

The Sword of Light
25th-28th July 2008 Centrum Athanor

Program

On this four-day residential weekend we will open ourselves to the inner worlds through ritual, meditation, music, story telling, and laughter. Under the patronage of the Goddess Bridget we will work with the elements to magically build our own forge, and forge our own talismanic swords.

Helene and Joan have been presenting workshops with material from the Arthurian cycle and early Celtic tradition for over six years. Through this they have discovered an ancient and remarkably lucid magical system from the early bardic tradition, which is waiting to be developed. This workshop will present its framework and explore this in context with one of its keys, the re-occurring motif of the Sword and its significance in the magical quest.

For our ancestors forging was a revered craft, which as an allegorical process presents us with insights allied to an early form of internal alchemy. Such was the beginnings of the sword from the otherworld that later became interpreted as the medieval version of Excalibur. Thus under the auspices of Bridget the patron Goddess of the forge we will experience and learn the basic practical skills of forging with magical intent.

Drawing on material from Celtic myth and the arts we shall investigate the enigma of Celtic cosmology and the otherworlds. Amongst other things we will discover the potency of sound and the use of the voice as a method of maintaining a spiritual connection with the rhythms of nature and daily cycle. As well as introduce spiritual exercises that can be used in daily life and magical practice.

Friday

- 18.00 **Welcome and Introduction**
- 18.45 Dinner
- 20.00 **Creating Bridget's Forge**
- 21.00 **The Powers of the Four**

Saturday

- 05.45 **Establishment of the Forge** *Sunrise Ritual*
- 07.00 Breakfast
- 09.00 **The Four Fires and The Castle of the Cauldron**
Presentation
- 10.00 Break

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- 10.30 **The Forest of Riddles**
Discovering the inner self and working with true intention
Practical work and exercises
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Greeting of the Sun** *Meditation*
- 14.00 **The Forge of the Arts**
Practical forging (*No previous experience or muscle necessary*)
- 16.30 Break
- 16.50 **The Warming of the Arts and the kindling of the Nine Lamps**
Presentation and induction into evening ritual
- 18.30 Dinner
- 20.00 **The Warming of the Arts and the kindling of the Nine Lamps**
Ritual
- 22.00 **Temple Vigil**

Sunday

- 08.30 Breakfast
- 09.00 **The Joy of Life** *Meditation*
- 09.30 **The Faery Smith** *Story Telling*
- 10.30 Break
- 11.00 **Facing the Dark Portal and the coming of the Sword of Light**
Presentation and instructional exercises
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Greeting to the Sun** *Meditation*
- 13.45 **The Tales of Bran and Branwen** *Story telling*
- 14.45 Break
- 15.00 **Initiation and The Shaping of Destiny**
The 'Gifts of Initiation' and their karmic significance within the
Magical Tradition. *Presentation*
- 17.00 Break

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- 17.30 **Through the Looking Glass** *Evening Ritual Induction*
- 18.00 Dinner
- 20.00 **Through the Looking Glass** *Ritual*

Monday

- 09.30 **Madness In the Forest**
The Dark night of the Soul within the Celtic and Arthurian Tradition.
Presentation
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 **The Font of Creation and the Power of the Four** *Ritual*
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Closing of Bridget's Forge**
- 15.00 Closing of Weekend and Depart

*Please note that this an outline program, parts of the program may alter.