

# HALLOWQUEST NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of Caitlín & John Matthews - No. 99 April 2024  
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Dear Reader

The year begins with a fresh outlook, whatever events unfold in the world. Early in January, the first author's copy of John's *Fool's New Journey Tarot* appeared, to his great delight: we rarely receive a new book this early in the year! These cards are designed to be read by anyone, even those without any tarot background. John writes more about them below in the *Forthcoming Books* section below.

Getting this newsletter together for this spring has been put back several times by additional items that needed to be added, as well as by the Royal Mail postage rise, which has ensured that this newsletter comes without any updated booklist. We had not quite caught up with the surprise and unannounced postal rise of last October, since it is a huge administrative undertaking at a time when we had more teaching and book production over the winter than would allow us time to catch up. We are very pleased that our expanding Walkers Between the Worlds shamanic training programme opened its first Irish Foundation course this year. In 2025, we will have three Foundation Courses – one in Oxford, one in Ireland and one on the South Coast: all of these lead through to the professional training programme. For the present, the Intermediate and Advanced courses will remain based in the UK. We have enough experienced students to open up the higher levels of the training again, thank goodness, so watch this space.

With our January birthdays done, we plunge into further Substack adventures. Last August, when we went to send out the updated newsletter via MailChimp, the sender refused to do any more sending out without a large sum of money. In our researches, we started to look at alternatives and stumbled across Substack – this is an online platform that was started by journalists who'd been laid off over the Covid years. Here writers can do occasional or regular writing which is available free, but whose premium content is reserved for subscribers. We both accordingly went over to it and have found it works very well – especially for those students who would like to study with us but who live overseas. We are able to speak as well as write, and there are already a few meditations and poems available. It also enables our readers and students to support our work in a modest way, which is a great comfort, as we are both in our seventies.

Caitlín's Substack name is *Caitlín Matthews: A Hallowquest Sanctuary* and it is found here: <https://substack.com/@caitlinmatthewstigerna>, while John's title is *John Matthews' Little House of Myth and Legend* at <https://substack.com/profile/145880028-john-matthews> We are running course also: on Caitlín's Substack, there is the *Blessings of the Celtic Year*, complete with rituals and meditations, as well as teaching, while John is running the *Quest for Camelot Course and The Secret Life of Elves and Faeries* on his: all lessons so far available are free to subscribers, but you will also find a lot of new free writing from both of us also.



John Matthews' Little House  
of Myth and Legend



Caitlín Matthews  
- A Hallowquest Sanctuary.

Please note that Hawkwood College's prices may have risen for 2024, but they have early bird prices on all three of our courses – so, the earlier your book, the more certain you will be of a cheaper price! The Post Office is also putting up its prices from April by 10%, sigh!

Caitlín's podcast about *How To Honour the Ancestral Shamanic Traditions of the Sister Islands of Britain and Ireland* is now available: <https://www.wakingthewild.com/podcast/439> . If you were wondering where we were coming from, this probably is a good guide to what to expect from us.

May your Spring and Summer unfold with joy and fulfillment!

Many blessings

Caitlín & John Matthews



### FOUNDATION FOR INSPIRATIONAL & ORACULAR STUDIES

FÍOS is dedicated to the sacred arts that shape the landscape of the soul, via vision, dream, memory. Founded 1992.

Membership is £50, offering £20 discounts on selected courses.  
Cheques payable to Caitlín Matthews or PayPal to [tigerna9@aol.com](mailto:tigerna9@aol.com)

**SHAMANIC COURSES OPEN TO ALL**  
**FOUNDATION COURSE IN CELTIC & ANCESTRAL SHAMANISM:**  
**LEVEL A TRAINING**

This course begins the Level A training. Completion of the Foundation Course – which must be completed in one location - enables students to proceed to the next level of the *Walkers Between Worlds Shamanic Training Programme* with Caitlín Matthews and other teachers. To view the curriculum, go to: <http://www.hallowquest.org.uk/resources/curriculumtraining.pdf>

**2-3 November 2024 and 15-16 February 2025. WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS 1<sup>st</sup> South Coast Foundation Course in Celtic & Ancestral Shamanism** with Tish Marrable & Jonathon Huet. This course teaches students to journey, heal, quest and arbitrate along the ancient paths of wisdom, gathering spirit allies. We ground in the ancient mysteries of our native shamanic tradition, gathering as a clan of the sacred earth. Held at the Sustainability Centre in East Meon, Hampshire. *Take both weekends to qualify for Level B courses.* Total fee £480 (£240 for each weekend). Food is £30 per weekend extra, including a substantial lunch, tea, coffee and biscuits throughout the day. Or for those who wish to self-cater, £8 per weekend for tea, coffee and biscuits. While this is a non-residential course, accommodation is available at the centre and locally, please contact Tish for further details. £150 deposit can be paid by cheque, made out to L. F. Marrable and sent to 16 Ravenswood Drive, Brighton BN2 6WN. Email Tish at [ravenswoodshamanics@gmail.com](mailto:ravenswoodshamanics@gmail.com) for further details or to pay by bank transfer.

**15-16 March and 13-14 Sept 2025 WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS 35<sup>th</sup> UK Foundation Course in Celtic & Ancestral Shamanism** with John Matthews and Wil Kinghan. This course teaches students to journey, heal, quest and arbitrate along the ancient paths of wisdom, gathering spirit allies. We ground in the ancient mysteries of our native shamanic tradition, gathering as a clan of the sacred earth.



**15-16 March 2025**, we begin with Part One, **THE TREE OF TRADITION: Walking Between Worlds**, concentrates on acquiring journey skills, learning the basics in a supportive and friendly environment.

**13-14 Sept 2025**, we continue with Part Two, **SACRED COMPANIONS** Deepening Our Spiritual Connection with Allies, which builds upon the relationship with our spirits, and helps balance our shamanizing. We explore the basic healing skills & deepen our journeying.

Held in North Moreton, Oxon. *Take both weekends to qualify for Level B courses.* Total fee £530. (£265 for each weekend). Food is £40 per weekend extra, including a substantial, varied lunch, with tea, cake and biscuits. Or, for those bringing their own lunch, £10 for teas and cake per weekend. Send a deposit of £150 payable to 'John Matthews' to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680.) Held in North Moreton, Oxon. Contact Jane May for bank transfers or course details: [janedmay@btinternet.com](mailto:janedmay@btinternet.com) **PLEASE NOTE THAT PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 12 students only.**

**14-16 March 2025 and 19-21 Sept 2025. 2<sup>nd</sup> Irish WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS Foundation Course in Celtic & Ancestral Shamanism** with Margot Harrison, and Kait Curtis. This two-part course teaches students to journey, heal, quest and arbitrate along the ancient paths of wisdom, gathering spirit allies. We ground in the ancient mysteries of our native shamanic tradition, gathering as a clan of the sacred earth. Held at Danu Lodge in Co. Wexford, Ireland. <http://www.danulodge.com/> Fees: Residential sharing is 480 Euros, non-residential 340 Euros,

including vegetarian and gluten-free options. Booking: Non-returnable deposit of 150 Euros to Kate Curtis [kaitcurtis@icloud.com](mailto:kaitcurtis@icloud.com) Phone +353 (0) 872325383.

## ***INTERMEDIATE LEVEL SHAMANIC PRACTITIONER TRAINING: LEVEL B***

***For those who've completed the Foundation Course.***

***Please take Thresholds of Power First and then Midwifing the Soul: as these as the two hands of healing Courses marked \* are £20 cheaper to those who subscribe to FIOS – see details below.***

**\*6-9 April 2025 (Note: Sunday-Wednesday) THRESHOLDS OF POWER & HEALING** with Caitlín & Margot Harrison at Little Earth, Earthspirit, Compton Dundon Somerset. This course teaches a full range of shamanic healing ways including plant-spirit healing, extraction of intrusions, embodiment of personal allies and includes the shamanic ceremony of *The Mare Mother's Dream-Dance*. This course is an essential next component for shamanic practitioner training. Held at EarthSpirit's Little Earth centre, Dundon, Somerset. Cordwood suite: £717 Ensuite: £652 Standard: £607 Camping: £573, Non Res £501 Single supplement £15 Dietary Supplement £15 **BOOKING:** Non-returnable deposit of £190 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680)

[janedmay@btinternet.com](mailto:janedmay@btinternet.com)

**\*9-12 September 2024 MIDWIFING the SOUL** (Monday-Thursday) with Caitlín Matthews & Dr. Angela Cotter This residential course teaches the essential skills of shamanic soul healing, exploring the nature of the soul, soul-loss, soul retrieval, and how intrusions are removed for soul to return. We also explore how healing can be brought by the Reconsecration Ritual. Only for those who completed *Thresholds of Power*: we do not accept students trained elsewhere on this course. Held at EarthSpirit's Little Earth centre, Dundon, Somerset. Non Res £366, Camping £412, Standard £436, Ensuite £462 + Single occupancy £45. Special diet £76 extra. **BOOKING:** Non-returnable deposit of £175 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680)

[janedmay@btinternet.com](mailto:janedmay@btinternet.com)

## ***ADVANCED LEVEL SHAMANIC PRACTITIONER TRAINING: LEVEL C***

***for those who've completed Intermediate Level B.***

*Note: The Advanced Level courses run over a 3-4 year cycle and are not all available every year. When sufficient students stay to activate it, we open up Level D courses every five years or so, which will happen next year. The nature of this training takes into account that people need to stop or assimilate teachings for a while between courses. Work your way through the levels in order, in real, rather than in serial time. We do not take apprentices, but we do expect consistency in and dedication to the work.*



**\*4-7 July 2024 TENDING THE HEARTH: HOUSE CLEARING IN THE CELTIC TRADITION** Led by Cáit Branigan and Caitlín Matthews. The tradition of house-clearing in Ireland and Britain is ancient and still holds a strong place in the spiritual traditions of those lands We will explore the core elements of house-clearing, focusing on work with ley/dragon lines and underground streams; clearing of negative/blocked energies; communication with spirits and the 'hauntings' and the blessing of the home. Learn how to apply these skills from an experienced *bean feasa* who clears houses professionally. *This course is for those who can journey fluently: not suitable for beginners. Participants require a strong access to inner guidance as experienced through, for example, journeying, spiritualism or deep meditational practice.* Prices. *Early Bird price* (booked before 5 April) single £570, shared £484, Non res £395. (Booked after 6 April) Single: £645, Shared: £570 Non-Res: £465, Please send your non-returnable deposit of £120 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034)

<https://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk/event/tending-the-hearth/>



**CÁIT BRANIGAN** (left) is an ordained Priestess Hierophant, a *Bean Feasa* (Shamanic Practitioner) and healer working within the Irish tradition. She teaches groups and conducts ceremonies, teaching internationally. She teaches regularly on the Walkers Between Worlds curriculum.

Caitlín Matthews teaches the traditional art of singing the landscapes of the soul, a method she uses in her shamanic practice in Oxford. Her work on the three cauldrons text is taught in a practical way on this course.



**\*2-5 February 2025 BLESSING ANCESTRAL HEARTHS: Healing our Bloodlines**, with Caitlín Matthews and Dr Angela Cotter, at the Main Centre, Earthspirit.

This course stems from the core of Caitlín's ancestral work. When we begin to reconnect with our ancestors, our own feelings of abandonment begin to pass and we feel at 'at home' in our world.

When shamans see a person with a problem of ancestral causation, they treat the whole family - those who now alive, those who have died, and also those who are not yet born. This course is dedicated to restoring dignity to the ancestors and giving them a place in our lives. We will open up the ways between the worlds so that the strengths of our ancestors can flow into our families, as well as bringing healing to ancestors who were unable to hold the blessing. Over this celebratory, advanced shamanic weekend, we will welcome our ancestors and so gladden the whole circle of life. We will also lead a ceremony of ancestral hospitality to honour all our ancestors and the wisdom that we receive from them. We invite you to draw together as one kindred and find the love and support that makes us strong.


Cordwood suite: £717 Ensuite: £652 Standard: £607 Camping: £573, Non Res £501 Single supplement £15 Dietary Supplement £15 **BOOKING:** Deposit of £190 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680)

**12-15 May 2025 HEARKENING TO THE HORSE'S MOUTH. Shamanic Spirit Consultation LEVEL D.** with Caitlín Matthews & Margot Harrison. *NOTE: this course is only open to those who have done 2 or more advanced courses – it is not open to those trained elsewhere!* It runs every 5-6 years.



This course instructs probationer practitioners how to teach journeying to clients, enabling them to contact their own allies, to find their own healing, answers and advice: this method brings shamanic work to the community, working in contemporary and personally-relevant contexts. Participants work as client and shaman in turn. Close personal supervision is given by course leaders. This course leads **the Co-Walker Sessions**, whereby students are supervised to a professional standard preparatory to practicing in community. *Please send a letter about your interest in the course, with your shamanic experience to*

date to Caitlín Matthews, [tigerna9@gmail.com](mailto:tigerna9@gmail.com) The course is held at the beautiful medieval Charney Manor, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 0EJ. Fee: £726. After you have been accepted on this graduate course, please send a deposit of £250 to secure your place to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) NOTE: This course requires a firm commitment, since it is based upon dedicated pair-work, without which we cannot run it.



KEEP THE DATE FOR: *Intermediate course: 21-24 September 2025* Midwifing the Soul.  
*Advanced Course: 22-25 August 2025* Way of Council with Pippa Bondy

**A NOTE FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE TRAINED SHAMANICALLY ELSEWHERE.**

If you are journeying fluently, have a good and trusting relationship with your allies and can conduct yourself with grace, focus and compassion, let us know the nature of your training and its duration: we will assess your response and, if we feel it appropriate, ask such students to start with the Intermediate Courses first, so that we are all on the same page!

**INTRODUCING OUR GUEST SHAMANIC CO-TEACHERS in 2023-4**

**Dr. ANGELA COTTER** is a Jungian analyst who integrates constellations work, energy psychotherapy and shamanic approaches into her practice.

**MARGOT HARRISON** is an experienced healer, shamanic practitioner and systemic ritualist working within the traditions of Ireland and Britain. Her practice Hinterlands is in Sligo.

**KATE CURTIS** works as an acupuncturist and herbalist and a Grof breathwork teacher/facilitator. She runs a small retreat centre near Gorey in County Wexford.

**CAIT BRANIGAN** is a Bean Feasa and healer working within the traditions of Ireland. She teaches worldwide. Listen to her being interviewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WusbNPoKLsk>

**WIL KINGHAN** is an Irish artist, writer, shamanic practitioner, and explorer of Celtic traditions.

**Dr TISH MARRABLE** is a wellbeing educator and researcher with a background in counselling and griefwork. She has been working shamanically for over 20 years. She has a shamanic practice on the South Downs and a deep love of Welsh and Irish mythology and the land from which it emerges.

**JONATHON HUET** is a professional storyteller and environmental educator with extensive experience of running events, especially working with trauma, mental health and wellbeing. He has a shamanic practice in Brighton informed by a deep connection to the land and especially Celtic traditions and lore.

**MAGICAL AND MYTHIC COURSES & OTHER EVENTS**

*These courses, events and signings are open to all who are on their spiritual path. FIOS MASTERCLASSES offer opportunities to deepen spiritual practice with a living exemplars of traditional wisdom. Courses marked \* give £20 member's discount.*





**27 April 2024 TELLING THE STORY AGAIN: The Myths of the Mabinogion.** An online talk with Caitlín Matthews. The stories within *the Mabinogion* are a rich quarry for all who seek the core myths of the British tradition. But these myths do not remain stationary or time-bound, but find their way into other times, as we can see in the *Dream of Rhonabwy* – a story set in the region of Arwystli - where the battle of Badon is replayed. As we tell the stories again, something happens to the listener, as the myth strikes home, new-minted in our imagination. Caitlín, who is the author of a definitive two volume mythic study of the Mabinogion, *Mabon & the Heroes of Celtic Britain*, and *King Arthur and the Goddess of the Land*, will range across the mythic terrain of *the Mabinogion*, seeking the motifs that resonate strongly with our time. We will conclude with a meditation, The Sacred Treasures. \$25. East West Centre. Booking: <https://eastwestseattle.org/products/april-27-2024-saturday-11-1pm-pdt-telling-the-story-again-the-myths-of-the-mabinogion-with-caitlin-matthews-webinar>

**MEGALITHOMANIA CONFERENCE**

**TOWN HALL, GLASTONBURY, 4<sup>TH</sup>-5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

2-DAYS OF LECTURES & 4-DAYS OF TOURS TO MEGALITHIC SITES

CAITLIN MATTHEWS - DR.TERENCE MEADEN  
ANTHONY MURPHY - HOWARD CROWHURST  
MARTIN SWEATMAN - GWILYM MORUS-BAIRD  
ANI WILLIAMS - MICHAEL BOTT & RUPERT SOSKIN  
ADAM TETLOW - PETER KNIGHT & SUE WALLACE  
HUGH NEWMAN - JJ AINSWORTH + LIVE-STREAM  
SPEAKERS FORUM HOSTED BY JOHN MARTINEAU  
THE JOHN MICHELL MEMORIAL LECTURE WITH CHRISTINE RHONE

[www.megalithomania.co.uk](http://www.megalithomania.co.uk) - tel: 01458 746101

**4-5 May 2024. MEGALITHOMANIA CONFERENCE.** As part of the conference, Caitlín will be leading a practical session on: *Temporal Resonance: Timeless Belonging: Sounding the Ancestral Landscape*. We inhabit a land whose sacred monuments were created by ancestors for their descendants, not only for themselves. Caitlín will explore the ancestral signature of those places that still call to each of us, to understand ourselves as part of a community through time. We will also sound our participation in the Perpetual Choirs of Song, whereby we infuse with song the sacred land, bridging time and timelessness in one bond. Held in Glastonbury, Somerset. Booking: [www.megalithomania.co.uk](http://www.megalithomania.co.uk)

**25th May 2024. THE SHERWOOD ORACLE** John and Mark will be in Atlantis Bookshop 49a Museum St, in the afternoon to chat, give an overview of the deck, and if stock has arrived, be on hand to sign lots of copies! 2.30 - 5.00pm FREE

**6th June 2024 THE FOOL'S NEW JOURNEY with John Matthews.** To launch John's ground-breaking new tarot at 5.30-6.30pm He is giving a short talk with signing at Watkins Bookshop 19 - 21 Cecil Court WC2N 4EZ. To book a place and to order a signed tarot for yourself. Tel. 020 7836 2182 [service.watkinsbooks@gmail.com](mailto:service.watkinsbooks@gmail.com)

**22 June 2024 MAGICKAL WOMEN CONFERENCE** Caitlín appears as the guest of honour next year which is held in Birmingham. 25 diverse speakers on the history, practice, and art of women in the occult will be speaking and teaching. The event includes a catered lunch, the (in)famous raffle, and vendor room. Details of speakers: <https://www.magickalwomenconference.com/2024>. Regular price £75. Booking: <https://www.magickalwomenconference.com/events>

**\*23-26 August 2024 THE 2024 FÍOS MASTERCLASS with IAN REES: THE TREE, THE GARDEN AND THE HEALING OF THE WORLD** introduced by Caitlín Matthews. Qabalah is a development of the Western Mysteries, with the Tree of Life at its heart, uniting opposites, deepening the web of connection, and irrigating the soul and the world. By exploring the Egyptian prayer and embodiment forms of the Eloquent Peasant, the Good Shepherd and the Silent Sage, we discover ourselves as B'tzelem, the living image of the Divine, with a capacity to create and bless, entering the deep stillness behind all manifestation. We will discover the Tree of Life as a way of the heart, learn the way of uniting opposites and healing disconnection, and gain expert guidance in the art of embodiment and mediation. Ian writes: 'We will be once again considering the practice of transforming the qliphoth which are the distortions found in both self and in the world that restrict and twist the free flow of life. A particular focus this time will be the traditions of the Tree and the Fountain, the Moon and the Mountain in which we will consider the roots of the Tree of Life and the practice of the Divine Name. The 87th exorcism psalm of the sons and daughters of Korah will be a central feature of the course in which we will align the foundation of our being (Yesod) with the axis of the Universe.'

We ran this course last year under another title, and I think anyone who attended it was given the most extraordinary and helpful foundation for their spiritual and shamanic lives.



Ian Rees is a psycho-spiritual psychotherapist, who leads the Annwn Foundation training. He has been a practitioner of the Qabalah for 52 years, trained by W E Butler and Tom Oloman. He has taught Qabalah in UK, South Africa and Israel for many years. He is the author of *Keys to the Temple* (with Penny Billington), and of *The Tree of Life and Death* Aeon Books. His forthcoming book, *Aleister Crowley, Simon Iff, and the Way of Deep Magick*, is a companion to the *Tree of Life and Death* comes with a foreword by Caitlín

Fee: *Early Bird price* (booked before 31 May) single £570, shared £484, Non res £395. Book after 1 Jun) Single. £645 Shared £570 Non-res £465. Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) <https://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk/event/qabalah-meditation/>



**Sunday, 13th Oct 2024 ADVENTURES WITH THE SHERWOOD ORACLE** A workshop with Mark Ryan and John Matthews. Join us at the famed Atlantis Bookshop From 11am to 4pm. Explore the brand-new deck The Sherwood Oracle, with enchanting images by Yvonne Gilbert. A follow-up to the best-selling Wildwood Tarot, this is the most eagerly awaited new system on the year. Join John and Mark for a workshop including an exploration of the art and symbology of the deck, guided meditation, and a signing by both the authors. Tea and coffee included. £50.00 payable in advance to Atlantis Bookshop, 49A Museum St, London WC1A 1LY. Book early, as places are limited. Bring your *Sherwood Oracle* or order one from <https://theatlantisbookshop.com/contact/>



## ANNOUNCING THE CELEBRATION OF OUR 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

of teaching an open mystery school at Hawkwood College. We hope that many of you who attended from 1985-2023 will join us for a wonderful reunion of the Company of Hawkwood at *VOYAGES TO VISION: THE QUEST FOR WONDER* on 29 November- 1 December 2-24



*John with R.J.Stewart, 1978 and with Gareth Knight 2004*

Yes, it's been 40 years since we started teaching our Open Mystery School at Hawkwood College, and here are a couple of photos from over that time, R.J.Stewart and John back in the late 1970s when we first came there as students of Gareth Knight, and Gareth Knight with John in 2004, which was the last time our teacher taught there. We have given a big public ritual on these weekends 'since pagan times' as Cole Hawlings says in John Masefield's wonderful and inspiring book, *The Box of Delights*.

Over the years we have had many notable co-teachers from Marian Green, Philip Carr-Gom, and Mark Townsend, to Brian and Wendy Froud, Jessica and Martin Simpson, Meinrad Craghead, Ann Lister, Mary Ryan, Dwina Murphy-Gibb, Dr Ari Berk, Charles Newington, Felicity Wombwell, and R.J.Stewart.

We have explored many topics over this time, from the Mabinogion to the Arthurian Legend, from Winter's treasury to the Enchantments of Story, from Faery traditions and Hearth Customs and to the Wildwood and the inspirations of the Starry Heavens.

*Please join us for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gathering! See Below.*

**29 November-1 December 2024 VOYAGES TO VISION: THE QUEST FOR WONDER** With John & Caitlín Matthews with Ian Rees. For the last 40 years at Hawkwood, we have explored many topics which open the imaginal doorways of inner vision. This leap year, we chart the voyages of the soul which waken to wonder by passing through the portals that open along its course.



From the Irish voyage tradition of the *Immram*, and King Arthur's voyage into the underworld of Annwfn, to the voyages of the Grail, we come together again as questers in search of inspiration through ritual, meditation and deep conversation. Coming together again as questers old and new we go once more in search of inspiration through ritual, meditation and deep conversation, gathering as the Companions of Hawkwood, in celebration and gratitude. There is so much to remember and to gather up, so many songs, poems, and stories to be shared as we join together in a truly festive ceilidh. As deep winter calls us into the heart of solstice-time, let us prepare to embark on a memorable voyage together. Early Bird Booking: £289 non res, £348 shared, £391 single. Full Price: Single £460, Shared £410, Non-Res £340 - Please send your non-returnable deposit of £120 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034

## NEWS OF FORTHCOMING BOOKS & REPRINTS

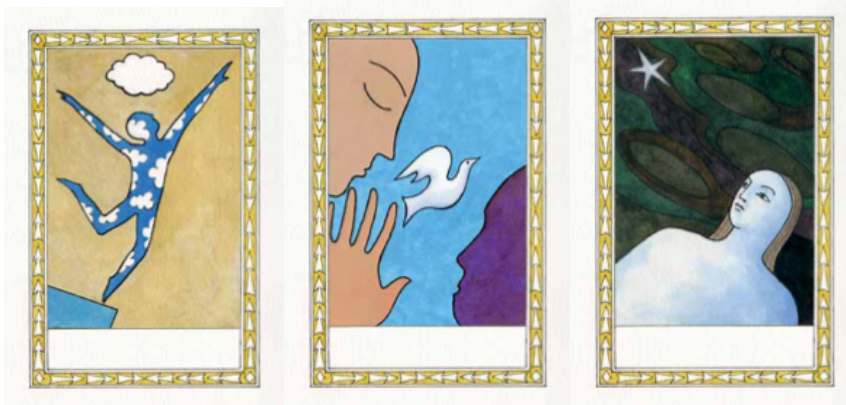


2024 is certainly John's year to have many books emerge, just as 2023 was Caitlín's in terms of books that are appearing.

### THE FOOL'S NEW JOURNEY TAROT by John & Charles Newington

In 2020 the world changed. The arrival of a world-wide pandemic ensured it could never be quite the same again. In the same way, facing new issues at every level of life, it is time for tarot to change. The Fool must begin a new journey. Since the origins of Tarot in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, decks have remained largely unchanged. At the height of the global pandemic, John began to consider if the tarot archetypes were really set in stone. Could the basic meanings and applications of the cards, as well as the whole underlying structure, change? The answer was, yes! It was time for the Fool to journey by previously untrodden paths to being us the answers we sought.

Here we have returned to a new simplicity of imagery, not requiring a knowledge of esoteric symbolism. The images make it immediately understandable to all readers. **The Fool's New Journey Tarot** represents recognizable aspects of the human condition without losing the deeper resonance of the traditional deck. The art, too, is very different from that of earlier times – simpler, more direct and personal than the



*The Fool, the Teacher, The Future from The Fool's New Journey Tarot.*

Here we have returned to a new simplicity of imagery, not requiring a knowledge of esoteric symbolism. The images make it immediately understandable to all readers. **The Fool's New Journey Tarot** represents recognizable aspects of the human condition without losing the deeper resonance of the traditional deck. The art, too, is very different from that of earlier times – simpler, more direct and personal than the antique style of older traditions, which does not always speak to us as we need when seeking answers to contemporary issues. A new look tarot emerges here, stripped of much of the ancient symbology and resetting the style and purpose of the deck back to zero - then taking it to places it has never been before.

With beautiful new art by **Charles Newington** the Fool's new journey takes him through new dimensions and by new roads. Published in UK and USA by Red Feather on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 (£31.99. \$34.99)

John's **The Realms of Arthur** (*due Winter 24*). is the second volume of the titanic series of retellings of Arthurian tales from the Middle Ages - not found in Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*. Like volume one, *The Great Book of King Arthur and his Knights*, (*Harper 2022*) it is illustrated by premier artist John Howe - of *Lord of the Rings* and now *Power of the Rings* fame. The film-maker John Boorman has agreed to write a foreword, which is most exciting. This will present another 30 unknown stories of the Round Table. Advance praise for the bok from Sir John Boorman: 'In my researches for the film *Excalibur*, I kept colliding with John Matthews. From his great knowledge of the Arthurian legends he gave me notable advice as I researched my story. His writing about the Arthurian legend is enjoyable as well as authentic and this book of new stories is as surprising and enthralling as you would expect.'

**THE SHERWOOD ORACLE** by Mark Ryan and John Matthews, illustrated by Yvonne Gilbert.



Maid Marion, Herne the Hunter, The Green Lady from Sherwood Oracle.

Following on from the worldwide success of *The Wildwood Tarot*, the creators of this best-selling deck have come together to create a new divinatory system. *The Sherwood Oracle*, set in and around the famous home of Robin Hood, Maid Marian, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, and the Merry Men, as well as otherworld beings such as the Green Lady, Herne the Hunter, and others, will share the wisdom of the ancient world with today's seekers.

The myths behind the figure Robin Hood are universal and amongst the oldest in the world. Although the stories and ballads are medieval, they contain material from a much earlier time, including the ancient myths of the vegetation gods and the Green Man, combined with ideas of the Wildman and the almost mythic status accorded to outlaws in the Middle Ages. The world of the greenwood is a stage upon which virtually every aspect of human experience is to be found. The adventures and heroic deeds of the outlaw band, bound together in eternal fellowship, along with the adversaries they encounter, both human and magical, make their paths one that speaks to everyone who encounters them. The new deck, illustrated by premier artist Yvonne Gilbert, captures the myth and mystery of the Wildwood for all. Published in USA on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 by Sterling Ethos, \$24.00 Published in the UK on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 by Sterling Ethos, £28.99

John's **Voyages into Vision: Building Bridges Between Two Worlds**. with New Translations of Early Celtic Poems by Caitlín & John Matthews with 14 new images of the Saints by Joe Machine. Since ancient times the Celts have followed a path of total involvement with the natural world - a love of the earth, the patterns of seasons, and the magical presence of animals. Their quest for truth and sense of wonder in the beauty and power of the landscape, expressed today in immensely popular Celtic music and poetry, is deeply rooted in their early spiritual practises. Many of their journeys were expressed as mystical voyages to strange places where vision was paramount. In **Voyages into Vision** John Matthews recreates the mystical journeys of 14 Celtic Saints, capturing the wisdom and insight of these extraordinary men and women who lived from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> century,



*St Kentigern Of Scotland & St Samthann of Ireland from Voyages Into Vision.*

and including two additional female saints not included in the original edition - Saints Winifred and Trepine. In carrying the face of Christianity to the people of Britain and Ireland, they adapted the much earlier wisdom of the Druids and other Celtic Mystics. The result is a rare combination of Christianity and paganism that has left a powerful legacy which lasts to this day. The resulting book builds bridges between the two faiths. **Joe Machine** (*Beowulf Oracle*) has been commissioned by the Vatican to do a series of paintings on the Celtic Saints. He created 14 astonishing pictures for **Voyages Into Vision**. Coming from Red Feather, Spring '25.

**The Secret Oracle of an Elizabethan Magus: Wisdom from the Mind of Dr John Dee.** By John. (A new and extended edition of *The Oracle of Dr John Dee*) Dr John Dee was the court astrologer to Elizabeth I and the deviser of the Enochian Alphabet, through which he was able to converse with angels. Alchemy, dreams, mathematics, geography and astrology were central to his occult knowledge, and he often assisted the great explorers of the time with maps and prognostications. Straddling the worlds of science and magic just as they were becoming distinguishable, he immersed himself in the worlds of magic, astrology and Hermetic Philosophy. Dee did not draw distinctions between his mathematical research and his investigations into Hermetic magic, angel summoning and divination. Instead, he considered all of his activities to constitute different facets of the same quest: the search for a transcendent understanding of the divine forms which he saw as underlying the visible world, and which showed themselves as oracles – words of wisdom from angelic sources. With 31 cards and book. Summer 2025.

The collection of essays on Arthurian Themes by Helmut Nickel, edited by John and Stewart Pyhrr - working title, **King Arthur's Treasury** - will be coming from Amberley next year. More new next issue.



*Love, Sighs & Reunion from the Magic Lantern Vera Sibilla Cards*

Caitlín's **Magic Lantern Vera Sibilla Course**, with new cards by Anastasia Kashian is now going to be published in Spring 2025. This is the first book and deck set in the English language to teach how to read

Vera Sibilla, the Italian small-card oracle which impudently speaks to the unasked question in your head. Similar to Petit Lenormand and Kipper, Vera Sibilla is read very differently, though still in a cartomantic way, whereby the meanings are linguistic rather than visual. The course book enables readers to learn the system over the course of a year by studying and using the cards practically until proficiency is gained. The new cards by Anastasia Kashian – all drawn and painted by hand - will serve new generations of Vera Sibilla users for years to come

Looking ahead, Caitlín has started work on a completely rewritten and updated **Ladies of the Lake** for publication in June 2025. Coming later on is Caitlín's **The One and Only Petit Etteilla Course** which will be available online with the cards made by Rebecca Birrell. This is a complete Petit Etteilla course which comes with a full English translation of Etteilla's *La Seule Manière de Tirer Les Cartes* of 1773. There is no date yet.



*Merlin by Alan Lee*



*Annotated Morte d'Arthur*

Among the most exciting projects coming along is **THE VOICE OF MERLIN: A Chronicle of Forgotten Prophecies**, including a First English Translation of *The Prophecies of Merlin* from 1498 by Maarten Haverkamp, Edited by John Matthews. Foreword by R.J. Stewart. Inner Traditions, Spring, 2025. Discovering a hitherto lost or forgotten book about Merlin and King Arthur is a rare event these days. Yet here we present a previously almost unknown and completely untranslated book, which includes much that is new – and exciting – about the legendary king and his magical advisor. It enables us to hear again the authentic voice of Merlin from long ago.

Throughout the Middle Ages a number of volumes were produced said to be the *Prophecies of Merlin*. Most of these prophecies were written retrospectively, and are of little interest. However, within several of these volumes were hidden a series of clues that lead to the heart of the Arthurian mysteries - secrets long hidden behind the obscure language of the prophetic utterances. One volume in particular, entitled *The Prophecies of Merlin*, printed in 1498, preserved much of this early lore, hidden within the collections of prophetic verbiage. John and the translator Martin Haverkamp have unravelled these lost stories and laid them out for all to see and understand. Here you will find the story of Merlin's birth, of his first adventures, his affair with the Lady of the Lake, and much more.

In 2017 Maarten Haverkamp acquired a 15th century incunabula, an early printed book which contained a text originally written in the 13th century and printed in 1498. The *Prophecies of Merlin* purported to be actual prophecies given by the great Arthurian magician who, though fictitious in this later incarnations, was based on a much older historical figure from the 6th or 7th centuries AD. This book is in fact a compilation of several older documents, first collected by an unknown monk living in Venice in the 13th century. In 2018 Haverkamp contacted John and now, five years on, he has completed the first English translation of the book from medieval French, which both he and John Matthews have studied for context and significance and provided a detailed commentary. For students and lovers of Arthurian literature this is a uniquely important manuscript, which adds significantly to our knowledge of the myths and legends of Europe's most popular subject matter. This extraordinary discovery is a must have for everyone interested in the Arthurian stories.

**The Annotated Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory**, edited by John Matthews, with annotations by John & the late Greg Stafford, has finally started to activate. We have announced this book many times, but the publishers have lost two editors through death over the last years, and things were held up. This is the first edition of Malory's book to be fully annotated with a parallel text. This makes it a perfect version for all those who want to read Malory's incomparable version of the life, deeds and death of King Arthur, but who may be unfamiliar with the details, characters and traditions of the 15<sup>th</sup> century text. This is presented in modern spelling and punctuation for further ease of reading. The new edition is designed to look like a medieval book which would have been printed on parchment, and is decorated throughout with the armorial escutcheons of the Round Table knights. From Chaosium, later this year, since proofs have just been received.



John is currently working on *The Sleeping Beauty Oracle*, with art by the fabulous Yvonne Gilbert (forthcoming, Autumn, 2025). More of which next time!

He has also completed *The Sword in the Stone: A 4000 Year Story Written in the Stars*, which studies the worldwide appearance of the Sword in the Stone tradition, from the familiar story of King Arthur proving himself the rightful ruler of Britain. Written in collaboration with Linda Malcor (co-author, with John, of *Artorius: The Real King Arthur* (Amberley, 2023).

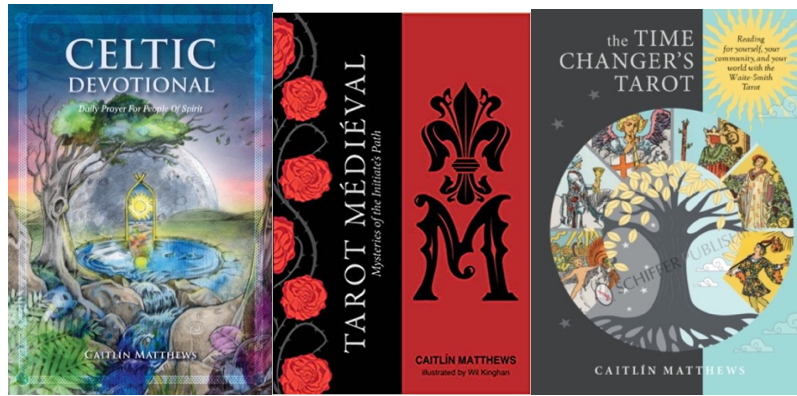
John is finishing a revised, extended and updated edition of *The Camelot Oracle* (Red Feather, 2025), which includes the original art by Will Worthington, new writing and four new cards designed by Wil Kinghan.

## NEW AND REPRINTED BOOKS

Caitlín's **CELTIC DEVOTIONAL; DAILY FOR PEOPLE OF SPIRIT** is available once again, as a devotional for all people of any spiritual background, with morning and evening prayer over the four seasons and Celtic Festivals, based upon nature, rather than theology! This much-loved book has been out of print for over 15 years. It returns with completely newly illustrations by Wil Kinghan.

Caitlín's **TAROT MÉDIÉVAL: MYSTERIES OF. THE INITIATE'S PATH** originally published in 1939 by Francis Rolt Wheeler and Christian Loring, this tarot barely saw the light of day before the fall of France removed it from the face of the earth: Caitlín has translated and edited the text, with additions, while Wil Kinghan has restored the images. Francis Rolt Wheeler edited the esoteric magazine *L'Astrosophie* from 1929-1958. *Tarot Médiéval* is an esoteric tarot, based in the school of Oswald Wirth: it sees the tarot as an unfolding of the initiate's path in a medieval context. The art is very romantic, redolent of the quest.

Caitlín's **THE TIME CHANGER'S TAROT, Reading for Yourself, Your Community and Your World** With an accompanying small version of the Waite-Smith Tarot, the book concentrates upon how we use our tarot in a more accountable way, including our environment and the strange times through which we are living, when nothing can be relied upon to remain unchanged. By pro-actively working with the world in and out of time, we ourselves become the time-changers of the title, able to navigate a way between the unknown shoals before us for ourselves, our community and issues affecting the whole world. Each card meaning offers a variety of possibilities, depending on what we are reading for.



*Celtic Devotional, Tarot Medieval, and Time-Changers Tarot*

John's beautiful **THE GREAT BOOK OF KING ARTHUR** is a continuation of Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*, telling the stories that Malory left out – all drawn from texts that he couldn't have had recourse to. The book is illustrated by John Howe (of *Lord of the Rings* fame), and has a foreword by Neil Gaiman. Most stories will be unfamiliar. If you want to find out what happened to Arthur after he was taken to Avalon at the end of his life, that story is retold here. Many others, featuring favourite knights such as Gawain, Lancelot, and Perceval, along with less well-known characters such as Sone de Nansay, Sir Marrok, and the female knight, Avenable. The text is splendidly designed with rubrics for headings, and is full of colour, as well as black and white images, making this a book to rejoice in.

**ARTORIUS: THE REAL KING ARTHUR** John with Linda Malcor. The search for the historical figure behind what is arguably the most famous cycle of legends ever has been relentless over the centuries. In this book we argue that the man whose story started the traditions of Arthur was a soldier name Lucius Artorius Castus who lived at the end of the second century A.D. Artorius' extraordinary career took him from one end of the Roman Empire to the other, bringing him into contact with tribespeople amongst the Steppe nomads – in particular the Sarmatians. For several decades the Sarmatians have been thought to be the inspiration behind Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, among other British tales. We focus on Castus's career, not only commenting on the parallels with the Arthurian tradition but also providing details about the Roman Empire of the second century A.D.



**CELTIC BOOK OF THE DEAD** by Caitlín and Danuta Mayer. This 42-card oracle is based on the ancient 8<sup>th</sup> century Irish story of the *Voyage of Maelduin*, given here in a new translation by Caitlín Matthews. The locations of Maelduin's voyage form the route toward the Blessed Isles that lie west of Ireland; for him, and for the reader, each island reveals the wonders and challenges as he sails nearer to the heart of the Celtic Otherworld. As with the *Egyptian Book of the Dead*, this oracle gives the soul opportunities to purify, clarify, and refocus. Filled with wonders, terrors, and transformational experiences, each island represents a staging post on the reader's own voyage to self-discovery. As the islands reveal gifts that can be resources for the human condition, so too, solutions and strategies for unknottling life's tangles may be found. The cards have three uses: to divine the path ahead as a guide to

the soul's direction, as a way of meditation for personal and environmental healing, and as a Book of the Dead for the dying. This oracle offers a grown-up method of divination and meditation, based on an ancient north-western European tradition.

## SEASONAL SHRINE

### THE THINGS WE TAKE WITH US

'As to our belongings, uncertain fortune decrees  
That just as they may be acquired, so can they  
be lost.'

– *The Golden Verses of Hierocles*

*Image by Arthur Rackham*



Over the last summer, we have seen how whole cities and regions have been obliterated by wildfires that burnt houses, public buildings and farms to the ground in a matter of moments. The people who fled from these fires took with them their families and pets, their carryable documents and precious things – if they were quick or forethoughtful enough - and they left behind everything they owned behind. In the autumn, it was the floods that came and inundated – often places that had been previously flooded the year or so before. While the waters subside, things cannot be the same as they were. It is not only natural disasters that play out here, but also the economy of our cruel times, whereby those unable to pay their rent or mortgage have had to move at a few days' notice and resettle in more modest dwellings, or else have become homeless.

Last year, we finalized our wills for the circumstances we are now in – we are older than when we made our last will, 36 years ago, when our son was small – and many things had changed. We both know we cannot take anything with us, and we have made provision for some of our things to be curated or passed on. A friend of mine recently did the Swedish death cleansing because she was leaving her country and moving to a new one: not wanting to leave anything behind for an indifferent family to deal with, she got rid of everything except what she could carry. The courage in clearing the way for this utter break and new beginning at the end of her life is remarkable and very chastening. We spend a lifetime acquiring and in one stroke, death severs us from everything. We cannot tell what will be removed from us by uncertain fate or fortune, indeed.

23 years ago, when I was invited to speak in Israel by the Israeli publisher and translator of my *Singing The Soul Back Home* book, I found myself teaching a foundation course in shamanism at Neve Shalom, the Peace Village near Tel Aviv. Most of my students were 2-4<sup>th</sup> generation Israelis, but all were from a huge diaspora who have come back to the Middle East after wondering in Russia, Argentina, South Africa, North America, and many other lands. We talked about that return and what it had meant to their families – some of whose ancestors had arrived in Tel Aviv before any jetty was built, so they literally leapt into the water and use their suitcase as a flotation device to reach the shore. But I was interested in a question of, 'Just as your ancestors always had a little bag ready to go, against the



inevitable next persecution that drove them out of their places, what is in your little bag, ready to go? – What is it that you need to take with you now?’

This was a question that could have been answered on many levels. Some students were alarmed at the thought of yet another migration, while others understood that the question was coming from a place of ancestral preparedness. Very interesting answers resulted: it seemed that ancestral providence came very readily to the surface, for Jews are hard-wired for this question, and how you manage yourself and your community when the whole i. Although a couple of students; families still had the keys to houses from which their ancestors had been expelled back in 1492 Spain, while others had inherited menorahs or sacred books borne away from pogroms in Krakow or Breslov, the things that my students need to take with them 20 years ago were more than just objects, but also memories, teachings, wisdom.

In our own straightened times where the economy and the relentless urging to boost growth results in that everyone becomes much poorer; when the uncertainties of climate, work, zones of conflict and new persecutions drive migrants further afield; when the things we have or expect to have are constrained, removed, lost or never even gained; when infrastructure break down, when the safety-net has been removed, or you are exiled from all that you know, what is it that you need to take with you now?



When faced with this question myself, I recall the time when Socrates was walking in the countryside with his friend, Phaedrus: they sat down in a beautiful spot and Socrates burst out into spontaneous prayer to the gods of that place: ‘O beloved Pan, and all ye other Gods, who are residents of this place, grant that I may become beautiful within, and that whatever I possess externally may be friendly to my inward attainments! Grant also, that I may consider the wise man as one who abounds in wealth and that I may enjoy that portion of gold, which no other than a prudent man is able either to bear, or properly manage.’ (*Phaedrus*, 279)

It is the blessing of all wise ones is to know what is good for us, and if we do not, to hold our possessions lightly.



