Anglo-Saxon Riddles

1. Separating us completely by her laws, nature placed
   Us, twins, created equally from one mother,
   Divided by the not-at all big division of a little hill,
   So that I have never seen that one, nor has that one seen me,
   But he sees nothing without me, nor do I see without him.
   (Tatwin Riddle 18)

2. I share a common fate with the sea, moving forward and
   backwards with the months.
   When my wonderfully lit shape gets smaller
   so, too, does the sea.
   (Aldhelm (d.709))

3. From the trunk of a willow and the scraped hide of a cow I am made.
   In war I, with my own body, always save my bearer's body,
   Except for when I fail.
   What fierce soldier endures such a fate
   Or receives so many deadly wounds in war?
   (Aldhelm)

4. Hands made me out of two things.
   My middle glows white, made of flax,
   Or else shines bright, stolen from a slender rush,
   But when my outward body bursts into yellow flower,
   It pours forth flames, heat and fire
   As wet tears pour from my brows.
   Yet, in this way, I destroy the horrid shadows of night
   And soon my burned heart leaves behind only ashes.

(Aldhelm)

Anglo-Saxon Hints

1. We all have them and they're somewhere on your body
2. Look to the skies for inspiration!
3. It would have been very useful in Anglo-Saxon battles
4. An 8th-century torch

Riddle Answers

1. Your eyes!
2. The moon
3. A shield
4. A candle