

What happened in 2019-2020

Our storytelling year is drawing to a close in the most extraordinary circumstances. We have had to cancel or postpone all our programmed events, and life is changing on a daily basis.

Looking back over the year, in April Sef Townsend and Inigo Mikeleiz Berrade brought **The Pongo's Dream** to the Edge Café. Then, in May, Sarah Liisa Wilkinson told the story of **The Snake Witch and the Grinning Castle** in Cambridge Distillery, Grantchester. Both evenings were fabulously entertaining, and it was great to see audiences and performers enjoying the shows.

For **Stories from the Silk Road** in July members of Cambridge Storytellers took centre stage in All Saints' Church in front of a small but appreciative group of listeners. Later in the month, we held the **Eleventh Annual Cambridge Contest of Liars** in the bar of the ADC Theatre. This was great fun, but completing the associated paperwork took longer than the show itself!! Our liars came from Cambridge and beyond, and Sarah Brady was judged by all to be a worthy winner.

To celebrate Black History Month Sheila Arnold, from the US, presented her show, **Locks Opened**. This featured in the programme of the Cambridge Festival of Ideas, and we may be able to link with them again in the new style Cambridge Festival in Spring 2021.

In November **Martin Shaw's workshop and show** both proved very popular, drawing in people who might not usually attend storytelling events.

2020 got off to a really good start with **Frog Princess Punked**, featuring Sally Pomme Clayton and The Swamp Girls in the Junction. This innovative show was perfect for the venue, and there is the possibility that we could get another show into the Junction next year.

We decided that **Story Round** at the Picturehouse needed a re-vamp, and, transformed into **Talk of the Town**, our open-mic nights have emerged at the Six Bells pub on Sunday evenings. Thanks to Marion Leeper for hosting the first two sessions. Hopefully we'll be able to book some more dates there in a few months.

Current crisis aside, this has been another exciting and challenging year for Cambridge Storytellers. We have continued our quest to discover how best to organise events that attract a reasonable audience. There have been ups and downs!

The new committee would like to thank Shirley Lowe, our retiring Chair, for all her work organising wonderful events over the last three years.

We are not sure when face-to-face storytelling meetings will be safe again. For news, [watch the website](#) or [join our mailing list](#).