

Review of Lakeland Weekend of Storytelling Sept.2007

Storytelling trio Annamation (Anna, Anna and Susanna) write about their experience of The Lakeland Weekend of Storytelling 2007:

As relative newcomers to the folk and storytelling tradition, Annamation didn't know what to expect from a Storytelling Festival tucked away in Staveley village in the Lakelands. When we arrived we were bowled over by the warm welcome we received from Taffy and Chrissy Thomas. The Thomases exude hospitality and have created a fantastic family-like atmosphere amongst all the storytellers, musicians, avid fans and locals who gather together to enjoy the weekend.

Annamation's first task was to inspire some of the children of Staveley Primary School to become storytellers themselves. We worked with them for a day and a half and were blown away firstly by the schools' support, and secondly by the children's sheer talent and willingness to work hard. On the Saturday they amazed the Festival audience with their version of Jason and the Argonauts. They did us and themselves proud!

Taffy had selected a great variety of storytellers and songwriters. We were entertained by Michael Harvey, Peter Chand, Sandra Kerr, Mike O'Connor, The Fairly Famous Family; local folk music and dance troupe The Fosbrooks and many others. Not forgetting of course Keith Donnelly who covered the Festival in custard!

On the Saturday night after we had danced till we were red in the face we wrapped up warm and processed by torch light from the Village Hall to an open field, the setting for the Ghost Stories by Firelight. Storytellers told stories that made your stomach turn and your spine tingle.

One of our highlights was performing 'The Firebird' on the last day. The audience that gathered was the most warm and responsive we've ever had the pleasure of sharing a story with. It really was a moment to treasure.

We came away from the Lakes with the sense that we had come across something extremely special and we felt privileged to be a part of it.