

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 20th July 2025

Marquees:

Purple Marquee

10.00 - 11.00am *Far Ago – Daniel Morden* (Age B)

This notorious storyteller and, sometime standup, returns with more tales to amaze, amuse, delight and confuse! Daniel has travelled the world sharing magical, mythical and nonsensical tales from long ago. He is an enthralling performer whose stories will take you to the end of the world and back. He loves his job and is infectious in his delight! Expect epic journeys, mysterious strangers, sudden jumps and awful jokes ...

11.15am - 12.15pm **Concert** *Rolling Folk* (Age F/B)

Virginia Kettle is at the heart of the creative force within Merry Hell and the energies that have driven the band ever upwards, whether as songwriter, or their female lead singer. And Rolling Folk gives Virginia, a prolific songwriter, the chance to share a variety of songs not included in the Merry Hell repertoire. It is not a replacement for the band, but an additional outlet for her creativity and energy.

Offering the same level of songwriting excellence as Merry Hell, but a different, more intimate feel, as well as some additional musical explorations, the Rolling Folk project surrounds Virginia with a fabulous and interesting selection of players, particularly multi, multi-instrumentalist Chris Lee, (Full House, Time Bandits, Family Mahone, Galleon Blast, Rad Co., etc., etc., ...); percussionist, whistle player and flautist, Mark Wooley (Ade Edmondson's Bad Shepherds, Full House, Session Master, and more); as well as husband John, all giving breadth and depth to her musical and lyrical visions. Together they create a level of excellence that will add both surprise and texture to her catalogue of songs.

12.30 - 1.30pm – *Moss and Stones, Skin and Bones* – Nick Hennessey (Age A, 12+)

Nick Hennessey is a FatE favourite; he has enchanted us with his mellifluous tones and lyrical storytelling on many occasions. This more relaxed storytelling session will include a selection of stories that can appeal to anyone and everyone. As well as telling stories, and being a master musician, Nick has recently curated his own successful festival (Stealing Thunder, held in Cumbria in June), together with his wife Emily. We are sure you will want to hear another selection of stories from this fabulous entertainer, so get yourselves down to the Red Marquee and soak up those tales.

1.45 – 2.30pm *Concert* – Pete Morton (Age F / A)

Pete Morton is a folk singer songwriter with a wealth of self-penned songs that express everything from the personal to the truly international. Often referred to as an 'old school troubadour', he delivers his songs with a powerful, euphonious voice and compelling stage presence. He continues his merry niche, singing his songs with a fun loving, approachable style.

2.45 – 3.45pm *Tales from the Motherland* – Peter Chand (Age 14+).

Join Peter Chand for a collection of thoughtful, humorous and supernatural stories from India. Includes beautiful stories he has collected and translated into English from family in the Punjab.

4.00 – 5.15pm *Stories and Songs of Farewell* – John and Carlyne Revell, Peter Chand, Daniel Morden, Gauri Raje, Pete Morton (Age A)

Come together for one final time in celebration of Fate 2025 to hear a few of the brilliant stories and songs from artists who have entertained you throughout the festival.

Red Marquee

10.00 - 11.00am *Concert* – Sonya Smith (Age F)

Sonya Smith writes emotive, cathartic, lyrically rich, storytelling songs, about the balance of life, in all its shades of dark and light. Her voice has been described as "beautiful and haunting, and honey sweet". She weaves songs of passion and pain, loss and redemption, discovery and self-worth. She has been singing since she fell out of the cradle but began playing guitar, and writing songs, in her middle years. Influences on her at that time, led her to discover a new awareness and understanding of herself and others, and she explores and expresses her insights

through songwriting. Influences include Joni Mitchell, James Taylor and Leonard Cohen.

11.15am – 12.15pm *Nordic Tales* – Sarah Liisa Wilkinson (Age D)

Frozen forests, witches and shape-shifters, dancing spirits, and the Beginning of All Things. There's plenty to fear and wonder at, north of the tree-line, off the top edge of the map, where drunks and sages and ancient beasts trade bawdy songs and magic runes. If you want to make it back safe and sane, you'll need a guide, so follow in the frozen footsteps of Sarah Liisa Wilkinson. And goodness, bring a coat.

12.30 - 1.30pm *The Coast of Cruel and Kind* – Mike O' Connor and Barbara Griggs (Age A)

The rugged coast of Cornwall is the birthplace of a thousand tales. They tell of mermaids, wreckers, pirates, ghost ships, the Sea-Bucca, and Morgawr, the great sea monster. Why not come for a swim in a wicked pool of salty tales?

1.45 – 2.45pm *Tales from the Madman's Window* – Colin Urwin (Age 12+)

The Madman's Window is a little-known beauty spot along the Antrim Coast. It is the setting for a haunting story of love and acts as a portal to a world beyond that of ordinary mortals. The folklore, myths and legends of this part of Ireland abound in shipwrecks, strange happenings and buried treasure. In this delightful assortment of songs and stories, you will meet with ghosts, shapeshifting animals, sailors and some unexpected characters. You will be taken on a journey of wonder to the magnificent and ancient landscape around the Sea of Moyle and a time when wolves, banshees and faeries were a way of life.

3.00 – 4.00pm *Beguiling for Beginners* – Dave Tonge (Age B)

Beguiling for Beginners is a celebration of cunning folk, coney catching and all manner of counterfeit craftiness - A lone trickster wanders the road, from town to village, hamlet to house, wearing many different disguises. Sometimes a priest, sometimes a potter, sometimes a pedlar of wares. From pots to pardons, potions to pins, he sells them all occasionally, but always he gifts lies. His trade is deceit, and he practices his craft upon the foolish, the greedy, and the gullible. But our professional trickster has stiff competition from those whose artfulness is born only out of a desire to protect hearth and home.

Family Marquee

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

Allow yourself to be lead through a series of exercises by Nicola Day, who is an international Gold Medallist in Qigong: the ancient Chinese exercise system designed to improve mental, emotional and physical health. Improve your day with beautiful, soft exercises, giving yourself an acupressure massage and the space to breathe and connect with nature.

10.15 – 11.45am Theatre Workshop - Creating a Story-Play: A Participatory Session for Everyone – John and Carlyne Revell (Age A)

John and Carlyne invite you to enter into an enchanted realm as a simple, yet compelling, story is woven into a participatory performance piece with spoken word, dramatic dance, and mesmerising music. Together you will venture along the winding path, through a faerie-tale forest, on a quest to recapture lost and stolen stories whilst encountering enigmatic characters, such as the Lady in the Attic, Briar Rose, the Ancient Forester, and the Spindlesnuffers, along the way. And – you will get an opportunity to perform your story for the festival-goers on Sunday afternoon.

Open to all ages and levels, but young children should be accompanied by an adult. There are 2 workshops, sign up for one, or both.

Maximum 20. Please sign up at the Box Office.

12.30 - 1.30pm Workshop Laughter Yoga – Jenny Moon (Age A)

You do not have to have any experience of yoga to enjoy a Laughter Yoga session. It has only a tenuous link with yoga practice through a brief breathing exercise. It is based on the idea that Laughter is good for you in terms of both emotional and physical health and is contagious. In laughter yoga sessions, laughter is generated through a quick succession of party-game-like activities in which it is hard not to laugh. Some of the exercises are very active and some can be done from a seated position. You choose to take part or not! The session is suitable for any age children with parents, and adults up to 110 years old!!

1.45 – 2.45pm Children's Craft and Stories – Alison Newsam (Age B)

It's always great to find sustainable craft activities – so why not bring your little ones to this workshop using recyclable materials for junk modelling, doodling and more? All accompanied by a couple of stories or songs. This session is led by Alison Newsam, who has delivered workshops previously for Beyond the Border.

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.

Other Venues:

Orangery

Please note: If the weather is very hot, events may move to The Barn.

10.15 - 12.15pm *Storytelling Workshop Common Sense: Flavour your storytelling* – Peter Chand (Age 16+)

Join International storyteller Peter Chand for this 2-hour workshop where he will be guiding you to add aroma, taste, texture and sound, to enable your story to sizzle. When we really start using our senses with deeper understanding, our story can connect in a much deeper way. You will also get the chance to experience a variety of storytelling techniques, including use of memory and visualisation to help enhance your story, presentation, or educational process.

All levels of experience welcome, but a willingness to participate is a minimum requirement. Suitable for storytellers, writers, tour guides, teachers, and anyone who uses narrative in their work. **Suitable for 16 years and over.**

Maximum 15. Some level of storytelling experience. Please sign up in Box Office.

12.30 - 1.30pm *Songwriting Workshop Local Stories, Words and Tunes* – Kate Green (Age 16+)

This relaxed and supportive songwriting space will use everyday events to inspire musical storytelling. Sourcing ideas from local publications, you will look for phrases, characters and stories that just might be the beginnings of a new tune or tale.

Bring a musical instrument of your choice, or you can just use your voice. Sometimes a recording app on a phone can be useful too.

Max 20. Any level. Please sign up at the Box Office.

2.45 - 3.30pm *Storytelling Workshop The Secrets of Prophecy* – Mike O'Connor (Age 11+)

The acclaimed Prophecy of Merlin brings together history, folktale, story-crafting and performance skills. This workshop explains how it is done and shows off the book itself, and other artefacts, used in the tale.

Max 20. Note: This workshop relates to The Prophecy of Merlin show. Please sign up at Box Office.

Walled Garden

Various times: *Tricks from the Poopdeck – Pirate Andy (aka Andy Harrop Smith)*
(Age A)

Watch out for the Walkabout Pirate! It's 'magic ahoy' as Andy wanders the FatE site with the 'Dangerous Magic Show'... sharks, saws, shackles and, of course, ropes. Prepare to be amazed ... sort of! Yo, ho, ho! and a bottle of rum. Well, there was until it disappeared!

Storywalks (Please meet in the Walled Garden)

10.30 - 11.30pm Storywalk – “Right Commoners” - Lucy Wells (Age 12+)

Explore the beautiful Shropshire countryside around Hopton Court Estate on a story walk led by local author Lucy Wells, who will include readings from her soon to be released novel, 'Right Commoners'.

12.30 – 1.30pm Storywalk – Dave Tonge (Age A)

Dave Tonge is a storyteller and historian, specialising in folk stories from the Medieval and Tudor periods. But what tales will he be digging up to accompany you on your walk through the beautiful Shropshire countryside? There's only one way to find out, get your walking shoes on and join him!