

Saturday 10 June

10.30 am - 12.00 pm, St Mary's Church, Binsted

Cost: £5

THE LEGEND OF BINSTED BY MICHAEL O'LEARY: Story-telling session for adults and older children

Once upon a time Sussex was one of the more remote counties of England, rendered remote by the mud for which Sussex was famous. The Saxon legends stuck fast in the mud, and the Saxon water beast the Nicor, or Nixie, morphed into the Sussex Knucker, a creature akin to Grendel's mother in the epic poem Beowulf. A water-woman, a dragon, a serpent. Michael will create a new story based on these myths and legends.



Binsted's Knucker Hole

In the strange land between the Downs and the sea there are bottomless ponds, portals to the other world, known as Knucker Holes. Lyminster may have the most well-known one, but Binsted has the most evocative; and the one most likely to be still harbouring a knucker.

Michael O'Leary is an experienced storyteller and teacher, based in the Southampton and Portsmouth area. He shares stories with children, teenagers and adults in homes, gardens, schools (both special and mainstream), colleges, universities, prisons, pubs, clubs, forests, fields, museums, libraries, hospitals and shopping centres.

Depending on the weather, Michael's session may include a short walk to the wondrous new waymarker, carved by talented Janine Creaye. In itself it tells a story (including knuckers), which will help future generations value the legends that we are all in danger of forgetting.