

Dark Mirror



Yule (Winter Solstice) 2015

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Behind the Mirror

Welcome to the Dark Mirror Winter Solstice Issue - this edition celebrates the period between Samhain and Yule. The cover shows our dark mirror surrounded by the Holly, Ivy, Mistletoe and Yew, evergreens of the season. Sadly, this issue remembers well-known local pagans who have passed to the Summerland's.

The editor welcomes news from local moots about their events and activities, directly or via their RC. News from our local moots encourages others to join and demonstrates just how active the pagan community is in this region, so please share your news. Thanks to all contributors to this issue.

Blessed Be
Harvey – DM Editor

Dark Mirror submissions

Dark Mirror (DM) is read by Pagan Federation District Members and most likely many other Pagans. The aim of the Dark Mirror continues to be to reflect the work of the local PF (PFDCI) and its members, illuminate news and events in our area, and to provide a platform for local pagans to share their thoughts, poems, prose, stories, recipes, craft items, views, and articles of general pagan interest. Articles can be ca 3-4 pages of A4 (inc. images). The editors' decision is final.

Send your submissions in any digital format to the DM editor via email DarkMirrorMagazine@gmail.com or by mail to:
Dark Mirror c/o PF DCI, Torcroft, Commons Lane, Shaldon, TQ14 0HN.

Copy deadlines

Please get your articles in by the deadline and the editor will do their best to get them into the newsletter that aims to be with members by the relevant festival.

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Spring Equinox (Ostara)	21st February
Summer Solstice (Litha)	21st May
Autumn Equinox (Mabon)	21st August
Winter Solstice (Yule)	21st November

PF Members only advertising

Please note that we now offer FREE THREE LINE advertising entries to members

Disclaimer

Dark Mirror is the District Newsletter of the Pagan Federation - Devon, Cornwall and the Isles (PFDCJ) and is only available to members of the Pagan Federation. The views and/or opinions expressed within this publication are not necessarily those of the editor, printers, PFDCI or the Pagan Federation. Mention within this publication should not be seen as an endorsement of any events, meetings, moots or products, and no responsibility can be accepted by us for such items.

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District managers report

A Few Words from Your District Manager - Maia

First – the advert! Our conference is on 5th March 2016 and is booking up fast. Click on this link to see the line-up and to get your tickets now:

<http://www.paganfederationdevonandcornwall.co.uk/pages/conference2016.htm>

Yule to Imbolc is a great time to reflect on the year gone by, and even though life rarely goes to plan, it is good to make positive plans for the coming year. It is also a time for gathering together with family and friends for song, storytelling and celebration, and in every tradition I can think of Yule to Imbolc is a celebration of Love. So without any more ado I would like to share the lyrics of this beautiful song called 'Six Kind of Love' written only two weeks ago by Owly Dave.



(www.owlydave.info) "in response to

what is happening in the world". After he had sung it to us in the Blues Café Club tonight, he gave me permission to share it with you. I am sure he will put it out on YouTube at some point so you can hear it for yourself.

*"The Elders once said there are six kinds of Love, but I am sure they must be more
'Cos none of those six is a love of the sea or the love of waves that wash up on the shore
There's the love of simply being on the beach, the love of every grain of sand
And then there's the love of a might raging storm or the pretty shell you are holding in your hand.*

*The Elders once said there are six kinds of Love, but I am sure they must be more
'Cos none of those six is a love of the land from the misty mountains to the shore
There's the love of every flower, tree and bird from the mighty eagle to the wren
And then there's the love of the Earth and the Sun that shines upon us every now and then*

*Then there's the love we keep just for family and also the love of close friends
And then there's the true love deep within our hearts for the one on whom love depends
There's the love we hold for those that we have lost, how we'd love to see them once again
And then there's the love for the baby in your arms who smile at you every now and then*

*The Elders once said there are six kinds of Love, but that just doesn't cover them all
There are far more than six kinds of love an' true love is the greatest of them all"*

Owly Dave December 2016

May you all find your kind of love as the wheel turns to Imbolc and may you take joy and happiness into 2016 and beyond.

Blessings. Maia.

District Manager Devon, Cornwall & Isles dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk

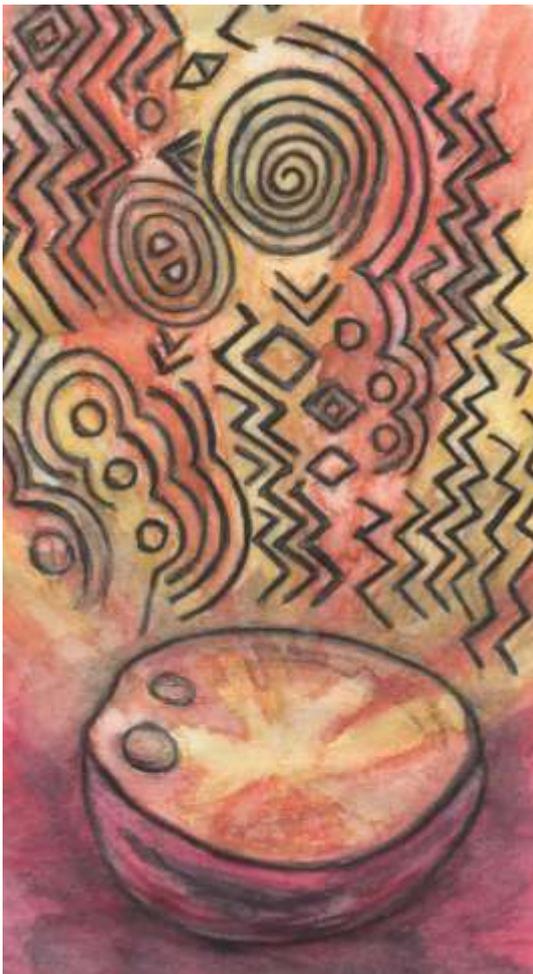
Seasonal thoughts

Winter Solstice - by Michele

As Yule approaches the excitement builds, we look forwards to warm hearths, stout hearts and good company. The hinge of the solar year is a time of greater darkness and short precious light, the Wild Hunt continues in its obligation and spills out upon the cold earth in search of the lost. Spirits of the season demand the Contrary where joyful servants rule their humbled masters. The season of Misrule is a time of great magic and change.

Yuletide is a long established time of hope, joy and celebration. It is an extensive feast that includes several seasonal observances including; the Crack between the Worlds, the Battle of the Holly and the Oak, the Nameless Day, the Night of the Great Mother's Labour, the Re-Birth of Solar deities and their Rites of Puberty (12th Night). A veritable plethora of divine beings are born around the Winter Solstice, some out of flame and lightning in a cave at the edge of the world: Adonis; Amaterasu; Apollo; Arthur of the Britons; Attis; Baldur; Dionysus; Dummuzi; Du-zi; Freyr & Freyja; Hercules; Horus; Mithras; Nimrod; Osiris; Perseus; Saturn; Tammuz, and Zeus to name a few. Not all of them are male. Cultures that are further North such as the Scandinavian and Sami peoples more often honour the Sun as female. Gender can be flexible and dynamic. It is misguided to make assumptions especially when dealing with the mysteries of the gods and their functions.

Pale streams of midwinter sunlight still illuminate the Prehistoric Houses of the Ancestors such as Newgrange in Ireland and Maeshowe in Orkney for a few days around the Winter Solstice.



Our Neolithic foremothers and forefathers were great thinkers, observers and engineers. The temple tombs were built of strong, enduring stone, a permanent marker in this world for those who had crossed over the veil. For the living, this was more than an impressive repository for the beloved deceased that remarkably determined the turning point of the year. Such devotion to the dead demonstrates profound veneration and an importance of focus and memory. These 'pregnant' earth mound structures validated the important relationship with the Land, Ancestors and Spirits, and for future fertility and continuing life.

Newgrange passage tomb is the slightly older at 5,200BP (Before Present). The entire Newgrange ceremonial complex is smothered in carved dramatic decoration and ambitious compositions of spirals, lozenges and chevron designs. The entrance faces southeast for the Winter Solstice Sunrise, the light seeps in through an elaborate 'light-box' window above the door. The passageway slopes upwards so the dawn light touches the floor near the end recess and slowly seeps towards a granite carved basin containing ancestral remains. Specially made pottery and stone-carved vessels are frequently found deep in cave systems or in tombs dating to the Prehistoric eras. It

conjures up notions of an early grail mythology and ideas comparing the physical body to a vessel that holds life force.

Maeshowe chambered cairn was constructed over an existing ceremonial structure and dates from 5,000BP. The entrance is a long and low 10m passage that faces south-southwest to capture the last rays and the Winter Solstice Sunset. Blocking stones were used to control the slits of light into the chamber depths. The stone splits into natural lengths and was dressed beautifully and precisely for the Ancestors elegant House, but only a few scant artworks of incised lines can be found. The tomb is constructed with three large alcoves with small openings to house the Ancestors remains; one of which is in direct line with the passageway and the winter sunlight. Maeshowe is an enigma that can only be glimpsed by comparing similar smaller tombs on Orkney. It is thought 400 people were interred here before the Vikings cleared Maeshowe for their own reasons, possibly treasure hunting or necromantic rites. Other contemporary tombs have totemic characteristics such as sea-eagle remains at Isbister or dog skulls at Cuween, while horse has been suggested for Maeshowe. The earthy Vikings named the tomb the 'Mound of the Maiden' and their (at times lewd) runic lettering adorns the walls.

Can you imagine in the cold depths of winter sitting in the swollen belly of your Ancestors' House? Huddling together in total darkness, resting against hard unyielding stone, in cramped conditions with the rich smells of damp earth and strong decay. The future of your people is in the hands of the Winter Sun Spirits. Its chill and dark, you shiver, misty breath almost freezes in the air before you, and your eyes see unknown things sparking in the blackness about you. The wait is testing and demanding; you anticipate the reawakening of the whispering ancestors and feel their bones all around you, dead but not. Suddenly the promise of pale golden light creeps along the passage floor, slowly and inexorably, tracing lines over the stones, stark against the darkness. You hold your breath as do the others around you. Energy builds until it feels unbearable, the light floods over you and continues to the stone basin containing the seed-like skulls of the ancestors, the seat of their souls. The enduring and affirming touch of liquid gold sunlight opens a vibrant portal between the Land of the Dead and the Land of the Living, kindling the Spark of Life, impregnating the tribe. Then it is gone and we breathe and live again.

This Yule you could charge some amber in a bowl with the magical energy of the Winter Sun, or you could raise a glass of golden honey mead and honour all those that you love and all of existence.

Greet the Sun this Winter Solstice, let its blessings flood over and through you before continuing into the Earth. Let the golden light infuse all your being and hold you warmly. Make offerings to the many Winter Spirits and their agents. May the Sun bring you health and wholeness!

Michele

<http://www.newgrange.com/>

<http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/maeshowe/solstice.htm>



News and events

Cornwall

RC report for Cornwall - Eve

This has been a year of changes in Cornwall moots. For a small and rural county a long way from anywhere, our committed Moot organisers offer local pagans a great variety and richness of events.

In Bodmin, Wendy has decided to end the Pagan Paths Moot. Wendy has run the Moot for almost twelve years and now feels her life is taking her in a different direction. She will however still be seeing and working with many of the Moot members but in different settings. This wonderful group has changed and remade itself over the years, and Wendy has been tireless in her support of local pagans. I'm sure we all wish Wendy the best as she moves on and of course there is no escape! We will still be seeing Wendy and other members of the Moot around.

In Liskeard, Jane stepped down as Moot organiser at Samhain after three years, due to family commitments. Several Moot stalwarts have stepped into the breach and are taking the Moot onward. Jane is still managing the Facebook page.

Lisa is now organising the Bude Moot, and I went along and enjoyed a wonderful talk by Julian Vayne on Shamanism. They have a wonderful Yule celebration planned including a Mummers play.

In the far west, Penwith Pagan Moot is now once again holding rituals after a period of hibernation. They held a very lovely Samhain ritual in the Roundhouse at Bosavern Community Farm near St Just. This was very sensitively reported in the Cornishman with a beautiful photograph. Gemma Gary has offered to lead four festivals a year for the Moot. Dave Munday has now taken over as spokesperson for the Moot from Sarah and says that the Moot plans to begin monthly discussion meetings in the New Year. The Moot first met on Nov 9th 1994, which makes it 21 years old this month!

In Fraddon, the new moot is now meeting at the Blue Anchor Inn (a quieter venue) on the first Tuesday of the month. Get in touch with Lou at fraddoncoven@hotmail.com to find out more.

In Camborne, the new moot Ros Pagan have got off to a flying (or more accurately fragrant), start with a workshop session making incense, and they are planning their first ritual for Midwinter Solstice. They meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Camborne Community Centre, a handy venue close to the train station with plenty of parking and full disabled access.

Eve – RC Cornwall

Ros Pagan– by Fiona.

Ros Pagan smells good. Frankincense, myrrh, orange, lemon, sandalwood and a secret ingredient - these are what I chose for my Winter Solstice incense mix at the recent Camborne Moot (Ros Pagan). A total novice in incense making, I was delighted to arrive at the Moot and find a table of ingredients: herbs, spices, gums, etc., complete with an explanation of their properties. Add several pestles and mortars, and we all got stuck into creating wonderful aromas to compare and contrast. I particularly enjoyed beating up my other selection of

protective substances; and indeed am about to burn them on my first open fire of the autumn - or is it winter already? Either way, it's cold!

Ros Pagan has had a good start: an exploratory meeting in a pub produced an artist willing to design a poster; people to create and run a website and Facebook page; a suggested programme of events; and someone to manage the finances. With hindsight we should have passed a hat round then, but the two subsequent moots have generated enough money to cover the rent at the Camborne Community Centre where we have found a home.

Looking forward, we will be combining talks and sharing activities, and intend to celebrate the Winter Solstice as well as future festivals. Our December moot will look at shamanism, with past life regression the topic for January. Outings are also being considered, including a visit to Carwinnon Quoit.

For further information please contact Jan (aljadiy@gmail.com).

Devon

RC report for Devon - Michele

The wheel has turned to that festive time of year again. Everyone is busy trying to get ready to have fun and relax (at some point) whilst enjoying too much food and catching up with friends and family. Numerous (hardy) Pagans will be taking sacred journeys to ancient sites such as Stonehenge or Avebury for the Winter Solstice. The Lord of Misrule will weave his magic upon us and the winter world will be filled with the brilliance of the Unconquered Sun.

Devon Moot News. The recently formed Plymouth Pagan Moot has quite a number of members and is a lively family orientated gathering. Jo O'C has been teaching them Yule chants and dances. Whilst over at the South West Devon Moot Jo revealed "Adam and Eve, the real story". A different Joe has just held the first Totnes Moot (Dec 9th) at the Red Wizard cafe, I hear the second is planned for January. Torbay and Teignbridge Moots are planning a Yule get-together.

I do not have any news about the other Devon moots but from their Facebook pages they are well attended and busy. If you would like to let the Pagan community know about your moot and events, please send information to the editor.

Yuletide Blessings!

Michele RC Devon

A Prayer for the Old Gods at Yule by Patti Wigington

"The Holly King is gone, and the Oak King reigns

Yule is the time of the old winter gods!

Hail to Baldr! To Saturn! To Odin!

Hail to Amaterasu! To Demeter!

Hail to Ra! To Horus!

Hail to Frigga, Minerva, Sulis and Cailleach Bheur!

It is their season, and high in the heavens,
may they grant us their blessings this winter day."

Halloween/Samhain at Boscastle Museum of Witchcraft and Magic October 31st 2015 – by Elaine

Halloween/Samhain started early in Boscastle as the Museum for Witchcraft and Magic had arranged a decorating pumpkins workshop in the morning but the festivities started for the rest of us at 2pm with some fantastic dark border Morris. The Morris sides; Beltane Border Morris, celebrating 15 years together along with Catseye Morris, and for the first time ever in Boscastle- Shadow Hunters. All were superb and a large audience had gathered to watch.

Later in the afternoon, shortly before dusk, the Lands' End horse Penkevyl with its teaser Cassandra Latham-Jones was joined by two Mari Lwyd (grey mare in Welsh) from Wales, the Mari Celeste, from Monmouth and the Mari Troellog, from Carmarthen. They were magnificently decorated with carvings on the skulls, eyes that lit up and jewellery ribbons etc. Mari Lwyd horses are good luck bringers in South Wales, brought out to parade and visit houses during the Yuletide and New Year period. It was wholly appropriate that they should visit the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic at Halloween/Samhain for it is a Celtic celebration marking the end of summer and the beginning of the winter half of the year. After the Penglas horse had danced the Welsh Mari Lwyd horses paraded in front of the museum to meet and greet the gathered crowd and then they tried to gain entry into the museum in what is called the Pwnco ceremony. This is a trial by verse to persuade the householders to allow the horses to come into their homes. After this verse banter (all in Welsh by the way) the museum curators opened the door and the Mari Lwyd were granted entry. They were given food and drink and shown around the museum which they then bestowed with good luck for the coming year. The pumpkin lanterns and the traditional turnip lanterns were lit and admired and a procession went along the river bank towards the public houses of lower Boscastle with the Mari Lwyd horses bringing good luck wherever they went. Everybody ended up at the Wellington for an evening of music and song. The museum also re opened in the evening for one of its wonderful candlelit tours, and this was one of the last opportunities to see the Joseph A. Smith exhibition of some of the original pictures that illustrated Erica Jong's book *'Witches'*. For a proper blog and some exceptionally good photos of the day it's best to visit Cassandra Latham-Jones' blog at: <https://cassandralathamjones.wordpress.com/>

Elaine

With Poppets and Pins - Friends of the MWM Boscastle AGM and get together November 7th 2015 - by Elaine

This Friends' day was a departure from the usual talks which precede the AGM of the Boscastle Friends, for we found we had fewer talks but more time to have a real gathering of friends and our very own pop up museum! This was emphasised in the first talk of the day by Wayne Freeman, who runs the Grove of the White Goddess in Northamptonshire. As the day's title *'With Poppets and Pins'* suggests this was not to be a talk about the practice of 'white' magic but to be an honest excursion into the practice of ill wishing, cursing and hexing. Wayne started with a short definition of cursing, something said direct person to person, or to a deity that has disappointed one, the curse is often said in anger and should take immediate effect. They are still simple hexes but if magic and spells are used in a secret ritual then greater power and effect is given to the curse. The discussion then led into efficacy, and the ethics concerned. Do practitioners fear the 'threefold law' or do they ignore it? Is it right to take responsibility for our own magickal workings or should we abnegate all responsibilities and

say we are relying on help from our deities alone? Well we were asked the questions and as we are all friends together some honest answers were given. Wayne then used that information to lead the discussion on to what works best; dolls and poppets for revenge, or maybe to make a witches ladder using the hair of the victim and black hen feathers plucked from a live, and probably very angry, black hen. Candle magic was discussed and of course, if you can curse you can also be cursed. What antidote works best? One antidote is the witch bottle filled with bent pins and other things plus urine, best left on your property's land border to protect you, or if you know who has cursed you then put the witch bottle as near to the curser's house as possible ----simples.

The next talk was on the Forest Hill Horniman Museum, by the anthropologist Helen Cornish. She had been given access to the secret storehouse of unusual treasures not on display at the actual museum. Many of the objects are in fact magical amulets and the talk gave us a fascinating insight on hidden objects in museums and that many museums are unaware of the magical nature of these curiosities. A book that relates to this talk is *Magic in Modern London 1925* by Edward Lovett which was published by Red Threads Books in 2014. The book was a new edition illustrating Lovett's folklore with photographs of objects which are in the MWM Boscastle. Another interesting aside is that the beginnings of the Horniman Museum are steeped in Golden Dawn history, for Annie Horniman an early member of the Golden Dawn found work for Samuel Liddell Mathers in her father's museum, this was before it moved to Notting Hill.

In the lovely long lunch break before the AGM started Jason Karl had arranged a pop up museum in the upstairs balcony of the Wellington, a veritable smorgasbord was laid out for us to see, but not touch. Various friends had brought objects of interest from their own magical or supernatural collections. Photographs of most of these objects with short descriptions attached had been made into a companion guide book. There was a haunted dolls pram, Cecil Williamson's bone bangles, Julian Vayne's piece of plaster from Crowley's Abbey of Thelema, a roof slate charm of Steve Patterson's but the outstanding piece for me was the Coven Mask brought in by Gemma Gary. It is worn by male members of the coven when they are representing 'the Old One', it really does have the face and horns of the 'Old One' but is comfortably wearable, looked great. If you want to see these objects there are some guidebooks still available at the museum as part of the fundraising by the Friends. And if you don't want to miss out next year join the Friends of the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic.
<http://museumofwitchcraftfriends.blogspot.co.uk/>

Elaine



Forthcoming events



**The Pagan Federation
Devon, Cornwall & Isles
Spring Conference 2016**

Saturday 5th March, Penstowe Manor, Bude

Ronald Hutton ☆ *Minerva*

Win Scutt ☆ *Penny Billington*

Stalls, Closing Ritual, Cornish Piper *Merve Davey*

Music from *Damh the Bard* & *Kate & Corwen* plus DJ

Friday Night Fiendish Pagan Quiz & Social

Advance tickets £18 (PF members) £22 (non-members)

Door Tickets £25

Tickets available online via PayPal (charges apply)

www.paganfederationdevonandcornwall.co.uk

or send SSAE to:

'Pagan Federation Devon & Cornwall DCI (Regional Confernce)

1 Richmond Street, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2PP'

Cheques payable to 'Pagan Federation Devon & Cornwall'.

Please state membership numbers where applicable

FFI dci.dm@pagan federation.co.uk

Penstowe Manor chalet accomodation (special rates available)

contact 01288 312354 or www.penstoweholidays.co.uk

Penstowe, Kilkhampton, Bude Cornwall, EX23 9QY

Sponsored by the Museum of Witchcraft & Magic

Standing in the Dark – by Eve

The Wheel turns and the year slides into darkness. I get up in the dark, drive to work in the half light, and drive home in the dark.

So in keeping with the dark season, let me invite you to reflect on a different kind of darkness. A darkness of terror and suffering and death. It is not part of the natural cycle of death and rebirth but seems a recurring cycle of our humanity.

January 27th 2016 is Holocaust Memorial Day. We read the publicity about the events. We nod solemnly. It's a Wednesday so we might not go but we agree it's very worthy. We must never forget what happened lest it happen again. The Memorial Day and events throughout that week will remember not just the victims of the Nazi Holocaust, but also the victims of genocide in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur and those facing genocide even today. But for many of us perhaps these are names of faraway places and times. These things happened to other people, different people, not people like us. We can't imagine how these things happened. How did ordinary people suddenly start killing their neighbours? How did ordinary people stand by as their former neighbours and friends were marched off to concentration camps? How could it have happened? Perhaps deep down somewhere we are sure it would not have been us; it could never happen to us. They are tales of old terrors safely told in history lessons.

But now the news and social media are telling us tales of horror happening in our own times. Suddenly it's close and real. Acts of ideological violence targeting people who look just like us. Whole populations driven from their home to risk death at sea. Pictures of drowned children brought right into our living rooms. Happening just across the Channel, in places our children went on school trips, places we remember fondly as holiday destinations. The senseless slaughter of the Holocaust and other genocides is not just a history lesson but an ongoing horror. It never really went away. The human potential for evil, for apathy, for greed and selfishness, is still right here, inside ordinary human beings. You can see it peeping out in how people are talking about the refugee crisis and the acts of terrorism. The "*but*s", the "*if only*'s, the division into "*we*" and "*them*" based purely on an accident of birth. *We'd like to help them, but....*

I recently went on holiday to Budapest. Nearly one hundred thousand Jews in Budapest alone died, in the ghetto or sent to concentration camps. But alongside the mass graves and the memorials to those who were killed, there are also memorials to ordinary people who displayed extraordinary courage in trying to save their neighbours. I imagine we have all secretly wondered what we would have done in that situation. Would we have been one of those extraordinary few? Does somewhere within us lie some amazing wellspring of courage and strength? Or do we simply believe that it would not, could not, have happened to us. We would never have gone so far down that path to genocide. But ordinary people – people just like you and me – did. They stood by and unimaginable numbers of human beings died.

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is "Don't stand by".

We stand now in the dark but for us there is the promise of the returning light. Let's spare a prayer, and whatever practical help we can offer, to those of us, (and yes, *us*, not "*them*"), who stand in the dark of man's own making. Don't stand by.



Holocaust Memorial Day Events Week is:

Monday 25th – Friday 29th January 2016 - National HMD day is Wednesday 27/01/16

For further information and details or to book a group attendance in Cornwall , please contact either:-

PC Colin Gameson, Diversity Officer on 07525 409457 or colin.gameson@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

or Clare Hall-Davies, Corporate Equality and Diversity Advisor, Cornwall Council on 01872 324692 or chall-davies@cornwall.gov.uk

In Devon

Plymouth students are joining thousands of others up and down the country as 70 specially designed candles are lit to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/whats-on/holocaust-memorial-day>

In Exeter, events held on Tuesday 27th January 2015 see flyer for further info.

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/hmd-leaflet-2015.pdf>

In the South West, check the Holocaust Memorial trust, South West website for details of events <http://hmd.org.uk/events/find/south-west>

Museum of Witchcraft and Magic (MWM)

The Museum of Witchcraft and Magic (MWM) is closed in December until Christmas holidays.

It is then open every day from December 19th until January 3rd (inclusive) where opening hours each day will be 12-5pm (last entry 4.30pm). Closed Christmas Day. Closed from 4th January 2016 until March 24th 2016.

Re-opening Friday March 25th and remaining open every day until October 31st 2016.

Monday to Saturday 10.30am-6pm and Sunday 11.30am-6pm. Last entry is always half an hour before we close (5.30pm).

For further detail and events check out the MWM Blog

www.museumofwitchcraft.blogspot.co.uk



Beloved Dead

We remember those local pagans who have passed over recently, Pam Masterson, Jon Day, Frances Wright and Mike Howard (who's obituary appears in Pagan Dawn 197).

Jon Day

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of our dear friend Jon Day. Many of you will know Jon. He founded Capall Bann publishing with his wife Julia over twenty years ago and together they published many books on Witchcraft and Paganism and did much to bring Witchcraft to a wide audience. Amongst the authors whose work Jon published were Mike Howard, Levannah Morgan, Nigel Pearson and Pete Jennings to name but a very few, and Capall Bann's work on publishing key texts of traditional Witchcraft and folk magic was not only highly valued but also a labour of love. Many of us have wonderful memories not just of Jon as a committed and enthusiastic publisher but also as a dedicated organic farmer who welcomed us to his wonderful family home and farm in Somerset and somehow always managed to juggle running conference bookstalls with lambing and other matters of the land. The world of Witchcraft and Paganism is much the poorer for his passing.

I have great cause to be grateful to Jon. He encouraged me to have the confidence to write and his cheerful patience and support made my writing possible. I will always cherish happy meetings at Jon and Julia's warm, welcoming farmhouse where help and advice were given generously amidst a happy chaos of kittens, dogs, house plants (I always went home with a bag of cuttings) and general domestic abundance.

Jon had been ill with leukaemia for several years but continued to work and publish throughout the difficult times and bore his illness with phenomenal grace and courage.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Julia, Tara and Tawney. They are determined that Capall Bann will go on and I hope we will all rally round and support them in every way we can.

We will miss Jon terribly and we are sure that Friends of the Museum will find ways to remember Jon and commemorate his work. May he find peace and rest.

Eulogy by Levannah

Further information: <http://www.capallbann.co.uk/>

Pam Masterson

17th December 1947 – 16th October 2015

On Friday 16th October 2015, I performed a simple Last Rites ritual and said farewell to a dear friend. Within two hours she passed away peacefully with her family by her side.

Most of you would have known Pam as the entertaining and knowledgeable owner of The Healing Star situated at the top of Causewayhead, Penzance. Pam successfully ran this shop for 14 years selling esoteric artefacts and paraphernalia, and also hired out the back room for various spiritual and healing functions. Indeed the Penwith Pagan Moot utilised this room for many years.

However, Pam wasn't only a shop proprietor; she also studied and attained the level of Swami Bodhini, British Yoga Wheel Teacher of Yoga Nidra for over 35 yrs. She also held the title of The Very Reverend Pamela Masterson of The Stellar Maris Independent Church of The

Mysteries. As you can imagine there were quite a few humorous stories associated with Pam being a Bishop well before the Church of England had got its act together about such issues!



Over the years I knew Pam, I found her to be highly articulate about many subjects and she was an authority on the Kabala and the Egyptian mysteries. She did not suffer fools gladly and was completely up front with calling a spade a shovel on many occasions! I respected her viewpoint on many things and I loved her dry witticisms about the vagaries of life and people in general. Pam was always up for a good robust discussion and airing of viewpoints and ideas.

Over the last couple of years Pam battled bravely, with humour and fortitude (and a lot of stubbornness!), a long standing and debilitating medical condition that eventually she succumbed to.

I, along with many others, will miss her greatly and the local community of spiritual healers and practitioners is the poorer as a result of her departure.

Pam's funeral was held on a Full Moon, Tuesday 27th October 2015, 3.00pm at Camborne Crematorium followed by a Wake to celebrate her life at the Pirate Inn in Penzance.

A few weeks later on Friday 13th November a Requiem Ritual was performed by close friends and fellow practitioners in the Stella Maris Centre, where Pam was given a wonderfully moving ritual send-off which contained just the right levels of mirth and reverence!

Rest in Peace Pam – you were a true Priestess.

Eulogy by Cassandra Latham-Jones.

Photos by Emma James



Frances Wright (Pagan and Herbalist)

Sunrise 12th March 1962 – Sunset 25th September 2015

May her journey to the Summer Isles be one of peace.

Frances died of breast cancer in September and has been gathered to the ancestors at the peak of her creativity and environmental stewardship. She spent much of her life living close to the land in a low impact way, in communities around the World and at Rainbow Circle Camps. Among her many roles she worked in environmental conservation and as a botanical surveyor and her interest in earth-based herbal healing began around 20 years ago. Her local Practice – Green Lane Herbs – was opened after her extensive training and she believed the earth-based philosophy on which it was modelled to be unique in the UK.



She successfully fulfilled her dream of building a medicinal herb garden and community - powered by renewable energy - on her land near Totnes in Devon. She believed that plants, which freely offer help and healing, grow in abundance all around us, and can be gathered and prepared by traditional methods. Her Althaea herb garden is a mandala based on the four elements and reflects her understanding of the nature of plant helpers. It has become a community health and educational project providing therapy and meditational space as

well as herbs for medicine and ritual – or just lunch. Here she trained others in the understanding and use of plant helpers.

She has left her garden as a legacy for other herbalists to cultivate and harvest. It remains a place of peace and tranquillity for shamanistic experiences, ritual or quiet contemplation. Her remains lay next to this beloved garden and her physical presence will be missed by her many friends, family and the gardeners who now tend her beloved herbs.

She has left a further legacy of two very beautiful and talented daughters who inherit her love of the Earth.

May she rest with the ancestors in peace.

Eulogy by Roni



What's the point of Pagan Federation membership, anyway?

All you get is a magazine every 3 months and the chance to go along to a monthly moot or a conference, right?

Well wrong, actually. The magazine and events are additional perks of membership of the Pagan Federation. Founded in 1971, the PF seeks to support all Pagans to ensure they have the same rights and services as the followers of other beliefs and religions. It aims to promote a positive profile for Pagans and Paganism and to provide information on Pagan beliefs to the media, official bodies and the greater community. The Pagan Federation regards membership of any organisations that refuse to support freedom of religion and equality of race, gender, and sexual orientation, as incompatible with our aims, objectives and values.

So what does that actually mean? Well as a starter, here's a brief list of some of the higher profile achievements we've made in the past:

- 1970 The Pagan Federation stopped MP Gwilym Roberts from bringing in private members' bill to outlaw witchcraft once again.
- 1984 The Pagan Federation was instrumental in persuading English Heritage to take seriously the significance of Stonehenge for Druid and other Pagan groups
- 1986 The Pagan Federation successfully campaigned, together with the British Naturist Association, against the anti-nudity provisions of the Public Order Act, which would have made nakedness illegal anywhere a passer-by, however unlikely, might have seen it.
- 1988 The Pagan Federation helped secure religious exemption from the anti-knife legislation brought in that year. Since then Pagans have the right to carry knives securely to and from rituals.
- 1988-91 The Pagan Federation was key in turning the tide against the Satanic Ritual Abuse Myth (SRAM), We waged a long campaign, together with other organisations, against the myth and advised counsel in several cases, finally exposing the SRAM as a typical example of unfounded moral panic.
- 1990 The Pagan Federation was asked by the Home Office to select Pagan Prison Ministers. Which it has continued to do ever since.
- 2004 Pagan Federation Scotland gained the right to conduct legally binding weddings under Scottish law.
- 2006 Courts in England and Wales accepted use of the Pagan oath 'I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth by all that I hold sacred' when giving evidence in court.
- 2008 The Pagan Federation, representing Pagans, accepted the offer of membership of the National Council for Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education.
- 2011 The Pagan Federation gained representation for Pagans on the Religious Education Council of England and Wales and continues to work for consideration of the inclusion of Paganism within an educational setting.
- 2013 Pagan Federation Scotland gained membership of Interfaith Scotland

- 2014 Developed an independent body, Janus Community Chaplaincy, to help organise the rehabilitation of ex-offenders in response to the government decision to outsource what was formerly probation service work to faith and community groups.
- 2014 Began developing closer working links with other Pagan organisations with a view to supporting and championing the excellent work and services provided by others within the wider Pagan community.
- 2014 Became members of the Interfaith Network UK in order to advance the inclusion of Pagans in interfaith dialogue, thereby improving understanding of Paganism and Pagan paths within other faith communities.
- 1971-2014 Provided advocacy and support to countless Pagans who have been subject to discrimination because of their stated beliefs.
- 1971-2014 Provided prudent responses to the media concerning Pagans and their beliefs and practices.

Of course, that list is only a fraction of the work the Pagan Federation has done in pursuit of its aims. PF officers around the country are helping Pagans and, indeed the wider community in all sorts of ways, on a daily basis. The Pagan Federation is really about serving the community much more than it is about providing magazines and events. It always has been and always will be. For as long as there are Pagans in the world, there will need to be people who speak up for Pagans in society. Even the more widely recognised faiths need bodies to speak for them in a wide range of official settings, and they each provide large sums of money to employ people to perform that duty.

The Pagan Federation tries to perform the same duty for the Pagan community with the funds remaining from membership fees after the cost of that magazine and postage has been subtracted. We're fortunate that many members also make a small donation with their membership fees in order to help provide funds for the work we do for ALL Pagans. We could do more if we had the funds available. We try to attract the best Pagan professionals available to fill positions within the Pagan Federation, and have begun engaging those professionals in providing training and guidance for other officers within the Pagan Federation. All officers within the Pagan Federation are volunteers, including the highly trained and experienced professional. So why do they volunteer? Being an officer of the Pagan Federation is not a status thing. There is far too much work, time, energy and expenditure involved for status to really be a factor. Our officers volunteer because they believe the Pagan community should be served and they are willing to help provide that service.

Membership of the Pagan Federation enables the Pagan Federation to serve Pagans and the wider community. It provides Pagans with an opportunity to have their beliefs and practices better understood and respected by the wider community. There is still much more work to do in that regard, so the Pagan Federation is still a vital body for Pagans today.

Mike Stygal, PF President (abridged by Anna Lawson).



Moots

Cornwall (Kernow)

Betwixt Moot (Redruth, Camborne, Truro, Falmouth)

Meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month. FFI contact Ann: 01872 863970

Bude Moot

Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Conference Room at the Parkhouse Centre, Ergue Gaberic Way, Bude, EX23 8LD. Tea or coffee provided or vending machine. We ask for a £2 per person donation to cover room hire. Meet from 7pm to start talks/ceremonies at 7.30pm. FFI Contact Lisa at budemoot@lchambers.co.uk or Debbie@specialdaysinspecialways.co.uk

The Dolmen Grove Ivy Moon Moot

Meets on the 1st Wed of every month, 7.30 pm, St Austell area. We hold talks, workshops, have outings and celebrate the Sabbats. Options to attend Camps, Larger Rituals, Stonehenge access & Samhain/Yule Ball. Friendly like-minded people, all spiritual paths welcome.

FFI contact: Karen tel: 077411 177 185

Fb page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ivy-Moon-Group>

Liskeard Moot

Meets 2nd Thursday each month, 7 for 7.30pm, The Long Room, The Public Hall, West Street, Liskeard PL14 6BW. FFI Contact Jane email: liskeardmoot@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/271716272934061

Ros Pagan (Pagan Wheel)

Camborne based Moot. Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, at the Camborne Community Centre, (South Tce, TR14 8SU). Pagans of all paths – or those just interested in finding out more – very welcome. Meets for talks, discussions, rituals and outings. We ask for a donation of £2 to help cover the cost of room hire. Refreshments provided. The Community Centre is close to bus and train links, has a large car park and full disabled access.

FFI contact Eve on dcj.cornwall@paganfederation.co.uk for more details.

Fraddon Moot

First Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm. Meets at the Blue Anchor Inn, Fraddon, just off the A30.

Pagans (and seekers) of all paths very welcome. FFI contact Lou on:

fraddoncoven@hotmail.com

Penwith Pagan Moot

Now holding four rituals a year and hoping to restart monthly meetings in 2016. FFI contact – Dave on tarewaste@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.penwithpaganmoot.co.uk



Devon (Dumnonia)

Exeter & Devon Pagan Circles

Exeter & Devon Pagan Circles hold regular moots every Thursday at the Cowick Barton pub some themed, some purely social. We will still hold occasional moots and events at Ye Olde White Lion, Bradninch. Please come and join us. See you there. Check our Facebook page for details and updates: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/EUPAGANCIRCLE/>

North Devon FFI email the Local Coordinator Minerva on oldcrone24@gmail.com

Plymouth Pagan Moot

Held on the first Saturday every month, it is not regimented and aims to get back to nature and to have fun. Family orientated so children welcome, as is any one from any spiritual path. Moots will be held outside weather permitting and will move into a hall in the winter months. Sabbat activities and guest speakers to be included at a later date.

FFI Sarah email plymouthpaganmoot@outlook.com

South West Devon Moot

Meets in the Stoke area of Plymouth, held on 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. We are a friendly moot run in a private house in the Stoke area of Plymouth.

FFI contact Patrick on 07964565338 or 01752 338292 (evenings) email pdq.mears@virgin.net or find us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/paganfedplymouth/>

Tavistock West Moor Pagans

The West Moor moot is on a break at present. So contact us for information on planned seasonal rituals. Michele email westmoormoot@gmail.com

Teignbridge Pagans

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Old Rydon Inn, Kingsteignton, 7.30pm.

FFI check out the Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/203242459794674/> or email Elaine leiane@hotmail.co.uk

Three Moors Pagan Moot

Three Fold Pagans meets every 3rd Thursday of the month, at The Highwayman's Inn, Sourton, nr Okehampton, all are welcome. FFI please call Shadowlea on 01837 659656

Torbay/South Devon Pagan Moot

The Torbay Moot group is a long established eclectic group of like-minded pagan people. We meet at the Noble Tree in Torre Torquay on the first Thursday of the month, 7.30 -9.30 pm.

We meet for open celebration, study and have an invite only women's moon group. FFI Tania email taniakennedy67@hotmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/370597919466/>



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DarkMirrorMagazine@gmail.com

Handfasting & Ceremony

Handfastings, Funerals or Celebration? A celebrant is available for your special ceremony, designed for you, with you, every step of the way.

Maia Messenger –email: maiamessenger@yahoo.com

Special Days in Special Ways: Debbie and Steve are experienced celebrants for whichever type of ceremony you require. We have an eclectic style, and all ceremonies are tailor made for you. Please visit www.specialdaysinspecialways.co.uk for more information.

West Moor Celebrants: Contact us for bespoke Handfastings, celebrations of life and rites of passage, Michele and Harvey, westmoormoot@gmail.com.

Counselling

Tamar Counselling. Help and support with many of life's problems from a counsellor with a pagan perspective. Based in Bude/Holsworthy. Contact Steve Merritt on 07855 998890, email me via website, www.tamarcounselling.co.uk where you can find further information.

Retail

Mystical Crafts & Gifts - A great selection of pagan & wiccan items including essentials and an exciting choice of gifts including lots of fair trade items.

For a friendly service please visit www.pagan-supplies.com

Wise Old Crow, Bude, Cornwall for all things wicca, pagan and esoteric
www.facebook.com/wiseoldcrow . Sue Clarke www.sueclarkereadings.co.uk
www.wiseoldcrow.com

Museum of Witchcraft and Magic

Details of opening times, online shop and other interesting info can be found on the Museum website. www.museumofwitchcraft.com

The Harbour, Boscastle, Cornwall PL35 OHD Tel: 01840 250111

Cornwall School of Mystery and Magick

The latest newsletter from the Cornish School of Mystery and Magick lists current activities and future events. It can be downloaded here

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8b4deb991eb99baf86ccce211/files/Samhain2015.pdf>



Who is who locally

Pagan Federation Devon, Cornwall & Isles

District Website www.paganfederationdevonandcornwall.co.uk

District Enquiries dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk

District address for All Postal correspondence PF DCI c/o, Torcroft, Commons Lane, Shaldon, TQ14 0HN.

Your PF District Officers

District Manager:

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Regional Co-ordinators:

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Cornwall: Eve dci.cornwall@paganfederation.co.uk

Isles: Oak Leaf dci.isles@paganfederation.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

Contact Harvey DarkMirrorMagazine@gmail.com

District Conference

Contact the organizer dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk

Interfaith officers

All areas dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk

District webmaster

Contact Charles charles@cadgwith.com 0800 787 9208
<http://www.cadgwith.com/>

National Website: www.paganfed.org

Local Contacts are listed under 'Moots' (section above).



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<http://www.paganfed.org/paypal/join/index.shtml>

Need to renew? Go to:

<http://www.paganfed.org/paypal/renew/index.shtml>

