

# THE MILTON MESSENGER

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS

*As the year draws to a close - and we get ready to ring out the old, ring in the new - we'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has visited and supported Milton's Cottage in 2023.*

*You've helped to make it a sensational year, quite literally, as we've trialled multisensory methods of engagement in Making Sense of Milton.*

*Developed in partnership with local residents with vision impairment, this programme provided opportunities to explore our collection through touch, taste and scent as well as sight, reflecting the fact that Milton was blind when he lived here.*

*We're planning to build on this work next year when we bring you Life Beyond Life, a new season of events commemorating the 350th anniversary of Milton's death in 2024. Through the words, artworks and memories of legions of his fans - including Tennyson who wrote the line "ring out the old, ring in the new" in his poem In Memoriam - we'll explore Milton's remarkably enduring legacy and his continuing influence on contemporary culture and life.*

[www.miltonscottage.org](http://www.miltonscottage.org)



## MILTON'S WINTER WONDERS

*One of the seasonal sensations of our collection, Olaus Magnus' Historia de Gentibus Septentrionalibus (History of the Northern People) conjures up the winter wonderland of his native Scandanavia.*

*Written in religious exile, and published in Rome in 1555, Magnus draws on nostalgic memories of his homeland, offering images of endless nights, vast snowy vistas, mighty reindeer, skating, skiing, sledging, snow hotels, snow fights and strange Christmas customs.*

*The many mysteries of the Nordic countries, often marked "terra incognita" on maps, accounted for the book's avid contemporary readership. The copy in our collection is thought to have belonged to Milton himself, used to research his History of Britian. It may also have helped shape his frozen landscapes of hell in Paradise Lost, which in turn inspired C.S. Lewis' Narnia. Likewise, his reference to Magnus' Lapland witches was given new life in Philip Pullman's trilogy His Dark Materials.*




 @MiltonsCottage



# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

## *A preview of our new season*

### LIFE BEYOND LIFE

"A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalm'd and treasur'd up on purpose to a life beyond life." - *Areopagitica*

2024 marks the 350th anniversary of Milton's death. To commemorate this landmark occasion we are collaborating with partners around the world to celebrate Milton's enduring legacy.

Both as a poet and a parliamentarian, Milton was revolutionary. His writing has had an immense influence on literature and politics around the world, as can be seen from the towns, streets, buildings (and even craters) named after him - in places as diverse as Nova Scotia, New Zealand and Mercury.

His work has been translated more than 300 times into 57 languages (at last count) and continues to be read around the world. Remarkably, there have been more Miltonic translations in the last 30 years than the previous three centuries combined.

Reaching beyond borders, we will present marathon readings and collaborative exhibitions that explore the many ways in which Milton's work continues to live on and inspire people today.



### FRIENDS' EVENTS IN 2024

The first event in the Friends' 2024 calendar is the 13th Annual Milton Lecture on 5th March, from 6pm. This year's guest lecturer is Professor Blair Warden, Emeritus Fellow at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, who will be speaking on Milton and the English Civil Wars. Join us online or in person at magnificent Mercers' Hall, home to London's oldest livery company.

This will be followed by A Celebration in Words and Music of a Friendship - John Milton and Henry Lawes on Friday 8th March at Stone Cottage in Chalfont St Giles.

Proceeds from both events will support Milton's Cottage, contributing to our core costs as well as our Life Beyond Life programme (and other projects designed to engage new audiences with Milton's legacy). To find out more, and to book, please visit [www.friendsofmiltonscottage.org.uk](http://www.friendsofmiltonscottage.org.uk) or email [friends@miltonscottage.org](mailto:friends@miltonscottage.org)

The Friends have provided invaluable support for Milton's Cottage once again this year. If you'd like to join, membership costs just £36 or £50 for joint membership - and you'd be helping to protect an irreplaceable literary landmark.

