

Storytelling & Folk-Singing Performances

REGULAR EVENTS (Ongoing)

David Metcalfe is the current regular convenor of and contributor to the **Bath Storytelling Circle**, which meets upstairs in The Raven, Queen St, Bath, on the third Monday each month from 8.00pm. Entry is free and all-comers are welcome. [N.B. The Circle last met in February 2019 and plans to resume in Autumn 2021, Covid-19 considerations permitting.]

SOLO & GROUP PERFORMANCES (Since 2010)

June 24th 2019: 'Tales of the Northlands' at Ponte Vecchio Restaurant, Bath. A set of Celto-Nordic songs and stories performed by **David Metcalfe** for Middelalder Oslo. Time 1.30pm (private event).

June 1st 2019: 'Right Proper Barding – The Tales Before Shakespeare' at The Pavilion, Museum in the Park, Stroud, as part of the Stroud Shakespeare Festival. Storytellers **Kirsty Hartsiotis**, **David Metcalfe** and **Anthony Nanson** of *Fire Springs* bringing the Bard's tales of tragedy, history and comedy to life. Starts 5.00pm. Tickets £8 (£6). Contact Museum in the Park (01453 763394).

April 23rd 2019: 'A Fair Field Full of Folk' at St Gregory's Church, Cheltenham, as part of the Cheltenham Christian Arts Festival. **Anthony Nanson**, **Kirsty Hartsiotis** and **David Metcalfe** of *Fire Springs* present visions of life, love, death and redemption from England's Middle Ages – a colourful tapestry of tales and music that open a medieval window on today's world. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £10.50 (students free).

December 7th 2018: At What a Performance! St James Wine Vaults, Bath, upstairs Gallery Room. **David Metcalfe** appearing as part an evening of music and spoken word antics hosted by **Richard Selby**. Starts 8.00pm. Free entry, donations in the hat.

September 21st 2018: 'Heart of Place' at Widcombe Social Club, Bath. **David Metcalfe** appearing as part of an evening of spoken word and music in aid of Julian House and Bath Welcomes Refugees, supporting homeless and displaced people in Bath, hosted by **Kirsten Bolwig**. Starts 7.00pm. Tickets £10 (£8) in advance or £12.50 on the door, available online from Eventbrite UK.

May 25th 2017: 'Outsiders and Outcasts' at Midsomer Norton Town Hall. Traditional songs and stories from the British Isles exploring heroic outsiders and outcasts. Devised and performed by **Richard Selby** and **David Metcalfe** for the Bath Literature Festival. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £4 (£3) in advance or £6 (£4) on the door, available from Bath Box Office (01225 463362).

March 23rd 2017: 'Heroes and Villains' at Midsomer Norton Library. Traditional songs and stories from the British Isles exploring old myths and legends and how they reflect upon the modern world. Including the tale of Heledd and Cynddylan from the ancient books of Wales and a new version of the mediaeval tale of Gawain and the Green Knight. Devised and performed by **Richard Selby** and **David Metcalfe** for the Bath Literature Festival. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £4 (£3) in advance or £6 (£4) on the door, available from Bath Box Office (01225 463362).

April 17th 2016: 'Dark Age Deeds of the Celtic Saints' at St Philip and St James', Leckhampton, Cheltenham, as part of the Cheltenham Christian Arts Festival. Celtic saints carried the torch of civilisation in an age of darkness, faced monsters and king, and ploughed the waves in search of earthly paradise. Dynamic storytelling from **Anthony Nanson** and **David Metcalfe**, with haunting music on guitar and bodhran. Starts 2.30pm. Tickets £8 from Cheltenham Town Hall Box Office (0844-576-2210).

March 5th 2016: 'Tales Before Shakespeare, Part 2' at the Guildhall, Bath. The second of two linked but distinct storytelling events exploring the plots and stories behind Shakespeare's plays as part of the Bath Literature Festival. Devised and performed by **David Metcalfe** and **Richard Selby**. Time 8.00-9.00pm. Tickets £9 (£8) from Bath Box Office (01225 463632).

March 2nd 2016: 'Tales Before Shakespeare, Part 1' at the Guildhall, Bath. The first of two linked but distinct storytelling events exploring the plots and stories behind Shakespeare's plays. Devised and performed by **David Metcalfe** and **Richard Selby** for the Bath Literature Festival. Time 8.00-9.00pm. Tickets £9 (£8) from Bath Box Office (01225 463632).

December 9th 2015: 'Winter Tales' at Eastwood Park, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. Seasonal stories and songs for the depths of winter and the joys of Christmas, from **Anthony Nanson**, **David Metcalfe** and **Kirsty Hartsiotis** of *Fire Springs*. Time 10.30pm (private event).

March 4th 2015: 'The Deepest Seas' at the Guildhall, Bath. The second of two storytelling events, each with its own unique content, exploring the varied landscape of the human condition through wonder tales, ballads and music. Devised and performed by **David Metcalfe**, **Beth Porter** and **Richard Selby** for the Bath Literature Festival. Time 7.30-8.45pm. Tickets £6 (£5) from Bath Box Office (01225 463632).

March 3rd 2015: 'The Darkest Hours' at Midsomer Norton Library. The first of two storytelling events, each with its own unique content, exploring the varied landscape of the human condition through wonder tales, ballads and music. Devised and performed by **David Metcalfe**, **Beth Porter** and **Richard Selby** for the Bath Literature Festival. Time 7.00-8.15pm. Tickets £6 (£5) from Bath Box Office (01225 463632).

October 31st 2014: 'Spooky Stories' at the National Trust's Fairy Wood (Bath Skyline). Grab your lantern for a woodland walk then warm up next to a large camp fire and listen to stories and songs on the scariest night of the year. Time 4.00-6.00pm. Tickets £7 individuals, £20 families, from the National Trust (01225 833422).

July 4th-6th 2014: At Beyond the Border, Wales International Storytelling Festival, St Donat's Castle: 'Tales to Sustain: Storytelling for a Greener World' in Milgi's Tipi on Saturday 5th July, 12.00-1.30pm, and Sunday 6th July, 12.00-1.30pm, exploring how stories and storytelling can help us find creative rather than destructive pathways into a challenging future, with **Anthony Nanson**, **Charlene Collison**, **Eric Maddern**, **Jane Flood** and **David Metcalfe**, plus special appearances from **Hugh Lupton** and **Ashley Ramsden**; and **'Ballads in the Bar'**, Friday 4th July, 7.30-8.30pm, and Sunday 6th July, 7.30-8.45pm, with **David Metcalfe**, **Cath Little** and others. Contact Beyond the Border Festival Director, David Ambrose (01656 890289).

March 2nd 2014: 'Word Perfect – Voices in the City' at the [Guildhall](#), Bath. Enjoy an entertaining evening with students from Bath Spa University as they showcase the best bits from their street performances over the weekend, plus some special items reserved for indoors, hosted by Bath bard and storyteller **David Metcalfe** for the Bath Literature Festival. Time 8.00-9.30pm. Free but ticketed, contact Bath Box Office (01225 463632).

November 23rd 2013: 'Winter Blues' downstairs at [St James Wine Vaults](#), Bath. **David Metcalfe** appearing alongside others as part of a fundraising event for Bath Artists' Studios. Starts 8.00pm. Tickets £5.

July 16th 2013: 'Dark Age Deeds of the Celtic Saints' at [Milgi's Yurt](#), Cardiff. Born from Druids, and tuned to wild nature and the memory of old gods, Irish monks carried the torch of civilisation through a dark age of conflict. Patrick, Columba, Colman, Brendan – they parlayed with pagan heroes, battled with words for the spiritual compass of these isles, and ploughed the waves in search of earthly paradise. With their distinctive blend of tale and music, **Anthony Nanson** and **David Metcalfe** of *Fire Springs* storytellers bring legend to life. Starts 8.00pm. Free entry, donations in the hat. Contact Milgi's Lounge (02920 473150).

March 3rd 2013: 'Won't Get Fooled Again' at [The Bell Inn](#), Bath. Bath Spa University students, showcasing the best bits from their performances on the streets of Bath city centre over the weekend, plus some extra bits specially reserved for indoors and after dark, hosted by **David Metcalfe**. Time 8.00-11.00pm. Free event.

March 3rd 2013: 'Unhappy Love' at the [Holburne Museum](#), Bath. **David Metcalfe** performing traditional ballads about the complexities of love and the pain of rejection taken from the *New Penguin Book of English Folk Songs* as part of the Bath Literature Festival. Time 2.00-4.00pm. Free.

November 23rd 2012: 'Dark Age Deeds of the Celtic Saints' at the [Rondo Theatre](#), Bath. Born from Druids, and tuned to wild nature and the memory of old gods, Irish monks carried the torch of civilisation through a dark age of conflict. Patrick, Columba, Colman, Brendan – they parlayed with pagan heroes, battled with words for the spiritual compass of these isles, and ploughed the waves in search of earthly paradise. With their distinctive blend of tale and music, **Anthony Nanson** and **David Metcalfe** of *Fire Springs* storytellers bring legend to life. Starts 8.00pm. Tickets £12 (£10) from Bath Box Office (01225 463362).

June 1st 2012: At What a Performance! [St James Wine Vaults](#), Bath, upstairs Gallery Room. **David Metcalfe** appearing as part an evening of music and spoken word antics hosted by **Richard Selby**. Starts 8.00pm. Free entry, donations in the hat.

April 21st 2012: 'Songs and Stories' at [Yate Heritage Centre](#). **David Metcalfe** performing two sets of ballads and folk tales as part of St George's Day Celebrations. Times 12.00pm and 1.30pm. Free.

March 11th 2012: 'Forgotten Lives, Inspiring Stories – Memory, History, Legend' at the [Holburne Museum](#), Bath. Storytellers **David Metcalfe**, **Anthony Nanson**, **Kirsty Hartsiotis** and **Kevan Manwaring** of *Fire Springs* take a trip back in time to meet, in person, an astonishing assembly of Bath's forgotten and half-remembered denizens – adventurers and inventors, kings and clerics, writers and visionaries. Specially commissioned for the Bath Literature Festival. Time 3.30-5.00pm. Tickets £5 (£4) from Bath Box Office (01225 463362).

March 2nd 2012: 'New Breath for Vanished Voices' at the [Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution](#), Queen Square, Bath, as part of Voices in the City – the opening day of the Bath Literature Festival. **David Metcalfe** and **Anthony Nanson** of *Fire Springs*, with Bath Spa University students, celebrate forgotten corners of history in spoken-word performance. Time 12.30-1.30pm. Free.

February 3rd 2012: 'Sons of Erin, Daughter of Cymru' at [Garway Village Hall](#), Herefordshire. An evening of legendary tales of Ireland's hero-gods, the Tuatha De Danaan, enchantingly told by Herefordshire storyteller **Austin Keenan**, tales and songs for the turning of the year by storyteller and singer **Cath Little**, and songs from Ireland's troubled history of conflict, famine and faith, by folk-singer and guitarist **David Metcalfe**. Starts 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm). Tickets £6 (adults) and £3 (12-18 years). Contact Mikki (01981 580056).

December 15th 2011: 'Winter Ballads - Stark Songs for Dark Nights' at [Waterstones](#), Bath. A set of mid-winter folk-songs performed by David Metcalfe. Time 7.00pm. Free.

December 8th 2011: 'Sons of Erin' at [Five Valleys Foyer \(British School\)](#), Gloucester St, Stroud, as part of the Stroud Arts Festival. Stories and songs from Ireland, ancient and modern – legendary tales of Ireland's hero-gods, the Tuatha De Danaan, as the sons of Turann struggle for honour and redemption, enchantingly told by Herefordshire storyteller **Austin Keenan**, and stirring sons from Ireland's troubled history of conflict, famine and faith, performed by Bath-based folk-singer and guitarist **David Metcalfe**. Starts 8.00pm (doors open 7.30pm). Tickets £6 (adults) and £3 (12-18 years). Contact Star Anise Café (01453 840021).

September 2nd 2011: 'Earthy Strong' at the [Star and Shadow Cinema](#), Byker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Stories and songs of life, love and death, from history and legend. Journey from the Anglo-Scottish Borders to the Welsh Marches, from Ireland to North America, to Languedoc, to the Holy Land and back again, in the company of warriors and holy men, exiles and assassins, rivals and lovers, as storyteller, singer and guitarist **David Metcalfe** unearths links between folk tradition, history and archaeology. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (£4). Phone for more information (0191-261-0066).

March 25th 2011: 'Dark Age Deeds of the Celtic Saints' at the [Brewhouse Theatre](#), Taunton. Born from Druids, and tuned to wild nature and the memory of old gods, Irish monks carried the torch of civilisation through a dark age of conflict. Patrick, Columba, Colman, Brendan – they parlayed with pagan heroes, battled with words for the spiritual compass of these isles, and ploughed the waves in search of earthly paradise. With their distinctive blend of tale and music, **Anthony Nanson** and **David Metcalfe** of *Fire Springs* storytellers bring legend to life. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £8 (£6) from the Brewhouse Theatre (01823 283244).

January 28th 2011: 'Wearing the Green' at [St James Wine Vaults](#), Bath, upstairs Gallery Room. **David Metcalfe** featuring at **What a Performance!** with a set of songs and stories about significant events in Ireland's struggle for independence from Britain from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, through the lens of the family memory of his Irish ancestors.

September 11th 2010: 'Songs and Stories' at [Yate Heritage Centre](#). **David Metcalfe** performing two sets of ballads and folk tales. Times 10.30am and 1.30pm. Free.

August 11th 2010: 'A Twist in the Tale' at the [Gallery Room, St James Wine Vaults](#), Bath, as part of the Bath Folk Festival. Tales within tales, a talkative corpse, the Devil in disguise, and much more – stories and songs in which things are not what they seem. Prepare to be led a merry dance of the imagination by **Anthony Nanson**, **Kirsty Hartsiotis**, **Richard Selby**, **Kevan Manwaring** and **David Metcalfe** of *Fire Springs*. Time 7.30-9.0pm. Tickets £5 (£3) from Bath Box Office (01225 463362).