

The Witches Tower

Autumn Equinox/Samhain 07

Vol 4 Issue 1

Winter Warmer Recipes

Tasty Recipes for the cold nights

Ghostbusters UK Introduction

Bast Channelling
with Morgraine

Warning: Adult imagery on back cover

The Pagan Network Magazine

Wichtower

Vol 4 Issue 1

Autumn Equinox/Samhain

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Pagan Network

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Editorial

Well what was meant to be summer has been and gone, and as the year closes we look forward to the next year and reflect on the year past.

It has been a year of great change for Pagan Network and also myself. For me it was finally coming out of the broom closet and reaching the giddy heights of The Wichtower editor all in the space of a few months. I am still shocked by the way that I have been accepted and welcomed into the Pagan community, it has been a rollercoaster few months and I would like to thank all those that have helped me.

For Pagan Network there have been staff changes and the terrible 4 weeks where we were left without the forum. Thankfully these things are now past and we can move forward. Thank you to all those who pulled the stops out to get us back online.

As this is my first issue of Wichtower I would like to thank Twilightgirl for all her help in getting this issue out, not leaving me high and dry, and for all the work she has done in getting the magazine to the standard it is today. I hope I can do all her hard work justice and carry the magazine forward.

I would also like to thank Baph for all his help, advice and guidance as well.

Remember the past is what we learn from, the future is what we make it.

Blessings

Stilly

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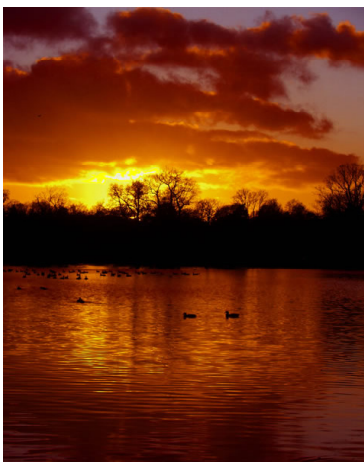
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Subscription Options for Web Members

All full members receive access to a PDF version of the Witchtower Magazine on its release date as part of their membership (and a printed version once funding has been secured in the future). However, web members can only access the free PDF version of the magazine after a significant time period has passed, and by this time a lot of the information in the magazine is out of date...

So, if you would like to receive a PDF version of the magazine on its day of release, without having to become a full member, you can subscribe to the magazine. The cost of subscription for the PDF version of the magazine is either £1 per PDF issue or £4 for one years worth of PDF issues as released. We are bringing The Witchtower back into print soon, and you will be able to subscribe at £8 a year. Alternatively, you can purchase The Witchtower for £2.50 per single issue. If you would like to subscribe to the magazine, please email wichttower@gmail.com and we will provide you with payment information.



Cover Artist—Stilly

Stilly's interest in photography has been a long one, starting when he was still at school and progressing through his Army career (even taking up the post of Regimental Photographer while posted in Germany).

These days, Stilly spends his time mainly photographing landscapes and nature (although will do people at a push). He belongs to the local camera club in Saf-ron Walden and has his own website at www.adrianstillwell.co.uk.

Lid off the Cauldron

A round up of all the news happening over at Pagan Network

Forum Downtime

As you all know we have had some problems with the website and especially the forum. This was due to some problems with finding a suitable host and the speed with which the site had to move. However, once we did move there were a number of configuration and size problems that stopped the forum from working correctly.

As a part of the above, a decision was made to delete a number of old posts to free up much needed space and to also increase the speed of the forum.

Thankfully with a lot of hard work from both Rainbowleigh and Twilightgirl, plus many others we are now back and running at full speed.

Technical Issues

There are a couple of technical announcements and these are:

1. The Technical Team email address has changed to pagan.network.techteam@googlemail.com
2. The reporting of posts to the Moderators. This will need to be done by PMing one of the Moderators. This can be done by clicking on the profile of the Moderator.

The Witchtower Website

The Witchtower will soon have it's own website where there will be all sorts of hints, tips and recipes. It will be a mixture of Pagan and "life" pages including Allotments, How to in Tarot, Art and many more.

The team are looking for all manner of content, from art and prose, to how to darn socks . If you feel your area of interest could be shown on the site then please contact us.

The site framework is now up to view so please have a look at www.thewitchtower.org/ any ideas and content are welcome.

Member of The Month

Member of the Month is your chance to give a pat on the back to someone else on the forum. It can be someone who has been particularly helpful, has taken time to explain something complicated or who has patiently explained the basics time and time again. Alternatively, it could be someone who consistently produces insightful posts, thought-provoking threads or just someone who you think is a credit to the forums.

All members can vote for someone to be Member of the Month - watch out for the voting poll on the forums.

Winner of the Member of the Month since our last publication has been Blackbyrd.

Creative Member of the Month

Creative Member of the Month is given to a member who the members of Pagan Network feel that their creative work really stands out from the crowd, and that they have repeatedly offered insight into other work, as well as accepted praise and criticism for their own work in a mature way.

Members who win the Creative Member of the Month will have their work, whether it's a poem, story or artwork appear in the Witchtower Magazine. They will also have their work appear in the Pagan Network Calendar 2008.

Winners of the Creative Member of the Month since our last publication have been Pheonix_wolf and Grimalkin.

All About PEBBLE

As your PEBBLE Rep, I've been asked to write up a report of what it's all about.

So here goes.

For those that don't know, PEBBLE is a network organisation, allowing positive and productive interaction between the growing communities of modern British Pagans and British government departments, bodies and institutions. You can see the minutes of past meetings and find out more at the website www.pebble.uk.net

It's more a "doing" organization than a "voting" one. Namely, if there is something to do with the Census, we, the partner organizations discuss it on the PEBBLE list, and then go out and do whatever is decided. Pebble works more by consensus unless a major vote is needed. The partner organizations cover a large percentage of the various faiths under the Pagan umbrella, and can represent you to the various public bodies.

Things we've done this year are

- Getting Paganism recognized by the Metropolitan Police Faith & Diversity Unit.
- Becoming a formally consulted organization with the Census Office.
- Forming dialogue with the various military chaplaincies for Pagan chaplains.
- Started discussion with the Government about recognized handfastings.
- Successfully had a Pagan Tick Box and "write in" trialed in the latest Census test paper.

These are all things that are too big for one organization to do. We have meetings at governmental level, regarding things that affect Pagans. Admittedly, some groups are better at dealing

with certain areas of interest, I'm more expert on the Census, having been involved in the discussions for the past 10 or so years, the PF have a network of Pagan hospital visitors, official prison visitors and Honouring Ancient Dead, who work with the reburial of remains. So although we work parallel lines, by working under the PEBBLE banner, it makes it easier to get recognition for our achievements on a national level, rather than being fractioned into PN, PF, PA, CoBDO etc successes. It promotes a unity.

So how do we decide what we work towards... That's where the members of various organisations come in. If there is something that you want to see discussed, then contact me. I'll then take it to PEBBLE, and we'll see what can be formally done about it.

Anyone can throw something in at any time to the group, we then discuss it and agree a way forward. It would only be something like new member groups we'd formally have to vote on, the rest is usually by consensus. The twice yearly meetings are more of a "status" report back to each other in a formally constituted setting, and to plan our way forward on other campaigns.

So as said - if there is anything you want to see discussed, get in touch, we've had some marvelous successes, and who knows, we could get representation for a cause you want to focus on.

Jon Randall
PEBBLE Rep.

Autumn Wine courtesy of Jools

4lbs plums, bullaces, or other autumn fruit
3lbs sugar
1 gallon water
pectic enzyme
campden tablet
yeast
yeast nutrient

Bring water to the boil. In the meantime, pick over the fruits, removing any mouldy ones. If using plums or bullaces, remove stones, then place into a fermenting bucket. Lightly crush the fruit then cover with the boiling water.

Add sugar and stir until dissolved. Then add 2 tsp of pectic enzyme (very important as this will stop the must from jellifying). Add a crushed campden tablet to kill any wild yeast left on the fruits, and leave, covered, overnight.

Make up yeast to the instructions on the packet then add to the must. Also add 1 tsp of yeast nutrient, and cover tightly. Leave for 4 days, stirring daily with a plastic spoon.

Strain fruit must into a demijohn using a funnel lined with a double thickness of muslin. Squeeze the fruit to make sure you have all the juice. Do not fill the demijohn higher than the bottom of the neck. Plug lightly with cotton wool and leave for about a day to ensure the fermentation is not too vigorous, then fit demijohn with an airlock. Rack if the sediment becomes thicker than about half an inch, then leave until the fermentation finishes, which will be when there is no more air going through the airlock. Rack into clean sterile bottles and leave for at least 6 months. Enjoy.

Ghostbusters UK are a small group of paranormal investigators, based in Grimsby on the NE Coast of Lincolnshire, headed by Robin Furman, who is known affectionately within the field of Parapsychology as 'The Ghostbuster General' a name coined for him by Lynn Picknett author of *Flights of Fancy, 100 years of Paranormal Experiences, A Complete Guide to the Unexplained*, and deputy editor on the *Unexplained* magazine.

He says... "The first ghost I ever saw appeared on the landing of my house in Grimsby about twenty years ago. It's a big, old house in a place known locally as Nun's Corner, because there is a theological history to the site, going back to the eleventh century. I suppose, in view of that, I should not have been surprised to find a ghostly nun in the house.

The first sighting

At the time, Robin was a businessman and had no great interest in the paranormal. Until one evening as he went upstairs he noticed a movement on the landing. At first he thought it might be one of his children - but they were in bed. Continuing up the stairs he suddenly came face to face with a tall nun! She looked completely real, and was wearing an old-fashioned headdress, but where her face should have been was just a glowing light. Rooted to the spot he watched fascinated, as she drifted away and disappeared. It all happened so quickly he says he didn't have time to feel scared; he felt the kind of shock that anyone would have felt seeing a stranger on the landing of their home, but went unexpectedly cold.

Since then the 'ghostly nun' has been seen by his daughter Victoria who saw her once sitting on the end of the bed, when she was sick - and his son Andy who unexpectedly found the nun blocking his exit from the music room, and ran through her to get out! Afterwards he said he felt as though he had passed through a 'fog.' The strange apparition was the start of Robin's interest in the paranormal, but he says he would have laughed at anyone if they had told him then that one day he would be leading possibly one of the first teams of amateur Ghostbusters in the country!

As a mature student, he took his degree in psychology and philosophy at Hull University and then as well as practising hypnotherapy; he began lecturing on psychology, hypnosis and parapsychology at local colleges. The Ghostbusters arose spontaneously from one of these classes, after he was approached by a terrified local woman who, whilst alone in her old cottage one night, was awakened by the sound of rowdy noises coming from the empty bedroom next to hers. When he discussed the case with his class he was surprised that there was an immediate chorus of volunteers to assist him in his research, and eventually seven of them went on their first expedition to that old house.

Robin's interest was in magick and he was fascinated in everything from ancient Egypt to modern parapsychology, and used to write a column in the local newspaper. When the Ghostbusters film was released - the paper coined the name 'The Grimsby Ghostbusters,' which has stuck to this day, and to paraphrase the words from the film-score, there's something strange in everyone's neighbourhood. You'd be surprised how much there is about. Who are the people in Grimsby going to call?

An Introduction to Ghostbusters UK

The New Team:

Over the years as lives change and people move on we now have a different team: -

Robin: still our leader - Psychologist, Author, Parapsychologist, Therapist, and one of the few lecturers on the controversial science of the paranormal in all its different guises. Popular with the media and the public and plays a mean piano! Will always give you a fair hearing with your problems, but don't try to pull the wool over his eyes as he is one of the leading authorities on things that go bump in the night! Has been on countless TV programmes, with the famous, the infamous and the general public, made a host of videos and movies been interviewed by nearly every radio station imaginable, had a series of his own T.V and radio programmes and has a list as long as your arm of newspaper and magazine articles, is a popular 'After Dinner Speaker' and co-authored the book 'Ghosbusters UK' with Moira Martingale, published by 'Hale' in 1991.

Tricia: Woman Friday (me) - researcher, ex nurse, and co-ordinator of the group - tries to get everyone where they should be on the right day at the right time!!! Not as easy as you think! Has been studying and researching the paranormal for almost 18 years - always asking questions, interviewing worried folk, cataloguing information and loves sitting in cold, uncomfortable places waiting for ghostly sightings. Enjoys spinning webs and built our web site. Just finished typing approx 85,000 words of Robin's new book, taking in the intriguing concept of synaesthesia, now all we need is a publisher!

Tony: Our photographer - there is not much he does not know about photographs and cameras and he can spot a fake at a mile and has some very weird shots in his own files. He loves his Digi camera but will never give up his beloved 35mm or his special 3D lens and as he does all his own printing and knows how to get the best out of his shots! He gets mad when people try to fake photos and says, "there is just no point, after all we are here to try to find the answers so why mess up by trying to fake stuff - it's crazy and a complete waste of time".

Sue: Tony's wife, don't know how he does it? Keen and enthusiastic and learning fast, speaks her mind and is an excellent sleuth. Has a knack of putting people at their ease and spotting odd anomalies! Think she would have loved a meeting with Holmes and Watson (who knows - one day) - great at helping by taking notes and keeping everyone warm with steaming mugs of delicious tea and coffee!

Richard: Will turn his hand to anything - is a great driver and stand in camera man, and like the proverbial Mountie always gets his man - Has an extremely dry sense of humour, the patience of Job, very sensitive, loves animals and incredibly quick on the draw - in other words he misses nothing - he may not say so at the time but nothing gets past him! He has been studying parapsychology for almost 20 years and was one of Robin's first pupils, and now his right hand man. Thoughtful and deep with a needle sharp mind.

Michael: Another of our younger members - he is an absolute whiz with sound recordings, he can handle a microphone so well that you hardly know you have been interviewed - very handy with anxious, nervous people, who have probably been steeling themselves for a while whilst trying to decide whether to ask for help - its not easy when you think everyone will think you are either mad or just scoff at your attempts to explain what is happening. He is also a very talented classical guitarist and his mellifluous musicality after a long day ghost watching is soothing to both the body and soul.

Keith: Our final adopted member - a very busy man has written many books on dreaming, especially lucid dreaming, past lives and the effects on the human mind - his 'Dream Machine' invented when he did his PhD, is on permanent show at the Science Museum - he is great at putting people at their ease, and runs a hypnotherapy and past life regression college, travels around the world lecturing and loves catching up with the group when in the area!

Last but by no means least - **Rodney:** One of the 'founder members' of the group - he has traipsed through muddy fields, interviewed countless confused people, taken part in all night sit-ins, explored empty houses and derelict churches in the dead of night, been interviewed and filmed by the media alongside Robin etc.etc.- He has not only always been there when needed but has been over the years an invaluable technical adviser. It was Rodney and myself that came up with the concept of the first and very successful web site, which he hosted at the imps address, he ran the original site almost single handed as well as his own ever growing computer business, serving the local business community.

What exactly happens when the Ghostbusters are called out?

We are continuously contacted by members of the general public and the media through either Robin's private telephone number or the website, wanting help or just advice. So firstly, we have to establish if what is happening to the person is either physical or psychological.

During his degree Robin also became involved in group therapy and studied the works of Freud, Jung and other psychoanalytical masters. This, in turn, led him to study counselling - and he believes that this has given him considerable insight into the problems of others. He has devoted more than twenty years to researching the paranormal, and the background knowledge gained during his degree, comes into play when we are trying to determine whether there are genuine physical effects being felt in a situation, or whether there is a psychological cause which may need the attention of a psychologist or a psychiatrist, rather than a parapsychological investigator.

To give an example, GBUK went to see one very nice man in our preliminary investigations, and noticed that his house smelt very strongly of what we thought was disinfectant. 'What's been going on?' we asked, he appeared lucid enough at first and said he was being physically attacked by disembodied entities.

Now, we know that this is not an unknown phenomenon, so we were quite prepared on meeting to accept his story, as you have to start somewhere.

But we were soon to be disillusioned, for he suddenly shouted: 'Look, there's one now! There it is! I'll get it!'

Then he got out a giant can of fly spray and started squirting it around. 'There! That's got it!' he cried, and leaned towards Robin confidentially saying, 'I get them like that, you know.' He had cans of fly spray in his house, in his car - everywhere!

He was obviously hallucinating. It was clearly a psychological case, and the team beat a hasty retreat and escaped to the nearest pub, for medicinal brandy, before he turned his can of fly-spray on them! Later Robin spoke to a nearby relative who seemed fully aware of this poor man's problem.

We always try to search for a logical solution first. As a team we research the paranormal out of interest and try to help the people concerned, who are often very worried and frightened, to understand what maybe going on. Some people think we're eccentrics, but we're not particularly concerned about what people think, they can believe what they like. Most of the team have experienced unaccountable paranormal phenomena over the years, it can happen suddenly and without warning, usually before you have time to set up recording devices or video. The paranormal can surprise you when you least expect it, either at night or during the day, and no matter how long you have done this sort of research it can still freak you out and send cold shivers down your spine. But whatever and whenever strange anomalies occur it can be astonishing to the individuals concerned and can take an enormous amount of time to try to sort things out to everyone's satisfaction.

Unfortunately for the media, who are always keen to witness all things paranormal, it is very difficult to record poltergeist activity to order, or arrange a meeting with an apparition at midnight on any given day. We have all spent the witching hours waiting patiently for 'something' to go bump in the night - sometimes we get lucky, most of the time we get very cold and tired, but its worth all the agony for that one special 'something'!!!!

There may be a rational explanation for all paranormal events, but it may not yet be within our sphere of knowledge and understanding, and as Robin says at this present time, there appear to be more questions than answers. As Plato said - "Do we see it because it's there, or conversely, is it there because we see it?"

One of Robin's favourite scholars of the eighteenth century is Dr Samuel Johnson. He was fascinated by magic, too - and he had something to say about the proof that scientists always demand. 'As to ghosts,' he declared, 'all proof's against it ... and all beliefs for it.'

If you want to contact us - we can be found at: www.ghostbustersuk.co.uk

By... Tricia Nymk

A Politically-Restricted Pagan?

At first glance, the idea of a politically-restricted pagan doesn't look too bad – after all, pagans are known for their disinclination to 'organise' into anything constituting a recognisable political movement, as well as for their lack of affiliation to the main parties. In fact, involvement in main stream politics seems to be anathema to most. So, I thought political restriction wouldn't be a problem when I took a job as a policy advisor at the beginning of the year, a role in which I would be responsible for helping all councillors, regardless of political creed or colour. 'Not a problem', say I. I don't agree with most Labour policies, but I don't particularly like those of the Tories or Lib Dems either – I could be fair in my dislike of all parties.

But this is where the problems with this theory started. I began to wonder, as the local council elections drew closer, whether I could be equally unfair to all parties. What were to happen if, as with a neighbouring council, the public in their wisdom elected a member of the BNP? Could I ethically undertake some research on the appropriateness of 'white power'? Would I turn into the Albert Speer of the Council – state that I was just following orders as I condemned my fellow (wo)men, whilst secretly burning committee papers and silencing the harsher recommendations? An extreme example, yes, but a very real one.

And then there's the reality that, at ground level, everything is political - even bins have become a national, politically-charged issue. The drive to make the public greener, and to respect the world in which we live, is council led. Planning, and the politics involved in that, has caused a stir for more than one council, particularly amongst pagans. It was Kennet District Council and their members, who made it so difficult to visit Avebury on solstice; while in my own council my hands are tied in campaigning against the building of a road which will cut through my favourite ritual space, as well as through tracts of ancient woodland, sites of special scientific interest, an important iron age hill fort, and a conservation area.

So here's the rub – most pagans will claim that they are apolitical yet ethical creatures. My question is, where does one stop and the other start? It is no longer just war, tax, and the great machinations of state which count as politics (although these each have their separate philosophical dimensions), but those which used to be posed as ethical questions – the responsibility of the individual, the role of the community, and the rights of everyone in society. Granted, these may be couched in political jargon – CIC (the Commission for Integration and Cohesion) is a resoundingly uninspiring name – but at their heart, they are concerned with what drives so many of us. Should pagans, then, take Mithras by the horns (so to speak) and claim loudly 'Yes! I am interested in politics!'. Perhaps not. As John Whiteside Parsons put it 'when there is too much organisation we depart'. But it is only when you see the nitty-gritty of politics, and the ethical dilemmas behind it, that you realise even though you're not tied in to a political party, it is impossible to escape or to avoid holding a political opinion. Whether it is equally impossible to keep silent in the face of so much temptation remains to be seen.

Oastcakes or Hopkins

Courtesy Shewolf

Ingredients

4oz wholemeal flour
4oz plain white flour

(Alternatively - if wholemeal doesn't take your fancy, simply use 8oz plain white flour)

1 teaspoon baking powder
2oz lard or butter
2 oz currants
4 tablespoons water
7 fl oz white wine or parsnip wine
pinch of mixed spices (cinnamon, nutmeg - whatever you like really)
Sunflower oil
Caster sugar for dusting

Method

Place flour and baking powder into a bowl and rub in 1/2 the fat. Add the currants and the spices.

Beat in the water and enough of the wine to make a soft batter-like dough.

In a frying pan, melt the rest of the fat and add sunflower oil to the depth of about 1/2cm. Drop in tablespoons of the dough and spread them out with a spatula. Fry until golden on both sides.

Remove from pan and place on kitchen roll to absorb excess oil, then immediately dredge with caster sugar. Eat when hot if possible, or cover in foil and keep warm in a low-heated oven. Can be kept for a few days in an airtight container and re-warmed in a low-heat oven for a few minutes.



Ravens Moon
by
Seawitchartist

Winter Warmer Recipes

Spicy Lentil Soup courtesy of Stilly

Ingredients (Serves 4)

115g red lentils
2tsp vegetable Oil
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
1 tsp garam masala
2 tbsp tomato puree or ketchup
1 lt Veggie stock
350g can sweet corn, drained
salt & pepper

To Serve

natural yogurt
chopped fresh parsley
warmed pita bread

1. Rinse the red lentils thoroughly under cold water and leave to drain.
2. Heat the oil and fry the onion and garlic until softened but not brown.
3. Stir in the cumin, coriander, masala and tomato puree and 4 tbl spoons of the stock. Mix well and simmer for 2 mins.
4. Add the lentils and the remainder of the stock. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat & simmer for 1 hour or until the lentils are tender and the soup thickened. Stir in the sweet corn and heat through for 5 mins. Season to taste.
5. Ladle into warmed soup bowls and top with yogurt and parsley. Serve with warm pita bread or fresh chunky wholemeal bread.

Rain's Soup courtesy of Rainbowleigh

In a blender :

1 large (2 smaller) red onions. You can use white or spring or shallots
2 red peppers, you can use other colours but it will make the colour of the soup mucky and the green ones are a bit harsh ,you can also roast them for another flavour
2 celery sticks de-stringed
2 cans of tomatoes or passata
1 tbsp of coriander seeds
1 tsp of cumin seeds
1 tbsp sugar, I use brown as I like the taste better
salt and pepper
Juice and zest of 1 lemon and lime if you have it
As much chilli dry or fresh as you like
Garlic, again to taste, I love the stuff but that is up to you

1. Put all the ingrediants in to a large saucepan and cook (simmer) for about 20 minutes.

2. When the vegetables are soft blend together and add some water to make it thinner or leave it thick and heat through.

3. Sprinkle some Parmesan onto the finished soup and maybe a dash of Worcestershire sauce and some good extra virgin olive oil.

4. You can also add home made croutons:

Just cut some dry bread into squares and toss with some oil (try herb/garlic oil) put on a baking sheet and into an oven at 190°C but watch them they do burn. You can also try them in a skillet on the stove top

Or how about cheesy garlic bread:

Cut the bread into slices,(this works well with baguette or ciabatta) and rub some fresh garlic into the dry bread and top with cheese, grill till done.. OR you can make your own garlic butter.

Sloe Gin courtesy of Stilly

Ingredients

450g/1lb sloes (best after the first frost)
225g/8oz caster sugar
1 litre/1¾ pint gin

Method

1. Prick the tough skin of the sloes all over with a clean needle and put in a large sterilised jar or Demijohn.
2. Pour in the sugar and the gin, seal tightly and shake well.
3. Store in a cool, dark cupboard and shake every other day for a week. Then shake once a week for two months.
4. The sloe gin will now be a beautiful dark red and ready to drink, although it will still improve with keeping.
5. Variation: make blackberry brandy in the same way, substituting blackberries for the sloes and brandy for the gin. Blackberries do not need pricking. You can also use Damsons in Gin or Vodka.



Welcome To The Pumpkin Patch

Well, hello all and welcome to Old Butternut Squash's Pumpkin Patch. I hope you will stay a while; it looks like you need to take the weight off your feet. Let me just pop the kettle on and we can have a quick chat about what we need to do this autumn to keep our plots ticking over.

Mmm, where shall we start me dears, well I suppose the soil wouldn't be a bad idea. Now if you have really heavy soil now is the time to get it dug over so that the frosts can break it down over winter, mind you incorporate plenty of manure or compost as this will help break up the fine clay particles and provide much needed nutrients for your soil. Another tip is to lime the soil, this will bind the particles of clay together through a process called flocculation (do not lime the soil until at least 6 weeks after manuring as it will cause a chemical reaction) this should result in a lovely well nourished soil come spring. One word of warning, do not lime the ground more than 1 year in 3 as it can alter the soils PH quite substantially. It also helps if you are growing Brassicas as these like a nice alkaline soil and it also helps prevent club root, which is rather nasty and means you won't be able to grow cabbages, caulis and the such for quite a few years.

Now if you have a nice light soil don't dig it yet but add plenty of manure or compost and leave it on the surface this will stop your soil from being blown away and the structure being damaged and can be dug in, in Spring.

Crops, oh yes there are plenty of crops that can be planted now if you look over there to that bed I only planted Garlic and Onions the other day.

Now lets see, Garlic is best planted now as it needs a cold snap to spark it into life also Japanese Onions and over-wintering Onion sets need to be planted now as well. For garlic make sure the bed is well prepared and plant the cloves at 4 inch intervals at a depth of about 3 inches. For Onion these need planting at 5 inch intervals at about 1 inch depth. If you are troubled with birds place a piece of netting over them to stop them being pulled up.

You can also plant early cropping peas and broad beans, varieties for these I would suggest are Feltham First for peas and Aquadulcia Claudia for broad beans. The peas need to be sown in shallow drills 2 cm deep in double rows about 4 inches apart and each double row at least 18 inches apart. Broad beans need to be planted about 6 inches apart and about 2 inches deep with rows at least 2 feet apart, these varieties will take a couple of degrees of frost but will need covering up with a cloche if there is prolonged cold weather. Planting these now means you will have a crop in April or May and will also miss pea moth that can be a bit of a problem especially in southern areas.

You could plant carrots in a trough and place them in a greenhouse or conservatory and you could have fresh carrots for Yule. I would suggest a variety such as Early Nantes 2 as they are quite short and quick maturing. Fill a small trough with a multi-purpose compost and sow quite shallow, water well and enjoy. Make sure you don't let them dry out as they will split.

You could also plant winter lettuce and radish. Spanish Black radishes will see you through the winter but these need to be planted outside as they do grow quite large and lettuce will give you some greens right through to January

Ohh, nearly forgot, sweet peas you can start these off now if you put 2-3 seeds in a 3 inch pot filled with seed compost and place in a warm room until they have germinated. Then move them to a cold frame or unheated greenhouse, where they will over winter. When they are 3-4 inches high pinch out the growing tips this will produce stronger bushier plants for planting out in early to mid April.

Ah you want some other jobs, my, you really want to be busy, well if you have a greenhouse don't forget to wash it down and tidy up the inside this will keep pests down and ensure that things are ready for after Yule. Cut down your rhubarb and give it a feeding of manure this will ensure the crowns receive a nice dose of frost to help promote new growth next year. Also your asparagus will need cutting down, make sure you leave 2 inches protruding as this will help guard against asparagus beetle next spring when you cut the remaining 2 inches to ground level.

Don't forget to clean and oil any tools that will be left standing over winter, a bucket with some sharp sand and some oil in it makes a wonderful cleaner for spades and forks. Also make sure any power tools are well serviced and cleaned for next year. Remove any unused petrol from mowers and strimmers and change the oil if necessary.

You could also plant a number of herbs in a pot or container for over wintering on the kitchen windowsill, herbs like parsley, coriander, and basil will all happily grow on the windowsill and give that added bit of zing to any dish.

One thing we must do is look after our little friends, if you have any rubbish piled up don't move it now until spring as hedgehogs and grass snakes will be starting to hibernate, make sure there is a pile of logs for beetles and other insects to hide in. Also make a bunch of bamboo cut in to 6-8 inch lengths and tied with a bit of string, hang this in a sheltered spot and it will provide a roost for lacewings and ladybirds both of which eat aphids. Also our feathered friends need our help, apples placed on the ground will attract Blackbirds, and fat balls will attract a large variety of birds and gives them a much needed hit of high energy. The usual nuts and seeds will provide all round nutrients for a wide range of birds and mealy worms for robins and a variety of other birds including starlings.

Ole' Butternuts tips and tricks:

Save old toilet roll inners – These make great biodegradable pots for beans, peas and sweetcorn.

Don't flush it away – Your wee is a wonderful natural accelerant for your compost heap.

4 pallets will make an ideal compost bin – make sure they are well staked down and one is left as a door and any builder will normally let you take them away.

Save Your Seed – Save seed from flowers it saves a fortune in seeds and you never know you might breed your own variant.

A Quiet Death

By Lisa McSherry

I'm not a morbid person; I came to terms with my own mortality years ago. Although I am not looking forward to dying, the actual moment of lost consciousness with its ebbing spark holds no terror for me. I haven't had many experiences with death, although I'm nearing the middle (likely) of my lifetime. The few experiences I have had have been pretty gruesome. My father's father passed on after a seven year decline, losing his mind and then his physical control to Parkinson's. My step-father's father died from lung cancer. My mother's father is dying of what seems to be old age, but he's losing touch and interest in the world and his wife is slowly bending into herself, crippled by arthritis.

The trigger for this introspective moment is my step-mother, who is on her deathbed as I write. Dolores was a tiny, vital, fierce, energetic woman who took care of herself and lived a very good life. She didn't smoke or take drugs, drank in moderation, ate the organic food she prepared with love, and enjoyed life to its fullest. Despite this, just after her 58th birthday she was diagnosed with colon cancer. She underwent an intensive course of chemo and radiation treatments that sapped her strength, but not her will, through the summer.

She was beginning to turnaround, to regain her strength and ability to eat once again a few months ago and we all began to, cautiously, hope. (For those of you who haven't experienced cancer directly, you don't hope until months have gone by after the last treatment, and you don't release your fear until years of 'clean' tests have come back.) Then she noticed a tremor in her left arm, and an inability to flex her hands. An MRI revealed lesions on the brain. Essentially, cancer had invaded her brain.

Dolores is claustrophobic, and the treatment for this new cancer was to encase her head in a mask that briefly emitted radiation. It was never for more than 10 minutes, but she spent the daily sessions battling a terror so fierce it left her depleted and worn. And then the poison from the radiation began to take its toll. Unable to eat, losing strength daily, Dolores finally asked the question her doctors had hoped she wouldn't need to ask: is this treatment palliative or curative, was it holding the cancer at bay, or actually making it retreat? It was palliative, there was no cure for what had happened to her, only a chance that further damage might be prevented and her pain eased. Facing a life of ongoing terror and physical depletion, Dolores decided to stop further treatments.

She hoped that she might be able to start eating again, regain some weight and strength. She knew that she just needed a break and she could get on top of this illness. Her energy was low, but her spirit remained strong. Once again, the Universe had other plans for her. It has been fifteen days since she last ingested any sustenance, although she has been drinking water. The hospice care began last week, with kind-soul'd caretakers arriving daily to help my father take care of the woman he has loved, fiercely for more than 25 years now. She will never leave this home while alive, and I wonder what my father will do with it when she has gone.

My full moon wish of the Goddess was Dolores to be able to release life, having learned all that she can at this time, quickly. I know my wish was heard, and granted. Her's is a quiet death. No media will cover her passing, no agonizing moral decisions will arise from this event, and the lives of strangers will not be changed. Dolores, when she dies, will be one of the 155,000 who die that day. Like the Goddess, I do not fear Death, knowing I can learn a great deal from it. Dying, however, terrifies me. It is a place where my faith breaks down, where fear interferes and pushes me away from my divinity. I want absolutes, I want promises, and I want proof that when my time comes it will be gentle, painless, and swift. It must be a good death. Dolores, in many ways, will have a good death. She is in her beloved home, her husband at her side, with her clearly stated (documented and witnessed) wishes carried out without question. The hard part is for those of us who continue to live. For us it is not a good death. It is too soon, too fast, too quiet.

Knowing me as She does, Mother only holds me and Her Lover. I spend my anger pounding on His chest, accusing Him of taking the ones I love away, but He doesn't mind. Eventually, I feel loss, but my knowledge needs no bolstering. Death is a stopping point, terrible for the still-living, but (often) a relief to the departed.

"She never got a break," we cry. "It isn't fair," we wail – as if we never learned that life, by definition, isn't fair. Our heads know it, but our hearts refuse to listen. Turning my head into the comfort of the Mother, I weep for the loss. The loss of a bright, beautiful, opinionated, frustrating, intelligent, out-spoken, daring, warm woman who made my father very happy. She challenged him, pushed his limits and stood up to him. And he loved – loves – her. He told me he misses his wife, because the woman he sleeps next to at night is no longer that person, it's a shell, a faded image of what once was, like a sepia photograph left in the sun for too long.

The Crone merely points to a mirror on the wall, the Sage standing by Her side. I turn to look and see myself holding blooded daggers, a necklace of fresh skulls draping across my chest. Before I can see any more, I change into armor, a huge raven on my shoulder. Another blink and the left side of my body withers and pulls from my bones while the right grows smooth and young. She has no answers for me, I hold the answers within myself.

Samhain nears, and the old year will end as the new begins. The flesh has been harvested, and we are preparing for the long winter ahead. This year I will have a new name to add to the roll of my Honored Dead, a fresh stick of incense to light, and another candle to add to my altar.

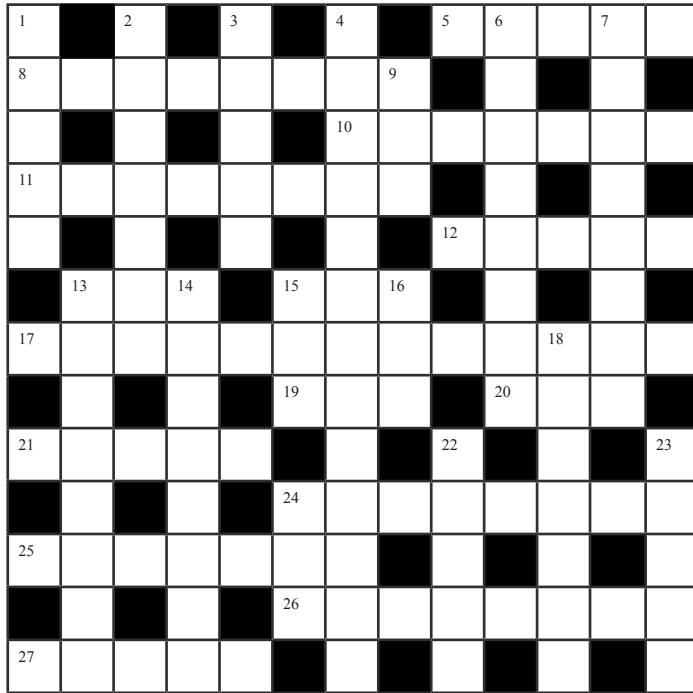
This year I will spend part of the night doing what I can to manifest a good death for myself. I'll be writing my funeral, documenting my final wishes, and making out my will.

CODA: On October 29th, two days after this was written, Dolores passed into the Summerlands.

A practicing Witch for more than 25 years, Lisa is the author of *Magickal Connections: Creating a Healthy and Lasting Spiritual Group* (New Page, 2007). The senior editor and owner of *Facing North: A Community Resource* (www.facingnorth.net) she is a frequent contributor to other Pagan publications and many of her writings are available at her website www.cybercoven.org

Puzzle Page

Crossword



Across

- 5. Order by authority (5)
- 8. Traditional drink after skylad working? (3,5)
- 10. The shape of magic? (7)
- 11. As a villein (8)
- 12. Suit = tarot sword (5)
- 13. Duet (3)
- 15. Newt (3)
- 17. Things in recompense (13)
- 19. Archaic, or Wiccan yours (3)
- 20. Mat (3)
- 21. Posh Witch crown? (5)
- 24. Puts off (8)
- 25. Dice-box rune (7)
- 26. Celtic underworld hounds (3,5)
- 27. Dormant experience (5)

Down

- 1. Spirit (5)
- 2. Breastbone (7)
- 3. Ogham, best in the fight (5)
- 4. Wiccan handbook (4,2,7)
- 6. Magical dwarf ring (8)
- 7. Mist-ifying? (8)
- 9. Genius (6)
- 13. Behave imperiously (8)
- 14. Rudigore, or the Witches Curse is one (8)
- 15. Tree being (3)
- 16. McGonnigle river (3)
- 18. 3rd degree does to 2nd (7)
- 22. Muggle (5)
- 23. Victimising(5)
- 24. Curve (3)

Word Search

G	S	P	E	L	L	S	Z	G	O	D	D	E	S	S	D	E	R
A	R	E	T	F	S	C	D	S	N	R	M	H	H	F	S	I	Y
R	S	F	H	J	J	I	L	A	B	U	D	H	F	C	A	S	D
D	E	T	R	Y	A	K	M	O	P	I	O	E	E	E	X	C	B
N	Z	A	M	N	N	A	J	C	T	D	A	C	S	X	M	B	C
E	O	G	A	C	H	E	A	E	C	V	S	T	J	U	K	P	R
R	G	R	H	S	J	U	V	T	Z	O	D	A	B	N	M	A	O
Y	W	A	W	E	L	Q	E	E	H	F	G	T	C	V	B	G	W
F	S	M	F	D	F	T	B	C	S	E	X	E	Z	D	V	A	T
I	G	U	R	K	A	B	A	D	T	C	I	R	C	L	E	N	H
R	Q	O	E	T	B	I	N	H	O	E	M	S	D	R	T	N	E
E	N	H	I	J	D	J	T	M	N	L	W	A	T	E	R	E	R
E	E	D	G	O	N	R	M	D	E	E	I	A	D	F	C	T	Z
W	E	R	Z	G	A	S	N	M	H	M	C	Q	G	S	Z	W	O
M	D	A	L	E	U	B	I	O	E	E	C	D	M	C	B	O	D
W	E	V	S	P	I	R	I	T	N	N	A	F	O	B	A	R	I
S	T	A	R	S	R	E	T	Y	G	T	C	A	O	Q	U	K	G
R	D	E	M	R	A	H	C	C	E	S	H	Y	N	N	F	W	E

AIR

ALE

ATHEIST

CAKE

CAULDRON

CHARMED

CIRCLE

CROWTHER

DIANA

DRUID

EARTH

ELEMENTS

FIRE

GARDNER

GODDESS

HECTATE

HERBS

HEX

MEDITATE

MOON

PAGAN NETWORK

PENTAGRAM

SHAMAN

SPELLS

SPIRIT

STARS

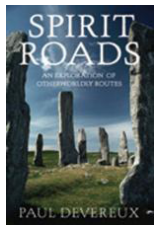
STONEHENGE

WATER

WICCA

ZODIAC

Book Reviews



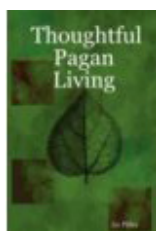
Spirit Roads

Book Review
By
David Raven

Publisher: Collins & Brown
Cost: £6.99 (Amazon)

First impressions tell me that I should like this book. It has standing stones on the front after all, and it's by Paul Devereux; an author well-respected in the Earth Mysteries field, and one who's written several books that I've enjoyed reading in the past. The blurb on the back cover informs me that 'after reading this book, the scenery once taken for granted on country rambles and picnics in quiet, open fields will never seem the same again'. Proclaiming to be a 'practical guide' that 'provides an intriguingly original way of exploring the landscape', I'm finding my expectations from this 200-page paperback very high! Opening it up, I wonder if I'm ready for such 'paradigm shifting' and revelatory reading.

The book, a republication of a 2003 original entitled 'Fairy Paths and Death Roads', is divided into two parts. The first consists of a seventy-seven-page overview of the different types of 'otherworldly route'. The reader is treated to an exploration of folklore and mythic tales from various countries and periods in history. From the aboriginal song-lines of Australia, via a considerable amount of information concerning the Fairy Paths of Ireland, to the British 'Corpse Roads', Devereux pulls together a variety of evidence and uncovers a recurring theme. Using diverse sources including anecdote, first-hand accounts and academic studies, he highlights a common core of spirit beliefs concerning these paths that can be found across the continents of Europe, Asia and the Americas. For instance, he believes that the corpse roads of England, although created in medieval times, have attracted a body of much older lore that seems to stem from ancient shamanic traditions.



Thoughtful Pagan Living

Book Review
By
Twilichtgirl

Publisher: Lulu.com
Cost: £7.49 (Amazon)

When I first heard the title "Thoughtful Pagan Living", I was expecting with some dread, a tome of a book that would take me days, if not weeks to read through! However, I was pleasantly pleased to receive a book of only 96 pages and 5 chapters. Upon opening the book, to my surprise and disappointment, I discovered that the contents page doesn't have any page numbers, thereby leaving me to flick through the book in order to locate a particular chapter.

The author Liz Pilley aims with this book and her previous book, Solitary Eclectic Witchcraft, to get the reader to think for themselves about the path they choose. She writes in a down to earth kind of style that is easy to read.

Although this book is aimed at both beginners and those experienced witches and pagans, I feel the first chapter regarding labels would be more beneficial to the beginner starting out on their path, and I imagine many experienced witches and pa-

I did occasionally find myself wondering if some of the links he uses to support his ideas were rather tenuous, but I still enjoyed his occasional flights of fancy and conjecture!

The larger second part, around 120 pages, comprises a world-wide list of such 'ritual roads', a sampler from across the globe with the purpose of using actual examples of sites to illustrate the theories and ideas discussed in the first part. It's not intended to be a field guide, but more to show how the various cultures and people had a way of populating the topographical landscape simultaneously with a spiritual one.

The few examples in northern England did inspire me to get out the maps and search out other 'corpse roads' in my local region.

I'm sure some of the information the book contains will be old-hat to some pagan stalwarts, but I would unreservedly recommend this title to a new generation of Earth Mysteries researchers. There were enough snippets of folklore that I was personally either unaware of, or had forgotten, that I frequently found my train of thought going off at a tangent. I love it when a book can make you stare into the middle-distance, pondering the 'what-if...?'.

The book could have been a little more concise; there were parts where I had the impression he was padding out the text a little.

There are plenty of interesting black & white photographs to compliment the text, although some are of slightly dubious quality.

The references and notes contain plenty of sources for further reading.

In all, I found the book enjoyable and at times enlightening. It contains much that will be of interest to Witchtower readers.

gans would probably skip this chapter. The author gives a clear concise explanation of why people feel the need to use labels to describe themselves and how certain labels have negative connotations as well as attempting to answer some of the age old questions such as "am I really a witch?" or "how will I know if I am a pagan?".

In chapter 3 the author briefly describes several other religions from her own viewpoint and how elements of these religions can relate to paganism. In further chapters the author goes on to explain about magic and how magic is in all our lives whether we chose to recognise it or not. She gives a brief explanation about Alchemy and goes on to talk about the risks and finding a balance when choosing to use magic in your life. She certainly doesn't enforce the fact that you must use magic to be a witch or pagan - its optional!

Each chapter contains an exercise with the aim of helping you think more deeply about yourself and your place in the pagan world.

Overall, the author of this book, aims to encourage you to think things through instead of blindly accepting what you are told is "correct" and following a path that might not feel right to you. She encourages you to constantly reassess what you believe and she helps you understand that it's okay to doubt yourself from time to time.

July

CREATIVE MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Pheonix Wolf



August

Black Prince

As black as night, with beady eye, he sits surveying all.
With head erect he seeks his chance, and waits whilst death doth call!

A sudden crunch of steel and bone is music to his ears
As swiftly never pausing, his hunger cries no tears

Then falling fast upon the corpse, he tears at flesh still warm;
at threat of dying where he robs, he risks the coming storm.

He rends and rips the victims flesh; stripping from the bone,
all trappings of identity whilst the two are still alone.

Relentless going forward, the speeding army marches fast
No human eye can see what comes, but only what is past.

Beware Black Prince lest you become, a sacrifice on altar tar,
and end your days spread all before; a victim of the carrion car.

For crows like you are best to seek your fill; amongst the natural rock,
instead of playing fast and loose, where humans run amok.

Turn back the clock before too late, and play where life is real.
Or you may risk to perish too, 'neath the silent, rubber wheel.

© Tricia Nymh aka grimalkin x

Grimalkin

I am an Essex girl, trained as a Dental Nurse and then an SRN, and finished my working life as a Chiropractic receptionist.

I have lived most of my life in a small village on the N.E. Lincolnshire coast – have two beautiful daughters, two gorgeous grandchildren and been married to my husband for a loooooooong time.

I love my two crazy bearded collie dogs, my garden, camping, my books and painting – I am a Pagan a member of Ghostbusters UK and have been scribbling my poems for many years now.

Bast Channelling

By Morgraine

"Greetings to you of the Earth. You are Children of the Earth Mother and are Her beneficiaries, and are under Her protection. It is under Her guidance you seek us in order to live and fulfill your Earthly lives. Many aeons have passed, some have gone with the swiftness of the wind, others like the day of the crocodile. There is always something going to happen to darken or enrich your lives.

Much happiness and joy do I bring you, for I am the Lady of Life, of the Sistrum, and the pride is the comfort of the realm of the family and spirit. Heed my words, Oh Dark Ones and Great Ones of the Earth. For though thou plot with the Earth's resources, destroying her wares for thy pleasure, thou run the risk of poisoning her and rapping that on which you live and breathe in order to survive.

The Coming Age of the Sun shall be filled with much controversy. We have heard the phrases of the time that 'the end is nigh'. It is only in the hearts of men it is so. The Gods do not wish it. If that is what you say, then indeed it shall be so. The mind is much stronger than the body. You cannot break the Spirit without first breaking the Will. Sons and Daughters of Earth, remember you have freewill.

I am the Lady of music, of the adornment worn on your bodies in the form of cloth. I am the warp and weft of the household



and family. I am the sister of my twin, the Sun God Horus. I am Daughter of the Divine Isis and Osiris. What is it that thou seekest, people of the Earth? Is it the love of a partner, ambition, freedom and redemption from sin, a haven in the next world? A family? Think on these things. We hear you crying out. Something in the soul stirs to strive for what you want most. We all need love, we all need fulfilment, you are all afraid of death and the Divine. What is such a mystery? You think of life as a chore, life is a joy. Did not your mother and father unite in their joy and love to conceive you? Shall you not unite in joy and love to conceive your children? Cherish life, for it is a joy to receive and to give

it. Indeed, it is a gift bestowed on you from the Divine.

Fear not the secrets of the Mysteries of the Divine. Life is eternal. Like nirvana is a never ending wheel of incarnations, only to be freed when one realises that those Great Eternal Mysteries, deemed true by many on the Path of Light, can one attune with the Divine life force and realise ones potential in the stars. I believe in the Fellowship of All Things. All things are equal, none is below, inferior, or higher, or superior than another. Men and women, find within yourselves the part of you that is in each other, for you should realise you are alike. It is suggested that

men do not cry, and women do not understand men's problems. This is nonsense. Given the chance, you will find women can be strong, and men can be sensitive. It is the mind that holds the key. Remove the lock that holds it. Men should let their feminine selves come forward without shame. Women should encourage the help of their stronger selves to come forward.

Also plants, animals, the sea, land, air and fire are your equals. Indeed one may be above you in spirituality. Is not the cat wise before it leaps in looking and sensing with its whiskers any danger? Yet you mortals tend to leap before you look in many instances!

Many may wonder what this teaching has been about. The subject is yourself. You do not always need to know of wondrous things like time, the universe. or space. You need to know how to be yourselves, how to enjoy life, and most of all, learn from life. Life is a school, the earth is your classroom. Cherish it, and learn from all you have done. Learn from mistakes. past failures, and what you set out to do, but didn't actually do. Next time you shall know, and shall have learned from your life. Life is your great teacher. It can be a joy, it can bring pain. What you are taught shall remain with you in this life, the next, and the next .

Please consider my words, Children of the Earth, and remember there is a reason for every event, whether joyful or painful., for it is your tutor in the subject of life.

I offer you my Blessing, and from my Divine Mother, Isis, her love. Our protection is with you always....."

Get to Know Your Editor

Why did I become a Pagan? Do you know I'm not sure I ever "became" a pagan, it is something that I have always been/felt ever since I was a kid. My childhood was spent in rural Sussex just 3 miles from Pooh Bridge and I spent every bit of my time outside playing in the countryside making camps, climbing trees, falling in lakes and rivers, shooting, fishing. Although raised as C of E I have never really believed, when I was a teenager I read the whole of the New Testament cover to cover and it didn't seem right, there was something missing. I then spent 12 years in the Army 6 of that in Bomb Disposal. I lost a number of friends while in the forces and it was here I really questioned my Beliefs.

Since leaving the forces I had not pursued my Beliefs mostly because I felt that I was the only one that believed what I do and being an ex-squaddie, rugby player it's not something you talk about in the bar (a bit like testicles they never really come up in conversation) so I have kept things hidden.

What made me "come out"? Well I think that I have always joked that I am an atheist with Pagan leanings and over the last couple of years I have felt there was something more to my beliefs and I also stumbled on PN while researching Paganism in all its forms. This helped me a great deal and posters have been an invaluable source of advice and support in many ways.

Telling other people now that is a whole new kettle of fish. I have chosen only to tell the wife and a few close friends (plus PN of course), it is scary, at least I have found it so. Simply you do not know how they will react and could be from "Oh, OK" (that's good) to "Get away from me you Satan worshipping, Devil lover" (believe me that's bad), plus you have to explain that the Devil is a Christian concept and you do not believe in either their God or the Devil and things could spiral from there. So basically if people ask I will tell them if they don't I won't, I wear a pent and have some rather nice pentagram cufflinks as well. So although I show my beliefs I don't shout them out.

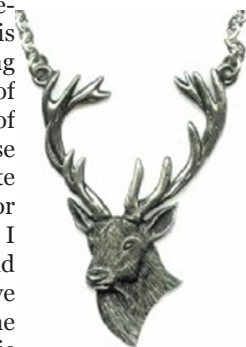
So where does that leave me? A little confused for as starters, I never realised there were so many different belief structures under Paganism and it is a little bewildering. For me it wasn't that hard because I have always had an interest with Celtic history and Gods. Also Druidry interests me greatly, so I really have my path sort of defined before coming across the Pagan community. What do I call my path? I haven't the foggiest but it feels right to me.

This, I think is where a lot of people who would like to declare themselves Pagan are frightened off. They are scared of the many paths and instead of trying to find the right path for them and going with their own hearts, they try to fit in - or they have seen Charmed, Buffy or Practical Magic and think that is what Paganism/Witchcraft is all about and become disillusioned when they see the work involved and the amount of Self education. This is not a Belief path for those wanting a quick fix, if you want a quick fix I suggest trying something else.

The amount of reading involved is huge and you either need an incredibly deep pocket or an incredibly understanding library - luckily I have the latter and unluckily I don't have the former. You also need an understanding partner if you are not single, as time spent reading and away meditating (especially with me as I cast my Circles under trees and in the woods) is incredibly time consuming. Sometimes I think I have been in a circle for half an hour and it actually has been a couple of hours. Luckily I combine this with my love of photography so it is all OK.

Equipment is another area where it is difficult for me, what do I need, where do I get it from and if you are like me being male, shopping is not the easiest task you will ever do. However, I have decided that all my tools will be made by me and will be made from natural (mainly wood) materials. My wand is Rowan and I am waiting to carve it. Even now when I pick it up I can feel its power and strangely it comforts me and calms me when I am holding it.

So what is my path and what do I believe? I am still discovering this; it is going to be a long path understanding my place in the world and the place of everything else. I believe in the forces of nature, I believe magic is there for those that can use it and tap into it. I create a Circle and can meditate within it for hours, at current I don't do spells as I am not confident enough, and I would not be sure of the outcome. I believe in Nature and all the powers that she holds. I celebrate Cernunnos the Celtic Horned God hence my Avatar, (that I hope to convert into a tattoo).



I believe in the fact that we have lost too many of the old customs and knowledge that even only 20 years ago was common place - especially when it comes to herbs and plants, and this needs to be restored. We have lost our connection with the very thing that gives us life and sustenance and we should celebrate every new life and every death as the same.

All I can say is follow your heart as well as your mind because by only doing this can you be true to yourself as well as those you meet along life's dusty, dirt track.

Stilly
Witchtower Editor

CLASSIFIEDS

Black Cats and Broomsticks

(online only)
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County Durham, DH8 5DS
<http://www.blackcatsandbroomsticks.co.uk/>

Halcyon Daze

55 Wellfield Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3PA
Tel: 02920 454432
<http://www.halcyon-daze.biz/>

Halcyon Daze (The little shop of calm)

1 Westgate, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan
Tel: 01446 771166

Hippopottermouse

The Corn Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds, LS1 7BR
<http://www.hippopottermouse.co.uk/>

Madeline Rose

121 Kirby Road, Leicester, LE3 6BE
Tel: 0116 2536320

Moonshadows Realm (online only)

<http://www.moonshadows-realm.co.uk/>

Opal Moon

De Courceys Arcade/Cresswell Lane,
Glasgow, Lanarkshire,
G12 8AA
Tel: 0141 3386010

Pentacle Magazine

<http://www.pentaclemagazine.org>

The Gem Tree

Ground Floor, Indoor Market,
Leicester, LE1 5HG
(They are open Tuesday to Saturday 9-5)
<http://www.thegemtree.com/>

The Heathen Peddler

<http://www.heathenpeddler.co.uk/>

The Thrifty Pagan (USA)

Green Street, Fairhaven, MA02719,
United States
<http://www.shop.thethrifypagan.com/>

The Witch Path (online only)

<http://www.thewitchpath.shop.co.uk/>

Witchcraft Ltd

10 Benedict street, Glastonbury, BA6 9EX
<http://www.witchcraftshop.co.uk/>

Solstice Designs (online only)

<http://www.solsticedesigns.co.uk/>

ADVERT DESIGN

Do you run a business, be it with or without a website?

Do you run events/moots and would like to promote them more?

Are you a crafter who sells your wares?

Have you always wanted to place an advert in the Witchtower magazine, (especially now that we have reduced our advertising rates) but you've never been sure how to put together an advert? You're worried about all the work involved in doing this or you don't feel you would be creative enough?

Then look no further...

The Pagan Network Graphics Department are offering to design adverts for you. The cost of each advert will depend on size and complexity, but on average the cost will be between £2.00 and £5.00 per advert.

However if you are a member of the Shop Discount Scheme you can have an advert designed for FREE!

So how does it work?

1. PM Twilightgirl (or email her at sensorychaosdesign@gmail.com) with your request.
2. Twilightgirl will discuss with you what information you require on the advert and size of the advert. (Please note that payment will be required at this point).
3. Twilightgirl (or her team) will then draft up some advert designs for you to look at.
4. You provide feedback on the advert designs (ie which one you like) and on anything you want "tweaking".
5. The advert will be completed and emailed to you in either a jpg format or pdf.
6. At this point you can sort out how many issues of The Witchtower magazine you want your advert to be placed in (payment for advertising will be required at this point).

Pagan Network Full Members Discount

One of the advantages of becoming a Full Member of Pagan Network is that your membership card entitles you to discounts at shops taking part in our Discount Scheme.

If you run a shop (on or offline) and would like to take part in the scheme please contact Rainbowleigh, our Shop Liaison Officer to discuss further details on 0116 2852383.

Below is a list of shops currently taking part. Further details can be found in the Full Members forum.

Black Cats and Broomsticks (online shop only)
Halcyon Daze - Wales
Madeline Rose - Leicester
Opal Moon - Glasgow
The Heather Peddler (online shop only)
Witchcraft Ltd - Glastonbury

Moonshadows Realm (online shop only)
Hippypottermouse - Leeds
Pentacle Magazine (online only)
The Gem Tree - Leicester
The Witch Path (online shop only)
Solstice Designs (online shop only)

How to Advertise in the Witchtower

With the Witchtower magazine being downloaded by hundreds of our members on each occasion, what better way is there to advertise any items for sale, your shop, course, magazine, or website?

We have recently reviewed our advertising rates and plan on opening a classified section shortly in addition to our normal standard adverts. So if you would like to take advantage of our great advertising rates, please contact advertising@thewitchtower.org to discuss your needs.

The discounted rates shown below are for shops who decide to join the Full Members Discount Scheme.

Standard Advert Size

	Standard Rate	Discounted Rate
6cm x 4cm text box	£3.00	£1.50
Half page	£10.00	£5.50
Full page	£15.00	£7.50
Inside Back Cover	£20.00	£10.00
Back Cover (full colour)	£30.00	£15.00

Classified Adverts

To advertise in the following sections:

Sales & Swaps, Moots or Websites:

Maximum of 30 words/numbers. The cost of this is £1.00 per issue. You can pay in advance for one years worth of advertising (4 issues) for £4.00

Shops, Courses or Magazines :

Maximum of 50 words/numbers. The cost of this advert per issue is £2.00 plus 10p per word after the maximum 50.

Please note that Pagan Network does not accept responsibility for advertisers. Please use your own judgement and if in doubt contact the advertiser first before handing over any money. Pagan Network can also not accept responsibility for the content of websites.

VACANCIES

Server/Web Team

(This position will require further testing of knowledge/skills before appointment can take place)

Duties

Ensures the smooth running of the organisation's web presence and server. Acts as an advisor to the Committee regarding issues relevant to the running, management and development of the web presence and server. Installs software to keep the website running. Maintains in-house programs. Performs regular server maintenance. Acts as first point of contact for technical queries and issues regarding organisation's online presence. Acts as liaison between the organisation and server hosting.

Research Officers for The Witchtower

Duties

Provide up to date information for submission to the magazine on Pagan Network Moots and Meetings. Search out articles/artwork, contacting the authors for permission to publish the article/artwork. Ensure no copyright issues are involved. Track down copyright free graphics. Prepare and carry out your own work timetable to meet production schedules issued by the Editor. Seek out interesting information on what is going on and happening in the Pagan Community. To work as a team, providing support/additional help to other team members when required. Suggest new ideas for improving the magazine.

Graphics Department

Pagan Network has its own graphics department headed by Twilightgirl, in order for members to have one central area to contact.

We are currently looking for several volunteers who already have experience in graphic design to join the graphics dept. The work involves designing and printing convention tickets, business cards, banners, logos, adverts, flyers, leaflets etc. If you are interested in volunteering for the graphics department please pm Twilightgirl detailing your experience.

Regular Article Writers for The Witchtower

Duties

Provide ideas for general topics for articles. Write articles - at least one per issue. Search out articles/artwork, contacting the authors for permission. To publish the article/artwork. Ensure no copyright issues are involved. Track down copyright free graphics. Prepare and carry out your own work timetable to meet production schedules issued by the Editor. To work as a team, providing support/additional help to other team members when required. Suggest new ideas for improving the magazine.

News Reporters for the Joint News, Media & PR Team

Duties

Search down interesting News articles and posts on the forums. Prepare the Newsletter and issue to all members on a regular basis, ensuring all information is accurate.

Writers for the News/Media & PR Team

Duties

Draft and issue press statements once approved by the committee. Produce a number of Pagan Network leaflets about Paganism and other subjects, these may be written by the committee/team leaders/teams. Write articles about the organisation, such as reviews of events etc.

Regional Representatives

Duties

To be the public face of PN and understand the responsibility of being the public face of PN. Have local knowledge of the area they cover and become acquainted with their local community. Set in motion and run moots/events where needed and meet and greet members who wish to attend. To liaise with other pagan groups where possible. To attend other pagan events where possible as PN representative. Can also run a stall or leave flyers with permission. To assist other RR's in their roles. To liaise with their local shops, with a view to leaving flyer's/cards (if any want to take part in the 10% scheme all details to be passed to Rainbowleigh). Encouraging members to sign up for full membership by promoting the benefits of membership. To keep members informed if a problem with the web site (downtime etc) happens. To keep members details (with their permission to put them in touch with others in their area). If wanted and needed a RR would also be able to sit on their local interfaith council. Also with our backing they would be able to approach their local government (council) with a view to holding rites/rituals/ picnics on parkland if the council permits it. All details of the above need to be passed to the RR supervisor so that the Committee can manage insurance etc (if over 30 people attend). To try and help the pagan community in general by being the public face of a large pagan organisation.

Puzzle Answers

Word Search Answers

G	S	P	E	L	L	S		G	O	D	D	E	S	S			R
A		E					D		N	R						I	
R		N				I		A		U		H			A		
D		T			A		M			I		E	E				
N		A		N		A		C		D		C		X			C
E		G	A		H		A					T				P	R
R		R		S		U		T				A				A	O
		A			L		E		H			T				G	W
F		M		D		T		C	S	E		E				A	T
I			R		A		A		T	C	I	R	C	L	E	N	H
R		O		T		I		H	O	E		S				N	E
E	N		I		D		T		N	L	W	A	T	E	R	E	R
		D		O		R			E	E	I					T	
	E		Z		A	S			H	M	C						W
M		A	L	E		B			E	E	C		M	C		O	
			S	P	I	R	I	T	N	N	A		O		A	R	
S	T	A	R	S		E			G	T			O			K	
	D	E	M	R	A	H	C		E	S			N				E

Crossword Answers

Across

- 5. Edict
- 8. Hot cocoa
- 10. Octagon
- 11. Serflike
- 12. Spade
- 13. Duo
- 15. Eft
- 17. Compensa-
- 19. Thy
- 20. Rug
- 21. Tiara
- 24. Adjourns
- 25. Perthro
- 26. Cwn Annwn
- 27. Dream

Down

- 1. Ghost
- 2. Sternum
- 3. Holly
- 4. Book of Shad-
- 6. Draupnir
- 7. Clouding
- 9. Ace
- 13. Domineer
- 14. Operetta
- 15. Ent
- 16. Tay
- 18. Outrank
- 22. Cowan
- 23. Using
- 24. Arc



