

A New Year is always a time for reflecting and regrouping



You are receiving this email because you signed up [at our website](#).
If you have changed your mind, unsubscribe details are at the end of this message.

The best way to predict your future is to create it.

So said Abraham Lincoln, if the internet is to be believed. Regardless of who said it first, it's as true today as ever. And the start of a new year is traditionally the time we set aside to think about where we want the year to take us, and what we want to change.

For some it's giving up a bad habit, or starting a good one. For others it's just working on something they've always been putting off. For a lot of folks, it's finally knuckling down and writing that novel...

I like to think I'm ahead of the game there, as I've finished a couple already.

But they're not published, which brings me to why I quoted 'create the future' above. It's public declaration time!

In 2022 I will publish two novels.

How?

I am going to continue working on submitting "The Fairies Want Me Dead" to agents, with a view to getting a traditional publishing deal. Should that not pan out, I will be self-publishing it, completing the trilogy, and moving on to the next idea.

And "The Return of the Martians" will be coming out very soon, along with its own sequels.

It's quite possible I will get more than two novels to market this year! But if a traditional deal does materialise, it will be a slow process... so I'm confident in declaring two as the goal.

Writing Update

Speaking of habits, I've kept my habit of writing every day alive even during the festive break.

If you'll indulge me, I want to boast a little...

In 2021, I wrote:

- 118,948 words of fiction
- 9,700 words of non-fiction
- edited for over 161 hours

If we assume that editing for an hour is about the same as writing 600 words (about my average pace) then that works out to almost a quarter of a million words in 12 months!

Obviously that sounds a lot, but it's just a little over 600 a day. I aim for 200, which is much more achievable. If you're thinking of starting a new habit for the new year, set a low goal and celebrate reaching it - I can guarantee that it's a much better idea than setting something super-ambitious and berating yourself when you fail to measure up.

Fae News

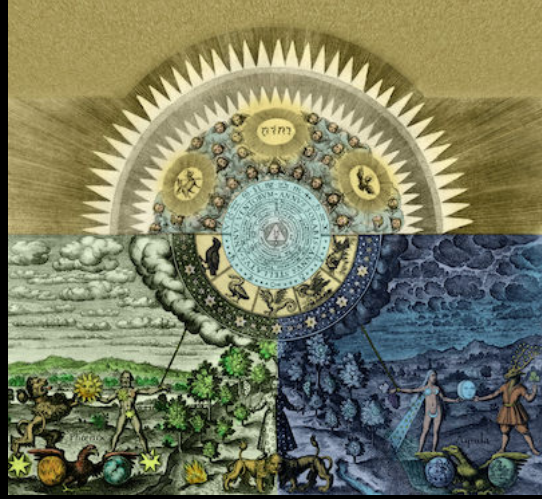
Recent updates from the unusual world that surrounds us



Women executed 300 years ago as witches in Scotland set to receive pardons

Three centuries after repeal of Witchcraft Act thousands tried as witches could get official apologies.

From allegations of cursing the king's ships, to shape-shifting into animals and birds, or dancing with the devil, a satanic panic in early modern Scotland meant that thousands of women were accused of witchcraft in the 16th-18th centuries with many executed.



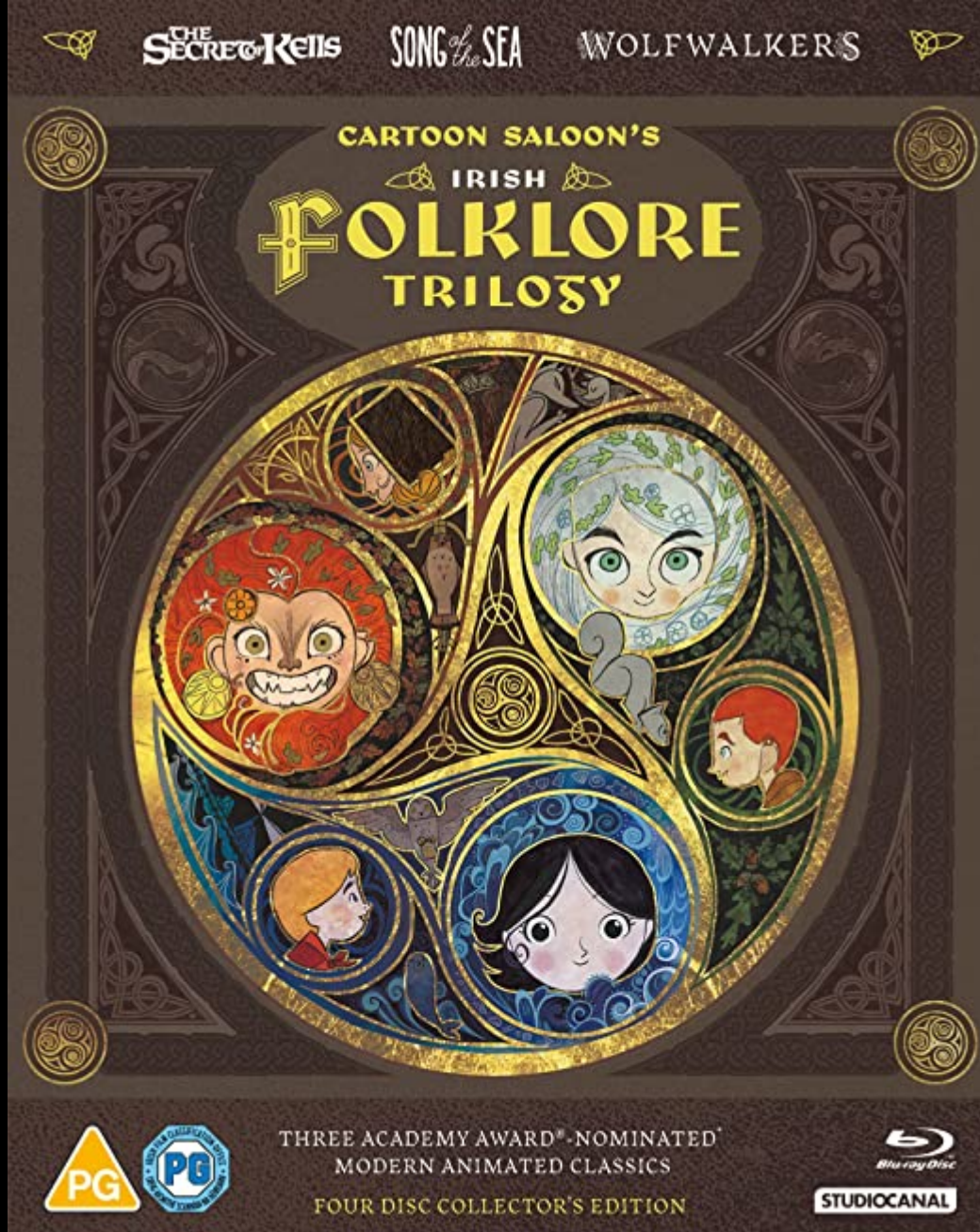
How Scholars Cracked a Medieval Alchemist's Secret Code

The fabric and leather-bound manuscript has 31 leaves of both parchment and paper. Certain pages are written upside down, so Piorko had to flip the entire notebook to read it. It was on one of those inverted pages that she found a puzzling passage written in code. On an opposing page was a strange-looking table filled with letters. She didn't know it at the time, but the coded text had been hiding the alchemists' recipe to the elixir of life —what those in the profession called the “Philosopher’s Stone.”

[View more](#)

Marlin, one of the hardest working members of the Fae Defence Society, recommends some of his favourite books, music or movies.

Marlin's Media



Magic, fantasy and Celtic mythology come to life in Cartoon Saloon's celebrated Irish Folklore Trilogy, featuring three Academy Award®-nominated modern animated classics.

The studio's first film, *The Secret of Kells*, which beautifully tells the tale of a young monk whose life is changed forever when he learns the secrets of the Book of Kells.

Followed by the breathtakingly gorgeous *Song of the Sea*, which recounts the adventure of a mythical seal-child and her brother on a quest to find home.

Finally the triumphant *Wolfwalkers* delves into the friendship between a young huntress and a free-spirited wolf-girl.

This limited edition set features the exclusive Blu-ray presentation of *Wolfwalkers* and hours of new special features exploring the three fantastical films in a premium rigid slipcase and digipack, with a bonus fold out poster. The boxset also features a booklet including original sketches and artwork from each film with annotations from the filmmakers as well as an introductory essay from Michael Leader and Jake Cunningham, the team behind the Ghibliotheque podcast who have previously covered the films of Cartoon Saloon in a series on their podcast.

Buy it now!



Stay Alert

Have you spotted anything unusual or unnatural?

You can contact us at any time by replying to this email.

Please report any sightings immediately, as vigilance is essential against the ever-growing Fae threat.

Newsletter Archive

Missed anything?

All of our newsletters are archived for you!

Enter the Vaults



Sci-Fi Fan?

Did you know I write science fiction too?

If that interests you, I have a newsletter devoted to it!

Sign Up Now

Please add the sender of this email to your address book, or mark this email as 'Not Spam' in your email app to ensure that when future emails are sent

you receive them safely!

[Here are some easy to follow instructions](#)



Mark Hood

Unit 10869, PO Box 6945, London
United Kingdom

You received this email because you signed up on our website.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

mailer lite