

HALLOWQUEST NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of Caitlín & John Matthews - No. 100 December 2024
Postal address: BCM HALLOWQUEST, LONDON WC1N 3XX, U.K.
Email: tigerna9@gmail.com
Available online at www.hallowquest.org.uk

Dear Reader

Welcome to our one hundredth Hallowquest newsletter!

We are writing on Midwinter's day, simply because it is the first opportunity we've had this year to gather up all the updated events and books. This year, Caitlín has seen over 100 clients and written 86 substantial posts on Substack; between us we've given 13 courses (excluding online events), 17 seminars, and attended to a lot of books in different stages of development.

This year, Caitlín appeared as guest of honour at the Magickal Women Conference in Birmingham, while John was prominent in helping the launch of our friend, Dwina Murphy-Gibb's *Vedic Tarot* in London.



We've had no holiday or substantial time off, just a few exhibition viewings and theatre visits, so this year, we are taking more time for ourselves, as we are both in our seventies now and cannot keep up this pace: being both Capricorns, we know we are good at applying ourselves, but there is a limit! Because it is our 50th anniversary of being together, this coming February, we are running away together again for a restorative retreat at a secret location, where we will be unavailable for consultation on any matter.

Our intention in the new year is to reshape how we do things, and spending more time together enjoying things. This will include writing the things we've always wanted to write, and setting aside the things that others have urged us to write. This includes getting to our fiction, which needs much more time than non-fiction. What few people see is how much work we both do for others, in between our own work,

which has put extra stress upon the household this year. John has acted as editor, guide and father-confessor to many authors and friends, going the extra mile to get them back to or onto the road, while Caitlín spends many hours each week preparing for or following up on clients in her shamanic practice, or counselling students. Our decision to draw back a little is largely based on the health-difficulties we've had this year, which have proved difficult to diagnose or to treat in effective ways – not helped much by an indifferent and tardy NHS: we've both ended up in the 'we can't help you further, but we're happy to pharmaceuticalize you' dept: neither of us wish to go down that route, frankly, as we have existed this long by homeopathy and herbalism, which is still supporting us.

We both continue to write on Substack which is where a lot of our new writing is appearing: you get to read it there before anyone else for the cost of \$8/£6.30 a month or \$80/£63 a year: you have access to all that has already been written there, including the Blessings of the Celtic Year course which remains available to you.

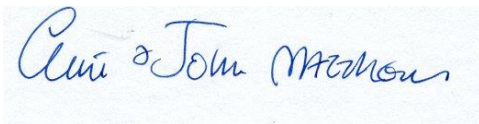
On Caitlín's Substack: *Caitlín Matthews: A Hallowquest Sanctuary*, she is currently running a 35 part course on the Golden Verses of Hierocles, which is based upon Pythagoras' teachings: a 25 century old wisdom, helping us live ethically and spiritually in an ensouled cosmos.
<https://substack.com/@caitlinmatthewstigerna/>

John's Substack is *John Matthews' Little House of Myth and Legend*
<https://substack.com/profile/145880028-john-matthews>

The Quest never ends, the road goes on!

May the joy and blessings of the Golden Age be with this coming year!

Many blessings



Caitlín & John Matthews



**FOUNDATION FOR INSPIRATIONAL &
ORACULAR STUDIES**

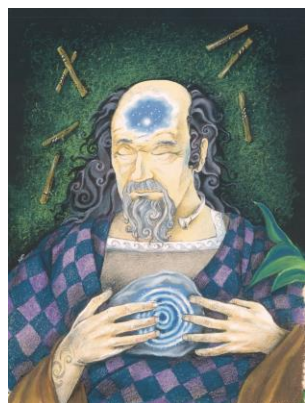
FÍOS is dedicated to the sacred arts that shape the landscape of the soul, via vision, dream, memory. Founded 1992.

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
FOUNDATION COURSE IN CELTIC & ANCESTRAL SHAMANISM:
LEVEL A TRAINING**

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: <http://www.hallowquest.org.uk/resources/curriculumtraining.pdf>

15-16 March 2025 and 19-21 Sept 2025. 2nd 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. 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. <http://www.danulodge.com/>



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.

15-16 March and 13-14 Sept 2025 WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS 35th UK Foundation Course in Celtic & Ancestral Shamanism with John Matthews and Jonathan 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 £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 *PLEASE NOTE THAT PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 12 students only.*

15-16 November 2025 and 21-22 February 2026. WALKERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS 2nd South Coast Foundation Course in Celtic & Ancestral Shamanism with Dr. 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 is East Meon, Hampshire. *Take both weekends to qualify for Level B courses.* Total fee £490 (£245 for each weekend). Food is £24 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.

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 (Sunday-Wednesday) THRESHOLDS OF POWER & HEALING** with Caitlín & Dr. Tish Marrable at Main Centre, 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 Main centre, Dundon, Somerset (pictured below). 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



***27-30 October 2025 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: £717 Ensuite: £652 Standard: £607 Camping: £573, Non Res £501 Single supplement £45 Dietary Supplement £15. Non- returnable deposit of £175 to Jane May, Briarwood, Long Wittenham, Oxon OX14 4QW (01865 407680) janedmay@btinternet.com

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 require you to inform us honestly about your background on our application form.

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 open up Level D courses every five years or so, which happens 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.



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

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)

26-29 June 2025 A SHRINE IN THE DARKNESS: Creating and Maintaining a Spiritual Practice.
With Cáit Branigan and Caitlín Matthews. *A NEW COURSE.*



In times of deep change, spiritual practices can provide solace, comfort and a powerful foundation to aid us in accessing deep sources of support. Such support provides us with the depth and strength required to stay in loving awareness and to hold to an ethical approach to life and growth. Unfortunately, in a world that focuses on success, such foundational practices are often neglected. This course is for all people of spirit, regardless of whether they belong to a spiritual tradition or not. Based upon the simple practices and wisdom of the Sister Islands of Ireland and Britain, we find the ancestral path that has always been under our feet, so that we and the children who come after us may have good guidance.

FEES: Single: £675 Shared: 600, Non-Res: 480. 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/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.

22-24 August 2025 THE WAY OF COUNCIL: with Pippa Bondy, introduced by Caitlín Matthews

This ancient practice of sitting in a circle and speaking and listening from the heart is our innate birth-right. In modern times the core practice of Council sets a container for empathy and honesty. It provides a way of bearing witness and accepts diversity in our self and each other and helps cultivate non-hierarchical power. When in Council we step into a timeless space and the creative source flows through us. Through the medium of The Way of Council we will embrace the spirit of enquiry; meaning to open a space of 'not knowing' - allowing a state of creativity, a field of fresh new energy and awareness that connects us to a deeper wisdom within. The practice of Council deepens and enhances communication anywhere that dialogue takes place, be it the home, work-place or wider community, offering an effective means of resolving conflicts, making decisions in a group framework and discovering the deeper, often unexpressed needs of individuals and organizations. Council has been used and is effective in many different settings from health care, schools, businesses and community groups.



Pippa Bondy is a wilderness rites of passage guide and a carrier/trainer of Council. She will lead us to experience the empty vessel that Council provides to look at truth, intentions, questions, fixed ideas, mistakes, and other issues in ways that will help support ourselves, our shamanic clients, our community and the world. *Fees: Single £495, Shared £445, Non-res £345.* Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034)

SHAMANIC PRACTITIONER IN TRAINING LEVEL D COURSE

This level D 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 and opens up the Graduate level for those who begin to practice under supervision.

12-15 May 2025 HEARKENING TO THE HORSE'S MOUTH. Shamanic Spirit Consultation LEVEL D. with Caitlín Matthews & Margot Harrison.



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 Caitlín on 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. This course is now full. Do inquire, in case of a cancellation.*

INTRODUCING OUR GUEST SHAMANIC CO-TEACHERS in 2025

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>

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.

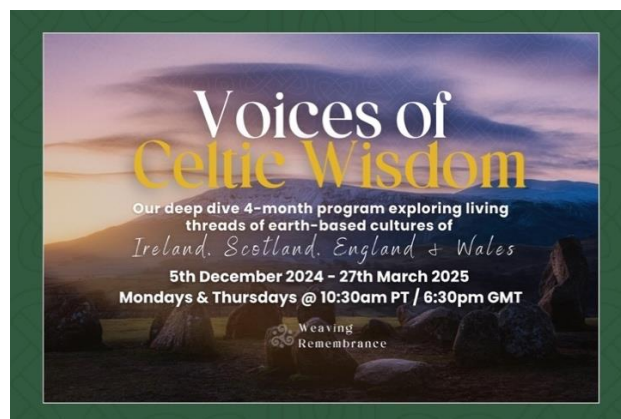
JONATHON HUET is a professional storyteller and environmental educator with extensive experience of running events, especially working with trauma, mental health and wellbeing. He has a shamanic practice in Brighton informed by a deep connection to the land and especially Celtic traditions and lore.

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.*

5 December 2024- 27 March 2025 VOICES OF CELTIC WISDOM ONLINE COURSE



This online course comes with modules from leading teachers of Celtic lore from musicians, craftspeople, speakers, and ritualists, including Caitlín, Mary McLaughlin. It is for those who are inspired to connect

with ancestral wisdom and remember “the old ways” and those who feel drawn to explore the living threads of Celtic culture and pre-Roman traditions of the lands of modern-day Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales & Cornwall. For all who wish to learn old songs & hear old stories – to touch, feel and craft with your hands using materials sourced from these beautiful lands, and to satisfy the sense of longing for “home,” and to explore these themes through the Celtic lens. Caitlín’s session on the Otherworld is on 27 January. Classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 10am Pacific Time/1.30am Eastern Time/ 6.30pm GMT in UK. To subscribe to this course please quote my link: <https://weaving-remembrance.mykajabi.com/a/2147988118/vt8wexdq>



Wednesday, May 28 2025. John Matthews speaks on REALMS OF THE ROUND TABLE

John will be introducing his new fully illustrated collection of rare and previously unpublished tales of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table at Blackwells Bookshop in Oxford, so please join us!

This book comes with an introduction by celebrated filmmaker, Sir John Boorman, creator of *Excalibur*, and illustrated with paintings and drawings by Tolkien artist, John Howe.

It is a time of magic and adventure, of chivalry and courtly love, when great evil must be met with heroic deeds. It is a time of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table.

Realms of the Round Table presents for the first time an extensive collection of forgotten tales, retold for a new generation of readers by a modern-day Merlin, the world-renowned Arthurian authority, John Matthews. Contained within are a rich feast of Arthurian love stories and tales that delve deep into the darker mysteries of the Great Wood and the denizens of fantastic lands beyond.

Here also is a heady mixture of magic, faery lore, wisdom and mystery – capturing extraordinary tales of Camelot’s greatest knights, such as Sir Lancelot and Sir Gawain, and others less well known, and soaring from high adventure to mystical accounts of the Grail. These age-old stories, companions to those collected in the sister-volume, *The Great Book of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table*, honour the work of Thomas Malory in his legendary *Le Morte D’Arthur*. They are dramatically brought to life by the luminous paintings and drawings of internationally acclaimed Tolkien artist, John Howe, to present a glorious reimagining of the most influential work of English fantasy ever written.

Book on the link below, as there are no tickets on the door. At 5.30-6.30pm at Blackwell's Bookshop, Broad Street, Oxford. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/john-matthews-realms-of-the-round-table-tickets-1152234938719?aff=oddtcreator>

26-29 June 2025 A SHRINE IN THE DARKNESS: Creating and Maintaining a Spiritual Practice.
With Cáit Branigan and Caitlín Matthews. *A NEW COURSE.*



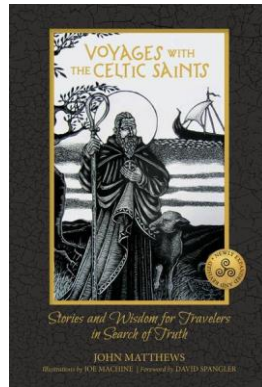
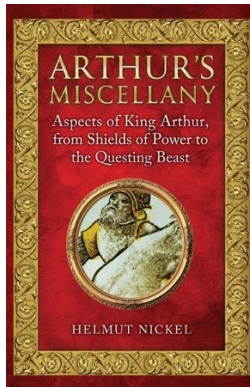
In times of deep change, spiritual practices can provide solace, comfort and a powerful foundation to aid us in accessing deep sources of support. Such support provides us with the depth and strength required to stay in loving awareness and to hold to an ethical approach to life and growth. Unfortunately, in a world that focuses on success, such foundational practices are often neglected. This course is for all people of spirit, regardless of whether they belong to a spiritual tradition or not. Based upon the simple practices and wisdom of the Sister Islands of Ireland and Britain, we find the ancestral path that has always been Single. £675 Shared £600 Non-res £480) Quote course 25-262. Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034)

28-30 November 2025. CELTIC MYTH AND VEDIC TRADITION: *From India to Ireland.*



With John and Caitlín Matthews and special guest, Dwina Murphy-Gibb. In our 41st open mystery school course, we will be tracing the heroic and spiritual myths that join the Indo-European stream of these two cultures. Through storytelling, meditation and ritual, we will explore some of the notable myths: including the Sacred Directions, the Chariot, the teachings of rishis and druids, the heroic sagas, Faery Lovers, and the Goddess of Sovereignty – all myths we share with India. Our ritual is the *Seeking the Four Treasures*. Please join us for this great bridging of mythic traditions! Dwina Murphy-Gibb is the author of *The Vedic Tarot* and *The Cormac Trilogy*. She brings the richness of the Vedic tradition to our weekend. <https://thevedictarot.com> FEES: Single: £475. Shared: £425. Non-Res £345. Please send your non-returnable deposit of £150 payable to Hawkwood College, Painswick Old Rd., Stroud, Glos GL6 7QW (01453 759034)

NEW AND REPRINTED BOOKS



Over the last few years John has been working on and helping to bring to publication two works by his old friend, Helmut Nickel, late Curator of Arms and Armour at the Metropolitan Museum of New York. Out of the starting gate first is **ARTHUR'S MISCELLANY: Aspects of King Arthur from Shields of Power to the Questing Beast**: a collection of Helmut's essays and ideas told with insight and humour. Here is a sample: 'In the tenth-century *Annales Cambriae*, which possibly goes back to contemporary sources, the entry about the Battle of Badon Hill mentions that Arthur "carried the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ on his shoulders for three days and three nights". It is likely that this Latin quote is based upon a Welsh source, in which the words for "shoulder" (*ysqwyd*) and "shield" (*ysqwyt*) were close enough in spelling to get mixed up quite easily.' *Arthur's Miscellany* is full of such insights, based upon a lifetime study of heraldry and armour, edited by John.

These essays were written over a period of more than 30 years, some never published before now. Chapters include: 'The Arms of Lancelot du Lac'; 'Why Was the Green Knight Green?'; and 'Merlin, Magic, and Swords of Power'. Alongside his career as an historian and museum curator, Helmut Nickel was also a famous illustrator. Few historians would be confident enough to interpret the symbology of the mid-15th century armorial, *Les Noms, Armes, et Blazons des Chevalliers et Compaignons de la Table Ronde* – all 175 of them! Many of the illustrations within the book are by the author. John is still working on getting Helmut's own *Arthurian Armorial* into print. 200 paintings were completed by the an artist as the Society of Heraldry, and we are still working with a publisher to bring this great text to print. Both these titles will be an important contribution to the Arthurian canon – and a tribute to a great scholar and artist from his friends and fellow researchers. The Miscellany is Due on the 15th February from Amberley. £23.00

John's **VOYAGES WITH THE CELTIC SAINTS: Stories and Wisdom for Travellers in search of Truth** by John Matthews, a forward by David Spangler and 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 with the Celtic Saints** John recreates the mystical journeys of 14 Celtic Saints, capturing the wisdom and insight of these extraordinary men and women who lived from the 3rd to the 7th century, and Including two additional female saints not included in the original edition - Saints Samthann 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. Available, 28 Feb 2025

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.

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 15th 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 standard tarot.



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

Here John and Charles 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 re-setting 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.

ORDERING BOOKS FROM US

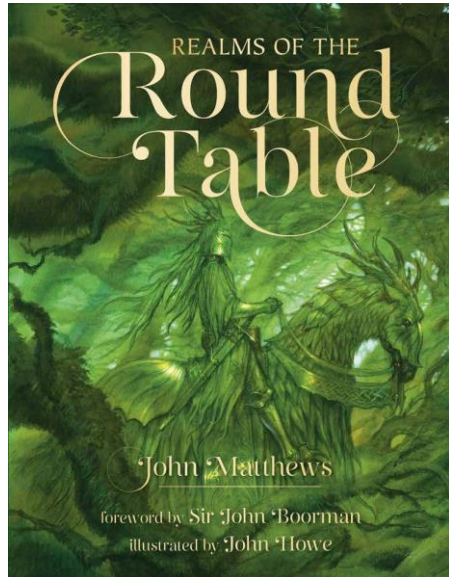
All the books mentioned above will be available from us when we receive stock throughout the year. All of them are commercially published and thus available through the usual channels, but we can sign your copies if you let us know to whom you wish any personalized inscription. Our website is www.hallowquest.org.uk and the books are found in the third window under these live-link headings:

- > **Arthurian, Grail, Merlin & Taliesin book titles** Grail lore and Arthurian legend
- > **Celtic wisdom** Celtic shamanism, traditions, meditations and background
- > **E-books**, ready for download. Includes *One Hundred Steps to the Grail*
- > **Oracles, card systems & Tarot** Tarots and Mythic Oracles.
- > **Fiction and Biography** Including Caitlín's Soul Doctor series of novels.
- > **Children's stories** Folk tales.
- > **Seasonal, shamanic, & natural wisdom book titles** Psychic protection, seasons, and faeries.
- > **Western mysteries, magic & ritual book titles** Sophia, Gnosticism, Western esoteric tradition.
- > **Recordings and music CDs** Meditations, Shamanic drumming, and songs.
- > **DVDs** Tuition and divination

Each book has five different prices – please select the correct postal zone: **UK** is UK only, **Europe** includes Europe, N. Asia, & Greenland, **World 1** includes Canada, S. America, SE Asia, Japan, India and Africa, **World 2** includes Australasia, **World 3** is USA & its territories.

NEWS OF FORTHCOMING BOOKS & REPRINTS

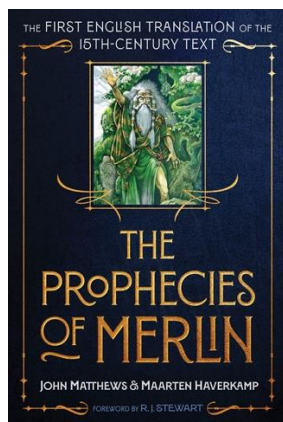
As ever, John's forthcoming books have all caught up with one another, with several arriving together this year, such are the accidents and delays of publishing!



John's **The Realms of Arthur** 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 filmmaker Sir John Boorman has written a foreword, which is most exciting. This will present another 30 unknown stories of the Round Table.

Advance praise 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.' Due 22 May 2025, hardback, £30.00 – see above for event on 28 May in Oxford.

The first volume of 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. A paperback edition is coming in May and is being co-promoted with J.R.R Tolkien's Arthurian writings.



Cover art by Wil Worthington



A page from the original MS.

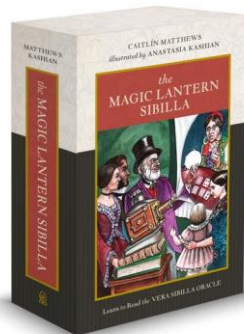


Merlin studying the Stars

THE PROPHECIES OF MERLIN: A Chronicle of Forgotten Prophecies, Including a First English Translation, with extended commentary, of *The Prophecies of Merlin* from 1498, by Maarten Haverkamp, and 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 Maarten 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 hardback book is due out on 17 June in UK and 31 July in US. £28.



Merriment and Scholar from the Magic Lantern Vera Sibilla Cards

Caitlin's THE MAGIC LANTERN VERA SIBILLA has been on the road for eight years now! With new cards by Anastasia Kashian it 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 comprehensive 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. It comes with a 384pp book and 52 cards. Available 23 June, £36.

*'In this must-have set for both beginners and seasoned practitioners, Caitlin Matthews brilliantly unlocks the door to the captivating world of La Vera Sibilla fortune-telling cards. With Anastasia Kashian's attractive art, it gives the reader a powerful and masterful guide to the *Magic Lantern Sibilla*.'

- Jozefa Seaqueen, author of the classic cartomancy blog, *Ask my Cards*

THE ORIGINAL PETIT ETEILLA Cartomancer's Guide to Divination by Caitlín Matthews with Cards & Illustrations by Rebecca Birrell. In this book and 33 card set, you can learn foundational methods of divination from the Father of Cartomancy. Etteilla's 1770 method set the standard for most cartomantic divination throughout Europe, influencing the development of both cartomancy and tarot into the 20th century. This book offers the first English edition of Etteilla's seminal text, an Etteilla deck, and a tutorial on how to make your own deck. It comes with eight main spreads along with variations, devised by Etteilla, and accompanying commentary and case studies. Etteilla was the pseudonym of Jean Baptiste Alliette, known to divination devotees as 'the Father of Cartomancy.' His 1770 manual, *La Seule Manière de Tirer Les Cartes*, was the first on how to interpret cards, and it remains the basis for nearly all divination decks today. The text in this book derives from his revised reprint of 1773.

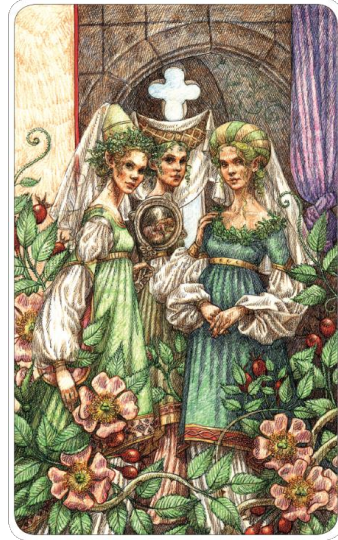


This deck and guidebook gives readers a set of Petit Etteilla cards and a fully revised translation of his text. This book explores how Etteilla's deck and interpretive methods serve as the foundation for decks to follow, including the Lenormand and Rider-Waite-Smith decks. Readers will learn each card's meaning (both upright and reversed) and the significance of each card's placement in a spread. In this system, each card's meaning and associated words are printed on the card, allowing readers the freedom to use intuition instead of memorizing the meaning of each card. The result is an innovative system that offers a highly personalized method for readings. Readers will learn how to make decks to further personalize one's connection with the cards. The book offers eight spreads devised by Etteilla, with variations of each, along with commentary and case studies to enrich your understanding. Due later in 2025.

The John Dee Oracle By John M, with cards drawn by Wil Kinghan. Dr John Dee was the court magician and astrologer to Elizabeth I, as well being as 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. This is a new and extended edition of *The Oracle of John Dee* with 31 cards and book. Now coming in Autumn 2025.



Briar Rose



The Faery Godmothers

John's **SLEEPING BEAUTY ORACLE** 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. (forthcoming, Autumn 2026).



John, with Linda Malcor, has written **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. Linda Malcor and John also collaborated on *Artorius: The Real King Arthur* - a study of the Lucius Artorius Castus, available from us now. The new book will be published by Amberley in late Autumn of this year.

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.

John has also finishing a revised, extended and updated edition of **THE CAMELOT ORACLE** with original art by Will Worthington, including an alternative Merlin, new writing by John, and four new cards designed by Wil Kinghan. This will be published in Spring 2026 – sorry that's a long time to wait. Watch this space for more

SEASONAL SHRINE

INFLUENCES THAT PAVED THE WAY by Caitlín Matthews

When we are young, the smallest and meanest of things can open windows into other worlds for us, because they communicate strongly, awakening and engaging the imagination. I remember a comic book which a school friend lent to me where a Rider-Haggard *She*-type character lived for years uncounted; I was struck how a person from modern times encountering her abode for the first time was stricken dumb by the realization that the worn-down stairs of her cave had been trodden only by this long-lived character's footsteps. That made an immense impact upon me, as I had a first glimpse of immortality. Likewise, when 7-8 years old, while lying in a hospital bed for a childhood operation, I was reading a book from the hospital trolley by Lobsang Rampa where the lama visited a Tibetan monastery and was shown into a hall where rows of mummified lamas of previous ages had achieved the 'rainbow-body': it is here that Lobsang Rampa sees his own previous incarnation's mummy. That also stopped me in my tracks, as I had never come across the concept of reincarnation before. Both these things revealed something very important for me.



Today, I would rate the comic as low-trash indeed, and as for Lobsang Rampa! This prolific author who wrote as a purported Tibetan Lama escaped from Tibet, was actually an English plumber from Devon called Cyril Hoskins, who had never left this country in his life. His writings were works of fiction. He wrote 18 books in all, from the mid 50s onwards. They were in every library and probably every second-hand bookshop throughout the 60s and 70s, and I doubt I could get through one now without hearty guffaws.

However, in the late 1980s, at an audience with the Dali Lama - which I attended along with 1500 other people – questions from the audience were brought up and sorted ready for his Holiness to answer. One final question was 'what does his Holiness think of Lobsang Rampa?' When it was read out to him, his Holiness responded with a great laugh, 'HAH, very good thing for Tibet!' was his response. For most British people, those books were the first thing they had ever read about Tibet – books which moved them to discover Buddhism, and possibly later to help Tibetan refugees. I loved this response, because it was it affirmed the conductive nature of the imagination which leads us to greater things by the path of smaller, disregarded things.

In my youth, I particularly rejoiced in books that drew upon archaeology and anthropology – even those ones that we would hardly rate today, in the wake of further, more informed research. Books like H.J. Massingham's 1926 *Downland Man*, especially the very evocative images of prehistoric sites. I learned recently that Massingham was himself inspired by the 18th century naturalist Gilbert White, which utterly delights me, as we have all have a wonderful heritage of inspirational forebears who read, meditated and researched before us, and it is good to acknowledge that lineage behind us which helped each of us to be here as we are. But, looking at this book one hundred years on, there are colonial attitudes and other aspects of *Downland Man* (quite apart from its title) from which I would distance myself today, although I still heartily endorse Massingham's enthusiastic love of the chalk downland where I grew up. Whenever we were born, we are unconsciously marinated in the opinions and beliefs of our times and country, and I daresay that those who read my books in times to come will find fault with my work just because of *when* I lived. But this and other volumes, gave me a grounding in ancestral belonging and a respect for their achievements which has never left me. It still forms the core of most of my work.

We who seek to follow a magical or spiritual path, stand on many stepping stones which lead to finally to some deeper and more considered teachings. The things that I have mentioned above prepared my consciousness to understand important teachings about the nature of universal concepts of everlastingness, about the companionship through time of those who walked these ways before me, about the ancestral heritage and the abiding wisdom of esoteric work – these were things that had never been shown to me so graphically in any religious education class, nor in any church. These humble beginnings opened the doors of my imagination and have led me to be more discerning in my deepening pursuit of the soul's life. I am grateful that I came through these narrow doors to stand where I am now, where my faculty of understanding can fully appreciate the great richness of our shared tradition. These humble stepping stones were also important, even though I didn't see where they were leading at the time.

- * What were the door-opening inspirations that invited you in?
- * Who and what were the unheeded influences and encouragers of your imagination?
- * What were those early teachings showing you at heart?

