

For the artist Stacia Blake

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JANETTA OTTER-BARRY BOOKS

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THE SECRETS of
Stonehenge

MICK MANNING &
BRITA GRANSTRÖM

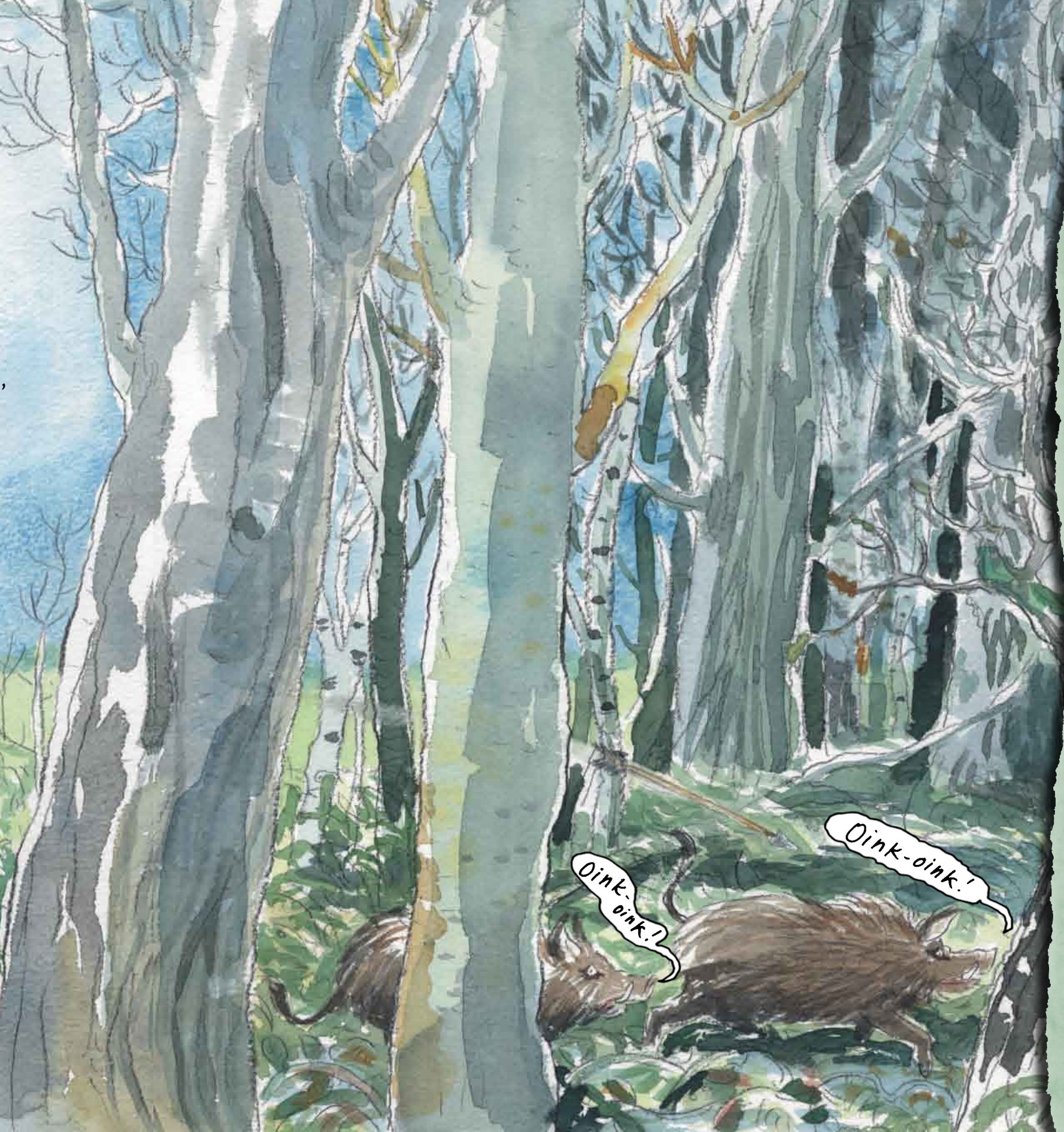
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Stone-Age Britain

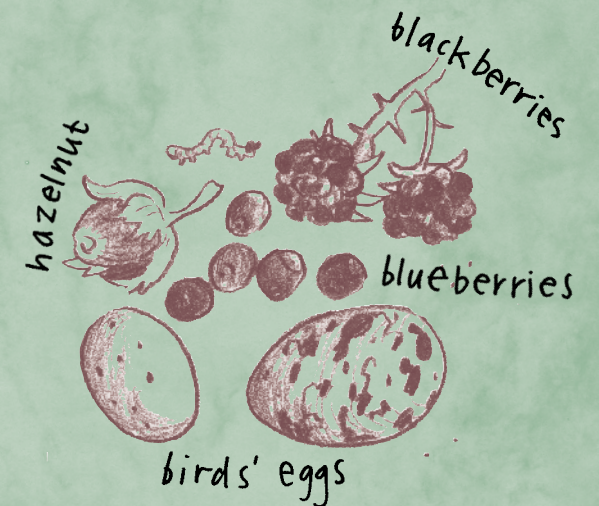
10,000 YEARS AGO

After the last Ice Age ended, large areas of Britain became a tangle of trees and undergrowth known as the 'Wildwood'. Mesolithic people prowled there, hunting and gathering wild food, moving their camps as the seasons turned.

Some places, such as the chalky uplands of Salisbury Plain, may have been free of trees. We can't be sure, but perhaps humans thought of these open spaces as special or even magical in some way.



Stone-Age humans were clever people. Using tools of bone, wood, antler and stone such as these flint spear-points, they were continuing a worldwide Stone -Age life-style that had worked for millions of years: trapping, hunting and gathering.



From wild berries to wild boars everything had its season.



The First Farmers

6,000 YEARS AGO

During the Neolithic age, amazing new ideas began to reach Britain: ideas about growing food and keeping animals. People slowly began to clear areas of wildwood, attempting to rear animals for food and plant seed-crops. Instead of moving camp they now settled in one place. People continued to hunt and gather, but now they also began to have a home-grown supply of food.

our job is to grind up the barley seed.

Then we use the flour to make bread.

My job is to look after the goats.



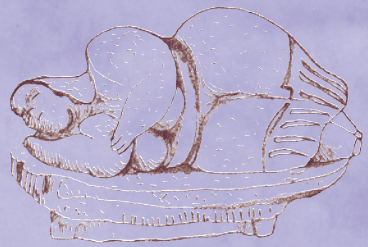
The brainwave of farming began in the Middle East and spread across Europe to Britain.



These new ideas about farming took thousands of years to spread across Britain.



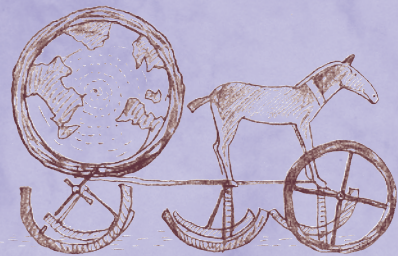
Domesticated pigs and goats were the first 'farm machines', eating tough wild plants and rooting up undergrowth. They helped to clear the land for sowing crops.



This 5,000-year-old clay figure is a sleeping earth goddess from Malta. Prehistoric people had gods for everything: rivers, mountains, lakes, birth, death and the seasons.



Frey, a god of farming and fertility, has origins in these long-forgotten prehistoric gods. He rode a magic boar named 'Golden Bristles' who filled the sky with light.



Many ancient cultures explained the sun and moon's journey as a god or goddess pulled by horses. This Sun Wagon from Trundholm in Denmark is at least 3,500 years old and was used in seasonal ceremonies that had their roots in Neolithic times.

Gods and Goddesses ABOUT 5,000 YEARS AGO

Neolithic people continued to believe in many gods, both male and female: sun gods, moon gods, earth gods. They believed in ghosts and ancestor spirits too, holding magical ceremonies and maybe even making sacrifices to the gods at important times in the farming seasons: planting-time, piglet-time, harvest-time In these rituals people asked the gods for a good harvest and healthy livestock. It was during this period that people made the first monument at Stonehenge.

The Sun God will
wake up soon...

and the Moon
Goddess will go to sleep.

It is time to plant
the barley seed.

Let's hope
the gods are
kind this year.

