

CERRIDWEN

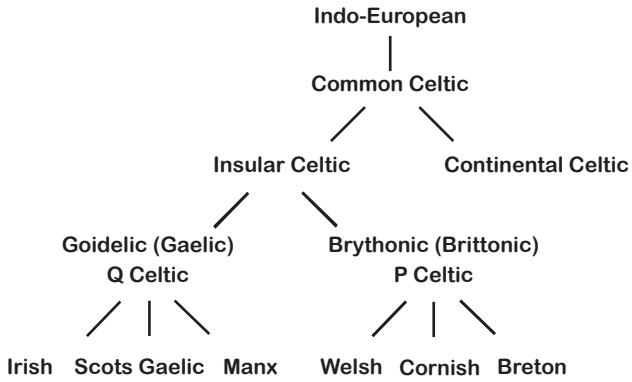
CELTIC GODDESS OF INSPIRATION

BY KRISTOFFER HUGHES

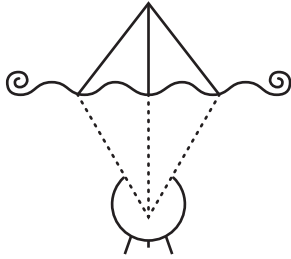
Contents

Branches of Celtic Languages	3
Sigil One	4
Sigil Two	5
Spirals of Meaning, Significance, and Transcendence	6
Table and Sigils Chart	7
Simple Circle	8
Spiraling Triskele	9
Awen	10
Inverted Awen	11
Circle, Triskele, and Awen	12
Sigil Three	13
Sigil Four	14
Intention, Imagination, and Application	15
Visualisation, Vocalisation, and Gesticulation	16
Sigil Five	17
Sigil Six	18
First Common Symbol for Awen	19
Second Common Symbol for Awen	20
Third Common Symbol for Awen	21
Shadow and Sun	22
Altar Triskele	23
Spiral Triskele of Land, Sea, and Sky	24
Spiral Triskele of Your Inherent Qualities Corresponding to the Realms of Land, Sea, and Sky	25
Awen Symbol	26
Cauldron and Candle Placement Diagram	27
Sigil Seven	28
Sigil Eight	29
Sigil Nine	30
A Guide to Welsh Pronunciation	31
Glossary	35
Resources	42

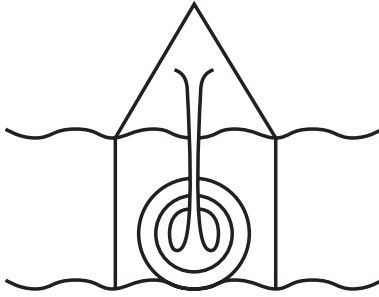
Branches of Celtic Languages



Sigil One



Sigil Two



Spirals of Meaning, Significance, and Transcendence

The Spiral of Meaning



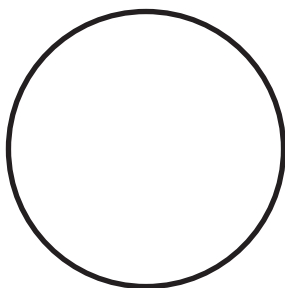
The Spiral of Transcendence

The Spiral of Significance

Table and Sigils Chart

Brythonic Era		The deep past and potential for Awen.
Hengerdd Era		Finding foundation. The chase begins. Greyhound and hare.
Gogynfeirdd Era		Journey into wisdom. Delving into the deep. Otter and salmon.
Nobility Era		Flying into expression. Expansion and constriction. Hawk and wren.
Crisis Union Gentry		Decline. Consumption. Sociopolitical restraints. Hen and the seed.
The Silent Era		Contemplation. Journey of the coracle.
The Modern Era		Gorsedd of Bards. Plant Cerridwen. A new birth. Taliesin.

Simple Circle



Spiraling Triskele



Awen



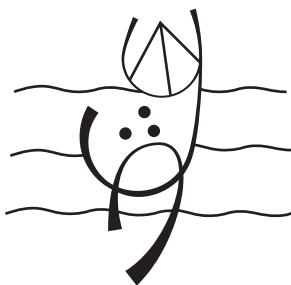
Inverted Awen



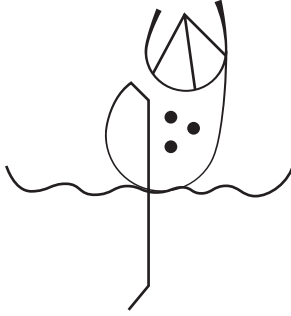
Circle, Triskele, and Awen



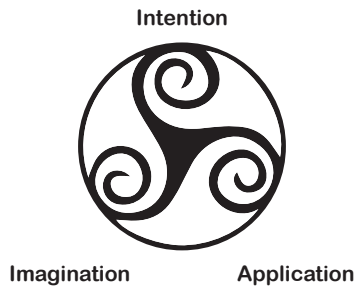
Sigil Three



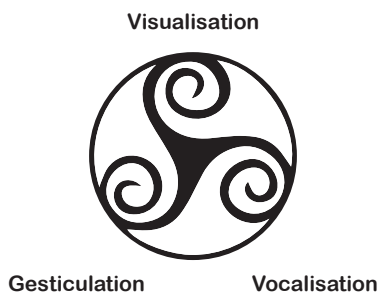
Sigil Four



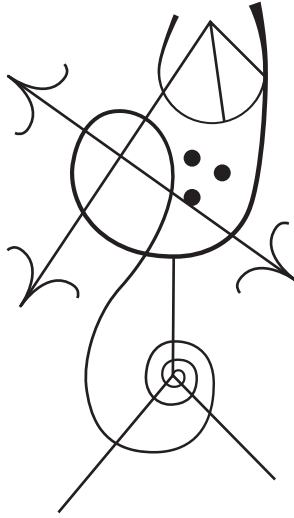
Intention, Imagination, and Application



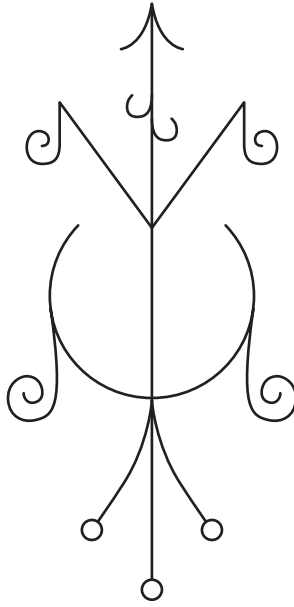
Visualisation, Vocalisation, and Gesticulation



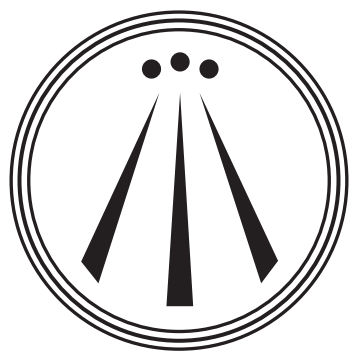
Sigil Five



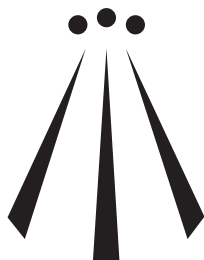
Sigil Six



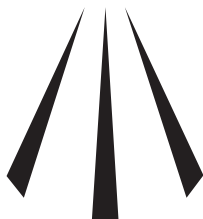
First Common Symbol for Awen



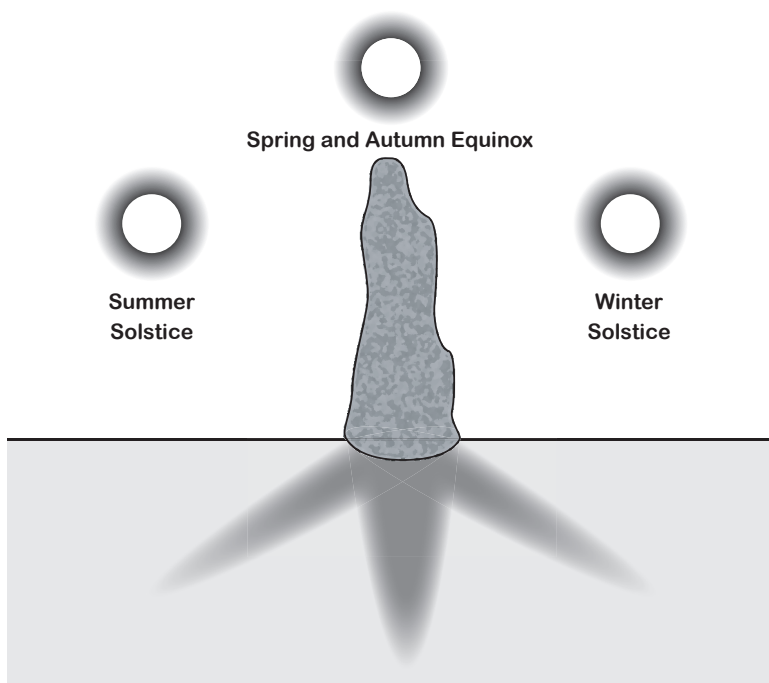
Second Common Symbol for Awen



Third Common Symbol for Awen



Shadow and Sun



Altar Triskele

Representations



Colours

Offerings

Spiral Triskele of Land, Sea, and Sky

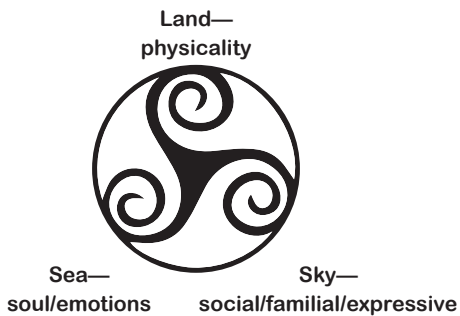
The Spiral of Sky—Bardism



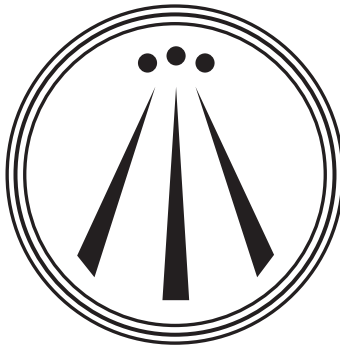
**The Spiral of Land—
Swyn/Spellcasting**

**The Spiral of Sea—
Prophecy & Divination**

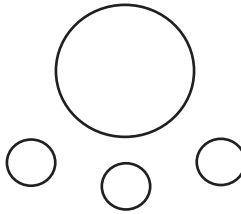
Spiral Triskele of Your Inherent Qualities Corresponding to the Realms of Land, Sea, and Sky



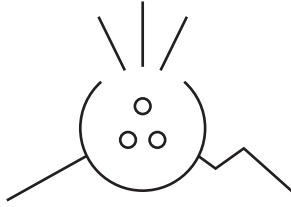
Awen Symbol



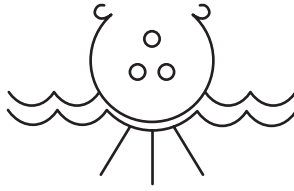
Cauldron and Candle Placement Diagram



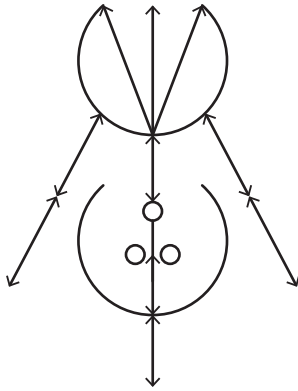
Sigil Seven



Sigil Eight



Sigil Nine





A Guide to Welsh Pronunciation

There are no silent letters in the Welsh alphabet, as every letter has a sound and is pronounced phonetically. The stress of any word almost exclusively stands on the penultimate (second to last) syllable. The sound of a vowel is elongated if it appears with a circumflex above it; in Welsh this is referred to as a “*to Bach*” (a little roof) and appears thus: “ô,” e.g., Don without the circumflex would be pronounced as *Donn*. With the addition of a circumflex, Dôn, it would be pronounced in the same manner as the English word *dawn*.

The Modern Welsh Alphabet

a, b, c, ch, d, dd, e, f, ff, g, ng, h, i, l, ll, m, n, o, p, ph, r, rh, s, t, th, u, w, y

Welsh Vowels

A—Short as in *mat*, long as in *farmer*

E—Short as in *let*, long as in *bear*

I—Short as in *pit*, long as in *meet*

O—Short as in *lot*, long as in *lore*

U—Short as in *ill*, long as in *limb*. This is a tricky sound to mimic and sounds different between north and South Wales. In South Wales it is similar to the sound of the letter I, whilst in the north it resembles the French U and is often described as a sound one makes to express repulsion. This is perhaps one of the most difficult letters to articulate phonetically in written English.

W—Short as in *look*, long as in *fool*.

Y—Short as in *up*, long as in *under*, or short as the I sound in *hiss*. If present in the final word or syllable, it will sound similar to the letter U. Otherwise, it sounds like “uh.”

In some instances, the letters I and W may act as consonants.

Welsh Consonants

Some may be similar in sound to their English counterparts, but with emphasis on heavy aspiration of sound.

B—as in *bin*

C—as in *cat*, never as in *cedar* (the letter K does not appear in modern Welsh but is evident in Middle Welsh; it is pronounced as “C”)

Ch—as in *loch*, never as in *chin*

D—as in *dad*

DD—as in *them*, never as in *thick*

E—as in *elephant*

F—as in *van*

FF—as in *off*

G—as in *gate*, never as in *gem*

NG—as in *song*, never as in *linger*

H—as in *hit*; it is never silent

L—as in *lit*

LL—no English equivalent sound. Voice by placing the tip of the tongue in the L position and exhaling voicelessly through the sides of the mouth.

M—as in *mat*

N—as in *nit*

P—as in *part*

PH—as in *phrase*

R—trilled by the tip of the tongue, as *ravioli* in Italian

RH—no counterpart. Voice by placing the tongue in the R position and exhaling quickly and harshly but also voicelessly through the narrow gap that your lips will form.

S—as in *zap*

T—as in *tap*

TH—as in *thick*, never as in *them*

Diphthongs

Diphthongs are two letters that are pronounced as one letter, and they are as follows:

Ae, ai, au, aw, ei, eu, ew, ey, iw, oi, ou, ow, uw, wy, yw

Mutations

Welsh, in common with its other sibling Celtic languages, possesses a phenomenon known as mutations. This changes the initial letter of a word depending on the sentence structure. Spoken Welsh and written Welsh differ in the manner by which they apply mutation rules. Mutations are an intrinsic and essential component of the language and are usually the most difficult aspect to learn. The majority of native Welsh speakers may not necessarily understand the rules for mutations but can instinctively use them. Vowels are never subject to the rules of mutation.

Three different classifications of mutation exist in the Welsh language:

- ♦ soft mutation
- ♦ aspirate mutation
- ♦ nasal mutation

The various sounds can be demonstrated in this list. The presence of an em dash (—) indicates that the consonantal sound does not change.

<i>Consonant</i>	<i>Soft Mutation</i>	<i>Aspirate Mutation</i>	<i>Nasal Mutation</i>
c	g	ch	ngh
p	b	ph	mh
t	d	th	nh
g	disappears	—	ng
b	f	—	m
d	Dd	—	n
ll	l	—	—
m	f	mh	—
rh	r	—	—
n	—	nh	—



Glossary

Note that the Welsh letters ll, ch, dd, and rh remain in their current form, with no phonetic equivalent provided. Please refer to the pronunciation guide.

Adroddol (Add-ROdd-all)—the term for narrative.

Afagddu (Av-AG-thee)—Cerridwen's renamed son, meaning "utter darkness."

Andedion (An-DEAD-yon)—Gaulish term for underworld spirits or gods.

Aneirin (An-AY-reen)—early Welsh bard.

Anian (ANN-yan)—essential nature or quiddity.

Annwfn (Ann-OO-vn) also Annwn (ANN-oon)—Welsh term for the indigenous otherworld of the Welsh Celts.

Aranrhod (Ar-ANN-rhod)—goddess, daughter of the mother goddess Dôn and Beli Mawr.

Armes Prydein (ARR-mess PRUD-ain)—The Prophecy of the Island of Britain, early Welsh prophetic poem.

Awen (Ah-when)—Blessed, holy breath; the spirit of creative transformation and inspiration.

Awenydd (ion) (Ah-WHEN-idd) [yon]—a person(s) who is imbibed with Awen.

Ayrwen (AER-wen)—Celtic goddess of war and battle, tutelary deity of the modern River Dee.

Bard/Bardd (BARRED/BARR-dd)—designation for those who express the Awen by creative means.

Barddoniaeth (Barr-dd-ON-yaeth)—the practise of bardism.

Beirdd (BAY-rr-dd)—the collective noun for bard/bardd

Beli Mawr (BELL-ee MAH-oor)—ancestor deity of the British pantheon. Literally means big fire or light.

Bendigedig (Ben-DEE-ged-eeg)—something that is blessed.

Blodeuedd/Blodeuwedd (Blod-AYE-edd/Blod-AYE-wedd)—woman created from flowers in the fourth branch of the Mabinogi. Her name changes into the second form when she is transformed by magic into an owl.

Bol Croen (BOLL KRR-oyrn)—literally translated as “skin belly” and synonymous with the womb, coracle, or vessel into which the new-born potential Taliesin is placed.

Brittonic (BRIT-tonic)—the predecessor to Welsh, also classified as the P Celtic group of languages.

Cadair (KAD-ayr)—A chair. Position within the bardic school and metred poetry.

Cainc (KAIN-ck)—Welsh term for branch.

Calan Gaeaf/Nos Galan Gaeaf (KAL-ann GAY-av/NOSS GAL-ann GAY-av)—The calends of winter, with the second example being the designation for All Hallows Eve.

Celfyddyd (Kel-FUDD-id)—craft.

Cerdd Dafod (KERR-dd DAV-odd)—literally means the music or song of the tongue. It is a style of poetic discipline.

Cerridwen (kerr-ID-when)—the Mother of Awen, goddess of inspiration.

Crochen (CROCH-en)—cauldron.

Cuhelyn Fardd (Kee-HELL-in VARR-dd)—an early Welsh bard.

Culhwch (KILL-who-ch)—protagonist of the Culhwch ac Olwen tale.

Cyfrin (KUV-reen)—Welsh term for mystic or mystical.

Cyfrinach (Kuv-REEN-ach)—Welsh for secret.

Cynfeirdd (KIN-VAIR-dd)—the early bards.

Cynghanedd (Kung-HAN-aedd)—a discipline of Welsh metred poetry.

Cywydd (KOW-widd)—a poem created by strict metrical composition.

Dallmor Dallme (DALL-more DALL-mare)—one of the names attributed to Morda, who also tends to Cerridwen's cauldron.

Doeth (DO-eeth)—wise.

Dofydd (DOV-idd)—a designation for one of the divisions of the divine.

Dôn (DAWN)—Welsh mother goddess.

Duw (Dew)—Welsh for the Christian concept of God.

Dwfn (DOO-vn)—unfathomably deep.

Eisteddfod (ais-TEDD-vod)—a festival of Welsh culture and bardism.

Elffin (ELF-in)—the name of the man who finds Taliesin at the salmon weir.

Englyn (ion) (ENG-lyn) [eeon]—a form of Welsh verse usually in four lines.

Goewin (GO-ween)—a maiden in whose lap the king must maintain his feet.

Gogynfeirdd (go-GEEN-vairdd)—the not-so-early bards.

Gogyrrwen—*see* Ogyrfen.

Goidelic (GOY-delik)—the language group of the Q Celts.

Gorsedd (GORE-sedd)—a seat or collective noun for bards.

Govannon (GOVANN-on)—smith god of the fourth branch of the Mabinogi and son of Dôn.

Gwiddon/Widdon (GWEE-ddon/WEE-ddon)—an early designation for a monstrous female and a sorcerer.

Gwion Bach (GWEE-on BA-ch)—the main protagonist and metaphor for the student of the Celtic mysteries.

Gwrach (GOO-rach)—a repulsive and repugnant thing. Later, a common word for witch.

Gwyddoniaeth (gwee-THON-eeayth)—the modern word for science.

Gwydion (GWID-eeon)—magician of the fourth branch of the Mabinogi and frequently named in the Book of Taliesin.

Gwyn ap Nudd (GWIN ap NEE-dd)—a Celtic deity and king of Annwfn.

Hen (HÊN) [with emphasis on the “e” sound]—the Welsh term for old or ancient.

Hendregadredd (henday-GAD-redd)—a collection of manuscripts located at the National Library of Wales.

Hengerdd (hên-GER-dd)—the old songs.

Henwen (HEN-when)—the name of a sacred hwch in the Triads of the Island of Britain.

Hiraeth (HEER-ayth)—a longing for Wales that only a Welsh person can feel.

Hwch (WHO-ch)—a sacred porcine.

Hwch Ddu Gwta (WHO-ch thee GOO-ta)—the tailless black sow of Welsh Hallowe'en customs.

Lleu Llaw Gyffes (LL-ay LL-aw GUFF-ess)—abandoned son of Aranrhod, central figure in the fourth branch of the Mabinogi. His name means “fair-haired one with the skillful hand.”

Llyn Tegid (LL-in TEG-id)—the name of the lake reputed to be the legendary home of Cerridwen and her family.

Llŷr (LL-ir)—Welsh god of the sea.

Llywarch Hen (LLOW-arch Hen)—ancient Welsh bard.

Mabinogi (mab-INN-ogee)—small tales or tales of youth. The collective name given to a series of native Welsh myths.

Maelgwn (MAYL-goön)—a North Wales chieftain in the time of the tale of Taliesin.

Mam (MAM)—Welsh word for mother.

Marwnad (marr-OON-ad)—a eulogy death song.

Math (MATH)—Druid king of the fourth branch of the Mabinogi.

Menw (MEN-oo)—from *The Barddas of Iolo Morganwg*, Menw is the first to see the rays of the Awen.

Menwyd (MEN-wid)—the parent of Menw.

Mochyn/Moch (MOCH-in/MO-ch)—Welsh for pig/pigs.

Modron (MOD-ron)—Welsh mother goddess.

Morda (MORE-da)—the usual name for the blind man employed to stoke the fire beneath Cerridwen's cauldron.

Morfran (MORE-vran)—the son of Cerridwen and Tegid Foel.

Nantlleu (NANT-lley)—a region in the Snowdonia National Park famed for its associations with Lleu Llaw Gyffes.

Ogyrfen/gogyrwen (OGR-ven/GOGRE-when)—the personification of the system of bardic sieving and winnowing. When subject to mutation, the initial G is dropped.

Olwen (ALL-when)—the subject of Culhwch's affection in the tale of Culhwch ac Olwen.

Palug (PAL-ig)—a legendary cat that brought about the downfall of the Isle of Anglesey.

Peniarth (PEN-eearth)—a collection of manuscripts held at the National Library of Wales.

Penllyn (PEN-lleen)—a region to the west of Snowdonia.

Pheryllt (FAIR-eelltt)—legendary magicians whom Cerridwen consulted to brew the Awen.

Plant (PLANT)—Welsh word for children.

Preiddeu (PRAY-they)—spoils.

Prifardd (PREE-vardd)—designation for Chief Bard.

Proffwydol (PROFF-wee-dole)—a term meaning prophesy and prophetic.

Pryderi (PRUD-air-ee)—the son of Pwyll and Rhiannon.

Pwyll (PWEE-ll)—the main character of the first branch of the Mabinogi; consort of Rhiannon.

Rhiannon (rhee-ANN-on)—Welsh goddess of sovereignty.

Rhith (RHEE-th)—the ordinary shape and form of something.

Swyn (ZOO-in)—Welsh word for spell, charm, magic, enchantment, witchcraft.

Swyn-Wraig (ZOO-in OO-raig)—the designation for a female practitioner of swyn.

Swyngyfaredd (zoo-in-GUV-aredd)—the practise of swyn.

Swynol (ZOO-eenall)—pertaining to swyn.

Swynwr (ZOO-in-oorr)—the designation for a male practitioner of swyn.

Talhaearn Tad Awen (tal-HAYAR-nnh TAD AH-when)—one of the earliest named bards of the sixth century and a contemporary of the historical Taliesin.

Taliesin (tal-YES-inn)—a portmanteau meaning one with a radiant brow.

Taw (TAO)—Welsh for peace and silence.

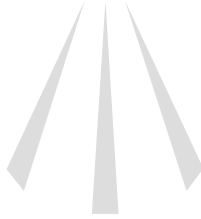
Tegid Foel (TEG-id VO-yal)—Cerridwen's consort.

Twrch Trwyth (TOOR-ch TRUE-ith)—a sacred porcine in the tale of Culhwch ac Olwen.

Uchelwyr (eech-ELL-weer)—the bards of the nobility.

Y Bala (UH BAL-ah)—the town in North Wales that is associated with Cerridwen and her family.

Y Nod Cyfrin (UH NOD KYV-reen)—a term for the symbol of the three rays, meaning the mystic mark.



Resources

Online version of *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* (*Dictionary of the Welsh Language*):

www.welsh-dictionary.ac.uk

Anglesey Druid Order: Rekindling the ancient seat of learning. Welsh Druidry mystery school and initiatory order. Details of in-person and online training can be found at:

www.angleseydruidorder.co.uk

For sound files of rituals and a glossary of words, visit:

www.youtube.com (search for the Kristoffer Hughes channel)