

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.

Saturday Evening 18th July 2026

(for Saturday Day – see Saturday Day Detailed Programme)

Purple Marquee

7.00 – 8.00pm *Poetry and Lyricism – Martin Daws (Age A)*

Martin approaches poetry with a musical ear, and he loves the rhythms of written and spoken language. He has performed and recorded with many top-class musicians including - among others - 9Bach, Huw V Williams, Mr Phormula and Huw Warren. Join Martin Daws and bathe yourself in a heady mix of poetry and music.

9.30 – 11.00pm *Concert – Melrose Quartet (Age F)*

Melrose Quartet are an outstanding live act, featuring the talents of Nancy Kerr (voice, fiddle), James Fagan (voice, bouzouki, guitar), Jess Arrowsmith (voice, fiddle) and Richard Arrowsmith (voice, melodeons). All four are internationally renowned singers, instrumentalists and writer/composers, respected teachers and the patrons of Whitby Folk Festival.

They combine strong instrumentals, especially inspired by English dance music, with four-part harmony singing. A truly all-round act of the highest quality.

Red Marquee

7.00 – 8.00pm *Stories from Iran and Ancient Persia – Xanthe Gresham-Knight (Age 12+)*

A selection of stories from late, great Iranian poets including Ferdawsi and Attar: Xanthe has worked with this material for 30 years and tells favourites that feature poetry, enchantment and transformation. Expect intrigue, riddle-boxes, heroes and femme fatales.

8.15 - 9.15pm *In conversation with Taffy Thomas – Interviewed by Daniel Morden*
(Age F)

Taffy Thomas, MBE was the first Storytelling Laureate. He has roamed the world telling his tales, with the help of his famous tale coat, entertaining people far and wide. But how did Taffy become a storyteller? What are the experiences that he would share about his storytelling career? Taffy is not just a storyteller, but a storyteller with plenty of personal and fascinating anecdotes to divulge. And there is no better person to help us get to the heart of Taffy than his long-standing friend, and fellow storyteller, Daniel Morden. Join this show to find out more about Taffy, and follow where the tale leads ...

10.45 – 11.45pm *Strong Women Stories – Maria Gillen* (Age F)

Did you know that Brigid was a Warrior versed in the Neart Bog (soft strength) – that she knew how to pop out her eyeball, that she could make beer from well water and that she is (to this day) designated as an Irish Bishop (the only female one in history!)? Did you know that Gobnait was a dreamer who followed her dream of white deer and sweet lands, that even though she was small she saw off the warrior invaders with nothing but her hive of bees, and did you know she has the cure to all that ails you? Have you heard of Sean Nós Sheila (Sheila of the ancient ways) who can talk to trees and hear what needs to be heard – or of Mairín Rua who has a soul friend that is a fox? If you'd like to meet them in Maria's stories, you will be one hundred thousand times welcome.

Family Marquee

7.30 – 8.30pm *Shields and Heraldry – Craft Workshop* (Age A)

Create fabulous shields and delve into the intricate and colourful designs of heraldry. Activities led by FatE's Shadow Committee. Craft pieces made can be used in the Children's parade.

*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.

9.00 – 10.00pm *Twilight Monsters – Story Round* (Age A)

These story rounds are aimed at our younger festival-goers and are led by members of FatE's young Shadow Committee. So, if you've never told a story to an audience before, but always wanted to have a go ... why not come along with your scariest or most intriguing monster tales?

Blue Marquee

7.00 – 8.00pm *Ukelele Confidence! – Workshop – Gabriela La Foley (Age F).*

Always be ready to burst into song, with just one or two chords.

Learn to not apologise for mistakes.

Deal with nerves and lack of confidence.

Take some performance tips from the highly entertaining and experienced performer, Gabriela and you too might soon be delighting audiences with your own ukelele playing!

20 Max. Sign up at box office - and bring your ukelele!!

8.15 – 9.15pm *Icebreaker Word Games – Storytelling Workshop – Baden Prince (Age t.b.c.).*

Baden Prince has developed his own engaging storytelling style over many years, and so he is the perfect guide to help you to develop your own storytelling style and learn new techniques. This workshop employs Icebreaker word games to get the creativity and words flowing.

Max – t.b.c. Sign up at box office.

Main Field

The Bonfire (main field)

11.00 – midnight *Stories around the fire – led by Iris Skipworth and Halo Quin (Age 16+)*

Get cosy on a late summer evening in the warmth and glow of the firepit. Iris and Halo will lead the way and then invite you to join them in sharing your favourite 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.