

# THE WOOLLY TELLERS

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DAVE BROOKES AND MICK WHYSALL



writers & performance

[www.thewoollytellers.co.uk](http://www.thewoollytellers.co.uk)



## The Woolly Tellers

Mick Whysal and Dave Brookes are The Woolly Tellers. They evolved several years ago. They began with the Story Tellers of Nottingham at the Ye olde Trip to Jerusalem.

Both have distinctly different styles in their performance and delivery. Their goals however are the same. To be different and to constantly strive to innovate.

There are differing opinions on what is story telling, 'how it should be done'. even prescriptive, in what material should be used. The Woolly Tellers 'break the mould'

We do not confine ourselves to boundaries. Mike is a purist in relation to performing his own material. Dave differs. Primarily uses his own material. However, on occasion he will use a well written piece of work, particularly if it fits the occasion.

One phrase alone, 'story telling', can be an obstacle. Often misunderstood and easily sidelined.

What we do is take a subject, and bring it to life. Create atmosphere, and give it reason. Above all engage with you, the listener. At our disposal, we have a whole range of material and historical knowledge, which is seamlessly woven in to our performance

Read on and you will see there are complete shows. Of course we have the flexibility to carefully collate a series of tales. To formulate a performance to suit most circumstances.

We are more than just story tellers.





## Mick Whysall

Writer and performance story teller



Mick Whysall is a Nottingham man. His formative years in the Sneinton area of Nottingham. His whole life has been creative using his skills of imagination progressing in to window and shop design.

This did not hold him back in his desire to explore and travel the world working in different countries in the days before it became popular and travelling by ship

The strong pull of home bringing him back to Nottingham where he laid down his routes in the city carving out a successful design career.

Never a man to stand still he has used his extensive knowledge of the world and his creative fertile imagination to become a writer and a performer of the spoken word.

He is accomplished in all aspects of performance from guided tours, historical talks at a number of different locations over the UK

He is passionate about Nottingham's rich historical past and specialises in a number of areas, such as Georgian period, frame knitters and the industrial past of the Midlands. His teenage years of the 50's provides a colourful rich backdrop for many of his set pieces

Unlike many traditional storytellers, he 'breaks the mould'. He is unique in performing material he has exclusively written. He does not perform material by other writers or performers.

He is skilful at painting the scene and enhancing a great tale, producing warm intimate performance

He was introduced to the Storytellers of Nottingham where he met with Dave Brookes. Despite contrasting styles within a short time the two were found to working together as The Woolly Tellers

Albeit both work on occasions independently they collude on many projects set piece shows and events tailored to location or set theme .

## Dave Brookes

Writer and performance story teller



Dave Brookes is a Derbyshire man. Living on the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire border spent much of his formative years in Nottingham

He joined Nottinghamshire Constabulary and spent 30 years working all over the County in a number of roles and specialisms

His last 10 years were on horseback, and when working with an animal one forms a unique bond. He worked all over England as demand dictated, from disorder to ceremony

With the Mounted role comes presentations, talks and tours of stables where he got a taste for performance and storytelling.

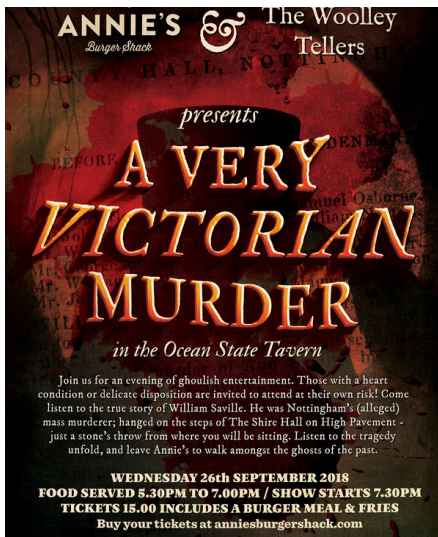
Thirty years of dealing with, observing a huge cross section of people, gave him a rich seam of material to draw upon.

With his love of history, he quickly began to write his own material. He is not a purist however. Not averse to adopting a well written piece of work, particularly, if it fits the theme or performance.

Like Mick, he desires to create an atmosphere to his work. Using dry historical fact he draws out the humanity and warmth to create story with colour and life.

He was invited to the Storytellers of Nottingham where he met with Mick Whysall.

After a few performances it wasn't long before they were collaborating and working together forming The Woolly Tellers.



## A Very Victorian Murder

This performance is about Nottingham in 1844. Following the arrest through to conviction of William Saville.

It was the alleged murderer of his family in Colwick Woods and the tragedy that occurred at his hanging on the steps of the Shire Hall (Now the National Justice Museum).

There has been controversy over this case ever since. Let these experienced performers of the spoken word lead you through events. You decide what is fiction and the truth.

## Definitely Not Respectable

In Nottingham in the Victorian Period the town had eleven Music Halls. The best preserved is the Malt Cross on St James's Street. The most famous acts took place here including Leo Dryden, Lilly Harley (who was Hannah Chaplin the mother of Charlie Chaplin). George Lashwood was another famous name who trod the boards.

Listen to the story of the music Hall unfold against a dire backdrop and hardship that was Victorian Nottingham. A mixture of songs, tales and anecdotes



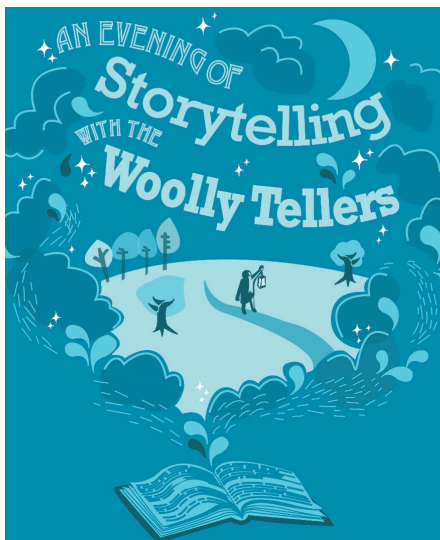
# The Woolly Tellers complete shows



## Fen Giants Gobbits and Marsh Horrors

The fen marshes of Lincolnshire will ever be shrouded in myth and mystery. These experienced performers have gathered historical facts and created a series of tales anecdotes of this era. This goes back in history, when the Romans first drained the marshes for rich agriculture.

Stories abound of Black Shuck, and the fen giants in the mist, not to mention what lies in the inky black waters of the Fens.



## TALESPIN

### An Evening with The Woolly Tellers

You just may want to sit back and relax from tales stories and anecdotes from these experienced performers of the spoken word.

The Woolly Tellers an extensive library of material resources to draw upon. We are able create a performance to suit most occasions or perhaps for an event with a particular theme

## Halloween

Halloween is always a good time for dark and spooky tales. It goes way back in history. The Celts believe it's when the dark half of the year and light half of the year join for a moment in time and the sprits can pass between the worlds. Others believe it's when the dead roam the earth and good folk bolt their doors and leave treats for the spirits.

This is the exception when the Woolly Tellers perform 'Jack O Lantern' a traditional tale associated with Halloween



# The Woolly Tellers complete shows



## Christmas Tales

**Our Christmas Tales brings out the true spirit of Christmas. The stories and anecdotes are fun of nostalgia and poignant. We love doing them on the run up to Christmas. enjoy a chocolate or two with mince pies fruit cake an everything that is bad for you. But it is Christmas!**



# The Woolly Tellers

enhancing our performance



## The complete package

We have the ability to turn the most sterile or clinical space in to a welcoming environment.

An area can be illuminated effectively to suit the performance, the use of LED candles and projected images or alternatively use a back screen. The lighting can be controlled independently or collectively by DMX controller. This allows a subtle colour changes to suit the story. A portable speaker system for the larger venue, allows us true flexibility in reaching the audience.



### Lighting Projector

We have the ability to project an image or to use our back screen



### Sound System

For the larger areas we have a completely portable sound stem



### DMX controller

This allows us to control and blend lighting to create atmosphere

# Sales and Publicity

Mike Whysall has a an extensive background.  
Skilled in design and is extremely creative

Dave Brookes is an accomplished artist and collectively both have a strong ethos in producing and projecting the correct image for our performance of the spoken word.

We have the ability to adapt and collaborate with a customer or venue to promote the show.

Albeit most of our promotions now relies on digital outlets design is still important and we design posters, flyers and flyer stands to suite the venue



In the last year we have introduced online ticketing with 'We got Tickets' outlet.



## THE WOOLLY TELLERS WEBSITE

Our website : <http://www.thewoollytellers.co.uk> has been designed by Matthew Brookes Designs

Of course we have a blog site at <http://thewoollytellers.wordpress.com>

We can be found on Facebook, instagram and twitter

Our blog site is always first to be updated with the latest information. Our blog naturally is more conversational. The information is then transported to our web site.



## **The Woolly Tellers booking agreement**

1. All bookings take effect immediately upon acceptance of the booking by BOTH the Client and The Woolly Tellers , whether orally, electronically or in writing (“Confirmation”).
2. The fact that the Contract has not been signed or returned is not sufficient to invalidate the booking or acceptance of these terms.
3. The agreed Total Cost may be subject to change if any details of the Contract are altered (by agreement with both the Client and the Artist).
4. Unless otherwise agreed by The Woolly Tellers, the Balance is payable to the Artist either in cash or by cheque on conclusion of the event.
5. The Woolly Tellers agrees to provide a performance that is to the best of their ability, and reflects fully the likeness of the Artist's show, as known to the Client via distribution of the \*Artist’s demo CD’s, \*promotional materials, \*profiles, pictures,\*videos, \*web page etc. The artist will make every effort to ensure their performance is outstanding, adhere to the client’s wishes within all reasonableness, be polite and courteous with the client, their guests and all venue staff and contractors.
6. Where The Woolly Tellers agrees to provide all equipment required to undertake this performance, unless the equipment has been contractually agreed to be provided by the Client or a third party. It is the Artist's responsibility to ensure the good working order and safety of their own equipment, and to obtain all necessary insurances & certification.(\* if applicable )
7. It is agreed by the Client and The Woolly Tellers that the equipment and instruments of the Artist are not available for use by other performers or persons without the written consent of the Artist.
8. The woolly Tellers take full responsibility for maintaining their own Public Liability Insurance (which should be to a minimum of £1,000,000 cover), their own equipment insurance, vehicle insurance and for carrying out the P.A.T. testing of their equipment.

9. The Woolly Tellers will have unrestricted permission too hand out business cards or any promotional materials bearing their personal contact information.
10. The Woolly Tellers shall be suitably and tidily dressed during their performance except with the consent of the client or where the wearing other attire is deemed to be a necessary part of their act.
11. The Artist agrees that their fee is inclusive of all expenses.
12. The Woolly Tellers are not employed by the Client and they are responsible for their own accounting and payment of TAX and any other contributions

### **Force Majeure Event**

13. Where a "Force Majeure Event" occurs where a party is unable to comply with its obligations under this Contract for a reason outside of its control (such as war, fire, death, illness or other capacity, accident, breakdown from any cause, civil commotion, national calamity, order of Government or Local Authority having jurisdiction in the matter,, act of God) and which is not attributable to any act or failure to take preventive action by The Woolly Tellers or Client.
14. In such cases of a 'Force Mejeure Event' there will be no penalty levied against the Woolly Tellers or the Client

### **Changes on the Event Date**

Where possible, changes to the contract schedule which are unavoidable on the Event Date should first be discussed and agreed with the client the Client and the Artist prior to the performance.





## *The Woolly Tellers*

### *contact details*

**website :** [www.thewoollytellers.co.uk](http://www.thewoollytellers.co.uk)

**blog site :** <http://www.thewoollytellers.wordpress.com>

**facebook:** [www.facebook.com/thewoollytellers](http://www.facebook.com/thewoollytellers)

**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/MickandDave>

**email:** [thewoollytellers@gmail.com](mailto:thewoollytellers@gmail.com)

**Now on instagram**

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