**SYMPATHETIC MAGIC**

Daniel Morden

*Midway this life we are bound upon*

*I awoke to find myself in a dark wood*

*And the path wholly lost and gone*

*The Divine Comedy -Dante*

During 2015, Daniel Morden, one of the UK's most popular tellers of traditional tales, was diagnosed with a rare cancer in his jaw. Now in remission, he recounts the experience of becoming a patient from the sharp end: receiving the bad news, the up -and down- sides of googling your illness, the panic attacks, the unsolicited advice ('chin up!'), the overwhelming kindness of strangers and health professionals, the isolation and confusion that a major health event brings...

During his treatment he found traditional tales that seemed to feature predicaments analogous to his own, which led him to rethink his relationship to storytelling as a fundamental human activity. As soon as he was able to, he visited Maggie's Centre and various hospitals to share tales with patients.

Hopefully without resorting to too many expletives, he will share tales that helped him, and discuss our relationship with story more widely.