

18th May Celtic Paganism 2024

by Professor Andrew Breeze University of Navarre, Spain



Pagan Celtic religion is known of from four sources: ancient writers like Julius Caesar or the poet Lucan; archaeological finds; place-names; and medieval Welsh and Irish saga. Put together, they shed light on early Britain, including the Essex region, home of the TRINOVANTES 'very vigorous (warriors)' with their capital at CAMULODUNUM or 'stronghold of Camulos', the Celtic god of war. The talk will consider reports on druids and human sacrifice (burning alive, bleeding to death or drowning). It will include bog bodies such as Tolland Man in Denmark, river goddesses, and the Celtic Underworld for feasting and happiness where favoured mortals might visit.

Professor Breeze is professor of department of Philology of the School of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Navarra. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London since 1996 and of the Royal Historical Society since 1997. He is a specialist in the origin of English and its relationship with Latin and other pre-Romanic languages. Based on his study of linguistics, he has argued that the Greeks arrived in Iceland ten centuries before the Vikings.

His recent publications are *The Historical Arthur and The Gawain Poet: Studies on Arthurian and Other Traditions*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 2023. *British Battles 493–937* is about war. Specifically, it offers solutions to the locations and other problems of battles in Britain between the invasions of the Anglo-Saxons and the age of the Vikings. It locates the victory of Mount Badon in 493 of the Britons over the West Saxons at Braydon, Wiltshire. Copies will be available on the day.

Andrew Breeze