** For immediate release ***

Kent-based arts charity **Strange Cargo** is delighted to announce that the fourth edition of the **Cheriton Light Festival** will take place on the **24th and 25th February 2018**, from **6 – 9pm**.

Founded in 2013 and staged every two years, the festival offers the public a chance to see the very best in light art, with commissioned works created by leading figures in the field.

Hailed as the largest winter arts festival in Kent – more than 10,000 people attended its last edition in 2016 – it transforms Cheriton, a coastal resort near Folkestone, into a blaze of light and colour.

Amongst the artists participating in this year's event is **Ross Ashton**, who came to widespread public recognition for his light projections onto Buckingham Place during the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002.

In total there are 28 light installations. Participating artists include: **Kate Beaugie, Jyll Bradley, Callum Cooper, Digital Funfair (Gavin Morris), Steffi Klenz, Ray Lee, Tabitha Lewis, Richie Moment, Karen Monid** (collaborating with Ross Ashton) and **Greg Stobbs**. As always, the event has a truly international flavour, with artists coming from Germany, Palestine, Greece, Peru and Turkey.

Other artists have contributed to the festival, as have the people of Cheriton. For example, the famous 'light windows trail' created by Greg Stobbs encourages visitors to explore Cheriton's criss-crossing network of roads, their path made clear by 50 illuminated windows in residents' homes.

Says Brigitte Orasinski, the organiser Strange Cargo's Artistic Director: *'We believe that extraordinary art can and should happen where people live, and we are delighted to have an inspiring line up of international artists at this year's festival whose work will transform Cheriton for the weekend.'*

She adds: *'We are very excited by the return of Ross Ashton, whose recent captivating projection on Durham Cathedral was seen by thousands – together with Karen Monid, their mapped projection and soundscape LINE for All Souls will mesmerise visitors.'*

The festival, which is free, receives major support from Arts Council England, Shepway District Council and Eurotunnel, with additional funding from Folkestone Town Council, Kent County Council, Canterbury Cathedral and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust.

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Notes to Editors:

About Strange Cargo:

Strange Cargo is a Kent based arts charity with a portfolio of public and visual arts projects committed to producing, developing, supporting and delivering high-quality participatory arts. The charity has won many awards for their practice of making artworks, working with communities in public spaces, including awards from: The European Prize for Urban Public Space, Liberty Property, The Charity Commission, Arts and Business, and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

Notes to visitors:

Visitors are asked to walk to the event or use public transport. There is limited parking in Cheriton and the roads will be closed to traffic from 4pm. Stagecoach will be running buses to the event and there are regular train services into Folkestone West station, a short stroll from the festival in Cheriton High Street.

Note of thanks:

Strange Cargo would like to thank its sponsors: Arts Council England, Shepway District Council, Folkestone Town Council, Eurotunnel, Canterbury Cathedral, Tory Family Foundation, Kent County Council, One Stop, Rotary Club of Folkestone Channel, Aviva, Councillors Peter Gane, John Collier, Damon Robinson, Rory Love, Rodica Wheeler, Patricia West and Roger West and event travel partners Stagecoach East Kent.



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