

HALLOWQUEST NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of Caitlín & John Matthews - No. 103 September 2026

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Dear Reader

Here we are back again, after a very long break! Some of this has been due to uncertainties as course centres delayed their confirmation of our courses, but mostly it has been down to health exigencies which came upon us rather strenuously this year. We are slowly emerging from our hermitage into everyday life. Waiting around for hospitals, tests and their results, juggling appointments, and tackling strange medications which have weird side-effects have been some of the interruptions in our lives.

A combination of challenges has resulted in Caitlín gaining a disabled Blue Badge, which has made things a little easier getting to some places like Oxford's art-house cinema, which has been impossible to access on public transport, though it is still of no great advantage when it comes to parking at a hospital, it must be said: her recent knee assessment has left things in limbo for yet another six months, while the waiting list for two cataract operations still stretches out to the crack of doom, it seems! Caitlín had to cancel all her clients in June-August, but she is back at work now, though with a smaller load than before. Fortunately, we have a lot of good practitioners onto whom we can refer clients. All these things have meant that our work has slowed down a bit. Despite these set-backs, we've been blessed with some lovely new publications of poetry from Apocrophile Press which brightened our winter. See below.

Caitlín's course, *The Art of Natural Prayer*, continues to roll out on her Substack, This online course is for all people of spirit, who are not card-carrying members of any faith: it is designed to enable anyone to learn this practice which is part of our own indigenous heritage, and not reserved for any religious élite. This is a new course which has not appeared anywhere else. <https://hallowquest.substack.com>

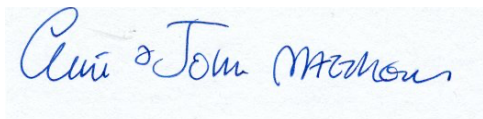
We are still trying to sort out what effect the new EU regulations will have upon our selling our own books to you. We've generally asked US readers to try and buy what they want from their own land, as much of it is already published there, and postage from UK is now so overwhelmingly huge, but I know we have a few things that are not so generally available elsewhere.

We are also waiting to see what the sale of Watkins Books to Red Wheel/Weiser will entail. The overtaking of one publisher by another has been the long coda of our publishing life over the years, and it usually takes a year to catch up with the status of published books and their reprints. Currently, we have no stock of *Ancestral Oracle of the Celts*, for example, nor any prospect of a reprint, until we enter

into negotiations with Red Wheel/Weiser.

We hope that your harvest brings you a peaceful autumn in a world that has been fried and scrambled so chaotically in the last few months. In Oxford, we are just thankful for the first rain for two months.

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

SHAMANIC COURSES OPEN TO ALL - LEVEL A TRAINING

FOUNDATION COURSE IN CELTIC & ANCESTRAL SHAMANISM:

This course begins the Level A training. We are delighted to be able to offer the Foundation Course in 3 locations again this year. Completion of the Foundation Course – which must be completed at one location - enables students to proceed to the Intermediate level of the *Walkers Between Worlds Shamanic Training Programme* with Caitlín Matthews and other teachers. To view the full curriculum, go to: <https://hallowquest.org.uk/resources/curriculumtraining2026-7.pdf>



Part One, **THE TREE OF TRADITION:** Walking Between Worlds, concentrates on acquiring journey skills, learning the basics in a supportive and friendly environment.

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 beginning of healing skills & deepen our journeying.

Applicants are asked to fill in a questionnaire to assess their background and suitability for each Foundation Course, so that we can best teach you. Both parts must be taken to qualify for Intermediate Level courses

20-21 March and 11-12 Sept 2027 WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS 37th UK Foundation Course in Celtic & Ancestral Shamanism with John Matthews and 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 in North Moreton, Oxon. *Take both weekends to qualify for Level B courses.* Total fee £550. (£275 for each weekend). Please bring a packed lunch for each day: you can heat food in the kitchen. Tea, coffee & biscuits are available for the breaks. Send a deposit of £170 payable to 'John Matthews' to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680.) Contact Jane May for bank transfers or course details: janedmay@btinternet.com **PLEASE NOTE THAT PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 12 students only.**



John Matthews



*Jonathon Huet & Dr Tish Marrable
- our South Coast Teachers*

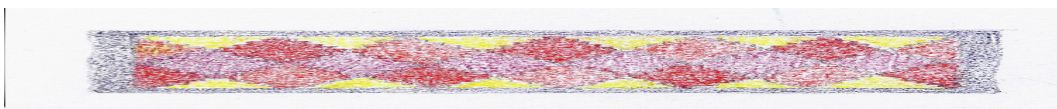
2-4 October 2026 & 26-28 February 2027 WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS 3rd Irish Foundation Course with Margot Harrison and Kait Curtis. This two-part course teaches students to journey, heal, quest and arbitrate along the ancient paths of wisdom, gathering spirit allies. We ground in the ancient mysteries 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 Phone +353 (0) 872325383.

14-15 November 2026 and the 20-21 February 2027. WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS 3rd South Coast Foundation Course with Dr. Tish Marrable & Jonathon Huet.

This non-residential 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 is East Meon, Hampshire. *Take both weekends to qualify for Level B courses.* Total fee £490 (£245 for each weekend). Food is £25 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 for further details or to pay by bank transfer.

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! We do not join you to later courses, under no matter what persuasion! We require you to please inform us honestly about your background on our application form.



€780 full-board €720 camping €660 non-residential.

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 We've opened another two Thresholds and Midwifing courses in Ireland and on the South Coast of England. This still enables you to join Advanced courses which are currently only taught in England in 2027/8.

PART ONE OF INTERMEDIATE COURSES



Margot Harrison & Kait Curtis – our teachers in Ireland

4-7 April 2027 THRESHOLDS OF POWER & HEALING with Caitlín Matthews & Tish Marrable at Main Centre, Earthspirit, Compton Dundon Somerset. This three day residential 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 and is opened to all who have completed the Foundation Course in Celtic and Ancestral Shamanism. FEE: Cordwood suite £622, Ensuite £613, Standard £529, Camping £490, Non-res £430 EXTRAS: Single supplement £70, Spec.Diet Suppl £20, Gluten/Vegan Suppl. £9. BOOKING: Non-returnable deposit of £190 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com

6-9 May 2027. THRESHOLDS OF POWER & HEALING, (Ireland), with Margot Harrison & Kait Curtis. This three day residential 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 Weaving the Web with Grandmother Spider. In addition, there is an optional *teach an allais* or sweat house ritual. This course is an essential next component for shamanic practitioner training and *is open to all who have completed the Foundation Course in Celtic and Ancestral Shamanism*. Held at Danu Lodge in Co. Wexford, Ireland. <http://www.danulodge.com/> Fees: Residential sharing is €780 full-board €720 camping €660 non-residential, including vegetarian and gluten-free options. Booking: Non-returnable deposit of 150 Euros to Kate Curtis kaitcurtis@icloud.com Phone + 353 (0) 872325383.

PART TWO OF INTERMEDIATE COURSES

29 October - 1st November 2026. MIDWIFING the SOUL (Ireland) with Margot Harrison & Kait Curtis. 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 Danu Lodge in Co. Wexford, Ireland. <http://www.danulodge.com/> Fees: Residential sharing is €780 full-board €720 camping €660 non-residential, , including vegetarian and gluten-free options. Booking: Non-returnable deposit of 150 Euros to Kate Curtis kaitcurtis@icloud.com Phone + 353 (0) 872325383.

13-15 February 2027 MIDWIFING THE SOUL (South Coast) with Dr Tish Marrible & Jonathan Huet. This non-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. At the Sustainability Centre near Petersfield. Cost is £390 including lunches, hot drinks 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 for further details or to pay by bank transfer.

24-27 October 2027 MIDWIFING the SOUL (Sunday-Wednesday) 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 Main Course centre, Compton Dundon, Somerset. FEES: Cordwood suite £622, Ensuite £613, Standard £529, Camping £490, Non-res £430 EXTRAS: Single supplement £70, Spec.Diet Suppl £20, Gluten/Vegan Suppl. £9. Non- returnable deposit of £190 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com



Dr. Angela Cotter & Caitlín

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 on to activate it, we also open up Level D courses every five years or so, which happened earlier this 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. We do not take apprentices, but we do expect consistency in, and dedication to, the work.

***24-27 September 2026 THE ART OF THE HEALING VOICE IN CELTIC SHAMANISM With 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 journey fluently.



Cáit Branigan & Caitlín Matthews

Based upon the simple practices and wisdom of the Sister Islands of Ireland and Britain, we find the ancestral path that has always been *Earlybirds*: Single £675, Shared £600, Non-Res £480. *Full Price*: Single £729, Shared £648, Non-Res £ 516. Quote course: 26-392. Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034)

CÁIT BRANIGAN is 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.

31 January-3 February 2027 VOYAGES OF THE SOUL with Caitlín Matthews & Dr Angela Cotter



I cut a turf from the grey-green land of my ancestors;
a sea-breeze blew me to the place I am in now. Then
did the star-strong King make broad an island from
the little wondrous sod, of sea-gull's hue its shore-line.
Each year was another foot added to the island; and
best of all, a tree grew over the cresting wave.
A pure well fountained for me with eternal
sustenance; by the protection of angels, sweet food, a
sacred celebration.

From *Maelduin's Voyage* – an 8th century Irish text
trans. Caitlín Matthews

This course explores the shamanic wisdom of death; the help that can be brought to the dying; the healing available around bereavement, hauntings, unfinished business and ancestral bequests. We will find allies, rituals and passports to our own living and dying, exploring how we pass through death's labyrinth to emerge as living souls. We will learn how to make soul-houses for our kindred. *The Soul Friends Moon Boat Ritual* offers initiation to all participants so that they may be consecrated as an Anam-Cara or Soul Friend, a soul-midwife to the dying, wherever that service is required. We will discuss Celtic death-customs and seek new personal allies to help us in our work. The beautiful surroundings of EarthSpirit, under the shelter of Dundon Beacon and the guardian wisdom of the ancient yew, will cradle our gathering in its secure embrace. *Unsuitable for the recently bereaved*. At EarthSpirit, Somerton, Somerset. PRICES: Cordwood suite £622, Ensuite £613, Standard £529, Camping £490, Non-res £430 EXTRAS: Single room supplement £70, Special Diet Suppl £20, Gluten/Vegan Suppl. £9. Send a £190 non-returnable deposit payable to **Caitlín Matthews** to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com

16-19 September 2027 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: it is **not** suitable for beginners. Participants require a strong access to inner guidance as experienced through, for example, journeying, spiritualism, or deep meditational practice.*

Early Birds: Single £585, Shared £522, Non-Res £422

Full price: Single £630, Shared £562.50, Non-Res £452.50

Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) quoting course: **27- 372**

INTRODUCING OUR SHAMANIC CO-TEACHERS in 2026-7

Dr. ANGELA COTTER is a Jungian analyst who integrates constellations work, **systemic ritual**, energy psychotherapy and shamanic approaches into her practice. Born in Northern Ireland, of Welsh and Irish descent, she worked with older people for many years as a nurse, a psychotherapist and researcher. She has a special interest in people with dementia. Her current practice contains people of all ages.

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>

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.

Dr TISH MARRABLE is a well-being 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.*

4-6 December 2026 MERLIN IN THE TIDE OF TIME: Portrait of a Poet, Prophet and Guardian with John & Caitlín Matthews and special guest, Ian Rees



Merlin is regarded as one of the most enigmatic characters in the gallery of myth and legend, yet he remains mysteriously present in every era. Like many other inspirational and sacred figures, he lives on in the Otherworld, watching over human affairs. This course explores the role of Merlin, cosmology and prophecy in the Celtic tradition, the role of Mabon as sacred liberator, and the transformative myths of our land's native guardian. This magical weekend includes a group ritual, *The Voice of Merlin* where new prophecies may be uttered. Join us for our 42nd open mystery school event at Hawkwood.

We urge you to get your booking in as soon as possible for this course which is filling fast!

JOHN MATTHEWS is the author of the *Prophecies of Merlin*, a new translation of a previously overlooked 13th century French text published in Venice in 1498, and *The Book of Merlin*. <https://graal.substack.com/>

CAITLÍN MATTHEWS is the author of *Lost Book of the Grail* and *The Original Petit Etteilla*. www.hallowquest.org.uk <https://hallowquest.substack.com/> **IAN REES** is a psycho-spiritual psychotherapist practising in Glastonbury Somerset UK. He has been a therapist for 40 years. He is the author of *Keys to the Temple* (with Penny Billington), *The Tree of Life and Death* and *The Way of Deep Magic*. <https://www.annwnfoundation.com>

Earlybirds: Single £475, Shared £425, Non-Res £345. Limited places until 9 Oct 26!

Full Price: Single £511, Shared 457, Non-Res £369 after that time!

Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034)

3-5 December 2027 THE SECRET COMMONWEALTH OF ELVES & FAERIES: Restoring Our Kinship with the Deep Land With John and Caitlín Matthews and special guest, Kevan Manwaring.



Aberfoyle & Kevan Manwaring

The Secret Commonwealth of Elves and Faeries by the Scottish minister Robert Kirk in 1691 is one of the earliest books to explore the folk tradition of the Realm of Faerie, recorded from the experiences and pre-industrial lore of his Gaelic-speaking parishioners. Over this weekend we shall explore the realm of Faerie, walk the ways between the worlds, and celebrate the magical life together through meditation and ceremony. We will discover how we live changes our relationship to the deep land and its natural guardians, and how we may restore that exchange once again. We will seek the 'thrutopias' - stories that show us how to change our future in more respectful ways, where cooperation between species, seen and unseen, bringing us closer to connection to the deep land.

We are delighted to be joined by Kevan Manwaring who has not only has studied the original writings of Robert Kirk, but is a living practitioner of eco-bardism – where artists and writers respond to earth crisis in many creative ways. Welcoming back old friends and new, we open our 43rd annual Open Mystery School, with its specially-written ritual and ceilidh. Please bring notebook and pen, a robe or scarf/shawl for the ritual, and some nibbles and drink to share at the ceilidh.

Early Birds: Single £475 , Shared £425 , Non-Res £345

Full price: Single £511, Shared £457, Non-Res £369

Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034) quoting course: **27-482**

NEW BOOKS

John is currently working on a couple of faery-related projects, of which more anon. Caitlín is finishing the third in the *Soul Doctor* series of stories. Some of the books announced below are coming very soon, and we will load them onto the website when copies arrive. These recently published or forthcoming titles are coming this autumn. It's been such a long time since we last posted, this looks excessive, but it is actually detailing books that have come out over last year or are about to be reprinted. They arranged below by subject, for clarity.

POETRY

Over the winter, four poetry titles were published; John's personal collection *A Mythic Life, Songs and Poems of Taliesin*, written by John in the persona of the Welsh bard, as well as his translation of the *Gododdin of Aneirin*, one of the oldest poems found in Britain. And lastly, Caitlín's first collection in this century: *When Ancient Starlight Falls to Earth*.



MYTHIC LIFE by John Matthews. The first full-length poetry collection by one of the world's leading experts on myth and legend, especially those of King Arthur and the Celts. The author of over 100 books on these and other themes, John Matthews here shows that myth has always been a central part of his life. The works published here, many for the first time, date from the 1980s to the present, and cross into many realms and fields of otherworldly grace. Apocryphile Press.

SONGS & POEMS of TALIESIN, new poems, written and composed by John. **Step into the mythic voice of Britain's first great bard.** For centuries, the legendary bard Taliesin has been celebrated as poet, prophet, and shapeshifter—the radiant voice of Celtic myth. In this evocative new collection, internationally acclaimed author John Matthews gathers decades of his own visionary poems inspired by Taliesin's song. Here the ancient bard speaks again: of Arthur and Merlin, of the Goddess and the Grail, of battles between light and dark, and of the eternal mysteries of inspiration. Drawing from the *Book of Taliesin*, the *Mabinogion*, and the mythic landscapes of Wales and Britain, Matthews channels poems that shimmer with both ancient memory and startling freshness. The collection includes a long essay on the origin of Taliesin and the part he plays in the history of the Celtic world and its visions, and an Introduction which explains how the figure of the Bard came to overshadow so much of John Matthews' work. Perfect for lovers of Celtic mythology, Arthurian legend, and mystical poetry, *The Poems and Songs of Taliesin* opens a doorway into the bardic imagination. It is more than a book of verse—it is a journey of vision and initiation, a chorus of voices that continue to shape the soul of a people.

THE GODODDIN OF ANEIRIN: A Version by John Matthews. An Ancient Song of Glory and Loss. *The Gododdin* is one of the oldest surviving epic poems of Britain—a searing lament for a doomed war-band and a haunting celebration of courage, loyalty, and heroic loss. Composed in the early centuries after Rome's withdrawal from Britain, and attributed to the bard Aneirin. The Gododdin recounts the catastrophic Battle of Catraeth, in which three hundred elite warriors from the Old North rode out against overwhelming odds. All were slain—save, perhaps, the poet himself. What remains is not history alone, but a threnody: a poem of memory, grief, and fierce admiration for lives given in battle. In this bold new poetic version, John Matthews approaches the text not as a literal translator, but as a poet listening for the living voice of the original.

Drawing on decades of study, deep familiarity with early British myth, and a lifetime spent working with Celtic source material, Matthews reshapes *The Gododdin* into a work that speaks with clarity, immediacy, and emotional force for modern readers—while remaining faithful to the spirit of the ancient song. Accompanied by striking paintings by Meg Falconer, created in the very landscape where the battle is believed to have taken place, this edition restores **The Gododdin** as what it has always been: a poem of blood and mead, of fellowship and betrayal, of fame won at terrible cost—and of a bard's duty to remember the fallen. A landmark work of early British literature, *The Gododdin of Aneirin* stands alongside *Beowulf* and *The Iliad* as one of the great heroic poems of the Western tradition.

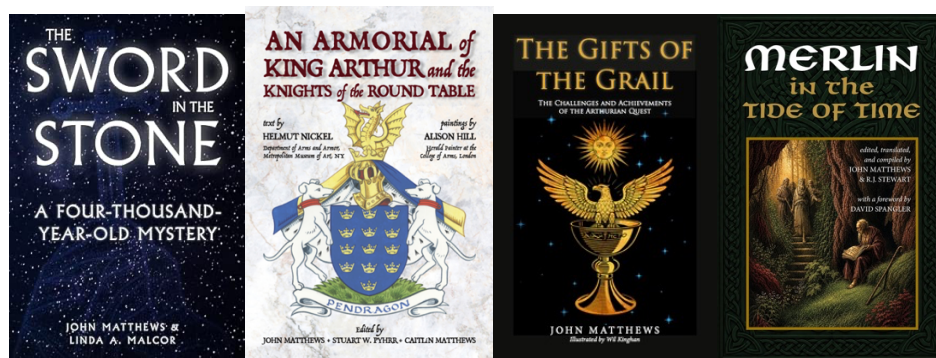
WHEN ANCIENT STARLIGHT FALLS TO EARTH: Songs and Poems by Caitlin Matthews

In this collection, Caitlin Matthews gathers together many of the poems and songs that have marked her long career as a singer, writer, ritualist, and performer. These mythographic poems arise from the song that is always singing at the threshold of the otherworld and the apparent world, where the poet becomes a walker between worlds. When the song of the ancient starlight falls to earth, we hear the voice that is

resounding at the edge of hearing. It is here that wisdom arises, directing the soul along the mythic road where truth and devotion are honed by life to sharpness and compassion. Arranged thematically, the poems and songs evoke the ancestral beings and divinities of Britain and Ireland, and beyond, with the deep connections that maintain the poet's belonging to the land. Poems of love, songs of seasons and places, dreams, visions and prayers uphold the way of myth and story that make life shine and sing. This is the first collection Caitlín has made this century.

ARTHURIAN

John has been busy, as ever, in this department. His collection of Merlin sources *Merlin in the tide of Time* ed. with R.J.Stewart returns updated. His book with Linda Malcom, *The Sword in the Stone* details the myth of the sword through the stars. John also honoured his promise to his friend, the late Helmut Nickel of the Metropolitan Arms and Armour to print his Arthurian Armorial, and then there is John's *Gifts of the Grail* which introduces new readers to the major themes of what the Grail brings.



MERLIN IN THE TIDE OF TIME ed. John Matthews and R.J.Stewart. We are also happy to report that this collection of important essays on Merlin, originally edited by John and R.J Stewart, is being re-released. Over 600 pages, this collection follows Merlin from his first appearances in early British lore right up to the present age. It contains original source texts, essays, poems, plays and as well as three new chapters. This compendious book also acts as a tie-in with our annual winter event at Hawkwood College on 4-6 December in Stroud, Glos.

THE SWORD IN THE STONE A 4000 Year Story Written in the Stars, John, with Linda Malcor. This book 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. It explores the myth of the sword through the precession of the equinoxes. Linda Malcor and John also collaborated on *Artorius: The Real King Arthur* - a study of the 2nd century Roman commander, Lucius Artorius Castus, whose deeds may have contributed to the myth of Arthur.

AN ARMORIAL OF KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE by Helmut Nichol, ed. by John. Illustrated by the College of Arms' own scribe, this Arthurian armorial by the late Helmut Nichol (late of the Met Museum's Arms and Armour) is here restored, illuminated, and revealed at last! For centuries, the Knights of the Round Table have stood as the most iconic figures of medieval imagination—champions of courage, loyalty, and the codes of chivalry. Yet one extraordinary part of their legacy has remained scattered across rare manuscripts and forgotten archives: their coats-of-arms, the very symbols by which they were known in tournament and battle. Now, for the first time, this magnificent tradition is brought together in a single, authoritative volume. Every shield is illustrated in full colour in this unique volume.

GIFTS OF THE GRAIL by John Matthews. John Writes: 'Having spent over 50 years studying the history and meaning of the Grail, in all its various forms, this little book brings together my deepest considerations of what it means, and why we continue to find it so fascinating and compelling. Put simply, it's a *spiritual reality*, which does not even require a physical object. The stories that concern it

are unique in the whole tradition of Western myth and legend, in that it is not just for the time, and certainly not just for entertainment, but also teaches a great deal of spiritual truth. In this short book, ignoring the complexities of the history I have studied for so long, I have tried to summarise, and sum-up, the underlying reality of the Grail. And to show how knowing about it, reading about it, thinking about it, and experiencing it at the deepest level, can actually change our lives, bringing hope at a time when we need it most.' The addition of new specially commissioned illustrations, by Wil Kinghan, make this a powerful meditation on the Grail.

ORACLES

John's *Camelot Oracle* returns as does his *Oracle of Dr John Dee* - these decks were both casualties of a publisher going bankrupt - and the latter oracle hardly drew breath before it was unavailable: both come with extra cards. Also, both still to come later this Autumn, *The Sherlock Holmes Oracle* by John and Wil Kinghan and the * by John and Yvonne Gilbert.



THE CAMELOT ORACLE by John Matthews & Will Worthington. The myths of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and the Quest for the Grail surfaced in the 12th century but are based on stories from much earlier times. Their universal appeal stems from the primal quality of the tales themselves, which deal with every aspect of life, from the struggle to overcome obstacles, via love, politics, spirituality and heroism, to the continuing search for a fulfilled and fulfilling life. The adventures and heroic deeds of the Knights, riding forth in search of wrongs to right, bound together in eternal fellowship, along with the adversaries they encounter, both human and magical, make their path one that affects everyone who reads about them. In this deck we are introduced to a wholly new way of working with and learning from the characters and imagery of the Arthurian world. It consists of 40 Cards (including 5 never before included) and a fold-out Map of the Lands Adventurous *The Camelot Oracle* is a unique method of exploring the inner realms, and everyday human experience.

THE ORACLE OF DR JOHN DEE by John Matthews, art by Wil Kinghan. Following a life-long passion for the elusive and mysterious figure of the Elizabethan magus John Dee (1527-1609) John & Wil have once again teamed up to produce a new oracle deck based on the life and work Dee. This fabulous character 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. Dee straddled 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. It focuses on interrelated aspects of Dee's work. It consists of a *fold out chart*, based on Dee's Golden Talisman which may still be seen in The British Museum, and includes 30 cards which feature

Dee himself and the many powerful; figures from the time and the distant past who both influenced his own work. This is a revised edition of the original deck and includes a new card.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TAROT by John Matthews & Wil Kinghan. Originally released in 2014, but long out of print, this has allowed us to add a new spread “The Pea Souper” and bring an overall new design. In the years since we originally devised this tarot the interest in Holmes has continued to grow. In the US we had the stunning TV series which ran for seven seasons called *Elementary* featuring Johnny Lee-Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as a female Watson. Here in Britain, we saw what is one of the most interesting reworkings of the original stories in a series known as *Sherlock*, in which the great detective was played by the redoubtable Benedict Cumberbatch, with Martin Freeman as Watson. These updated the story to the present but retained the particular essence of the original tales. In cinemas we were treated to two ravishingly good versions of the original Holmes, directed by Guy Ritchie, with Robert Downey Jr in the part of Holmes and Jude Law playing Watson.

Just as we have tried to do in the *Sherlock Holmes Tarot* has brought a new focus to the much loved and universally appreciated writings of Conan Doyle. Perhaps of all detective characters Holmes has continued to dominate the scene, and shows no sign of being left behind. In our own time a huge range of modern novels featuring Holmes and Watson and of course Mycroft Holmes (who on the Hierophant card bears a striking resemblance to the author!), while Mrs Hudson (Caitlín making a guest appearance) and the adversarial professor Moriarty along with familiar opponents.



SLEEPING BEAUTY ORACLE by John with art by the fabulous Yvonne Gilbert. The idea behind this Oracle is not about sleep - it is about waking up. It assumes that, on some level, we are *all* sleeping, lost in dreams of what could be, what is not, and what never was or will be. This version of reality is all that most of us know; but much more is possible. We can look beyond our dream-state to other realities, where all things are possible, and where we can discover things about ourselves we never knew, as well as options that stretch us to a new and exciting future. Working with the archetypes in the *Sleeping Beauty Oracle* we can discover within us the *infinite* possibilities, numberless opportunities, countless choices available, if we only look beyond the everyday circuit of life. This new deck offers ways to meet and come to terms with some of the hardest lessons of life: love, loss, betrayal and failure, and to replace these with joy, freedom, and self-awareness in a fast-changing world.

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