

*"As ever it was BRILLIANT!!!  
Part of my annual storytelling calendar."*

Tales in Trust Participant

# Tales in Trust: Ancestral Voices Reimagined

Hosted by **Taffy Thomas** with:

Chrissy Thomas | Dave Tonge (Norwich Yarnsmith) | Mossy Christian (Musician)

Fri 22 – Sun 24 | Oct 21

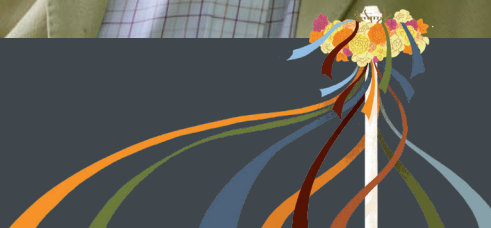


Join England's first  
storyteller laureate  
Taffy Thomas MBE  
and guest story  
tellers for a weekend  
to stir the heart and  
feed the soul.



**HALSWAY**  
MANOR

National Centre for Folk Arts





## ABOUT TAFFY AND HIS GUESTS

**Taffy Thomas, MBE**, is England's first storyteller laureate and patron of The Society for Storytelling. Taffy received The English Folk Dance and Song Society Gold Badge award in December 2010. With Taffy's head bursting with stories, riddles and folklore, professional storyteller Giles Abbot once commented, *"when Taffy goes it will be like a library burning down."*

**Mossy Christian:** Award winning professional musician, singer, and dancer, specialising in the musical traditions of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. Drawing on a rich repertoire of traditional dance tunes and folk songs, charting the lives of everyday people, in their work and recreation, from the 1700s to the present day, his shows are a treat not to be missed. As a respected researcher, Mossy has presented and published multiple papers including: 'The Midwinter Traditions of Lincolnshire', 'The Musical Pennock Family of Goathland', and the folk-song collectors Frank & Ethel Kidson.

**Dave Tonge** – the Yarnsmith of Norwich – is an author, historian and professional storyteller from Norfolk. Dave has been telling tales for over 20 years, traveling the land and spinning yarns at museums, heritage sites, festivals, fayres and schools all over the UK. His books 'Tudor Folk Tales', 'Norfolk Folk Tales for Children' and 'Medieval Folk Tales for Children' are available from The History Press.

England's first storyteller laureate Taffy Thomas MBE returns with guests for a weekend of (socially distanced if necessary!) workshops, performances and presentations to delight all who wish to tell a tale or just relax and listen.

Storytellers stand on the shoulders of those who've gone before: teachers, tradesmen & women, travelling people, parents and grandparents. These ghosts have given us tales to tell and urge us forward.

### **Mossy Christian "Come listen to my tale"**

*Examine the history of broadside ballads, and what modern storytellers can learn from the stories and songs they contained. From the late sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries, broadsides were prevalent as affordable and readily available sources of entertainment. This crude form of street literature employed subjects as varied as ancient legends, public executions, and the loss of RMS Titanic.*

### **Trickster Tales from Tonge**

*Dave explores his family heritage, from origins in the village of Tonge in medieval Kent to their relatively short, yet eventful move to Norfolk just over 100 years ago. Dave's mum often warned him against this research - who knows what skeletons were hidden in family cupboards long ago? Much to his joy, she was right - Dave's ancestors were much like the rogues, knaves and arrant rascals that inhabit many of his tales and all get a chance to beguile their audience in this session.*

Dave will also be offering a follow-up to his previous 'Telling Heritage' workshop, called 'Telling Heritage – The Next Steps'.

The weekend will be packed with workshops, performances, presentations and story rounds. Bring your stories to share, your instruments if you play, and most importantly, your ears.

### **WHO'S IT FOR?**

Tellers of all levels of experience, and those who just want to listen; after all, as Taffy rightly says, *"if speaking were more important than listening, we'd have two tongues and one ear."*

*"I am new to storytelling. I am now interested in taking up the art, and have already made contact with a storytelling group."* 2016 Participant

### **BOOKING**

**01984 618274 ext 1 / office@halswaymanor.org.uk**

Full board per person (workshops & activities, performances, all meals and accommodation): £180 - £262 depending on room choice

Camping per person (workshops & activities, performances, all meals): £170

Non Resident (workshops & activities, performances, meals except breakfast): £160

### **GETTING HERE IS EASY**

We're just off the A358 Taunton – Minehead road, approx 20 minutes from the M5. The mainline railway station in Taunton has a regular bus service stopping an easy 5 minute walk from our door.

Company No: 849615 Charity No: 247230

Halsway Manor is a creative organisation that provides courses, events and activities for everyone interested in traditional music, dance, song, storytelling, folklore, arts and crafts.

Located in the Quantock Hills – a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – the historic Manor has a Great Hall, a Victorian Ballroom, wood-panelled lounge/bar and folk library (housing a nationally important collection of books and audio recordings), and six acres of lovely gardens and grounds – great spaces for workshops and relaxing!

Our friendly staff ensure you are well looked-after, and our chefs provide tasty, home-cooked food (all diets catered for).

**www.halswaymanor.org.uk**

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