



Deer Stalking

In the storytelling traditions of Europe and beyond, the hero going out into the wilds to hunt is a common motif. It usually means something strange or wonderful is about to take place. In Celtic mythology at least, the magical animal often leads its pursuer to a fateful meeting with the mysterious powers of the land. This hunt for special animals is also an apt metaphor for the oral storytelling traditions themselves. These old story-beasts can scare just as easily as wild game.

To begin with, unless you are in the presence of a teller skilled in tracking such rare animals, you're unlikely to ever see one in the flesh. But more than that, for all their stalking skill, such storytellers can only point out the tracks where the grass is thin, or bring your attention to the fur caught on bramble and thorn. It is still up to you to see the tale for yourself, and it takes patience to pick out even the youngest leveret from amongst the heather, never mind catch a glimpse of the secretive white deer.

If we are clumsy in our approach, we are more likely to scare the tale away, leaving only its confused tracks for us to ponder. But should we have the ability to sit still and the wit to be quiet, if we wait for our eyes to adjust to the half-light of the woods, there is a chance we will witness one of these wild beasts in all its glory, dazzling us with sudden inspiration.

This series of talks, webinars, lectures, discussions, whatever we want to call them, will, more importantly, be metaphorical hunts for the white deer of Welsh mythology. I promise you nothing but to take you to where the deer sometimes graze, and if you are lucky you may indeed catch a brief glimpse. We will at the very least scare up a few inklings and disturb a few hints.

The sessions will be held on Saturday afternoons, starting 2pm and finishing 4pm (UK time):

November 4	Wind and Water: Poetry from the Book of Taliesin, part 1
November 11	A Tradition of Triads: A Bardic Education
November 18	Apples and Piglets: Poetry from the Black Book of Carmarthen, part 1
November 25	Transformations: Poetry from the Book of Taliesin, part 2
December 2	A Land of Legends: Mythology, Archaeology and Memory
December 9	From the Ear to the Heart: The Welsh Craft of Poetry
December 16	Medieval Myths: Poetry from the Black Book of Carmarthen, part 2
December 23	The Living and the Dead: Poetry from the Book of Taliesin, part 3

Taking part . . .

Thank you for your interest in this welshmythology.com course. All of the information you need about taking part is provided here, but should you have any further questions, please email Dr Gwilym Morus-Baird at welshmythology@gmail.com.

You will need a Skype account to take part. It's free and easy to use. The software is easy to find and download. You will also need speakers and a microphone attached to your computer if you don't already have them, or a laptop that has them built in.

It's your responsibility to ensure your Skype connection works and that you have sufficient bandwidth to maintain the connection. If for any reason the connection drops out, then I will try and reconnect when convenient. If you do drop out during a seminar, please don't try to call back in, as I won't answer. You may be able to rejoin instantly, but if not

- 1) Send a text message to me through Skype to let me know your connection is back on;
- 2) Once I see you're online I'll call you back into the conversation when it's convenient; this could take up to 10 minutes.

I will also be recording every seminar and you'll be able to listen back to any of them through a private page on the website.

Payment . . .

1. You can either pay for all 8 seminars for the Winter 2017 series, price £40, or pay for seminars individually at £7 each according to when you can attend. You can drop into any week as there is only a loose progression to the series.
2. If you wish to pay for all 8 seminars at the beginning, email me at welshmythology@gmail.com to let me know that's what you've done, at least 48 hours before the first week, please (November 2nd latest).
3. If you wish to pay for individual seminars, please pay at least 48 hours before the seminar you wish to attend and email me at welshmythology@gmail.com to let me know that's what you've done, again at least 48 hours before hand.
4. Please pay by Paypal: gwilym_morus@hotmail.com.
5. Email your Skype name to welshmythology@gmail.com at least 48 hours before you attend.