

Detailed Programme

This is the detailed programme of individual shows, workshops and events that will take place over the festival weekend. For details and photos of the Performers, please refer to the website.

Friday 17th July 2026

Opening Parade - 6.30pm – starting in **Main Field**

COME YE ONE AND ALL.
TO OPEN THIS FIRST AND MARVELLOUS
FESTIVAL AT THE EDGE
AT THE WONDROUS LOCATION AT
BROMYARD
YE ARE ALL INVITED TO A
MEDIEVAL OPENING CEREMONY
SO COME YE DRESSED IN YOUR FINEST MEDIEVAL
ATTIRE AND BE PART OF THIS HISTORIC EVENT!

Purple Marquee

7.00 - 8.00pm – *Stories and Songs of Welcome* (Age A, 8+)

Get straight into the festival mood and get your visit off to a cracking start with this session which showcases some of our performers from across the weekend.

Welcoming you to FatE 2026 are: Maria Gillen, Martin Daws, Baden Prince and Xanthe Gresham-Knight.

8.30 to 9.30pm *Born to Fly* – *Dominic Kelly* (Age C)

Which bird might steal your underwear? Which one could drink you under the table? What's the absolute worst that could happen if you stole an eagle's egg? What could be hidden beneath the feathers of a raven?

Dominic will answer these questions and more, in an hour of stories full to bursting with birds. He's been fascinated by them all his life - even though, as a 13-year-old volunteer warden on a seagull colony, they pooped all over him every day. Here he presents a live mixtape of feathered folktales, anecdotes, mad facts and fairy tales.

10.00 – 11.00pm Concert – John Tams (Age F)

John Tams' work has spanned seven decades in every performance medium. He is a recognised authority on vernacular music – a seven times winner at the BBC Folk Awards. Alongside his highly successful career as a folk artist, John has also achieved acclaim as actor and musical director/composer, including in over 30 National Theatre productions including: *The Mysteries*, *Lark Rise to Candleford* and *Glengarry Glen Ross*, many of which transferred to the West End or toured. He played Daniel Hagman in the TV series *Sharpe*, for which he was script associate, co-writing the score. For radio, he was executive music director of the Radio Ballads winning Gold at the Sony Radio Academy Awards.

As an original member of the creative team that brought *War Horse* to the stage, John has since toured the world as a production executive. His performance of "Only Remembered" before the late Queen Elizabeth at The Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall was watched, globally by over 70 million viewers. He worked with Steven Spielberg on the movie and his adaptation of the book toured as a 'concert' reading with author Sir Michael Morpurgo inspired by a BBC Radio 2 version which he directed featuring Timothy Spall, Brenda Blethyn and Bob Hoskins.

He has made over 60 albums and continues to tour festival and concert stages. He holds Honorary Doctorates from Sheffield Hallam and Derby universities.

Red Marquee

8.00 – 8.45pm In Conversation with John Tams – Interview by Roisin Murray (Age F)

Not only is John Tams one of the finest and most celebrated folk musicians of recent times, but he also has many more strings to his bow (see information above). Join this intimate "In Conversation" session to hear this natural raconteur telling vibrant tales about his career and experiences to discover the man behind the legend.

9.30 - 10.30pm Stories of the Sea – Maria Gillen (Age F)

Maria Gillen comes from an island country rich in stories and songs from the sea. She has been brought up in the 300-year-old legends that waft through the ceo draíochta (magical mist), the sea stories of the sailors of bygone times, the mystical creatures like silkies, mermaids and capaill bán na mara (white horses of the sea). The same sea links Ireland with England, Scotland and Wales and the stories travel over the waves between us like the magical mist, softening edges, transforming reality and taking us away to deep inside ourselves to where anything is possible.

11.00 - midnight *Secrets of the Shelagh na Gig – Xanthe Gresham-Knight* (Adults Only! 18+)

"When my mother died, I immersed myself in two things: the Greek myth of Ceres and Kore, and old cine films."

Storyteller Xanthe Gresham-Knight leads an evening of storytelling performance, song and film inspired by the Sheela Na Gig symbol and Neolithic Goddess sculpture. Framed around women's experiences, the show explores the ancient tradition of lament through the lens of personal experience, myth and nature's ability to move through spirals of grief and renewal.

Family Marquee

6.00 - 7.00pm *Decorate the Dragon – Craft Drop-in Workshop* (Age A, B, C)

Join FatE's Shadow Committee in creating a variety of colourful craft pieces across the weekend that will be used in the children's parade at the end of the festival.

*Drop-in session (no need to sign up at the Box Office) – young children must be accompanied by an adult. Please let the workshop leaders know if your child has an allergy to pvc glue or similar products.

7.00 – 8.00pm *Beautiful Bunting - Craft Drop-in Workshop* (Age A, B, C)

This workshop is simply about the joys of bunting making, have fun designing the bunting and linking it all together.

*Drop-in session (no need to sign up at the Box Office) – young children must be accompanied by an adult. Please let the workshop leaders know if your child has an allergy to pvc glue or similar products.

8.00 – 9.00pm *Heroic Tales – Story Round* (Age A)

This is an opportunity for younger festival-goers, (toddlers to teens) to tell their own stories in a safe and welcoming space. Bring along some ideas, your favourite tales and join in the fun. Session is led by our Shadow Committee.

The Bonfire (main field)

11.00 – midnight *Stories around the fire – led by Amy Douglas and Martin Daws* (Age 16+)

Get cosy on a late summer evening in the warmth and glow of the firepit. Amy and Martin will start the ball rolling, but you are very welcome to join in with your own tales or songs.

Note: If weather conditions are not suitable (either too dry creating a fire hazard, or too wet), these sessions will move to the Family Marquee.

Bar

11.15pm *The Midnight Sessions* Come All Ye! – Archie Best and The Leominster Folk (Age 16+)

Music for you, made by you. These sessions are designed to create a friendly space where everyone can participate in classic shared folk music sessions. These sessions are led by Archie Best & The Leominster Folk, comprising 2 melodeons, a concertina and a fiddle. Their main common interest is in English and Morris Tunes but each of them has their own sub-interests, meaning all brands of folk are both welcomed and encouraged here. Archie is joined by Tony Locock, Adam Glyn-Jones and Allan Pearce.

Bring your instruments, voices and a tune or two and join in with the late-night FatE vibe.