

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

Tales in Trust Participant

# Tales in Trust: The Nature of Stories

Hosted by Taffy Thomas with special guests Daniel Morden (Master Storyteller) and Paul Jackson (Chair of the Society for Storytelling) plus Tales in trust regulars Richard and Elizabeth York, Paul Knox, and Tom Goodale

Fri 18 – Sun 20 | Oct 19



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.*"

**Paul Jackson** is passionate about re-introducing storytelling to mainstream education with presentations at over 2000 schools, a recent tour through China and Paul has presented at festivals including Glastonbury and Latitude.

**Daniel Morden** has been a professional storyteller since 1989 and his work has taken him across the world from remote First Nation communities in the Arctic Circle to the Sydney Writers Festival. He has delighted audiences closer to home at Hay and Cheltenham festivals, the Barbican, National Theatre and the British Museum. He is a published author and has researched and retold a wide variety of stories, including Greek myth, Welsh folktale and the tales that inspired Shakespeare and Chaucer. He was awarded the Hay Festival medal for his contribution to storytelling. In his new work 'Beastly!' Daniel tells magical tales from around the world in which people are changed into birds and beasts. "*Master Storyteller*" Guardian.



England's first storyteller laureate Taffy Thomas MBE returns with guests for a weekend of stories, food, music and merriment to stir the heart and feed the soul.

The focus of this year's feast of folktales is The Nature of Stories.

A weekend celebrating the place of story in the natural world. With the Quantocks AONB right on Halsway's doorstep it's a rich setting in which to share tales of nature. Performances, practical workshops and discussions will explore the way flora and fauna fulfil an important function in our folk tales.

The programme will also feature our usual Merry Neet ceilidh and story rounds with Tom Goodale and also two special performances: 'The Magpie's Nest, a treasury of bird folktales' to celebrate the launch of a new History Press publication by Taffy and illustrator Becca Hall and 'Beastly' the premiere of a new work by Daniel Morden.

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](mailto:office@halswaymanor.org.uk)**

Full board per person (workshops & activities, performances, all meals and accommodation):

£165 - £240 depending on room choice

Camping per person (workshops & activities, performances, all meals): £155

Non Resident (workshops & activities, performances, meals except breakfast): £145

## 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](http://www.halswaymanor.org.uk)

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