

Water in Legend and Tradition

The 18th Legendary Weekend
of the Folklore Society



A
two-day
Conference
to be held on
Saturday 31st August
and Sunday 1st
September 2024
at St Peter's by the
Waterfront,
College Street,
Ipswich
IP4 1BF

CALL FOR PAPERS

Cry me a river! The tears of the Virgin would fill a bottomless pool, down to the sunless dragons of the deep. Exorcise thee, creature of water! No foul thing can cross the running stream whose rise predicts famine and war. Dip me in the waters of the Styx before the mermaids can drag us beneath the glassy cool translucent wave. Wash me and comb me and lay me down softly by the rivers of Babylon, a virtuous well where sinners bathe within that flood, good for eyes and warts and brides. I stood on the bridge at midnight when the bathhouse is haunted and the troll sits under the waterfall, paying the ferryman. Though the Washer at the Ford has been conjured into a bottle and cast into the village pond, the Lady of the Lake may yet drown her treasure in the castle moat. Fish foretell in water: the Salmon of Knowledge watches the pins float or fall. A drop from this bottle will bring him back to life again. Three coins in a fountain, brightly painted with roses and castles, dress the holy well whose waters have been transformed into the finest beer: drink and be thankful!

Don't be a wet blanket, come to our two-day conference on Water in Legend and Tradition, to be held on Saturday 31st August and Sunday 1st September as the eighteenth Legendary Weekend of the Folklore Society, in the medieval grandeur of St Peter's by the Waterfront, College Street, Ipswich IP4 1BF. Whether you're into holy wells or woe waters, hauntings or hydromancy, we'd like to hear from you. Contributions are welcome on eerie ponds, inland mermaids, canal culture, early spas, baptismal customs, lake monsters, and the lore of fords, falls, fountains, floods and fishpools. Anyone can join us – folklorists, healers, hydrologists, bargees, dowers and storytellers. Presentations, which should be 20 minutes long, can take the form of talks, performances, or film. For more information, see <https://folklore-society.com/>.

The conference fee is £35 for speakers, £70 for others attending. If you would like to attend or to present a paper or performance, please contact, by 1 July: Jeremy Harte, Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, Surrey KT17 1UF. Telephone: 020 8394 1734. Email: jrmharte@gmail.com