



Festival of Stories

May 2026

Festival
Programme
19th - 30th



The annual celebration of creativity returns! And YOU'RE invited...

That's right! This is your **PERSONAL** invitation to attend the **Festival of Stories**, which returns in 2026 for an exciting week of storytelling workshops, family fun activities, and marvels across the magical world and your imagination. Taking place in Rotherham, we welcome anyone and everyone across the UK and further!

Most events are **FREE**, so make sure to book in advance to secure your spot (these are the event's marked ). Events **WITHOUT** this symbol are drop-in so feel free to swing by.

Grimm & Co's Emporium of Stories is the main hub for events; however, events will be spread across multiple locations, detailed in the descriptions.

For information about accessibility, how to find us, and what to expect, head to our website (scroll down to the bottom and select 'Accessibility'). Please get in touch if you have any questions and we'll be happy to support your experience.



Grimm & Co



@Grimmandco



@Grimmandcotok

Poetry at Wickersley Library

Tues 19th May: 10am - 12pm

Where: Wickersley Library

Come and join us for some fun poetry writing sessions, no experience needed. Just bring your curiosity, humour and a pen!

Adventures with Alice

Tues 19th May: 10am - 11am & 12pm - 1pm

Where: Grimm & Co

An Alice in Wonderland themed session suitable for ages 0 - 3. Exploring your child's natural curiosities through a familiar story using sensory play, storytelling and music. Join us as we tumbledown the rabbit hole and explore wonderland.

The Market of Maps and Memories

Weds 20th May: 1:30pm - 4pm

Where: Rotherham Markets

Step right up and meet our extraordinary Grimm & Co Postal Service team! We are on a quest to gather your cherished memories and tales of Rotherham and Talbot Lane Church. Once you've written your story, pin it to our giant Rotherham map so we can chart the history of our town together. Don't let your reyt good local legends go untold!

The Girl, The Bear and The Magic

Shoes

Thurs 21st May: 11am - 12pm & 1pm - 2pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Are your shoes magical? Do you love adventures? Step inside Grimm & Co and explore through movement in this playful workshop for babies and children aged 0-3

Poetry at Kimberworth Library

Thurs 21st May: 1:30pm - 3pm

Where: Kimberworth Library

Come and join us for some guided Creative Writing sessions, led by Jodie Platts.

Perfect for beginners, those wanting to have a go or reignite that spark! Bring your curiosity, notebook and pen! Preschool children and babies are welcome to come with their grown-ups.

The Market of Maps and Memories #2

Fri 22nd May: 10am - 12:30pm

Where: Rotherham Markets

Step right up and meet our extraordinary Grimm & Co Postal Service team! We are on a quest to gather your cherished memories and tales of Rotherham and Talbot Lane Church. Once you've written your story, pin it to our giant Rotherham map so we can chart the history of our town together. Don't let your reyt good local legends go untold!

The Wizard and The Mechanic

Sat 23rd May

Workshops: 10:30am - 11am & 1:30pm - 2pm

Performances: 11:15am - 12:15pm & 2:15pm - 3:15pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Magical and scientific exploits through theatre arrive at Grimm & Co. It's not just a show - it's a quest!

Grab your gear, gather your grown-ups, and get ready for a magical-mechanical adventure like no other!

Suitable for ages 5 - 10.

Brimstone: Puppet Storytelling

Sat 23rd May, 10am - 10:25am, 12:30pm - 12:55pm, 1:30pm - 2:55pm

Where: Grimm & Co and Rotherham Town Centre

Meet the roaming theatrical experience that sparks imagination, instills wonder and imparts subtle lessons in a way that resonates with children and their families.



Brimstone The Dragon

Poetry at Wickersley Library

Tues 26th May, 10am - 12pm

Where: Wickersley Library

Fun poetry writing sessions, no experience needed.

Bring your curiosity, humour and a pen!

Julia Donaldson Day at Grimm & Co.

Tuesday 26th May

Room on the Broom Sensory

9:45am - 11am & 11:30am - 12:45pm

A Room on the Broom themed sensory session suitable for 0-5.

Exploring your child's natural curiosity through a familiar story using sensory play, storytelling and music.

Superworm Garden Explorers

10:30am - 11:15am & 11:45am - 12:45pm

Watch him wiggle! See him Squirm! Join us for a garden adventure with Superworm! This session will take place in Grimm & Co's Botanists' Backyard and is perfect for little explorers who are keen to get stuck in to outdoor fun. Suitable for ages 0 - 5.

Iggety Ziggity Zaggity Zoom Potion

Making

10am - 11am

Join the Shop Elves to create a bottled potion to take home, then add your own label with ingredients and side effects for humans!

Suitable for ages 5 - 16.

Scarecrow's Wedding List

Throughout the day.

Harry O'Hay and Betty Barley are getting married but need your help finding items for the big day!

What the Ladybird Heard

Sessions: 11am - 12pm

Meet illustrator Lydia Monks for a special read-along of What The Ladybird Heard. This is a fantastically funny story from the stellar picture book partnership of Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks. Get ready to make lots of noise with everyone's favourite crime-stopping ladybird! Perfect for under 4s.

Facepainting

10am - 3pm

What's on!

Scan to book!



Julia Donaldson Day Continued

Tuesday 26th May

Madam Dragon's Dragon Egg and Mask Crafts

Sessions: 12pm - 1pm

Zog and his friends need a helping hand with the newest arrival of dragon eggs. Come earn your stars with the Shop Elves as we create a colourful dragon mask to wear and then decorate a wooden dragon egg jigsaw. We will 'hatch' the pieces apart and write about the dragon that would appear, ready to start dragon school with Zog! This session is suitable for children aged 3 - 11.

Let's Illustrate with Lydia Monks

Sessions: 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Do you love drawing? Would you love to be an artist? Come and join best-selling illustrator, Lydia Monks, in this draw-along session.

For ages 6+

Film Screening: Scarecrow's Wedding

Sessions: 1pm - 2pm

Watch the story of how Harry O'Hay married Betty Barley, a wedding that no one will ever forget!

Making Scarecrows

Sessions: 2pm - 3pm

Create your own sticker scarecrow by layering different facial features to design a unique character! Free drop-in activity and suitable for all ages.

The Smeds and the Smoos - Rocket

Building

Sessions: 2pm - 3pm

Join us to build your own rocket ships and explore the world of the Smeds and the Smoos in an intergalactic adventure. Suitable for ages 3 - 7.

Magic Light Storyboard Workshop

Sessions: 2pm - 3:30pm

Join Magic Light, the creators behind the Julia Donaldson animated films for this exciting session, covering all things page to screen. Suitable for those aged 7 and up.

A Grimm Day at the Museum

Weds 27th May, 10am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm

Where: Clifton Park Museum

Join Grimm & Co at Clifton Park Museum for a playful drop-in full of imagination and mystery!

A light-hearted storytelling activity for families, young creators, and curious minds of all ages.

The Wizard and The Mechanic #2

Weds 27th May

Workshops: 10:30am - 11am & 1:30pm - 2pm

Performances: 11:15am - 12:15pm & 2:15pm - 3:15pm

Where: Rawmarsh Library

Hold onto your hats and tighten those boots - it's time for an epic, adventure tale of magic, mayhem and unlikely friendship! Join Kronos, a flamboyant chaos wizard with more sparkle than sense, and Pan, a clever, by-the-book mechanic who can fix anything... except maybe big-headed wizards. These two adventuring heroes now roam the land saving villages, solving mysteries, and telling the tallest tales — but it wasn't always like this...



The Wizard & Mechanic

Falconry Dismay

Weds 27th May, 11:30am - 12pm & 1:30pm - 2pm

Where: Clifton Park Museum

Showcasing the extraordinary talents of 3 majestic birds of prey guided by their expert handler Kevin Tickle, prepare to belly laugh through the raucous ride that is Falconry Dismay. Anarchic, wild and....educational!

Editing Sweet and Q&A with Benjamin Parker

Weds 27th May, 2pm - 3:30pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Stuck on a storyline? Or does your draft just need an extra little polish? Bring your work-in-progress to our workshop. Suitable for ages 8 - 12.



Tell Tale Hearts: Suitcase Stories

Bubbles Storytelling

Weds 27th May, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Unbelievable Bubble Shows by the bubble wizard, creating magical wonders in the air - from giant bubbles to incredible storytelling.

Tell Tale Hearts: Suitcase Stories

Weds 27th May, 10:30am, 11:45am, 1:30pm

Where: Grimm & Co

A well travelled lady captivates her audience with stories she has gathered on her journeys around the world, from Yorkshire, through Poland and on to India! Using the contents of her suitcase, stories will come to life. **Suitable for ages 3 - 8.**



The Sanctuary of Stories & Scribbling

Thurs 28th May, 10am - 1pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Your stories matter! Join us for a special story-sharing session as we celebrate the history of our building, from Talbot Lane Church to Grimm & Co!

Past Portrait Pursuit

Thurs 28th May, 2pm - 3:30pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Step back through the decades as we officially launch our Heritage Project! Discover the real-life characters who walked these floors long before us.



The Magic Lantern

Storytelling and Illustration with Salomey Doku

Thurs 28th May, 10:30am - 12pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Join illustrator Salomey Doku for a fun-filled session based on her two picture books 'You Can Do Anything, Tyrone!' and 'Tyrone's Cool Crown' written by Sir Lenny Henry. The interactive session will include storytelling, the chance to create your own adventure, design your own rocket, and learn how to draw Tyrone - and maybe even create a new hairstyle for him! **Suitable for ages 4-8 years.**

All About Graphic Novels

Thurs 28th May, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Learn all about the comic making process with author/illustrator Salomey Doku as she breaks down how she created the world of "Brielle and Bear" into four easy steps, and guides you through creating your own mini comic. **Session suitable for ages 8 years and above.**



Salomey Doku Illustration

The Secrets of the Stained Glass Stories

Thurs 28th May, 1pm - 4pm

Where: Grimm & Co

Come and design your own stained-glass window inspired by the beautiful glass in our building! Once your masterpiece is finished, you can write a creative story about the world hidden behind the window.

The Magic Lantern Puppet Making Workshop

Fri 29th May, 10am - 11:30am

Where: Grimm & Co Garden

Join the Magic Lantern for an extra special puppet making workshop. **For 5-10 year olds and their adults.**

The Magic Lantern Performance

Fri 29th May,

12pm - 1pm, 2pm - 2:45pm, 3pm - 3:45pm

Where: Grimm & Co Garden

A curious contraption that travels the land with storytellers, musicians and puppeteers.

The Fairies have gone Rogue! Young Leaders Takeover

Sat 30th May, 2:30pm - 4pm

Where: Grimm & Co Garden

The fairies have gone rogue! Join Grimm's team of Investigating Inventors to uncover the stories of their mischief and mayhem. **Suitable for ages 7-11 yrs.**

Tell Tale Hearts: Trunk Tales

Sat 30th May, 10:30am, 11:45am, 1:30pm

Where: Grimm & Co

A new collection of stories from around the world is brought via a trunk of tales, like the Boastful Toad; magical fish and fearsome beasts of the wild woods! **Suitable for ages 4 - 10.**