

HALLOWQUEST NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of Caitlín & John Matthews - No. 92 August 2020
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Dear Reader

As the world begins to creep back to activity again, we also begin to pick up the pieces of more than just a viral lockdown. During this period one of our major publishers went into insolvency, causing us to fear for a great number of our books, which could have instantly lurched into unavailability. Fortunately, the complete catalogue was purchased by a bigger publisher who will be continuing with our published books, although it will take quite a long time to pick up on the novation of contracts and to coordinate the full implications of the take-over. This is a great relief to us, as you may imagine, as we had some very nasty moments as both the royalties owed to us and the greater part of our tarots and oracles slid off into a great big hole.

As you will see, some of the courses have slipped their dates, some later in the year, some into next. There will be a few changes as to how we run the courses, and we will do our best to keep you apprised. See the panel below this letter.

We now turn to the Augean task of how we pick up our teaching again. While we have done quite a bit of online talking, teaching is another matter for us, as shamanic work cannot be anything other than in person, but we are trying to come up with a protocol that will allow us to do this: ritual, journey, pair-work really do need us to be together. For our overseas students who are already booked on courses in the second half of the year, we have the difficulty that the UK has imposed, as of 8th June, a 2 week quarantine on their arrival into the country, which will doubtless make their visits impossible. We will be in touch about solutions to this. Courses and events have either slipped down into later in the year or else have been deferred into next year: we have marked the original and new dates clearly.

Being in the vulnerable and elderly category, we have both been staying at home right through until the middle of July: the picture above is a kind of metaphor of 'flowering in captivity.' It took us both a long time to settle down to joined-up writing again, as we call any work that can be done in more than just a snatched few moments of fragmented living, but we have not been idle. Caitlín finished the second of her *Soul Doctor* series of novels, *Return of the Soul Doctor*, which was just sent to the publisher. John has been working harder than ever in order to stop himself brooding on the current situation in the world. He's just completed the last of the four Sidhe Oracles: *The Oracle of the Waters* and is developing two new tarots (more details next time). Lastly, we are working together on a documentary, of which we can say no more at the moment. Along with this John has managed to sort out mountains of paper, clean the

house within an inch of its life, play with the cat, read a few books, and sign the most exciting deal on a book, but more next time on that! On the whole, then, life has been pretty much as usual.

During the viral shutdown, Caitlín has been posting a series of numbered Plague Diary posts daily on her page: <https://www.facebook.com/caitlinmatthews.author> These included things inspiring and funny, rituals, recipes, and supportive meditations, so please do go and look there, from March to mid July. She wrote 79,000 words in these daily posts which numbered 120 dated entries, averaging about 650-700 words a day! She intends that they will be collected into a Kindle book. We have been busy preparing a tv documentary, while John has been doing filming for the Travel Channel, and there is interest in Caitlín's Soul Doctor series for a tv series.

We also gave two talks for the Scottish Pagan Federation Conference which you might want to listen to:

What We Need To Take With Us: Survival of Your Spiritual Tradition in Uncertain Times: A talk by Caitlín Matthews for the Scottish Pagan Federation 2020
<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCqWHG47rhQHOKV8MGEFno0g>

A Journey Through Many Traditions: A Talk by John Matthews for the Scottish Pagan Federation 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVh66loa6L4>

Here is a link to a recent interview Caitlín did with Julian Vayne as part of his 'My Magical Thing' series on Youtube. I am talking about a traditional teaching on the Celtic Winds, something which is a central part of my shamanic practice and teaching Please do 'like' the video! It's very short video.
<https://youtu.be/5qddpqS6jJs>

The most egregious postal charge rises for the USA from UK have come in as of 1st July and you will notice that the updates on the booklist now feature five zones of postage: to UK, Europe & Northern Asia, Canada/Africa/India, Australia and New Zealand, and then USA, which has upped its charges for receiving parcels by £6! We hope you understand the rather complex schedule of prices that now accompanies each book at the end of this newsletter, as it has caused no end of administrative headaches to update on PayPal and the online newsletter!

May joy, health, love, and peace preserve you and your household!

Many blessings



Caitlín & John Matthews

BOOKS ON KINDLE The following titles are available as ebooks:

Caitlín: Celtic Visions, Complete Lenormand Oracle Handbook, Sophia Goddess of Wisdom, This Ancient Heart (ed. With Paul Davies). Diary of a Soul Doctor, Lost Book of the Grail

John: Barddas, The Celtic Shaman, Henry Hunter & the Beast of Snagov, Henry Hunter & the Cursed Pirates, Shamanism Bible, The Sidhe, Sir Gawain – Knight of the Goddess, The Sword of Ice and Fire.

Caitlín & John: Element Encyclopedia of Magical Creatures, The Fourth Gwenevere, Walkers Between Worlds, Arthurian Magic, The Lost Book of the Grail.

Mark Ryan with John: Hold Fast. **Dwina Murphy Gibb:** Pandora's Dilemma

INTRODUCING OUR GUEST SHAMANIC CO-TEACHERS in 2020

FELICITY WOMBWELL is a creative arts therapist with a shamanic practice in Brighton. She is the author of *The Goddess Changes* and co-founder of FiOS. Felicity spearheads many community art projects.

Dr. ANGELA COTTER is a Jungian analyst who integrates constellations work, energy psychotherapy and shamanic approaches into her practice. She has researched the wounded healer concept in health care practice, evolved a way of working with dreams that have not reached resolution in both an individual and group context.

MARGOT HARRISON is a poet and an experienced shamanic practitioner with a practice in Ireland.

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.

DATE CHANGES, POSTPONEMENTS & CANCELLATIONS

In the announcements for courses below, anything with a §DATE CHANGE is marked with both its original and rescheduled date. Some courses have been cancelled entirely, but Caitlín hopes to reschedule her Vancouver & Seattle trip to Autumn 2021. Courses start again from August 2020.

FOR ALL SHAMANIC COURSES PLEASE CONTACT: Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com.



DEPOSITS: If we have your deposit for an upcoming course, we will hold it or bring it forward, in the case of postponement, or until a course can be rescheduled ahead into 2021. Your place is secure. We are kindly asking you to keep your booking or transfer it to a new date or course if you can. Please bear with us, as we are unable to estimate any price rises on courses for 2021: these should not be too high, we hope.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS: If you were intending to come to a course this year, you would be well advised to check with your travel agent and insurer as to the terms and conditions of your fare booking, as the UK Government has imposed a quarantine on all incoming visitors, from 8th June, from proceeding to any event without a 14 day self-isolation period. If you have not yet bought an air or ferry fare ahead, please do not do so until we have better clarity about the national and world situation. Please contact the booking point in question, if the course you are interested in is not at Earthspirit. If you have already placed a deposit or full payment for a course to which you might be prevented from attending by travel bans, we can transfer your payment to another course in the future. We would appreciate it if you are able to do so. These regulations may change, so do check first!

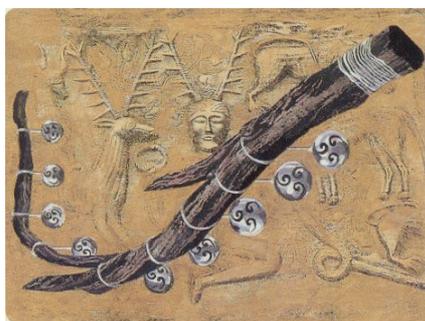
CANCELLATION INSURANCE: If you are booking for courses into the end of the year or into next year, we think it would be wise for you to seek cancellation insurance, in case another viral outbreak happens, as we are at the mercy of the course centres who receive us to make decisions to close, which might happen at short notice.

SHAMANIC COURSES OPEN TO ALL

FOUNDATION COURSE IN CELTIC & ANCESTRAL SHAMANISM: LEVEL A TRAINING

This course begins the Level A training. If you want to see the shape of the curriculum, go to:
<http://www.hallowquest.org.uk/resources/curriculumtraining.pdf>

6-7 March and 11-12 Sept 2021 WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS Foundation Course in Celtic & Ancestral Shamanism led by John Matthews and Margot Harrison. This is the 30th anniversary two-part non-residential course of our Foundation Course which 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, working with one of the most experienced teachers in Britain and Margot Harrison, one of our FÍOS tutors.



6-7 March 2021, 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.

11-12 September 2021, 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 £500. (£250 for each weekend). Food is £35 per weekend extra, including a varied lunch, tea, cake and biscuits. Or, for those bringing their own lunch, £10 for teas and cake. 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 We already have many bookings for the **2021 FOUNDATION COURSE** and you are urged to book soon, to avoid disappointment.

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 FÍOS – see details below.



§DATE CHANGE: originally 10-13 May 2020 – now moved to

4-7 October 2020

***THRESHOLDS OF POWER AND HEALING**

with Caitlín & Margot Harrison.

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 Level B course is an essential next component for shamanic practitioner training. This course is open to those who took the Walkers Between Worlds Foundation Course with Caitlín or John in past years. Anyone trained elsewhere who is interested, please write and enquire. Booking, *see below*

BOOKING THRESHOLDS, which is held at EarthSpirit's Little Earth centre, Dundon, Somerset. We regret PRICES HAVE RISEN DUE TO COVID REGS, imposed by the course centre: Camping £375, Caravan £393, Standard twin £413, Ensuite Twin £423, Non-Res £315, Special meals supplement per weekend £27. (All rooms will be allocated as single rooms, no sharing, during Covid 19 regulations.) BOOKING: Deposit of £175 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com.

§DATE CHANGE: originally 4-7 October 2020, rescheduled to 4-7 February 2021.

***MIDWIFING THE SOUL**
with Caitlín & Dr. Angela Cotter

This 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. Booking, *see above*.



We regret PRICES HAVE RISEN DUE TO COVID REGS: Camping £380, Caravan £398, Standard twin £418, Ensuite Twin £468, Non-Res £329, Special meals supplement per weekend £27. (All rooms will be allocated as single rooms, no sharing, during Covid 19 regulations.) BOOKING: Deposit of £175 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) 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 three year cycle and are not all available every year. When there are sufficient students to activate it, we open up Level D courses every five years or so, depending on numbers. The nature of this training takes into account that people will fall out or need to stop for a few years between courses. We don't require that you take the full curriculum without a break, as we know that life happens! This way you can work your way through the levels in order, in real, rather than in serial time.

§DATE CHANGE: originally 2-5 July 2020 now moved to 15-18 July 2021 ***THE ART OF THE HEALING VOICE IN CELTIC SHAMANISM** Led by **Cáit Branigan and Caitlín Matthews**. The healing voice speaks directly to the soul, bypassing all barriers. In this course, we shall explore the use of the voice in shamanic practice, using toning and keening to access our inner worlds, and exploring the use of chant to heal and unblock our energetic bodies. Based upon the three musical strains or modes of ancient Ireland, and upon the traditional gifts of the three cauldrons. This course is also open to people who can shamanically journey fluently.



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 has taught 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.

PRICES will increase slightly: please bear with us while we discover what the centre's 2021 prices are. These were the Prices for 2020, for guidance only: Single: £480, Shared: £420 Non-Res: £360, Please send your non-returnable deposit of £120 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) Enclose an SAE for map & confirmation

ADVANCED LEVEL SHAMANIC PRACTITIONER TRAINING: LEVEL C for those who've completed **Intermediate Level B**. *Note: The Advanced Level courses run over a three year cycle and are not all available every year. The nature of this training takes into account that people will fall out or need to stop for a few years between courses. We don't require that you take the full curriculum without a break, as we know that life happens! This way you can work your way through the levels in order, in real time, rather than in serial time.*

22-25 November 2020 SPEAKING GOLD: Oracle work and Shamanic Divination with Caitlín Matthews & Dr. Angela Cotter. This advanced course (which hasn't run since 2014) is intended to give practitioners access to divinatory methods that they can use in their own practice to aid their own diagnosis and to support clients. The giving of oracles and divinations is a central task of traditional shamanic work, to counsel the doubtful, to open the way to action, to divine for tribal survival.



On this course we will make our own unique divining method based upon otherworld locations familiar to us, discovering a criteria of reading our tokens through journeying. We will also learn to read auguries from nature from middle-world observation and to use traditional oracle-work methods with the help of our spirits. Oracles will be uttered through the mediation of our spirits, where specific and well-boundaried embodiment is used. Our ritual will be *The Chair of Vision*, based upon the practices of the Awenyddion, the ancient Welsh seers. **NOTE: Participants will be required to bring materials to this course, so prior preparation is required: more details can be sent on request, or when you book.** Held at Earthspirit, Dundon, Somerset. We regret the PRICE CHANGE DUE TO COVID REGS, imposed by the course centre: Camping £404, Caravan £422, Standard as twin £443, Ensuite Twin £462, Non-Res £347, Special meals supplement per weekend £27. (All rooms will be allocated as single rooms, no sharing, during Covid 19 regulations.) Deposit of £175 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com.

18-21 April CRUTHNEACHT: The Way of the Shapers with Caitlín Matthews & Angela Cotter. Ancestral European lore is full of embodiment traditions that are our ancestral heritage: customs of guizing, animal-disguise, embodying ancient territorial spirits, beings who enable the hunt or the fertility of the fields, seasonal guardians, radiant ancestors and tribal gods. In our own literal-minded times we need the enchanted reminder of the spirits who walk among us once again so that we may rededicate and reconsecrate our world. When we learn the Way of Union through the songs and dances that our spirits teach, our whole community becomes enriched and nourished

Our animal, ancestral and otherworldly spirits are the prime guides and teachers who direct our shamanic work. We are never closer to them than when they become embodied in us. In this shamanic course which hasn't run since 2011, Caitlín Matthews shares her knowledge of *Cruthneacht* (pronounced KRU-nyokt), the Way of the Shapers, also known in Gaelic as *Tairm-chruthud* (tarim-crood) or

transfiguration. By taking the *cruths* or shapes of our spirits upon us, we will come into deeper union with them. Angela Cotter teaches the skill of dancing with the spirits within the body while also holding our own standpoint, as well as the embodiment of dream figures and symbols.



This course will teach the Art of Embodiment, working closely with our own spirits in journey, ritual, dance, song, dream and silence. In addition we will explore the shapeshifters' art of **Fith Fath**, the druidic way of invisibility, when the shapes are hidden from sight for vital protection. Participants will have the opportunity to experience **Cruthneacht** themselves through journey as well as through the ritual of **The Spirit Assembly: Gladdening the Land** that helps enrich our community. We will also discover how the Way of the Shapers can become an intimate part of our work with individuals, enabling powerful change, dynamic healing and ecstatic unity. It is essential that applicants have at least four years' journeying experience and have a strong relationship with their spirits before applying. *It is recommended that students have taken the Intermediate Level courses as well as at least one advanced course before applying.* **NOTE: Applicants will receive a homework pack to prepare for this course: prior preparation by journeying and assembling of materials will be required.** Camping £407, Caravan £425, Standard as twin £446, Standard as single £490 Ensuite Twin £462, Ensuite as Single £506 Non-Res £359, (All rooms will be allocated as single rooms, no sharing, during Covid 19 regulations.) Special meals supplement per weekend £27. Deposit of £175 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com.

LEVEL D: GRADUATE COURSE This is open only to students who have completed 2 advanced courses. Please contact Caitlín first on tigerna9@gmail.com to ensure you are qualified to attend.

28-31 August 2020 HEARKENING TO THE HORSE'S MOUTH: Shamanic Spirit Consultation with Caitlín & Felicity Wombwell This graduate course (which has not run since 2013) instructs experienced 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 opens up practitioner training to ongoing supervision and practice under our Co-Walkers' Supervision. There are just 2 places left.

Caitlín & Felicity need to approve all applicants on this course: they must have completed 2 advanced courses. Please send an email about your interest in the course, plus some personal background and your shamanic experience to date to Caitlín Matthews, before booking with Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos. 01453 759034. ONLY 2 PLACES LEFT

Prices: Single: £480 Shared: £420 Non-Res: £360 info@hawkwoodcollege.co.uk. Deposit £175 payable to Hawkwood College, with SAE for map.

MAGICAL AND MYTHIC COURSES & OTHER EVENTS

*These courses, events and signings are open to all who are on their spiritual path. FIOS MASTERCLASSES offer an opportunity to deepen spiritual practice with a living exemplar of a tradition. Courses marked * give £20 member's discount.*

2 August - 27 September 2020 MAGICKAL WOMEN CONFERENCE SUMMER SALONS 9

Weekends 18 Speakers. The Magickal Women Conference is a truly inspiring event celebrating women of all magical and spiritual traditions, past and present, bringing together women speakers from all over the world to share knowledge, to connect, and to impart wisdom as part of a packed programme of lectures and empowering hands-on workshops. **Caitlín will be presenting on 17 August** on *Opening the Magic Box: The Road to Wisdom*. Throughout myth, 'opening the magic box' has been a rather fraught enterprise, whether it be Pandora opening up the *pitios* or storage jar, or Boann uncovering the Well of Segais. Caitlín Matthews explores the magic box from the perspective of the quest for wisdom and the search for knowledge, as well as considering the consequences of opening it for ourselves and our world. It will conclude with a meditation to Sophia. Booking: <https://ti.to/magickal-women-conference/summer-salons>. The actual 2nd Magickal Women Conference will be held in 5-6 June 2021. <https://www.magickalwomenconference.com>



9-10 October 2020 UK TAROT CONFERENCE *is still happening at time of writing, but is restricted to those who have already booked. Overseas presenters have been replaced with UK speakers.*

This wonderful annual event, now 18 years old, will be based around the trump of the Star. On the evening of 9th October, John and Andrea Aste will be revealing the top-secret *Tarot of Light and Shadow*. Other presenters include Kooch & Victor Daniels, Ethony Dawn, Liz Worth, Juliet Sharman-Burke, Sasha Fenton. You are encouraged to book early, as it always sells out quickly! It is held in Kensington, London. Tickets for Friday & Saturday, including goodie bag £230. <http://tarotconference.co.uk/tarot-programme/>

17 October 2020 THE TAROT OF LIGHT AND SHADOW A One-day workshop with JOHN MATTHEWS and ANDREA ASTE on their new *Tarot of Light and Shadow*, the first intentionally created double tarot set. In this online workshop we will explore the use of two visionary, mirrored decks, which demonstrate how there can be more than one answer to a question and more than one way of looking for answers. The fee for the workshop includes a copy of the double deck and book, published by Watkins Media. Using this, and multimedia presentations, we will explore together the ways in which having two decks changes the way we read tarot. At the College of Psychic Studies, 16 Queensberry Pl, South Kensington, London SW7 2EB. From 10-5pm. Price £85/£105 members/non members. 020 7589 3292 **AS OF GOING TO PRESS, WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS EVENT: PLEASE CONTACT:** <https://www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk/contact>



31 October 2020 WELCOMING OUR ANCESTRAL WISDOM with Caitlín Matthews
§DATE CHANGE, originally 16 May 2020, now 31 October 2020

Many of the disconnections causing the greatest frustration in our world arise from a lack of ancestral wisdom. In this rare day workshop open to all, Caitlín will help us seek the living ancestral powers and presences who lovingly support us, using Systemic Ritual®. By giving dignity to the ancestors and their wisdom, we also begin to partake in that dignity. This day workshop is for those who seek to: reopen the way to our ancestral wisdom so that it can flow into daily life, recognise the tribalisms keeping us separated or in conflict, revealing paths to peace and honour, come home to ourselves, our community, and our planet by integrating ancestral strength into our lives.

Systemic Ritual® is form of healing developed by Dutch shaman, Daan van Kampenhout. It works in community with aspects of family constellations and the prayerful work of shamanic healing. Using simple and universal maps that guide the archaic and powerful movements of the ritual, participants are enabled to collectively experience the strength, healing, and resources that can flow to them in any traumatic situation where there is shared experience.

At the College of Psychic Studies, 16 Queensberry Pl, South Kensington, London SW7 2EB. From 10-5pm. Price £85/£105 members/non members. 020 7589 3292

<https://www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk/events/view/id/1811/welcoming-our-ancestral-wisdom>

8 November 2020 TEMPLES OF THE GRAIL with John Matthews. As part of R.J.Stewart and Anastacia Nutt's Salon of the Mysteries, John will be speaking about the physical locations associated with the Grail and about the Temple traditions of these places.

<https://rjstewart.org/salon-of-the-western-mysteries-2019/>

21 November 2020 OXFORD INDIE BOOK FAIR with Caitlín, John, and other authors

§DATE CHANGE: originally 4 April 2020, then postponed to 13th June, it has been rescheduled, so please check the booking link below.

Things have not been going well for independent authors not in the top rank of the publishing world: we are usually left out of the big Oxford Literary Festival, so Sylvia Vetta created this event for us all! Hurrah!



This event supports local Oxford authors who are in the middle and back list of publishing catalogues, so that you can support them directly, rather than buying through the dreaded Amazon. We have a table at this new event, so please come along and buy books directly from us and other authors, where you can talk to us and have a personal signature. All the money you spend goes to the authors present and not to anyone else. There will be several live events, including a workshop of animation with Joann Harrison, poetry and book extract readings from Jenny Lewis and others. In addition, a portion of the food sales from the PUKS Indian street food vendors will go to benefit PEN International, the charity supporting writers in exile, prison or undergoing persecution. Thanks to Siliva for organising this! Admission is free. Held at the Wesley Memorial Hall in New Inn Hall St, Oxford, 10.30am-5pm

<http://www.sylviavetta.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Ox-Indie-Book-Fair- -LO-REs.pdf>

4-6 December 2020 GIFTS OF THE CELTS: CELEBRATING CELTIC WISDOM with John & Caitlín Matthews & Ian Rees. - *Our Annual Open Mystery School Gathering*



From the deep myths and stories of the Celtic lands, to the art, music, poetry, law, and vision, we have been richly gifted by the Celts. We explore these gifts, drawing on the wisdom of memory and vision that was the training of the bards, seers and druids of the ancient lore. The bright knowledge which lies at the kernel of the nuts of wisdom that the salmon once sought is still sparkling in the darkness. We will enter the portals that lead to the Otherworld and meet the Shining Ones who keep the treasures still. Our ritual will be the *Four Treasures of the Shining Ones*. Join us for our 35th annual open mystery school as we draw to the deep heart of winter.



IAN REES is a psycho-spiritual psychotherapist practising in Glastonbury Somerset UK. He has been a therapist for 20 years. He is an experienced trainer and taught at the Karuna Institute. Since 2009 he has concentrated on developing the Annwn Foundation workshops and the Awen training and presents this material in the UK and Israel. Ian has co-taught the annual open mystery school many times, and we are glad to welcome him back.

BOOKING Single: £360 Shared: £320 Non-Res: £280 Please send your non-returnable deposit of £120 to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd, Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) info@hawkwoodcollege.co.uk. Enclose SAE for map & confirmation.

1-3 October 2021 The NORTH WEST TAROT SYMPOSIUM. Caitlín will be appearing as keynote speaker at this event, and give a separate workshop that can be attended by those not joining the symposium. *Since the Northern American of June 2020 trip is cancelled, she will be transposing some of those events over to Autumn 2021.*

NEWS OF FORTHCOMING BOOKS & REPRINTS

John has finished working on the latest in the continuing set of Sidhe Oracles, the *Sidhe Oracle of the Sun*, and the Sidhe Oracle of the Waters, which with the last oracle will be published later this year. After seven years of work, *The Nanteos Grail: the Evolution of a Holy Relic*, co-written by John Matthews, Ian Pegler and Fred Stedman-Jones, which outlines the true history of the Nanteos Cup - believed by some to be one of the appearances of the Grail - is forthcoming from Amberley in June 2021 – one of the casualties of the virus. Written with Ian Pegler and based in part on the researches of our late friend Fred Stedman-Jones, this work explores the making of a sacred relic. It traces, for the first time, the history of the cup back to the Middle Ages, showing how it became associated with the legends of the Grail.

Meanwhile John has finished preparing a set of 5 new book ideas which will be circulating the publishing world very soon. We still await news of three further books: the new annotated edition of *Le Morte D'Arthur*, John's graphic novel adaptation of the first part of Malory's text, and the long awaited *Arthurian Armorial* by Helmut Nickel edited and prepared by John (all coming from Chaosium Inc in due time.) John has also signed to write an extensive book on Arthurian themes, which will be illustrated by John Howe (of *Lord of the Rings* fame). More information about this in our next newsletter.

Caitlín continues trying to find a publisher for both *The Celtic Book of the Dead* and for *Celtic Devotional*, which have both had numerous rejections!

THE BEOWULF ORACLE by John Matthews and Virginia Chandler with art by Joe Machine and Kennings by Caitlín Matthews (Schiffer Publishing, Due, Spring 2021) The epic poem *Beowulf* has been hailed as perhaps one of the most important poems of the Middle Ages. It is a great study of Anglo-Saxon culture and what was most important to its culture: Loyalty, Generosity, Glory in Death, Kinship, and Fate. From an esoteric viewpoint, *Beowulf* is a unique adventure through the Anglo-Saxon Heroic Journey. Through the deeds and challenges of the hero, Beowulf, the poem guides the reader through the cycle of Life, Death, and the desire to achieve Immortality, watched over by the formidable Norns, keepers of fate and wisdom. **The Beowulf Oracle** offers a guide through a world where belief in the powers and forces that shape our lives is ever present. The kings and queens, heroes and heroines, monsters and betrayers of the poem will act as guides and symbols for the seeker. The imagery and the quotations from the poem and other original sources will highlight an overwhelming belief in Fate. The stunning art by Joe Machine makes this an unforgettable Oracle which we think will be much loved by all. This is due in 2021.



Beowulf & Hygd © Joe Machine

THE ART OF CELTIC SEERSHIP by Caitlín Matthews This retitled reprint of the Celtic Visions book explores the seership traditions of the Celtic peoples, from the professional divinatory techniques of the ancient fili or vision-poets, to the everyday omens sought by gifted seers from the world of nature. The art of seeing the invisible through faery lore, prophetic vision and the omens of the natural world derives from a unified understanding of the inspirational cosmos and the locations and spirits of the otherworld. Throughout there are suggestions for deepening personal vision. Due March 2021

NEW ORACLES OF THE SIDHE John has been working hard this year with artist Wil Kinghan to complete two more Sidhe Oracles. These enigmatic card decks are the result of John's contact with the Faery people, who have so far shared their wisdom over two oracles and a book about John's first encounter with these beings in Ireland more than 20 years ago (see our book lists for further details) The two new decks, *The Sidhe Oracle of the Sun* and *The Sidhe Oracle of the Waters*, makes a complete set, with the previous decks, *The Sidhe Oracle of the Moon* and *The Sidhe Oracle of the Fleeting Hare*, constituting the four elements. They will continue - for the time being - to be available separately, but eventually sold either in two sets or as a complete set. (Exact publication date and cover price not currently known, but we expect them in October or November.)



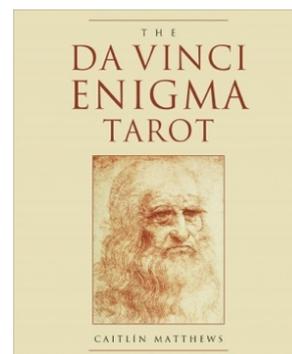
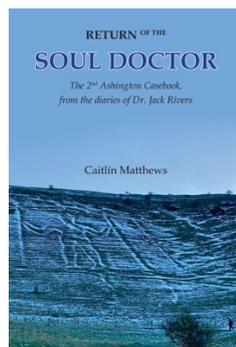
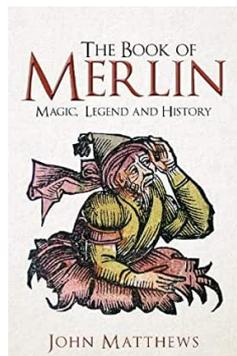
The Eclipse Begins, The Mingling Streams & The Churning Waters © Wil Kingham

We are aware that some people will have the earlier decks, *Moon Oracle of the Sidhe*, and the *Sidhe Oracle of the Fleeting Hare*, and so these will still be available singly for a while. At some point, all four of the oracles may end up together. We have to talk to the publisher about that.

NEW AND REPRINTED BOOKS

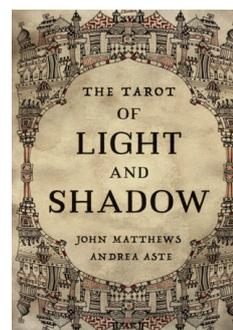
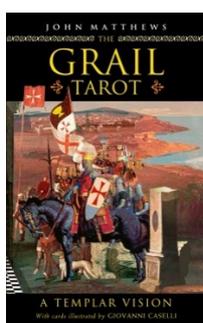
THE BOOK OF MERLIN: MAGIC, LEGEND, HISTORY by John Matthews.

Merlin, the advisor of the young King Arthur, was also a famous seer, whose books of prophecies have been reprinted countless times since the Middle Ages and are still in print today. He has reappeared in numerous guises in modern times, in film, TV and books, as well as being studied as an exponent of shamanism, seership and ancient wisdom. John Matthews examines the many guises of Merlin – as seer, prophet, magician and, perhaps surprisingly, as lover, and as an inspirer of people from all walks of life. He traces the historical origin of Merlin as a Celtic warrior, the later literary forms of his growing legend in the myths of Arthur, and his more recent manifestations in fantasy writing. Also explored is the important connection between Merlin and the Druids. Spanning the ages and delving into some of the most colourful corners of human history, *The Book of Merlin* presents a new look at an age-old character. The author has provided a new translation of the poems of Myrddin Wyllt, Merlin's prophecies in the wilderness: 'Snow to my knees, ice in my beard.' **Due Sept 2020**



RETURN OF THE SOUL DOCTOR by Caitlin Matthews. The second of the Soul Doctor books sees the return of Ash and another set of case histories recorded by his assistant Jack Rivers, involving mysterious psychic disturbances and unsolvable soul sicknesses. Set against the background of their residential nursing home on the South Downs, many stories play out: the unwary visitor to sacred sites who falls into a dangerous trance, the overshadowing of a young artist who paints like a Renaissance master, the deadly haunting of an army camp, the Jacobean play with a reputation worse than that of Macbeth, the man still being stalked by a prisoner put away for life, and the young woman trying to return from a life of abuse. Ash and Jack delve deeper into the human psyche, reaching into the timeless zones to bring healing to shattered lives. This time they face dangers that require them to seek sanctuary themselves. Available.

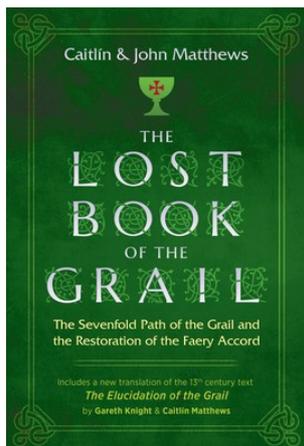
The DA VINCI ENIGMA TAROT by Caitlín Matthews is reprinting in October. Leonardo da Vinci is universally acknowledged as a prophetic visionary, who envisioned and created blueprints for many ideas and artifacts now taken for granted in the modern world. *The Da Vinci Enigma Tarot* is faithful to his vision, drawing on his notebooks, drawings, and ideas. Lavishly illustrated with his artwork, the deck creates a portable notebook containing the macrocosm (Major cards), the greater archetypal world, and the microcosm (Minor cards), the lesser manifest world of everyday. Using da Vinci's own insights, the accompanying book enables the reader to use the deck to discover fresh ways of looking at personal experience, using a design that he created. Book & cards in a box. Due Octoberish



THE BYZANTINE TAROT by John Matthews and Cilla Conway. Drawing upon the rich heritage of art, lore and the complex courtly world of the Byzantine Empire, this sparkling new tarot reflects the extraordinary, unique artistic style, often depicted in gleaming gold and intricate mosaic, which flourished under the rule of the Byzantine Emperors from the 4th to the 15th centuries. The presence of so many archetypal figures and roles within the imperial court suggests a link between the oldest forms of the tarot and the wisdom that flourished at the time within the confines of this part of the Classical world. A new edition is due in October but we will continue to sell off the old edition as it is cheaper. The prices on the reprints of this one, *Da Vinci Enigma* and *Grail Tarot* are considerably higher. Due October-ish

THE TAROT OF LIGHT & SHADOW by John Matthews and Andrea Aste. This beautifully illustrated double Tarot deck allows readers to explore both sides of a question at once, looking at the Shadow (instinctive, inner world, the unknown) and the Light (rational, outer world, the known). For the first time ever, readers are being offered two Tarot decks specifically designed *to be used together*. The Tarot of Light and Shadow presents a new multi-layered way of working with the Tarot: using two decks to explore the Shadow and Light sides of any questions at once. In fact, they can be seen not as two separate decks but as one deck appearing in two dimensions. The principle of the two-deck system can be explained as follows: there are two sides to every question and two sides to every answer. Answers come both from within and without. Inner influences as well as outer affect our choices and may dictate our concerns. When we face a problem or issue for which we turn to the Tarot for advice, there are many different ways to approach the query. The Shadow deck gives you insight into your inner world, your subconscious, your instinct and what is not yet in the light of your consciousness, while the Light deck reflects the the outer world, the rational and what is already known about an issue. This ground-breaking two-deck system allows the reader to explore both sides of such questions at once, and to find the best way forward in the blending of both answers. Due November 2020. *See the day course upon it on 17 October in Courses.*

THE GRAIL TAROT: A TEMPLAR VISION by John Matthews & Giovanni Caselli is reprinted. The Grail legend is one of the most famous mysteries the world has ever known. This 78-card Tarot deck with spectacular Renaissance-style art relates to the quest for this sacred Christian relic and connects it to our desire to understand the puzzles within our own lives. Characters drawn from Grail history, as well as the Knights Templar, guide the seeker on the path. The suits are represented by the four Grail Hallows: Stone, Sword, Lance, and Vessel. Discover the symbolism and stories of the Grail as a universal and potent representation of the search for truth, part of your own spiritual quest. The cards when laid edge to edge create a tableau in each suit and in the Major Arcana: a procession of the Grail indeed! Due October-ish



LOST BOOK OF THE GRAIL: The Sevenfold Path of the Grail and the Restoration of the Faery Accord By Caitlín & John, with translation of the poem by Gareth Knight & Caitlín

This study of the 13th century text *The Elucidation*, gives a completely fresh view of the Grail as both Faery and Holy Grail: one vessel with two appearances. This text has been part of our teaching for many years, but now we have a new translation by Gareth Knight & Caitlín to better help assess its implications. The text reveals an alternative causation for the Wasteland which arises from the violation of the Well Maidens and the spurning of the hospitality of the Faery world, and has environmental implications for our world that we cannot ignore. Available as Book, Kindle & Audiobook – but only as a book from us.

TEMPLES OF THE GRAIL by John Matthews & Gareth Knight.



Temples of the Grail reveals the meeting points of myth and history, linking the mystery of the kingdom of Prester John, to the Grail Temple for the first time in this book. With translations by John & Gareth Knight of parts of key texts of *Titur* and *Sone de Nansay* that deal with the visit to the Grail Temple, and the initiations that transpired within. We discover the mysteries of the Grail Temple, its relationship to a sacred understanding of architecture and symbol in the Middle Ages, and the re-discovery of a real site which may have been the basis of the myth. The lineage of the mystical Swan Knights, said to be descended from the Grail seekers, is also explored. The book includes newly discovered material, which is bound to cause excitement amongst Grail scholars and seekers around the world.

SEASONAL SHRINE: PRAYING FROM A PLACE by Caitlín Matthews



Most of us are familiar with the concept of 'praying to' a divinity, but today I want to look at 'praying from' a place. Since we are most of us stuck inside, unable to travel to the places that we love, we can still visit those places in another way. Those places that call us to them speak to our whole being: for us, they are not just 'places of outstanding natural beauty', but places that speak with the deeply-strataed voice of the land itself, wherein the ancestral presence addresses our very soul. We feel privileged to even behold them, when we pass by on the road, or when we see them on the horizon. When we visit them, we may enter into a communion that is a real dialogue without words.

That relationship with a place does not easily depart, as those long exiled from their land tell us: the dialogue is still ongoing. Entering into silence, stillness, spaciousness, as we still speech, movement, mind,

recall your place and go there now in spirit. Allow the place to show itself to you: the vistas you can see in each direction from that place, the sense that you have of the place as you stand there with it. Allow whatever natural life lives in this place to show itself to you - plants, trees, insects, birds, animals. Greet the entirety of your place with deep love, allowing yourself to be at one with it.

Now, being at one with the place, pray from that place. This is the prayer of strength, cohesion, joy, wonder: your place will show itself through your prayer, which is not an asking, nor a striving, not a begging, but a prayer of being, standing, upholding. The power of the place prays through you, as an abiding power. Remain in that abiding for as long as you need, without sending, thinking of others, without straying from the place in thought. Abide and be.

The next time you yourself are feeling wobbly, uncertain, upset, go to your place and repeat. If someone near you is in a bad way, go that place and pray from it, holding that person in your awareness: first, you will need to enter into the place of your true abiding, of course. Allow the power and wisdom of that place to be: you are not trying to ladle it into your dear one, or jemmy it in through their distress, or enforce them to feel what you are feeling - you are just holding them gently from this place. Abide and be.

I invite you to explore not only places, but conditions of being in the same way, using this praying from template: so, you might visit in meditation any state or condition, exploring its landscapes, in a similar way, because we can also pray from the heart of wisdom, love, wonder, joy, groundedness, integrity etc. Each of these conditions has its own landscape. Magical systems have developed many images and landscapes for these as, for example, the Ots Chaim, or Tree of Life, which is not really a set of circles arranged on a frame - that is merely a diagrammatic of something that it is really the living fabric of the entire universe. By your entering into the landscape of the universe at any one point in communion, you are also communing with all of it, and all that lives in the universe.

The image above is the view over to the Brough of Birsay from Orkney mainland.

BOOKS AND RECORDINGS BY CAITLIN & JOHN MATTHEWS

List no. 92 August 2020 *VALID BETWEEN Aug-Nov 2020 ONLY*

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