



# Children's story festival 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026



Severn Valley Railway Event



Free Storytale trail and drop in events



Children's Authors

Illustrator Workshop



Storytelling

Poetry

Book Swap



Family fun

create a character competition





# Step into Stories with...



Join award-winning children's author Piers Torday to find out how he turned the discovery of a real-life mysterious long-lost map into an epic adventure for younger readers with his latest series, Midnight Treasure and create your own monster of the night...

Ages 8+



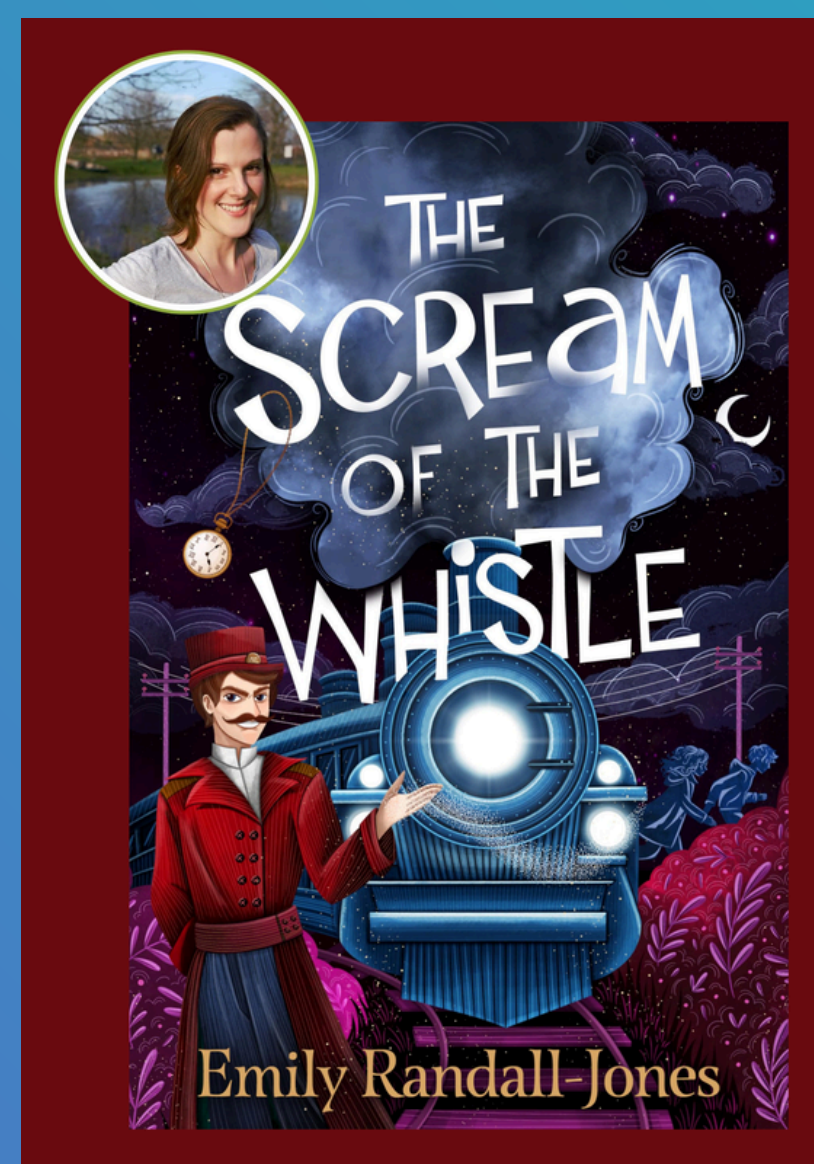
Step into the world between the rain, where shadows hold secrets and everyday items might just be portals to another world! Join Susan Cahill, author of The World Between the Rain, for an interactive storytelling adventure exploring portals, emotions, and the power of imagination.

Ages 7+



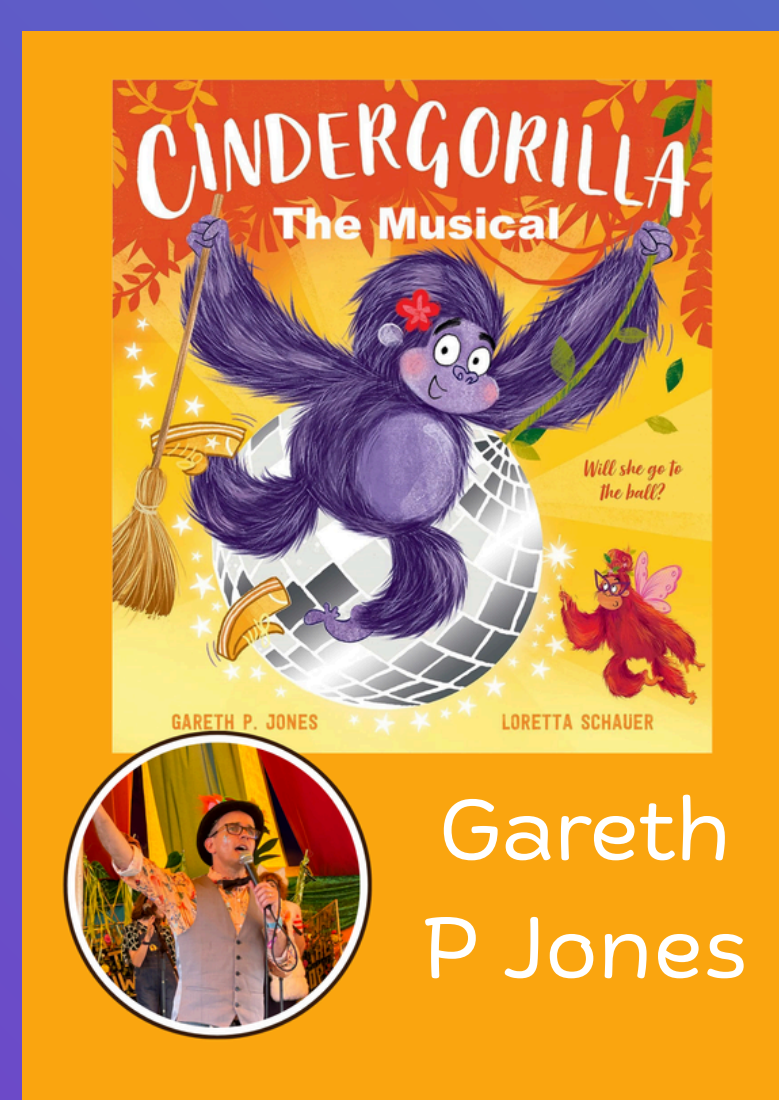
Join Jennifer Killick, bestselling author of the Dread Wood books, for an hour of chills and thrills, as she introduces her latest series Serial Chillers, your newest spooky obsession.

Ages 8+



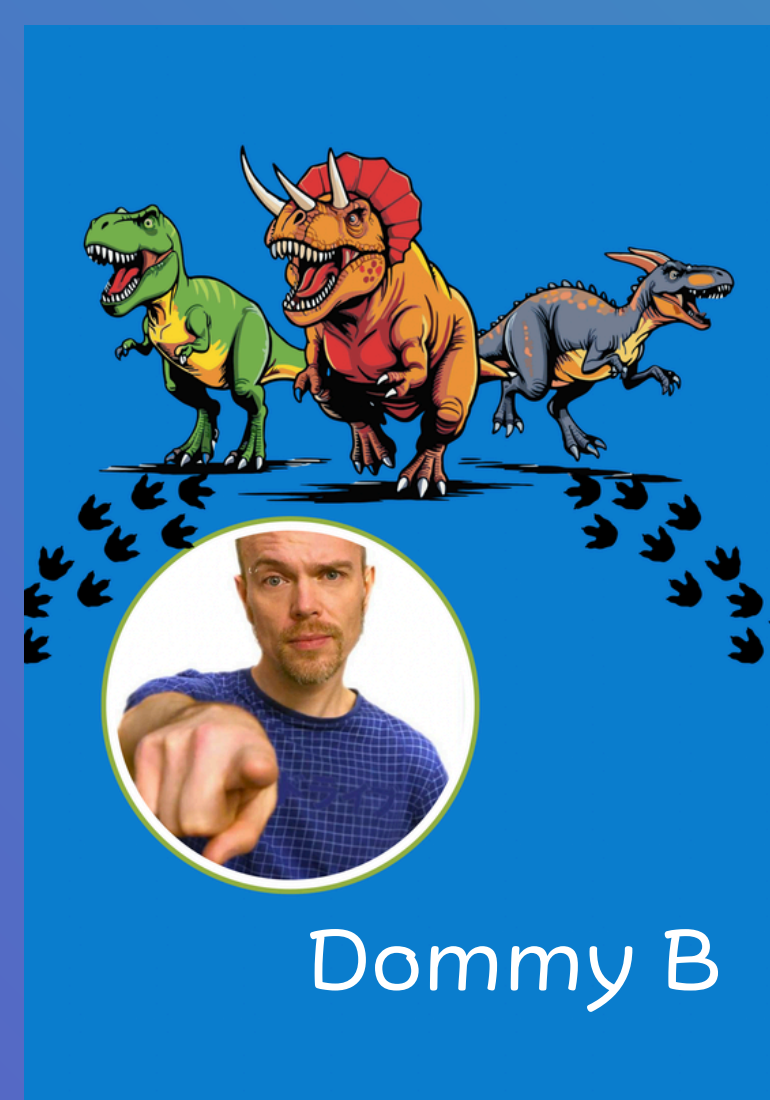
All aboard as we join author Emily Randall Jones on a whistle stop tour of old English folklore, steam-filled carriages and ghostly folk tunes with a mysterious conductor. Then climb aboard a real life heritage train to travel from Kidderminster to Bewdley, where you can enjoy the rest of the day at our Step into Stories Festival. Return tickets included.

Ages 7+



CinderGorilla: The Musical  
CinderGorilla wants to go to the jungle disco ball, but her Aunt Linda & her cousins Gertrude & Grace won't allow it. Cinder shall go to the ball and you are invited to join her & be a part of this unique event in which writer/performer/musician Gareth P Jones transforms his picture book into a musical extravaganza!

Ages 4+



The Dinosaurs are Back!

A one man poetry adventure involving a lot of noise, a lot of fun and most of all...a lot of dinosaurs!!!! Watch out! Dinosaurs about! Dommy B will take you on a wild ride telling you all about his dinosaur pals.

Ages 7+





# Step into Stories with...



Free  
Event

**Special Bounce and Rhyme session at  
Bewdley Library 9:30-10:00 for ages 0+**



Ages 3+

Free  
Event

Fiona is a picture book author whose writing has been translated into over 10 different languages. With a mixture of wonder and humour, Fiona's books are sure to bring joy to all. In her session at Step into Stories, Fiona will be reading A Swift Return and Do NOT Eat the Egg.



Ages 3+

Free  
Event

Join Jellycat author Meredith as she reads from her picture book for the iconic soft toy, Odell Octopus! Stretch and wiggle with Odell as she learns to love the things that make her unique. And who knows, perhaps Odell's good friend Bartholomew Bear might also make an appearance!



All ages welcome

Ian Douglas is a Storyteller and Theatre Maker who works extensively across the British Isles. With over 20 years of experience delivering storytelling, performance and theatre activities, he has developed a practise approach which mixes sensitivity, comedic energy and wit leading to a style all of his own.



Matthew Vaughan

**Story telling sessions:** All ages welcome  
Matthew tells some of his favourite stories for families. Travel with him to India to meet a Raja who, above all else, loves cheese. Or perhaps a trip to Japan where lives the smallest boy in the world.

**Forest Tales of the Olden World:** Ages 9+

In a far future, a young girl reflects on her grandmother's stories. Stories of an ancient, forgotten world. Our world. Younger or more sensitive children may find some scenes scary.

## And don't forget to check out our...



Free  
Event

**Create Your Own Story Illustration**  
Visitors will be welcomed to sketch and doodle on a large blank space to create a collaborative festival mural. Bec Tonks will assist and encourage an outpouring of doodles and illustrations alongside adding her own as we explore drawing and visual storytelling together.

**Free drop in  
events at St  
George's hall  
including...**

...create a  
character  
competition

...Quiet  
Area

...Story Tale  
Trail with  
Tricksy Troll

...Illustration  
workshop

...Write your  
own Tricksy  
Troll story

...Big  
Bewdley  
Book Swap





# Step into Stories Festival Timeetable 2026



<p><b>Severn Valley Railway</b></p> <p>Emily Randell Jones Severn Valley Railway Event age 7+</p> <p>Book signing and Author talk from 9:45</p> <p>Departure from Kidderminster 11:15</p>	<p><b>Riverside Church Centre</b></p> <p>11:00 – 12:00 Piers Torday age 7+</p> <p>12:30 – 1:30 Jennifer Killick age 8+</p> <p>2:30 – 3:30 Gareth P Jones age 4+</p>	<p><b>Bewdley Museum Education Room</b></p> <p>11:30 – 12:30 Susan Cahill age 7+</p> <p>1:00–2:00 Dommy B age 7+</p> <p>2:45–3:45 Matthew Vaughan Forest Tales from the Olden World age 9+ (some scenes may scare younger children)</p>	<p><b>Bewdley Museum Sawyard</b></p> <p>Story telling sessions all ages welcome</p> <p>11:00 – 11:30 Matthew Vaughan</p> <p>12:00–1:00 Ian Douglas</p> <p>1:30–2:00 Matthew Vaughan</p> <p>2:30–3:30 Ian Douglas</p>	<p><b>St George's Hall</b></p> <p>Free Drop-in events from 11:00–3:00 all ages welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mural workshops with Illustrator Bec Tonks</li> <li>• Meet and Greet with Trickisy Troll (see board for times)</li> <li>• Quiet space</li> <li>• Activity corner</li> <li>• Book Swap</li> <li>• Story Tale Trail</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bewdley Library</b></p> <p>9:30–10:00 Bounce and Rhyme age 0+</p> <p>10:30 – 11:30 Meredith Vigh age 3+</p> <p>12:00 – 1:00 Fiona Barker age 3+</p>
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For tickets and more information go to [www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk)