



ROMSEY
Storytelling
FESTIVAL



**The adventure of
imagination starts here...**

1st to 6th October 2019

www.romseyfestival.org

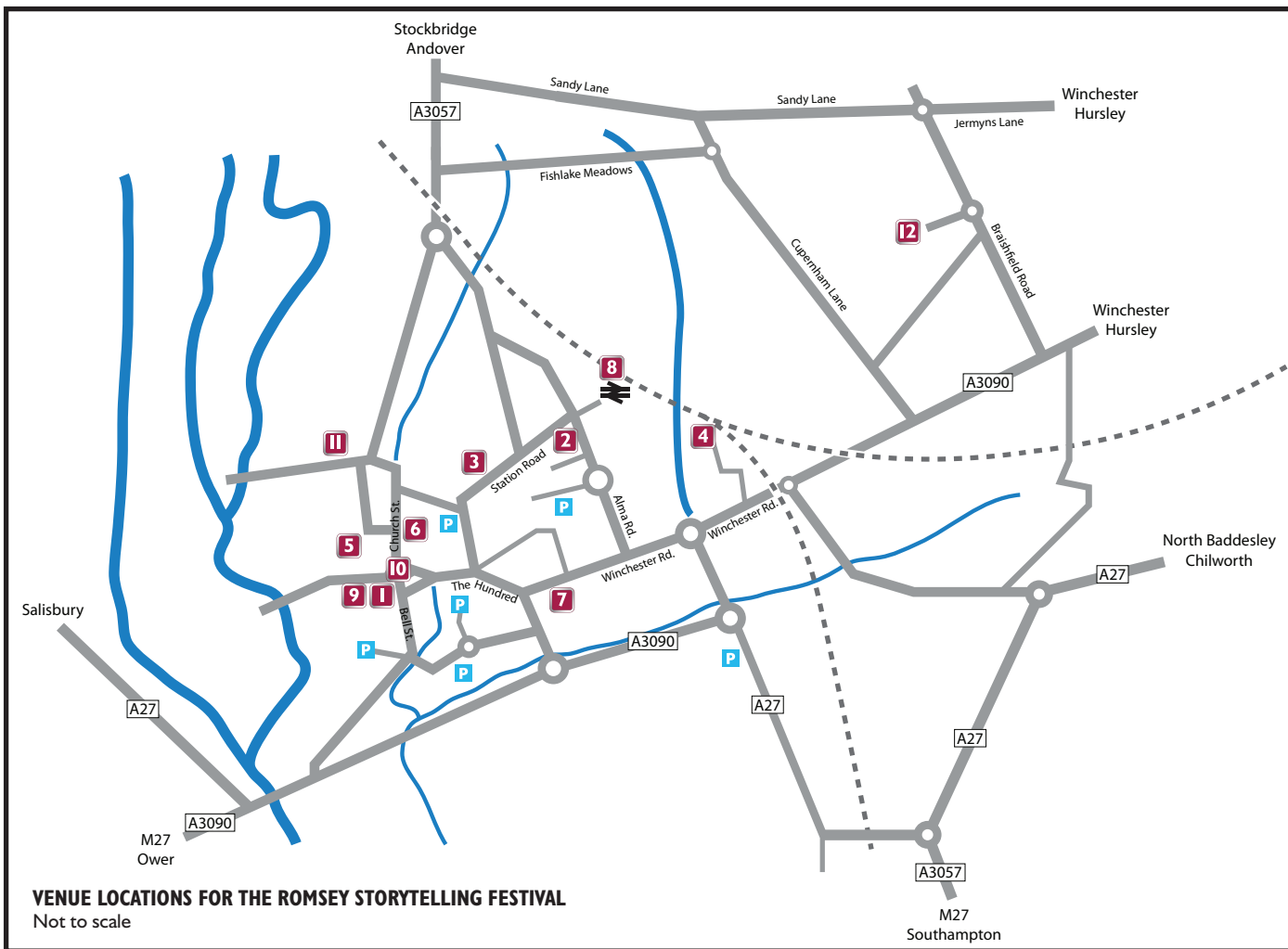


People think storytelling is just for children, forgetting that stories are all around us, on television, in books, in the papers. The story you hear told communicates more directly than all the ones wrapped in costumes and effects and CGI. You supply those, as you listen, from your own imagination, from your own life, from your own dreams. A story introduces you to yourself. You, as the listener, shape it.

Romsey's first Storytelling Festival has a wide range of stories to offer. Firstly, there are the ones offered to particular groups, the ones being told in local care homes, and the ones being told and created in performances and workshops with Speaking Space, and the ones for the children in schools.

Then there are the ones available to everybody: stories of Robin Hood, taken straight from the old sources by Wendy and Michael Dacre, tales of the Middle Ages brought by Dave Tonge, the Yarnsmith of Norwich, and, on Mediaeval Saturday, two stories of love and loyalty, or the lack of it, from the edges of the Arthurian World, Gawain and the Green Knight, and Tristan and Iseult. Sarah Rundle brings us a mysterious and violent story originally written in a North-West Midlands dialect of Middle English much remoter from our modern tongue than the smooth verses of Chaucer, while Katy Cawkwell's classic story of fated lovers flits between the Celtic lands of Ireland, Brittany and Cornwall.

All events are organised independently and detailed arrangements are the responsibility of the event organisers. The Romsey Festival Committee accepts no responsibility for any errors or cancellations. Some events are weather dependent. All information is correct at time of going to press.



Many of the venues have limited space, so booking is advisable.



1 Romsey Town Hall, I Market Place, Romsey, SO51 8YZ
tcm@romseytc.org.uk • 01794 512837
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



2 Speaking Space, Fleming House, Alma Road, Romsey, SO51 8ED
www.speakingspace.co.uk • 023 8098 7134
BOOKING: office@speakingspace.co.uk

Book tickets: Romsey TIC, 13 Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8BT
Tel: 01794 512987



www.ticketsource.co.uk



3 Romsey Library, Station Road, Romsey, SO51 8DN
nicola.hopkins@hants.gov.uk • 01794 513341
BOOKING: 01794 513341 • www.hants.gov.uk/shop



4 Romsey Signal Box, Brick Lane, Romsey, SO51 8LG
rbhewett@gmail.com
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



5 Romsey Abbey, Parish Office, Church Lane, Romsey, SO51 8EP
01794 513125
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



6 King John's House, Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8BT
deputymanagerkjh@aol.com • 01794 512200
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



7 Romsey Methodist Church, The Hundred, Romsey, SO51 8BZ
Cathryn.simons83@gmail.com • 01794 517245
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



8 Romsey Railway Station, Canal Walk, Romsey, SO51 8DU
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



9 Romsey United Reformed Church, Abbey Water, Romsey, SO51 8EJ
01794 517746
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



10 Market Place, Market Place, Romsey, SO51 8YZ
tcm@romseytc.org.uk • 01794 512837
BOOKING: Romsey TIC, 01794 512987 • www.ticketsource.co.uk



11 Abbeyfield House, Mill Lane, Romsey, SO51 8EW
julia@abbeyfieldwessex.org • 01794 518890
BOOKING: Not open to the public



12 Abbotwood Court, Minchin Road, Romsey, SO51 0BL
Abbotwood.activities@cinnamoncc.com • 01794 528700
BOOKING: Not open to the public

Storytelling will also be taking place at the following schools.
Romsey Abbey C of E Primary School, Cupernham Infant & Junior School and Hampshire Collegiate School

1 Monday 30th September • 7pm • Free

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL LAUNCH

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of this new festival. Hear different forms of storytelling and the delights that are on offer throughout the coming week. Enjoy a glass of wine with the compliments of Romsey Town Council

5 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th October • 2pm (5th at 10.30am)
Free - Donations welcome

LIVING IN A FRAGILE WORLD

a story for our time told in a Godly play style

This story is about Creation of the earth, water, land, plants, animals and people and how humans have affected the sustainability of the planet. The story has a scientific approach but concurs with a Christian perspective that creation is divine. Each day the story of how people have settled in every part of the world gradually evolves. It concerns the impact we have made through our cities, transport, industry and agriculture, it looks at the concerns of pollution, greenhouse gasses, disease and population growth.

2 Tuesday 1st October • 1pm to 3pm • Not open to the public

BAYARD THE WONDER HORSE AND OTHER STORIES

An inclusive, interactive story session that we will all enjoy!

We can all join in and help to tell the story of brave brothers, an angry king, a horse race like no other and more. Led by storyteller Cath Edwards, this session is specially designed for the clients of Speaking Space.

Sponsored by
Councillor Mark Cooper

2 Tuesday 1st October • 5.30pm to 7pm • Donation

STORYTELLING WITH PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES: A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

A fun and friendly workshop to help parents, carers and staff to create accessible stories to share with people with learning difficulties. You will increase your confidence in sharing stories and learn a process to help you tackle any story. No storytelling experience necessary. Workshop leader Cath Edwards is a former special needs teacher and a professional storyteller.

Sponsored by
Councillor Mark Cooper

3 Tuesday 1st October • 11am • Free - no booking required

SUPER STORIES!

Come and join us for Super Stories! Stories and crafts for Under 5s and their parents / carers.
Note: Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.

3 Tuesday 1st October • 7pm • £5

AUTHORS ON LOCATION

Join our interviewer & local journalist Rebecca Fletcher for an evening of literary discussion with three authors. Claire Fuller, Judith Heneghan and Susmita Bhattacharya share, compare and discuss their latest works through relaxed interviews and an open Q&A, followed by a book signing.

6 Wednesday 2nd October • 10:30am • £3

JACK O' LANTERN

THE STORY OF ROMSEY'S ROLLS ROYCE CLASSIC CAR GARAGE

Part of King John's House First Wednesday of the Month events. Come and hear the story of how Rick Ford used his investigative powers and his passion for classic cars as he built up the reputation of this garage on the road to Ower during the 1950's. He will tell of his escapades on the film sets of 'Lawrence of Arabia' when he provided all the motor vehicles and his adventures in finding old wrecks of chassis and bringing Rolls Royce cars back to life

Numbers relate to venue (see map)

6 Wednesday 2nd October • 7:30-m to 10pm • £5

**VIKINGS: CREATION, DESTRUCTION, MAGIC
...AND AN AWFUL LOT OF GIANTS ALONG THE WAY.**

Jason Buck performs stories from the Norse

Stories from the Norse legends of the Viking Gods... ...and an awful lot of giants along the way.
From the creation of the world and the gods, to the destruction of everything at Ragnarok.

1 Thursday 3rd October • 10am to 12 noon • £3

SHADOW PUPPET WORKSHOP
with Michael and Wendy Dacre of Raventales

Learn to design and construct simple, coloured shadow puppets and use them to tell your own stories or a short traditional tale. This is the oldest and most magical form of puppetry, and however crude and simple it may seem, once it's on the screen in a dark room with a light behind it, your puppets will look stunningly beautiful! What is dark, but made out of light?

Note: This is a family event so we require adults to accompany their children.

3 Thursday 3rd October • 11am • Free - no booking required

ROCKING RHYMETIME!

Come and join us for some rocking rhymes! Songs and rhymes for babies and toddlers and their parents / carers.

Note: Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.

1 Thursday 3rd October • 3:45pm to 4:45pm • £3

A GOAT IN YOUR GARDEN and A CAT WITH A COUGH

Shadow puppet tales, told and sung by
Michael and Wendy Dacre of Raventales

Whether you need help with an unwelcome intruder in your garden, or you are a cat with a cough needing a cure, you need friends. For it's not always the strongest who manage to defeat the wickedest, and sometimes cures appear unexpectedly, and are simpler than you think.



3 Thursday 3rd October • 6pm • Free - no booking required

BEDTIME STORIES AT THE LIBRARY!

Come and join us for a bedtime story session at the library! Wear your pyjamas, bring teddy (or any other cuddly friends!) and settle in for some special stories.

Note: Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.



3 Thursday 3rd October • 2pm to 7pm
Free - no booking required. Include a sausage and cider supper

TOLD TO MEASURE
by Mike Rogers

Do you like your stories long? Do you like your stories short? Come and have your tale trimmed to your taste...

All kinds and shapes and sources - stories from Japan and Tibet and Russia and the Basque country, from the Arabian Nights and the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen.

Note: Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.

Numbers relate to venue (see map)

6 Thursday 3rd October • 7.30pm to 9.30pm • £5

ROBYN HODE HIS LIFE AND DEATH

by Michael and Wendy Dacre

A vital and authentic account of the great English outlaw, taken from four of the earliest ballads - violent, earthy, humorous and tragic. Accompanied by songs from Wendy Dacre.

3 Friday 4th October • 2.30pm • Free - no booking required

ROCKING RHYMETIME!

Songs and rhymes for babies and toddlers and their parents / carers.

Note: Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.

6 Friday 4th October • 6:30pm • £7.50

TAVERN YARD TUDOR TALES

by Dave Tonge - the Yarnsmith of Norwich

Tavern Yard Tudor Tales is a telling of tall tales, lusty lies and foul fab-rications in a manner most uncommon for these times, but once enjoyed by all goodwives and honest jacks with no guarantees of satisfaction hereby given. An evening of storytelling by Dave Tonge, inspired by the stories from his book, 'Tudor Folk Tales', that Tudor folk shared both at home and in public places and later collected in 'chapbooks' and 'jest-books'. Stories about the 'common sort' - from women who refused to 'know their place', to coney-catchers - the beguilers of the gullible who plied their trade in the very tavern-yard and alehouses.

Note: Suitable for adults and older children, 12+

3 Thursday 3rd October • 7.30pm • £3

IN CONVERSATION WITH RICHARD LUMSDEN

Join actor, writer and composer Richard Lumsden as he discusses his moving and bittersweet debut novel (and BBC Radio 4 play) *The Six Loves of Billy Binns*.

4 Thursday 3rd October • 7:30pm to 9:30pm
Children (under 16) Free : Adults £2.50 (£3 with Gift Aid)

RED FOR DANGER

Read by Dick Hewett, President of the Friends of Romsey Signal Box

An evening of readings from the classic LTC Rolt book *Red For Danger*, describing significant railway accidents. The true stories are written in an evocative style which brings the drama and tragedy of each accident to life, and the lessons learned. The readings will be in the signal box itself.

Normal Romsey Signal Box entrance fees will apply. Hot and cold drinks available.

Note: Limited capacity - only 15 spaces available.



5 Friday 4th October • 7.30pm • £10

STRICTLY SHERLOCK

Join the king of detectives as he brings to life some of his exciting cases! You don't want to miss this performance by Don't Go Into The Cellar.

11 **12** Friday 4th October • Not open to the public

BLUEBIRD STORY BOX AT ABBEYFIELD HOUSE & ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE

Stories are as old as time and we are never too young or too old to connect together and share stories in this moment in time. Wherever Bluebird the Storyteller goes she takes her story box but no books. In her own style she will tell stories woven to enchant and enthrall, sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always entertaining. and a pathway into imaginations and lost memories. Who knows which stories will escape from the box.

Sponsored by
Councillor Mark Cooper

Numbers relate to venue (see map)

3 Saturday 5th October • 10am to 4pm • Free - no booking required

STORIES IN BRICKS! A SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION CLUB

Join us for a special story themed Construction Club! Perfect for children who enjoy building with bricks! No need to book, just drop in.

Note: Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.

3 Saturday 5th October • 11am and 2pm • £3

STORYTELLING FOR CHILDREN with Mike O'Leary

Come and listen to Mike, professional storyteller and author of *Hampshire Folktales for Children*, as he tells tales of dragons, cockatrices, noggins, nurdles and noodles. All Mike's stories have been guaranteed true by the Romsey Fibber's Society, and he'll accompany his tangled tales with a variety of strange musical instruments.

Note: Suitable for ages 5+



3 Saturday 5th October • 4pm • £3

STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS with Mike O'Leary

Mike will be telling stories based around his new novel, *The Pilgrimage of Piltdown Man*. He will be telling stories, not reading them - this is performance storytelling!

"Once upon a time...there was the Weald. Much of the Weald was smoke and flame - a place of blast furnaces and molten iron - and the mine pits; still, deep, dark cooling pools, from which would come the hiss of steam when white hot iron was plunged in."

Hear how the Piltdown Man stumbles through Hampshire, on his journey from Sussex to Cornwall and Brittany, and beware of the Mermaid of Zennor, for she'll rip out your vocal chords to string a bone harp.

Note: Suitable for Adults 16+

6 Saturday 5th October • 11am, 12pm, 2pm & 3pm • Adult £2 Child £1

MEDIEVAL TALES OF MERRIMENT, MIRTH AND MADNESS

Medieval Tales of Merriment, Mirth and Madness is a collection based on stories from over 600 years ago, some of them much older still. It's a set taken from Storyteller, Dave Tonge's new book for young folk and their families, *Medieval Folk Tales for Children*, is being published in December of 2019. Stories that Dave has adapted from Geoffrey Chaucer and other medieval writers for about wild warriors, heroic hounds, midwinter magic, mean-minded merchants and even a poor man who was accused of stealing steam!

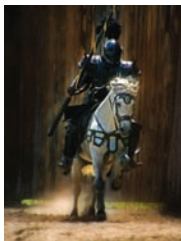
6 Saturday 5th October • 5pm to 7pm • £5 (£7.50 with Tristan & Iseult)

GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT Re-imagined by Sarah Rundle

Gorgeous Gawain, the King's nephew, rides out in golden armour on his white horse. His mission is suicidal, his journey long and cold, he is constantly ambushed... ..but the greatest danger comes from his own heart.

A medieval story of derring-do, wizardry, and inconvenient corsets. It's an ancient winter's tale that goes back to our Celtic roots and is perfect for a dark evening, especially if mulled wine is to be had.

Love, war, and chivalry combine in this classic tale from King Arthur's Court.



Numbers relate to venue (see map)

6 Saturday 5th October • 7:45pm to 9.30pm • £5 (7.50 with Gawain)

TRISTAN & ISEULT

Tristan & Iseult is one of the great love stories, spanning the lands and seas of Cornwall, Ireland and Brittany. Hear afresh the rapture in music that drifts across the water, the tenderness of a healing touch, the passion in a game of chess, the intimacy of an apple orchard and the thrill of clutching at your lover's hand and fleeing to the wild secret places of this land.

Katy Cawkwell picks a clear, brilliant path through this many-layered legend, mingling story with snatches of Gaelic song and touching her listeners with the excitement, beauty and tragedy of this timeless tale.

Note: Suitable for adults and older children, 13+

7 Saturday 5th October • 6:30pm • £10

STORYTELLING SUPPER

Storytelling for Grown-ups with a two course hot meal. Stories have always been the best way to spend an Autumn evening. Between the courses of a two course meal of jacket potatoes with a selection of fillings and choice of dessert, storyteller Paul Butler will regale us with stories ranging from the Arabian Nights to the Bible.

3 Sunday 6th October • 9am to 10:30am • Free

SIMON CHADWICK STORY TRAIL

Leaving Romsey Library for a story trail around Romsey based on Simon Chadwick's book *New Forest Friends and the Litterbugs*, before returning for some fun and drawing with Simon!

Note: Children must be accompanied by a parent / carer.

4 Sunday 6th October • Between 11am and 4pm
Children (under 16) Free : Adults £2.50 (£3 with Gift Aid)

CLASSIC RAILWAY STORIES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

During the regular Signal Box Open day, Dick Hewett will read some classic children's stories to any visitors who'd like to listen (both young and young at heart). Ivor the Engine and others likely to feature!

Normal Romsey Signal Box entrance fees will apply with no extra charge for listening to the stories.

8 Sunday 6th October • 12pm • Free

TRAIN STORIES

told by Sarah Lloyd Winder and Chris Connaughton

Sponsored by 

Sunday 6th October • **THE BIG FINISH**

6 9 10 ITINERANT STORYTELLING • 12:30pm to 2pm • Free

Storytellers will be around the town also telling in the Market Place, King John's Garden and the Railway Station.

9 BEGINNERS STORYTELLING WORKSHOP • 2pm to 3pm • £2

Have you ever wanted to have a go at telling a story? Members of Southampton Storyclub will be giving hints and tips on how to start.

9 TEA, CAKE AND STORIES AROUND THE ROOM

3pm to 4pm • Free - donations welcome

The festival ends with tea and cakes, also the winners of the Romsey Library Short Story Competition will be announced and performed.

Numbers relate to venue (see map)



Katy Calkwell

Katy Calkwell has been storytelling for twenty years, featuring in international festivals from India to Iceland and captivating audiences from the Barbican stage to a burial chamber on Anglesey. She is well-known for unravelling complex narratives into richly entertaining, glittering stories that linger in the mind long after they are told.



Jason Buck

Storyteller and performer, blending traditional and contemporary themes, music, vocal sound effects and pure, unadulterated fantasy. Drawing on traditional favourites and introducing new ideas, Jason's stories are told in the oldest and best ways - as live performances. Blending traditional and contemporary motifs, vocal sound effects and pure, unadulterated fantasy.



Michael O'Leary

Michael O'Leary is an experienced storyteller and teacher based in the Southampton and Portsmouth area, in the county of Hampshire in the UK. He shares stories with children, teenagers and adults in homes, gardens, schools (both special and mainstream), colleges, universities, prisons, pubs, clubs, forests, fields, museums, libraries, hospitals and shopping centres.



Wendy and Michael Dacre

Michael and Wendy Dacre of Raventales - tell wonder tales, myths, legends, lies, folk tales and literary stories for adults and older children



Sarah Rundle

Sarah Rundle got locked in a laboratory but tunnelled her way to freedom. She ran away to drama school, and for the last ten years has been a full-time storyteller and sporadic actor. Her work has been described as "truly magical... ...it sparkles with a particularly glorious English humour."



Cath Edwards

A warm and witty professional storyteller who delights audiences at festivals, storytelling clubs and venues across the country. Working traditional material, she creates a series of compelling images that will stay with you long after the story is ended. She tells stories to all ages and, as well as mainstream storytelling, she has particular expertise with special needs and early years.



Dave Tonge

A costumed historical teller, Dave has done much of his telling in museums and heritage sites, including the British Museum, Ashmolean, Battle Abbey and Lindisfarne Holy Island. He has told stories regularly at festivals and the sessions are always interactive, including riddles and music.



Paul Butler and Mike Rogers

Paul Butler is a storyteller from Salisbury who helps to run the Southampton Storyclub. His favourite stories come from the Arabian Nights and the Bible. Mike Rogers tells Greek and Norse myths, European folktales, Russian and Japanese folktales and even some tales he created himself.



Janet Goring

A child in the 60s growing up by the River Itchen in Winchester. Janet has been a keen girl-guider throughout her life. She worked as an Occupational Therapist before attending the International School of Storytelling in 2012. Since when she has enjoyed how stories can enchant, enthral, heal and teach all ages and situations.



Richard Lumsden

Actor writer, composer and musician. Originally from Lancashire, his film credits include Sense and Sensibility, in television he has, amongst others, appeared in East Enders, Casualty, Father Brown and the Catherine Tate Show.



Sarah Lloyd Winder

Sarah Lloyd Winder is a professional storyteller who seeks out tales from around the world to tell at a variety of venues and situations. From Folktales that tell the story of how Iceland got its volcanoes and Denmark its fjords to the beautiful Myths and Folklore of Japan. She works with traditional tales, folk tales, historical stories and a mixture of all these. Every day she finds more tales to add to the bag of storytelling adventure.



Chris Connaughton

Chris Connaughton works mainly in primary schools performing a variety of traditional tales from the Greek and Norse Myths through to classic fairy tales and the ghost stories of Dickens. Chris is also a published author

Can you write a winner? Story writing competition

Are you aged 4 to 18 and love stories?
Write an original story, no more than 500 words, and hand it in to
Romsey Library or email it to romsey.library@hants.gov.uk

Winners (and prizes) will be announced at the
Romsey Storytelling Festival Big Finish
on Sunday 6th October at Romsey United Reformed Church.

Entries need to be in by 28th September 2019



Love your library

art, music, drama and more
a celebration of Romsey's rich history, culture and talents



**ROMSEY
FESTIVAL
2020**

4th to 19th July



**MUSIC
and ARTS,
CRAFTS and
ENTERTAINMENT**
events for all ages, young and old

www.romseyfestival.org



Romsey Storytelling Festival

www.romseyfestival.org

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(Individual events may have their own additional sponsorship)