

LWVBPT 2026 Tintern Talks: Rowan Williams & Pele Cox, Andrew Ziminski, Candida Meyrick, Keggie Carew, Professors Ronald Hutton and Miranda Aldhouse-Green

This is a quick update to let you know that our 2026 Tintern Talks are completely programmed and are now live on [Ticketsource](#) or, for Rowan Williams, the [Savoy Theatre](#) (Monmouth website). 2027 is now being planned! The next quarterly newsletter (May) will have our latest progress with St Mary's and the Fryer's Wharf Slipway as well as details of our upcoming walks and tours. Every penny of profit goes towards rescuing St Mary's, so don't be shy to book!

[Candida Meyrick - Novelist and Writer of *Be More Bird: Life Lessons from a Hawk*](#), Friday 24 April, Tintern Village Hall, 7.30pm, doors open 7pm.

Candida Meyrick, highly regarded novelist (as Candida Clark) and author of *Be More Bird*, which tells the true story of her relationship with a Harris Hawk which she adopted whilst undergoing cancer treatment during the Covid lockdown. Set against the wild landscapes of Anglesey, the book describes the 'life lessons' about resilience, freedom and self-discovery that she has learned from her avian friend. The book has been praised by reviewers, including celebrated travel writer Paul Theroux, who describes it as 'a small masterpiece'.

This talk is a must for anyone who has lost their pep, wants to find a new purpose, or who simply loved nature writing such as *H is for Hawk* and *Raising Hare*.

[An Evening with Award-Winning Writer Keggie Carew](#), Friday 15 May, Tintern Village Hall, 7.30pm, doors open 7pm.

Keggie Carew is the much-praised author of *Dadland*, which won the 2016 Costa Biography Award. *Dadland* is a fantastic, funny read of wild adventure and madcap schemes - her unconventional father was an undercover guerilla agent in Burma during the 2nd World War - yet poignantly describes her relationship with him as he sadly lapsed into dementia.

Keggie's more recent books include *Quicksand Tales*, about the bizarre range of jobs she took as a young woman, and *Beastly*, which explores the 40,000 year old relationship between humans and animals and was shortlisted for the prestigious Wainright Prize. Keggie will also talk about how she got into writing and the 24 acres that she and her husband Jonathan

have rewilded at the Underwood Nature Reserve in Wiltshire.

This talk will be enjoyed by those who love tales of derring-do such as *Operation Mincemeat*, is struggling with relatives with Alzheimers, or is interested in nature and conservation.

[Professor Ronald Hutton - *Pagan Religions of Ancient Monmouthshire*](#), Tuesday 2 June, Tintern Village Hall, 7.30pm, doors open 7pm. **SOLD OUT - returns only**

Our pagan past, with its mysterious monuments, atmospheric sites, enigmatic artifacts, bloodthirsty legends, and cryptic inscriptions, is both enthralling and perplexing. Who were these ancient pagans and what were they practicing in Monmouthshire?

Ronald Hutton is an engaging and acclaimed broadcaster, author and academic. He has written twenty books, ninety-six essays and sits on the editorial boards of six journals concerned with the history of religion and magic. As Professor of History at Bristol University he has won several awards for teaching and research.

Ronald will return next June - date tbc - would you like more pagans or a new talk? Let us know what you'd like!

[Andrew Ziminski - A Life in Ruins](#), Friday 4 September 7.30pm, Tintern Village Hall, doors open 7pm.

In his forty-year career, stonemason and writer Andrew Ziminski has worked on many of our greatest monuments. From the sacred - Neolithic monoliths, Roman temples, small parish churches and cathedrals - to the industrial, the engine houses, mills and aqueducts of the Industrial Revolution and beyond. Part archaeological history and part deeply personal insight into an ancient craft, Andrew's talk will reveal his favourite projects - those historical buildings that inform our landscape and link the past to the present.

Andrew Ziminski is a former SPAB Trustee and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. His first book *The Stonemason* was critically acclaimed. His latest title *Church Going* was a 2025 'Book of the Year' in The Times, The Telegraph, The Church Times, and BBC History Magazine.

This talk is a must for anyone interested in the architecture and craftsmanship of the past.

[An Evening with Rowan Williams](#), Friday 2 October 7.30pm, Savoy Theatre, Monmouth doors open 7pm.

Rowan Williams returns to Monmouth for a special evening hosted by poet Pele Cox. Rowan will reflect on his life and work, sharing readings from his own poetry as well as pieces that have inspired him. Following a short interval, there will be an opportunity for audience questions.

Rowan Williams is a former Bishop of Monmouth, and for a decade, the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. He has taught theology in several universities and has written widely on theology, philosophy and contemporary issues. His poetry collections and anthologies include *A Century of Poetry*, *The Other Mountain*, *The Collected Poems of Rowan Williams* and *After Silent Centuries*.

Pele Cox has been the poet in residence at Tate Modern, Royal Academy of Arts, British School at Rome, and Keats-Shelley House in Rome. She is the co-host of Pele's Poetry Podcast with the BBC journalist Richard Uridge, and has written poetry-based performances for exhibitions at the Royal Academy and Courtauld Institute. In 2019 she was commissioned by Eric Parry Architects to compose 'Cento', on 1 Grenadier Gardens, Chelsea, perhaps the longest verse inscription in the West.

This uplifting event celebrates the enduring connection between poetry, nature and spirituality. It will help two charitable trusts concerned with heritage - LWVBPT and the Savoy Theatre Trust - Wales' oldest theatre, now community run.

[Professor Miranda Aldhouse-Green - Enchanted Wales](#) Friday 6 November, 7.30pm, Tintern Village Hall, doors open 7pm.

Miranda will guide us through the key stories of Welsh mythic literature, exploring not just their medieval texts but also their ancient roots - texts that question life and death, war and peace, and good and evil. We will meet a cast of heroes and tricksters, animals that can talk and change shape, and magicians and witches who can bring disaster or triumph to the people in their paths. There will be severed heads that speak, birds that can tell the future, cauldrons with magical properties, complex quests and ghostly underworlds where strange and frightening things happen to the humans who visit them.

Miranda Aldhouse-Green has written 26 books on druids, Iron Age and Roman Britain and is the Professor Emeritus at Cardiff University. A former President of the Prehistoric Society, she was the first recipient of the John Legonna Celtic Research Prize, awarded by the National Library of Wales in 1986.

This intriguing talk decodes the folktales and its relation to the everyday lives and beliefs of our ancient ancestors.