



## The Prose Dispatch

*Bringing you news from my writing desk and drawing table*

### A Beltane Waxing Moon

"Hal and Tow, Jolly Rumble-o, we were up,  
long before the day-o, to welcome in the  
summer, to welcome in the May-o, for  
summer is a-comin' in, and winter's gone  
away-o!"

This refrain plays on loop for me when May arrives. A venerable old song, with roots perhaps stretching back to the 1600s, it's easy to sing. We returned to our longtime foolishness of leaving our warm beds at dark o'clock and getting our sleepy selves up to the Baylands to help dance up the sun with the faithful, after three years away. I've been working hard but when the wheel of the year turns at Beltane, the earth reminds me it is time to play. And sing.

The moon and the sun are both waxing, and it is a fertile time in my studio and my garden. This season I am glorying in the rose, Queen of the Garden. At Beltane, the Goddess of Love is especially enticing, beckoning the Green Man near with promises of delight and abundance.

England's upcoming coronation generated an exciting illuminated invitation, its design featuring a benevolent green man. It stirred my scribe's heart and sent me to the keyboard to write a post. Then a request from a long ago customer for one of my wedding certificate prints had me dusting off my old work and arranging for it to go out into the world. I realized its flowery borders were not unlike the coronation invitation art, and from there I leapt into story to speculate on the ancient symbol of the king marrying the land.

Thus are seeds germinated by unexpected sources.

May all of your encounters with the natural world be fruitful and rich. I'd love to hear from you.





## In the Journal

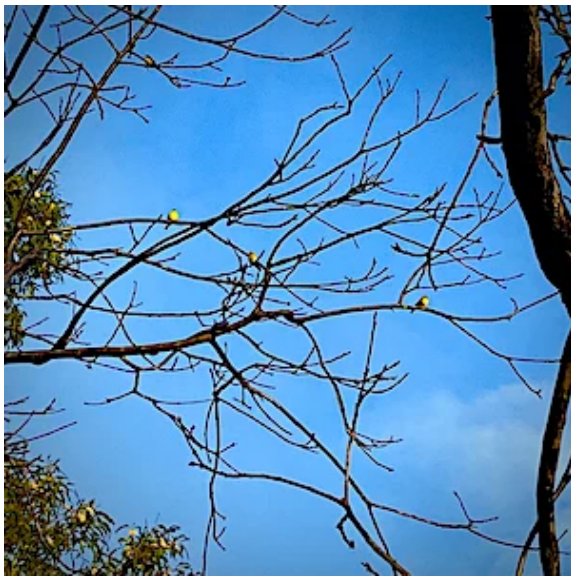


27 April 2023

### Illuminating a Beltane Coronation

Plenty of commentary has poked fun at the green man's appearance, speculating that perhaps a Maypole will appear outside of Westminster Abbey on coronation day, that Charles might ride in on a hobby horse or dance with white handkerchiefs before the altar as English Morris dancers do, or that licentious coupling will reign in the precincts of the event.

*Continue . . .*



30 March 2023

### The Dawn Chorus

Flocks of goldfinches  
like sun birds



6 February 2023

### Brigidtide - Shy and Tender

I am still writing, tremulous through trying  
times, reaching for words, pinning them to the

let loose a riotous song when the sun comes up.  
It's mating season.

*Continue ...*

page to catch the beauty and the frailty. This morning I woke before dawn, and the setting full moon shone on my face.

*Continue ...*



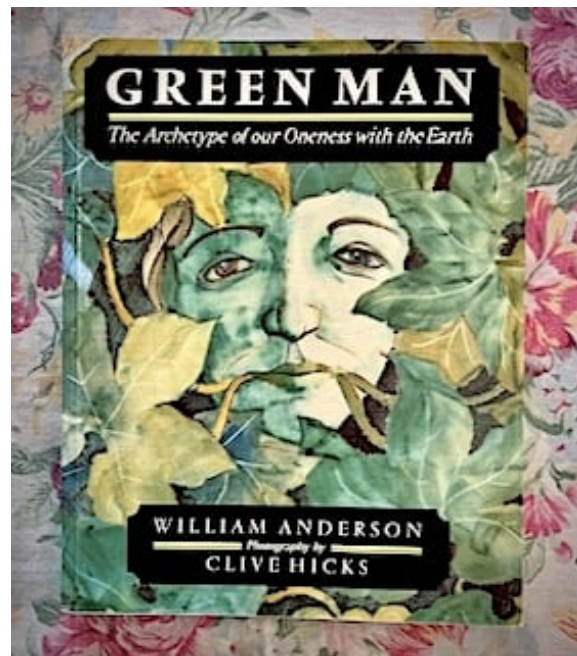
## A Good Book

The Green Man on the coronation invitation of England's king sent me looking for more about this mythic presence.

*Green Man, The Archetype of our Oneness with the Earth*, is a most comprehensive and sensitive book, a delicious deep dive into history, tracing this image from folklore and religious art from earliest times through to the present day. With text by William Anderson and lavishly illustrated by photographer Clive Hicks, it is a gold mine of information.

"We learn how this vital symbol of the rebirth of plant life lived on, together with the symbol of Mother Earth, sometimes degraded and sometimes partially accepted by the Christian Church," write Marija Gimbutas on the back cover. "Now this symbol, through this excellent book, comes back as the poet's archetype. The revival of Green Man is a vital resource in renewing our lost unity with the world of Nature."

The green man's rediscovery by the environmental movement for the last several decades has brought him into the cultural consciousness. I have been seeing him for years at Beltane gatherings where he is often paired with a woman representing the goddess.



“

When archetypes return, they bring back the memory of all their past: The Green Man gives again the mystery of the northern woods, the ecstatic joy and release of the Dionysian festivities, the gratitude for the return of the spring and the fullness of the harvest, the creative spirit of the Gothic masters and the exuberance of the Renaissance artists and sculptors. In his aspect as the Green Man of Knowledge he also faces us with impossible tasks, for example, the task of how to live in fruitful interchange with the environment...

The Green Man utters life through his mouth. His words are leaves, the living force of experience. Anciently he was the prophet: now he comes back as the archetype of the Poet, to redeem our thought and our language, to give simplicity and clarity to the confusion and complexity to modern technological society, and to point us towards renewing the harmony and the unity to the world of Nature with inescapable love.

”



## In the Storefront



### WEDDING CERTIFICATES - LIMITED QUANTITIES

> **New listing!**

I have a very limited quantity of fine art wedding certificates available for purchase.

They are printed on white 100% cotton rag hot press watercolor paper, which will be easy for an experienced calligrapher to fill in and for your guests to sign.

Please contact me for prices and availability if you would like or order one of these to commemorate your wedding or give one as a gift to a loved one who is marrying.

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**Thank you for reading!**

### **Cari Ferraro**

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