

## 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.

### Sunday 19th July 2026

#### Purple Marquee

**10.00 - 11.50am** *Mara* – *Dominic Kelly* (Age D) Show includes a short interval.

1868. Morten, a discharged soldier, lives on the edge of Sweden's ancient forests. Suddenly he begins to suffer nightmares and mysterious night visits. He is told he's plagued by a Mara – a possessed person who visits another in their sleep. To free himself, he must discover the Mara's identity. But who is it?

Entertaining, unsettling, immersive and moving, this solo storytelling performance is a whodunnit

a dive into the dreamscape of Swedish folklore  
a love story

An evocation of our oldest forests  
a playful look at our relationship with sleep and what it means to be awake

**12.00 - 1.00pm** *Telling the Trees* – *Xanthe Gresham-Knight* (Age 12+)

Xanthe has vast experience as a storyteller. Although she is known for her vibrant myths and stories of goddesses, she also worked in residence for the Chelsea Physic Garden, so perhaps it should not be surprising that she also recently contributed to the book "Herba Mythica – the Myths and Folktales of Sacred Healing Plants", a collaborative project with 30 other storytellers. With this show she draws on her fascination with nature in an exploration of trees. Telling the trees ... what might you tell them?

**1.15 - 2.15pm** *Heroes with Unlikely Faces* – *Jon Buckeridge* (Age G, 8+)

*Heroes are brave and bold, right?*

They have chiselled jaws and sculpted cheekbones.

They're dauntless in the face of adversity, aren't they?

Are they heck!

Come hear the stories of the other folks.

These are the heroes who don't much like fighting.  
The ones who aren't that brave.  
The ones who think boldness is to do with your hairline.

*These are the normal people. These are the heroes with unlikely faces.*

**2.30 – 3.30pm** *Fur and Folds* – James Canvin (Age C)

*Fur and Folds* brings together two tales in which animals are far more than companions. A merchant's son returns from his education with the gift of understanding every creature he meets, while elsewhere a brother's fate is transformed by his dogs. Their paths lead them far beyond their beginnings: from humble farms into danger, through enchanted castles and into the orbit of kings, where dragons, betrayals and unlikely acts of loyalty wait around every corner. In a world where the boundary between the everyday and the magical is paper-thin, these stories ask who we choose to trust, what we owe those who stand by us, and how wisdom often arrives from the most unexpected sources.

**4.00 – 5.15pm** *Stories and Songs of Farewell* – James Canvin, Amy Douglas, Martin Daws, Dominic Kelly (Age A).

Come together for one final time in celebration of Fate 2026 to hear a few final brilliant stories and songs from artists who have entertained you throughout the festival.

## **Red Marquee**

**9.45 - 10.45am** *What a Woman!* – Baden Prince (Age C, D, F)

This show is a rich celebration of Caribbean heritage and of grandmothers, everywhere.

Baden Prince spent his formative years in the care of his Grandmother on the island of Antigua, before joining his parents in England at the age of fifteen. By turns informative and entertaining, humorous and dark, expect elements of the supernatural, traditional Antiguan folk tales, personal memoirs, patois and poetry, all painting a vivid picture of life in a vibrant 1960s Caribbean household - a life presided over by "Mama," an indomitable matriarch.

What a woman she was! Come and meet her – but be on your best behaviour, otherwise you might end up on the wrong side of her tongue!!

**11.00 - 12.00pm** *Selkie: Songs of the Sea – Amy Douglas and Marting Daws* (Age 12+)

Brown haired, brown eyed, selkies slip from land to sea; human to seal; from this world to the Otherworld. They live in liminal spaces. They bring beauty, mystery and hope to the deeps. But while we may see grey spaces in our morality, their moral compass is clear ... and like the sea itself, dispassionately ruthless.

Two internationally acclaimed performers, Amy Douglas and Martin Daws, come together to combine traditional oral storytelling with contemporary spoken word, song and kalimba.

**1.15 – 2.15pm** *The Greenwood Bough – Lisa Schneidau* (Age C)

Meet the leaf-clad, twisted-root heroes of these islands, the ones who create the very stuff of our lives. Lisa Schneidau tells strange and earthy folk tales of the trees. After all, what is a story, but a tangled woodland of words where anything could happen?

**2.30 – 3.30pm** *Afternoon Concert – Bordewey Young and Gittens* (Age F)

Bordewey, Young and Gittens are three of England's finest folk musicians playing fiddle, guitar, dobro, melodeon, concertina and bouzouki. Sit back, relax and toe tap to the eclectic mix of entertainment of the popular folk duo *Dave Bordewey* and *Dave Young*, who are joined again by guitar virtuoso *Allistair Gittens*.

The session includes a mix of folk tunes and songs mainly from England but also from America and Ireland with some self-penned thrown in. Perfectly relaxing for a Sunday afternoon.

## Family Marquee

**8.00 – 9.00am** *Breakfast Clubs – Scales, Bubbles and Monsters – Shadow Committee* (Age D)

An early morning start for younger festival goers. Come and see what marvellous monsters are on the prowl in this drop-in session!

**9.00 – 10.00am** *Qi Gong and Tai Chi: Start your day in a positive way! – Nicola Day of Beautiful Flower Tai Chi* (Age A)

Allow yourself to be led through a series of exercises by Nicola Day, an international Gold Medallist in Qigong and Tai Chi. Qigong is the ancient Chinese exercise system designed to improve mental, emotional and physical health, while Tai Chi is considered an “internal” martial art, which combines movement with meditation.

Improve your day with beautiful, soft exercises, giving yourself an acupressure massage and the space to breathe and connect with nature.

\*Drop-in session (no need to sign up at the Box Office) – young children must be accompanied by an adult.

*If weather is dry and fine – this will be relocated to a suitable space outside.*

**10.15 - 11.15am *Do You Believe in Dragons? – Suzanne and Jake Tumnus (Age A)***

Suzanne and Jake Tumnus have been long term fans of FatE and are looking forward to sharing tales and tunes at this year's festival in the Family Marquee.

This year, they will be asking the all-important question: "Do you believe in Dragons?"

Suzanne has spent many years researching the subject and spending time with the scaly, winged, mythical beasts. Having spoken to the dragons recently, she now has permission to share a few of their secrets and stories, along with legendary incidental music from Jake. Suzanne and Jake live on the sunny slopes of Clee Hill, in South Shropshire where they can often be found dragon spotting, story gathering, and Jake can be spotted in the wild, playing his guitar.

**11.15 – 12.15pm *Children's Parade Prep session – Drop in Crafts (Age A)***

This is the final day bringing everything together for the big parade, so drop in to make those last items that you'll need for the big event!

\*Drop-in workshop, younger children should be accompanied by an adult. Let the workshop leader know if your child is allergic to PVA glue or other products.

**12.30 – 1.30pm *Interactive story session – Story Soup – Holly Medland (Age A)***

Hungry for a tale? Help cook up some story soup in this interactive story session.

Gather around the cooking pot and choose an object to throw in. Every object is an ingredient for a story, so which one will you choose? Will it be a fishy sea monster? A cake that's irresistible to fairies? Or maybe a beanstalk that soars up to the sky? You choose the ingredients, so the recipe – and the story – is up to you!

Come and join the fun and together we'll create a totally unique, absolutely brilliant and utterly delicious, story soup.

**1.45 – 2.45pm** *The Smallest Among Us Contain the Greatest* – Iris Skipworth (Age A)

What connects an insect bite to the roar of a dragon? Can a giant become smaller the closer you look? Join Iris to magnify monsters and shrink heroes – then find the greatest among us and see if the world's dangers might not become small in comparison.

**3.00 – 3.30pm** *Final Kids Parade Preparations* – Andy Harrop Smith (Age A)

This brief preparation session will give everyone who has taken part in children's sessions over the weekend a time to get together for one final time, don their costumes, and craft items they have made, do some final warm-ups and make sure they are ready to wow the FatE audience with their lovely parade.

## Blue Marquee

**8.45 – 9.45am** *Early Bird Storytellers* – Story Round (All ages welcome!)

Eager to get going with your stories, why not grab a coffee and try this early morning session? Tales of 8-10 minutes are ideal, a time to share, enjoy, and practise your story skills.

**10.00 - 11.00am** *Swords and Shields* – *Swordplay workshop* – Jon Buckeridge (Age 12+, **under 16s must be accompanied by an adult**).

The second of the swordplay workshops in the very capable hands of former competitive Longsword fighter, Historical European Martial Arts instructor, and fight choreographer for stage and screen. Learn the basics of sword combat, cross blades with friends and family, and get the feel for the life of a travelling sword-fighter!

No previous experience necessary. All equipment provided.

Max 30. **Attendees must wear sturdy shoes, strictly no bare feet or flip flops.** Sign up at the Box Office.

**11.15 - 12.15pm** *"Taken Aback" Stories behind Common Sayings* – *Informal Talk* – Jenny Moon (Age F)

Many things we say have long and interesting histories. Many, for example, were derived from the days of sail. "Taken Aback" relates to situations when a sudden gust of wind came in from the back of a sail and caused rapid action from the sailors. This

is an informal presentation about the stories, like that one, behind some common sayings.

Max – Venue Capacity.

**12.30 - 1.30pm *Poetry or Lyricism? Workshop* – Martin Daws (Age A)**

Martin Daws combines his poetry with his experience as a musician. He has a wealth of experience writing and performing poetry and music around the world over many years and has also worked as a creative educator, facilitating workshops for 50,000+ participants in a community arts practice that began in Liverpool in 1996 and is still thriving to this day. In this workshop Martin will get you to develop your own creativity by exploring poetry and posing the question “Is it Poetry or Lyricism?”

Max – t.b.c. Sign up at workshop

**1.45 - 3.15pm *Working with Paper (2)* – Bunty Gotts (Age A – all welcome, younger children to be accompanied)**

This workshop is designed to introduce both adults and children to the joys of working with paper. A readily available commodity, it is cheap, easy to use, and most importantly, recyclable. Using prepared templates, Bunty will guide you to make cards, bookmarks, and festive decorations, using both simple origami and teabag folding techniques. All materials will be provided, including child friendly glues. To save time there will be a selection of ready-made decorations available to use. The aim is to have some fun, to take home something you are proud to have made, and also generate plenty of ideas to make your own paper magic. There may also be a story or two along the way ...

Max – 20. Sign up at Box Office.

## **Main Field**

***Various times: The Roaming Riddler (aka Paul Davies) (Age A)***

Look out for the man in the glorious multi-coloured outfit, - the Roaming Riddler – who will rhyme you a riddle, muster some magic and he may even tell you a tale or two ...

Since retiring from being a GP, Paul has been honing his storytelling techniques, learning from mentors Taffy and Chrissy Thomas. He also performs in plays and pantomime, and performs comedy street theatre and outdoor theatre. His talents come together here as The Roaming Riddler.

**3.30 – 4.00** *Children's Parade – led by Andy Harrop Smith* (Age A, young children must be accompanied)

Many traditional stories are full of princes, princesses and knights. This children's parade invites families to celebrate the joy of story heroes, for children to dress-up in their favourite story outfits and make use of the craft items they have made over the weekend. Join in the fun ... and watch out, there may even be a Dragon!

**Story Walks** (please meet in the Main Field):

**10.00 – 11.00am** *Golden Tales Story Walk – Sue Bailey* (Age A, young children must be accompanied by an adult)

A family story walk with stops for stories, riddles, and rhymes. Who knows? We might even find some golden treasure. Great for ages 4–10-year-olds.

**11.00 – 12.00pm** *Story Walk with James Canvin* (Age A, young children must be accompanied by an adult)

James Canvin has been sharing dynamic retellings of myths, folktales and wonder tales wherever people are willing to listen. He draws on British and European traditions, filled with gods and tricksters, magicians and lovers, and the curious bargains that shape the world. But what tales might he choose to tell on this story walk through the beautiful countryside – watch out for intriguing characters and maybe a trickster or two!

**12.00 – 12.20pm** *Soft Option Appalachian Step Dancers (Part 1)* (Age A)

**1.00 – 1.20pm** *Soft Option Appalachian Step Dancers (Part 2)* (Age A)

You've heard of Morris Dancing, you've heard of clog dancing, but have you heard of Appalachian Step Dancing? Appalachian dance steps have been handed down through the generations and then modified over time. Soft Option dance troupe regularly performs in the Worcestershire area, and is one of the longest established Appalachian dance sides going. They deliver energetic and dynamic performances together with their band, No Option.

**2.00 - 3.00pm** *Story Walk with Lucy Wells and Pip Waller* (Age B, young children must be accompanied by an adult)

Greet and discover the names and medicines of plants and trees along the way and hear the dreaming of their stories. Guides Lucy and Pip will unearth fascinating stories to accompany you as you ramble through the countryside around the Bromyard site.

Note: Ground may be uneven or rough, wear sturdy shoes.

## *Bar*

### **At various times**

#### *Come All Ye! – Archie Best and The Leominster Folk (Age F)*

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 instrument, voice and a tune or two, and join in with the atmosphere and fun in these lively bar sessions.