

Fenland Stories

Why Fenland Stories?

The mysterious and watery Fenland landscape provides a perfect background for spooky stories. In days gone by, generations of local people came together to tell and hear stories. Often based on fact, these stories evolved through many tellings. As most people could not read or write, traditional tales were passed on by storytellers. The Whispering Willow at the centre of this display helps bring the tradition of Fen storytelling back to life.



This collection of stories from around the Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire Fens is the result of a two-year project funded by Renaissance East of England. All the short films available on the Whispering Willow have been produced by Fenland community groups, who chose the story they wanted to tell and then worked with their local museum and a film-maker.

The stories in this exhibition come from many different historical periods. A number belong to the mythology of the ancient Fens, dating back well before the land was drained. Some describe the horrors that haunted the Fens on the darkest nights of the year; like boggles and boggarts dead hands and will o wisps, not to mention the evil witches who schemed to undo the good folk of the Fens.

Instructions

A brief description of each story can be found on the nearby panels. To watch a film, select a title and press the corresponding title on the Whispering Willow's touch screen.

The headphones play the selected film at a slightly higher volume.

A hearing loop is installed in the tree.