

# *Dark Mirror*



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*Litha (Summer Solstice) 2016*

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## Behind the Mirror

**Welcome to the Dark Mirror Summer Solstice Issue** - this edition celebrates the period between Ostara and Litha. The cover shows our dark mirror surrounded by the verdant summer growth with oak, beech and elderflowers.

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

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### 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](mailto:DarkMirrorMagazine@gmail.com) or by mail to:  
Dark Mirror c/o PF DCI, Torcroft, Commons Lane, Shaldon, TQ14 OHN.

### Copy deadlines

Please get your articles in by the deadline and the editor will do his 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

Litha turns towards Lammass/Lughnasadh and the next newsletter we will be at Mabon, when summer is truly over. The truth is that by the time you read this, the wheel will already be turning towards winter. It is a magical time of year as the summer solstice signal to the plants that feed us and wish to remain, start a race towards fruiting and seed production. For the garden mowers amongst us the grasses 'bolt' and then finally stop growing visibly it is a relief!

During early June, I travelled part of the District and visited several open pagan moots in Devon and Cornwall. It was an amazing and very rewarding (mead-filled) experience. I have had time to reflect on our increasing pagan community and it must be said that there has never been a time to be more proud of being Pagan in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles. There is so much we are doing between us and this includes education, sharing between moots, between counties and across the international miles, eclectic celebration and very creative events are now happening all over the District, so being Pagan is a busy task. At every moot, I am told of new ideas and Facebook has opened up the cooperation and communication to outstanding levels. I am reminded of the early days when we found each other on a 'need to know' basis, and the PF had a strong role in that social networking, but now it is an exponential experience of openness, pride and love. It is clear that those who wish to work within a small closed team for magickal purposes are also increasing in number, across many traditions, and these are forming naturally within the open groups. Like attracts like is a fundamental cosmic law and we are all finding each other in increasing numbers. Being A Pagan is really good today.

After a strong five years of good attendance at our District Conference, we have a small surplus of District funds. We are 'not for profit' so the District team has met and come to a decision about donations and supporting local pagan activities as a guarantee against loss. We looked at all suggestions from members and gave donations to Bat Conservation (member's suggestion) and Cornwall Faith Forum, Dor Kemmyn Project (as suggested by our Cornwall RC Eve). I am now a member of Devon Faith Forum so I will be able to report on interfaith activities, which may interest you, in due course. We have also supported a new family centred moot. Funding allocation is still in process: we are supporting new events in Devon and Cornwall, looking at self-publishing those Fiendish Quizzes you love as a book for you, and looking at ways to support Confortia (an organisation supporting the bereaved).

On the matter of dying, we are also going to donate to the Woodland Trust in honour of our named Pagan Dead. We are compiling a list so please add to this by emailing me at [dcidm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dcidm@paganfederation.co.uk). It appears it has also been a time of loss for many of us. Not only are we seeing our iconic public figures travelling on in large numbers, but those we love at home have gone on as well. It is so hard for those of us left behind, even if you hold a firm belief in the afterlife. People who are pagan (and even those who are not) are seeking a service or ceremony with spiritual meaning and those of us who are celebrants (see listing at the back) are increasingly in demand. If you can offer a service as a Pagan (ceremony, readings, counselling) and you are a member of the PF, these line ads are free, and people are asking for your help.

Hopefully we will have many Pagans of Devon, Cornwall, Isles and visitors to the District arriving to enjoy the PF Picnic at the Hurlers, Minions, Cornwall on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 2pm. On the 20<sup>th</sup> August, there is a big Faerie Festival event in Dawlish (all day). The Exeter

Witches Tea party is being held again on August Bank Holiday Sunday. Mabon on the Moor promises to be a wonderful gathering on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September, meet at Jamaica Inn at 5 pm. The Museum of Witchcraft and Magic is also celebrating festivals this year. Details of all these are in this newsletter, so read on and enjoy the excellent articles and the news around the District.

Summer Blessings,

Blessings. Maia.

District Manager Devon, Cornwall & Isles [dcidm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dcidm@paganfederation.co.uk)

## News and events

### Cornwall

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#### RC report for Cornwall – Eve

Summer is finally here!

Last weekend I went to Glastonbury to celebrate the imminent coming of Midsummer with OBOD. Although in Cornwall many of us, (including me for the most part), of necessity work and celebrate alone, when I attend these large events I am reminded of how easy it is to feel isolated and how at times nearly all of us appreciate some company on parts of the path. Getting up at 3.30 in the morning is quite a daunting prospect for me and the climb to the summit of the Tor is not getting any less challenging but with others yawning and panting alongside at least I was not the only one struggling!

As I get older, I know that with every passing year those hills are going to get steeper and the kit I am carrying heavier. Being with others can sometimes make climbing those hills or carrying those burdens – whether physical or spiritual - easier. This is an important role for our Moots. If you work alone, just knowing there is a group you can attend where you can relax and be yourself just for one evening can be helpful. Most Moots are a mixture of people from different paths, but underlying those differences is a shared spirituality based in, and reverencing, Nature. Our wonderful Moot leaders deserve our respect and thanks for all their hard work in organising groups.

Sometimes people come, or not, depending on what they “can get out of” that month’s topic – but we should also perhaps think about what we can offer. Even if you do not feel you can give a talk, lead a workshop, or have anything “headline” to offer, your very presence there can be a support and an encouragement. Just showing up every month, a “regular”, is a way of offering support and letting Moot organisers know that what they do is appreciated. There is a value in giving as well as receiving.

Wishing you sunny Solstice blessings,

Eve

RC Cornwall

PS If you want to share in a (real) hill walk, check out, (in this Dark Mirror), the details of the “Mabon in the Moor” event, which is being organised by Lisheard Moot.

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## Devon

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### RC report for Devon – Michele

Midsummer has arrived again, the totality of expansive Sun energy combines this year with a Full Moon; a potent mix of cosmic power to manifest both efforts and dreams. Nature is totally abundant in Her power. On the Moor, trees are full of verdant leaf, birds are teaching their fledged young, lots of foals and growing lambs bounding around, so many flamboyant flowers, everything is so completely alive.

There is a small patch of private woodland near where I live. Often I walked past the once old and neglected, tall and tangled wood, it felt a bit oppressive place but I am certain the birds and animals enjoyed its shelter. Despite the invading Laurels, the woodland had a lovely energy around is gateway made from sturdy pieces of Dartmoor granite. Then the wood was harvested, when the logging company moved in it was horrific. They removed all the overgrown pine leaving a gaping void of rent wasteland and smoking wood piles of death pyres. Trunks had been dragged for a good ten minutes walk over the moor to the closest road, resulting in a huge scar in the earth. This disturbance to the land took another six months to be refilled and made safe to walk on again; the small wood was once more planted with small trees.



Now two years on the land is starting to feel healed again. Foxgloves have moved in on mass, their exuberant take-over and extensive summer display is simply stunning. The young trees are still wrapped in protective green covers, their leaves suggest beech or birch, and nature has coloured the land back to green. Harmony is returning to this place bringing a fresh start full of brightness. Foxgloves belong to the Fey; their timeless and

elegant spikes of purple bells rise up from the disturbed acid soils. Energies are strongly returning at this time of the Summer Solstice. These bring the Otherworldly music of Foxglove bells played by the cunning red Fox, green mounded rosettes of furry leaves evoke 'Flop a Dock' Rabbit, and the wild Honeybee hums creative songs in the depths of those magnificent flowers. Together this renews the connection between the land and the folk who care for Her. Be warned it is best to leave the Foxglove alone, as, 'It can raise the dead and kill the living'. I took photos to share as this renewal refreshes the soul and is the magic of the land that gladdens the heart.

Moot-wise there has been a lot of expansive activity and I am greatly delighted by the many new moots blossoming all over Devon. Several Moots have contributed to this issue; others

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have been in contact and are 'going along nicely' with social activities, Pagan readings, topical discussions, planned events and seasonal rituals.

Our annual PF Lammas Picnic at the Hurlers is in August. I very much hope to see many of our members there, as this is a fantastic community gathering and counterpoint to the Spring Conference!

Solstice Blessings

Michele  
RC Devon

### **Teignbridge Moot News**

Teignbridge Moot meets every third Monday of the month at The Old Rydon Inn, Kingsteignton. Over the past few months, we have had a quiz night, explorations into Alchemy and Druidry, and reviewed Doreen Valiente's contribution to the craft. Please note we are not having a moot in June as the third Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, happens to be the Summer Solstice. We shall have a moot on July 18<sup>th</sup> and then have a summer break, so there will be no moot in August. We'll start having our monthly moots again on Monday

B.B. and Awen from Elaine and Mariya

### **Devon Pagan Communities – Exeter – News**

Some of their noteworthy recent events include:

5 May: Natalie Winter (who is a pure-blood Romani and a hereditary Chovahàni -- Romani witch/healer) gave a talk on Romani history, culture, folklore and Paganism. An audio recording of this talk is available online (request access via Devon Pagan Communities).

7 May: A Bluebell Walk in woods at Farringdon, followed by Cream Tea, Beltane Ritual and Garden Party. A wonderful time was had by all, lots of photos of the woods (including rare orchids and other wildlife) can be found on Devon Pagan Communities.

19 May: Maia Messenger gave us a brilliant talk on Huber School Astrology, including doing brief birth chart interpretations for most of the audience.

2 June: Experienced cryptozoologist Richard Freeman gave a talk on the search for the truth behind the legend of the Mongolian Death Worm. Very interesting and more than a little scary!

4 June: A Pagan Garden Party and Dark Moon Ritual was held in Farringdon, near Exeter. This was very well attended and a lot of fun, as well as having a serious side.

16 June: Natalie Winter gave a talk on Tarot and Cartomancy; an audio recording of this talk is available online (request access via Devon Pagan Communities) and a written version can be found at <http://www.dawnmist.org/craft/tarot.htm>

Natalie & Heather



## Articles

### Lugh, Lord of the Sky and Master of the Silver Sling.

The Story of Lugh begins in the enmity between two old rivals, the De Dannans (the children of the goddess Dana) and the Formorians (followers of the Lord of Darkness, Balor). Long had they fought for supremacy over the world and the De Dannans had languished in their fortress at Tara awaiting one who would lead them to victory over their bitter rivals.

A prophecy was sent to Balor that his own grandson would kill him. In order to prevent this he imprisoned his daughter Eithne in a tower made from crystal. The only access to the tower was by means of flying. However the De Dannan warrior Cian had already spied Eithne, had fallen in love with her, and persuaded a druidress to grant him the power of flight so that he might gain her bower. This done, Eithne became pregnant and bore two sons. Balor was furious and afraid and flung the babies into the nearby sea. One child was saved, rescued by the sea god Mannanan MacLir. This god gave the boy to the warrior queen Tailtu to raise.

Lugh was an active boy, easily bored and ran his foster mother ragged in his quest to gain proficiency at many skills. He was a master warrior, a hunter, a swordsman, skilled with the slingshot. He was also a smith, a healer and a bard. There was no skill that Lugh would not try. Eventually he was old enough to take his place in the world and he journeyed to the sacred home of the De Dannans, the magical palace at Tara. Here he gained King Nuada's confidence as the multi-skilled champion of the De Dannan cause. He became their king and led them into a decisive battle against the Formorians led by his grandfather Balor. Balor had an evil eye which, when opened, would destroy all it could see. As Balor prepared to open his eye, Lugh prepared his sling and shot a stone right through the eye of his grandfather, slaying him. Thus, the prophecy came to pass and the De Dannans were triumphant.

To celebrate the victory, Lugh ordered feasting and games to be held, but at this time news reached him that his foster mother Tailtu had died. Lugh then ordered that the feasting and the games should be held in her honour and were to be celebrated at this time of year for evermore. August 1<sup>st</sup> is the time of this feasting and Lugh gave his name to the festival of Lughnasadh, the first harvest.

Lugh as a warrior was unrivalled, but he also gives his blessings on those who are about to take on a new enterprise. His spirit encompasses the virtues of the sun; creativity and the desire to seek new skills and challenges. His like is found throughout the Celtic world. The Celtic nations brought this aspect of the God with them as they travelled across Europe. In Ireland, his name is Lugh, in Wales it is Llew and in Gaul Lugus. His name may have derived from the Celtic root word 'leuk' meaning 'flashing light'. In Breton, this word is 'luc'h' and in Cornish it is 'lughes'. Equally, it may have sprung from the Celtic word for 'upsetting power' – 'lugu'; it may have been taken from the word 'pleu', meaning to flow. Wherever his name came from the spirit of his valour still comes to us if we have need of resolve in a difficult time and at the third cross quarter celebration every year we remember his name in celebration of the feast of the first harvest. Lugh is an aspect of the Sun God and it is fitting that he gives his name to the celebration of the first harvest for this is the culmination of the promises made at Ostara and Beltane and this is the gift that he gives to the land.

Blessed Be

Allison

## The Revival of the Cult of Isis in the Nineteenth Century and a goddess for today.

The origins of the cult of Isis are very uncertain. She was possibly originally an independent and popular deity of the northern Delta, at Sebennytos. The Greeks probably pronounced her name as *Eee Sees* (or she might have been called Eset in Egypt itself). Isis was worshipped as the ideal mother and wife as well as the patroness of nature and magic and of women, mothers and children. The name Isis literally means "Throne". Her headdress is a throne. Isis is also known as a protector of the dead. Symbols associated with Isis are the *tiet* ([the "Knot of Isis"](#)), the throne, the kite (she and her sister [Nephthys](#) would fly as kites, a bird associated with the dead as it is a carrion feeder), the scorpion, and the [sistrum](#). Isis's island of Philae in Upper Egypt was the last of the ancient Egyptian temples to be closed. She was served by both priests and priestesses throughout the history of her cult. By the Greco-Roman era, many of her priests and priestesses had a reputation for wisdom and healing, and were said to have other special powers, including dream interpretation and the ability to control the weather, which they did by braiding or not combing their hair. The latter was believed because the Egyptians considered knots to have magical powers.

The worship of Isis eventually spread throughout the Greco-Roman world, continuing until the suppression of paganism in the Christian era. Isis and Osiris temples were set up throughout the Roman Empire. Iseums were places of cults of Isis and the best description of the cult is found in Apuleius's *Tale of the Ass*. The popular motif of Isis suckling her son Horus, however, lived on in a Christianized context as the popular image of Mary suckling her infant son Jesus from the fifth century onward.

The publishing of *Isis Unveiled* in 1877 by Madame Helena Petrovna Blavatsky was a groundbreaking event for esotericism. However, when reading *Isis Unveiled* there are, in fact, relatively few references to Isis in it, not enough it would seem to justify the book's title. But from these short lines a major Isis revival began. Mme. Blavatsky noted that the Virgin Mary, with her infant, is represented as the 'Queen of Heaven', with stars around her head, and with a crescent moon, the emblem of virginity. She states that the Virgin Mary is only Isis 'Queen of Heaven' and 'Immaculate' rechristened. Isis too is often portrayed fully veiled thereby denoting her virgin mother status; she was anthropomorphised into Mary, the mother of God, by Cyril Bishop of Alexandria (c. 376 – 444).

Anna Bonus Kingsford translated from the French translation of Dr. Louis Ménard the Hermetic texts *Koré Kosmou* and some of the other fragments known collectively as *The Virgin of the World of Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus* in 1885. In her long and masterly introduction the reader learns that the Hermetic books contain the wisdom of ancient Egypt, which had been retained and remembered by the Greek neo-Platonists of Alexandria. Anna Kingsford understood these Hermetic truths and why these texts were so important to the neo-Platonists; for they show the link between microcosmic man and macrocosmic universe interpreted through the Egyptian and Greek pantheons and their myths. Kingsford also understood that the neo-Platonists could see that Demeter, the 'Divine Intelligence' is the heavenly fountain the super-mundane source from which the soul emerges and so Demeter is mother of Koré the soul. When Koré is falling into generation, becoming a prisoner of matter, a soul bound to a material body, it is the goddess Isis who directs and dispenses the soul's fate and this explains why Isis is portrayed as the foster-mother of Koré (the soul). Indeed, Isis and Demeter became so interconnected to each other that they were often regarded as the same goddess and so the stories of the wandering and suffering of both goddesses were modified to

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harmonise with each other in the Eleusinian mysteries.

Isis and Demeter were linked just as Osiris and Dionysos were linked together for the Bacchic mysteries both gods were seen as the macro-cosmic 'Son of God'. Kingsford saw the regenerative Osiris as not just the Sun god being resurrected but also the individual human moving from one incarnation to another and, indeed, the whole of humanity moving through reincarnation experiences to a higher, more spiritual, plane for humanity itself; regeneration and a resurrection through the transmigration of the soul for the individual and evolution for the human race. Isis whilst on one hand portrayed as a wife and at the same time as mother of Osiris is also Isis as the personification of 'the divine power in Nature'. Isis has a ministering function to aid each soul through providing positive life experiences as the 'ordination of events and conditions appropriate to the soul's development. Isis is thus the secret motive-power of Evolution; Osiris is the ultimate ideal Humanity towards the realisation that Evolution moves.' Isis can also catapult a human into a magical initiatory experience that leads to a Gnostic enlightenment and rebirth in this life. It was this aspect of Isis's power which fascinated the magicians of the Golden Dawn.

This 'ordination of events and conditions' is controlled by Isis and regulates whether events are perceived as Artemis bringing 'good fortune' or as Hekate dispensing 'evil fortune'. Isis is the goddess controlling an Isis/Artemis goddess granting the soul a positive karmic placement or in the case of Hekate by teaching the soul through more negative karmic experiences. These goddesses are providing each returning soul with the most suitable conditions in which that soul can extend and develop itself but Isis can provide not only the nurturing conditions for the soul's progress but also the possibilities of an initiation experience into an expanded consciousness in this life.

The Dr. Louis Ménéard translation also contains the story of Isis having a conversation with Horus after she has made him into an immortal by giving him a potion. Horus is told about the beginning of the world and why his parents Isis and Osiris had been granted leave to come to earth, it was in fact to try to save the souls of mankind. They are there to stop the endless wars and to teach farming and law bringing order and justice to the earth. All of this was done with the help of Hermes/Thoth. Isis instructs Horus and the reader on all that is necessary to know and understand the soul through the four elements. The esoteric lesson on the Hermetic fragment *Koré Kosmou* is to understand the Soul, for in all her forms she is both virgin and mother; in Isis, she is Initiatrix and Enlightener.

This lecture encapsulates the pantheism of Kingsford, the acknowledgment of the role that demiurges and other manifestations of the divine (such as Isis in the role of Artemis or Hecate) can have as an illuminating or controlling influence on the wandering Soul until there comes 'her final recovery of generation and the return to the celestial abodes'. For Anna Kingsford, Isis was the great Initiatrix who initiated the 'seeker' into the Western Spiritual Path and Anna's powerful visions of priestesses worshipping in a temple within the Great Pyramid so inspired *William Wynn Westcott*, one of the founding members of The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, that he declared Anna Kingsford was indeed 'illuminated by the Sun of Light'. Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers, another of the order's founders, devised the Egyptian symbolism to be used in Golden Dawn (GD) rituals. MacGregor Mathers and Florence Farr were most deeply involved on Egyptian ritual magic, which culminated later in MacGregor Mathers, with his wife Moina Mathers, holding theatrical open rituals for Isis in Paris. Florence Farr another leading member of the GD had her own visionary contact with Isis and wrote a story about Ra and Isis, and a play involving a priestess of Isis. The image of Isis as Initiatrix

could well have been the most significant factor influencing the choice of Isis-Urania for the name for the first temple of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.

MacGregor Mathers decorated a room as an Egyptian temple and introduced a public Isis ritual in Paris after receiving a direct 'order' from Isis to 'proclaim her divinity to the modern world'. In 1898, Samuel and Moina began working on a series of Egyptian ritual dramas of "The Rites of Isis" which were performed for the paying public numerous times on the stage of the Theatre Bodiniere on Rue Saint-Lazare, Paris during 1899 and 1900. There are photos of Moina Mathers as a priestess of Isis and of Samuel as Rameses, unfortunately the actual wording for the ritual is lost. Their theatrical rite included stage settings painted by Moina, a gifted artist, and combined staging with recitation, dance and magical ritual. Mathers had been the main writer and deviser of the Golden Dawn Order's rituals so he was well qualified to produce a dramatic public ritual, which was a sensational success. 'In the centre of the stage was the figure of Isis, on each side of her were other figures of gods and goddesses, and in front was the little altar, upon which was the ever burning green stone lamp'. Isis was invoked by Priestess Anari (Moina Mathers) and after prayers and a recitation (in French) in honour of Isis there was a 'dance of the four elements'. Most of the ladies present in the fashionable Parisian audience brought offerings of flowers, whilst the gentlemen threw wheat on the altar. Aleister Crowley visited the Mathers in Paris at this time and later freely borrowed from the "Rites of Isis" for his own publicly staged "Rites of Eleusis" performed during October and November 1910 at Caxton hall London.

Florence Farr, an adept and later leader of the Golden Dawn went on a spirit vision journey in 1892 at the GD temple with Elaine Simpson. Florence made contact and received instructions from the goddess Isis, this vision is recorded in *GD Flying Roll IV*. The spirit vision came after both adepts had contemplated the Golden Dawn Tarot card 'The Empress', they had vibrated the Kabbalistic path 'Daleth' and proceeded to heighten and purify their experience of 'The Empress' card. The vision came to them of 'a greenish-blue distant landscape', which appeared to resemble a medieval tapestry. As they ascended the planes they came to a "Gothic" style temple with a Byzantine cross opposite the entrance. They then descended steps into a dark passageway, meeting an innocuous green dragon on their way they emerged onto a marble terrace and went into a garden with green foliage and flowers.

They then met a goddess and comparing the description of the goddess they encountered they must have met with 'The Empress' in their spirit vision. The Golden Dawn and the later Rider-Waite decks show 'The Empress' exactly as depicted in this vision. The pair saw the stars above the goddess's head, which link her to Mary, mother of Christ, and to the "woman clothed with the Sun" from the *Book of Revelations*. The Empress is the active principle of the feminine energy exuding power. However, she declares herself to be "the mighty Mother Isis; most powerful of all the world, .I am the world's desire, but few there be who find me. When my secret is told, it is the secret of the Holy Grail." 'The Empress' a personification of Venus/Love goes on to divulge that as 'Lady Venus' she has plucked out her heart and given it to the world.

She reveals that 'Love is the mother of Christ' and that this 'Christ is the highest love – Christ is the heart of love, the heart of the Great mother Isis—the Isis of Nature. He is the expression of her power—she is the Holy Grail, and He is the life blood of spirit that is found in this cup'. Both ladies then gave their hearts to the keeping of the grail, and were rewarded by feeling of the highest courage and power; they also felt their hearts to be in touch with 'Isis – the strongest force in all the world'. When they left the visionary state, they realised that in losing your life for others you gain it and that 'love is power.' This concept of the sacred feminine and the purified

soul, reborn and resurrected as an adept was infused into the new occult groups of the late Victorian period. And so Florence Farr, a Golden Dawn adept was well able to understand and experience this mixing of Isis with Mary and Christ and accept this reality in their vision quest of 'The Empress' which led them to such a profound experience of Isis.

Florence Farr wrote in *Egyptian Magic* 'The Legend of Ra and Isis'. In that story she depicts Isis as a most powerful goddess of magic able to use magic in the form of a serpent of power divine that fells Ra with its poison. "Lord of Jubilees" was another title for the sun god Ra because everybody joyously greeted the sun's daily rising. Isis needed to persuade Ra her divine father into revealing his real name 'for Life is in the Power' of Ra's name in order to then save his life and bring him back from death by banishing the poison and dispersing it upon the earth. Isis also gains magical power by virtue of having this secret name. Isis is described by Florence as the 'Mighty One of Enchantments' and she also notes that this story is known to us, in Britain, as the old tale 'of Merlin and the Witch Vivien', for it is the myth and allegory of the sun's eclipse, a period full of occult power and the transfer of such power. In her play *The Shrine of the Golden Hawk*, Farr creates a central character in Nectoris a female medium 'skilled in the sombre mysteries of Isis'. Nectoris is the quintessential priestess of Isis, a seeress, and priestess in contact with the great and powerful divine feminine principle as the Great Mother Goddess Isis.

Dion Fortune in the next generation of magicians learnt from Moina Mathers and from the Golden Dawn archives all about Isis, she went on to develop her own Qabalistic theories. For instance, everything that could possibly be described as 'the powers of the Sphere of Venus in whatever traditional system' could be filed under Netzach, this could include the 'Isis of Nature; in the Greek, Aphrodite; in the Nordic, Freya; in the Druidic, Keridwen'.

Dion Fortune's connection to the goddess Isis gave us her 'Rite of Isis' which made Isis a powerful triune goddess made of Binah the Supernal mother, Persephone, the compassionate mother both of these negative and latent and the third is Aphrodite the positive giver of life. Dion Fortune has released Isis/Mary from being the perpetual mother of Horus/Christ to become her own self. Remember this is the period when women were entering the workforce had gained the vote and were beginning to express themselves as individuals. As Dion Fortune says 'All women are Isis, and Isis is all women'. The full text of the original Rite of Isis and Rite of Pan formed the basis for Dion Fortune's *Moon Magic*, *The Goat-Foot God*, and *The Sea Priestess*. It is from Dion Fortune that the great revival of Isis truly begins and it is from her ideas and thoughts that we now have the goddess movement in Glastonbury Dion's home and the Fellowship of Isis movement founded by the late Olivia Robertson.

The Fellowship of Isis was founded at the Spring Equinox of 1976 at Clonegal Castle in Ireland, by Olivia Robertson, her brother Lawrence, and his wife, Pamela Durdin-Robertson. Isis has been firmly resurrected as a goddess for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Elaine



Forthcoming events



# Devon and Cornwall Pagan Federation Lammas Picnic

Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 from 2pm

Join us for the sixth Annual Lughnasadh Games!

Games include the Welly Boot Hurl,  
Discus Challenge, Skilful Quoits,  
& Creative Crafts.

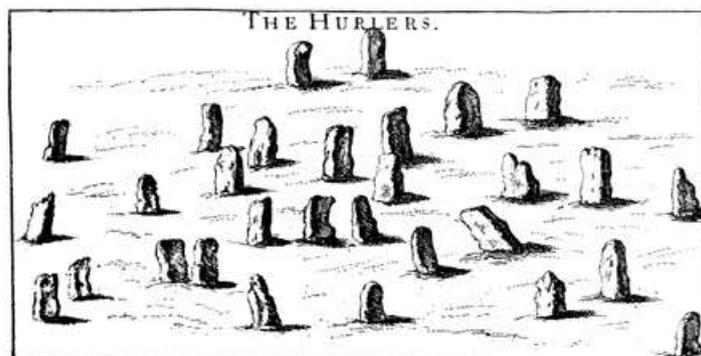
(Creative Craft skill points can be won by entering  
a Corn Dolly, a Lammas loaf, a Lammas poem/song  
or by making us laugh!)

Join us as we  
Honour the Champion of the Goddess  
& Celebrate the Lammas Harvest.

Families and well-behaved dogs welcome! Bring food to share and leave no trace.  
FFI: dci.devon@paganfederation.co.uk

Meet at the Hurlers SX258 713. Good access, good parking.  
The Hurlers are sited at Minions village, the nearest town is Liskeard, Cornwall.

The Hurlers are a scheduled monument on Minions Moor. They date to the later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (4100-3500 Before Present). According to English Heritage, the central circle is aligned with a processional way that runs from a stone circle on Craddock Moor. This crosses at right angles a second pathway that runs along the chief alignment of the Hurlers to a Neolithic enclosure on Stowe's Hill.



Organized by the Pagan Federation BM Box 7097 London WC1N 3XX, a company limited by guarantee number 04056879: registered office NLD Accountancy, Suite 1, The Werks, 45 Church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 2BE

## **Mabon on the Moor**

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Inviting all moots in Devon and Cornwall to 'Mabon on the Moor'.

Saturday 17th September 2016.

Meet at the Jamaica Inn between 5.00pm and 5.45pm. Jamaica Inn is at Bolventor, 10 miles west of Launceston, 10 miles east of Bodmin on the A30 and is signed

Walk to the top of Tolborough Tor - a walk of about a mile, not too tough, but wear stout shoes

Bring with you drums and torches to light at the summit where there is a fabulous view of the western skies and a Bronze Age burial cairn keeping vigil over the moorland facing towards Bron Willeni and Rough Tor.

Short Mabon ceremony and farewell to the sun. Sunset will be at about 7.20pm.

Return to the Jamaica Inn for food and refreshment - the manager will reserve a space for us in the restaurant area.

More information to individual Moots will follow, plus instructions on how to make a very simple but effective torch.

Please come to this wonderful wild place and celebrate with the ancestors a farewell to the sun and welcome the Old Bone Mother to her season.'

For more information please contact Alli on 07840295635

## **Museum of Witchcraft and Magic (MWM)**

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**Glitter and Grave dust: Halloween past and present**

**An exhibition at the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic, Boscastle**

**Running throughout 2016**

Like it or loathe it, Halloween is here to stay! It is a night of contradictions: a night of glitter and grave dust. But is it Pagan or Christian, ancient or modern, spiritual or commercial? Is it a time of diabolic fiends, of scary ghosts and awful ghouls or a sombre time to commune with the ancestors? Is it a harvest festival with sacred symbolism of apples and nuts or a night of complete meaningless trash fuelled by endless sugary sweets? Is it a false construction of a mythical past which never existed or an instinctive yearning after something beautiful and poignant that has been brushed aside by the forces of modernity?

One thing we can say for certain about Halloween is that it is a time of mystery and imagination. A time of darkness when strange things can happen. In whatever guise it takes, October 31<sup>st</sup> seems to have always been seen as a special time when impossible things become possible, where imagination lets loose, where spirits roam the earth.

We all know the symbols and motifs of Halloween (grinning pumpkin lanterns, ghosts, witches, cats, skeletons) and we all know what we are supposed to do (bob for apples, go trick or treating, watch horror films) but few understand the origins of this most mysterious of festivals. There is even confusion over the name itself with many Christian evangelicals condemning Halloween as Satanic while forgetting that the name itself means "Holy Evening".

Halloween is a night of inversion, a night of freedom, a time to have some fun before the long

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darkness of winter. It defies categorisation, it inspires improvisation, it does not belong to any one religion, nation, culture or age group. It appeals to the darker side of ourselves and the darker side of life while offering a release from the mundanity of modern life. It is a chance to connect with our primordial selves, to reawaken our childishness, to put the thrill back into life. Halloween is more popular than ever and this exhibition seeks to explore its history and appeal. Come and explore the magic of Halloween!

The exhibition includes:

- A History of Halloween (a timeline of October 31<sup>st</sup> from ancient times to today)
- The Magic of Halloween (people used to predict the future on Halloween, this area of the exhibition explores the different methods used and includes a film showing different divination techniques being used)
- Pumpkins and Halloween (a look at the legend of Jack O'Lantern)
- Halloween customs throughout the British Isles - a map exploring different regional variations some Christian, some Pagan, some a blend of both!
- Witchcraft and Halloween (including Halloween in witchcraft trial records and methods of protection from witchcraft traditionally taken on October 31<sup>st</sup>)
- The taste of Halloween (modern sweets and more traditional foods such as Soul Cakes)
- Halloween costumes (photos of costumes through the ages, a Skekler costume from the Scottish Isles and more modern Devil and pumpkin costumes)
- Halloween in popular culture (including books, films, TV series and events such as Salem's Haunted Happenings)
- Samhain (objects and rituals to explore modern witchcraft practices)

To coincide with and augment this exhibition:

**Museum will be holding a day of talks on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Wellington Hotel.**

Key note speaker: Ronald Hutton "The History of Halloween"

With papers by:

Mogg Morgan "Sky Religion in Ancient Egypt: Halloween?"

Dorothy L. Abrams "Ancestor Ritual at Samhain"

Bekki Shining Bearheart "Witches, Shamans and Ancestors, OH MY!"

Tommy Kuusela "How to learn magic by going on a year walk"

Louise Fenton "Trick and Tourist Treat: Halloween in New Orleans"

Judith Noble "Beyond Halloween"

+ Evening drinks, nibbles and entertainment from 8pm

Tickets £25

Price includes admission to conference, evening social event and entertainment, as well as entry to the Museum on Saturday or Sunday.

**Places are limited and pre-payment is essential to book your place.** Contact the Museum to book a place: [museumwitchcraft@aol.com](mailto:museumwitchcraft@aol.com)

## All Hallow's Eve at the Museum



On Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Museum will be holding its third annual All Hallow's Eve Dark Gathering which includes Dark Morris dancing, a lantern procession, a visit by various 'Osses' who perform a traditional pwnco ceremony at the Museum door, fire dances and a candlelit evening at the Museum. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever, have a look at last year's event here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6w5lV6WYY4>

For further detail of this and other events check out the MWM Blog [www.museumofwitchcraft.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.museumofwitchcraft.blogspot.co.uk)

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### Other events

**Grand Witches Tea Party 2016 - Sunday August 28th 12 noon** at Rougemont Gardens (Bank Holiday Monday the next day). Bring all you will need for picnics, games, songs to share etc. The library will be open with cafe facilities and loos until 4pm

We will not be providing PA or anything, just come as you are, honour the ancestors, and share the magic. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/475607672579716>

### Devon Pagan Communities – Exeter – Forthcoming events

23 June: An open ritual plus social Moot to celebrate Litha (Summer Solstice).

30 June: First in our series of introductory mini-talks, a short talk by Natalie about the 'Basics of Paganism', particularly those that are common to all Paths and aimed at those fairly new to Paganism, followed by open discussion, which will hopefully also be of good interest for more experienced Pagans too

7 July: A social Moot -- come along and enjoy relaxed, intelligent and very wide-ranging chat with an eclectic mix of eccentric Pagans :-)

We generally intersperse socials in between organised talks, open Rituals or other more formal Moots.

14 July: The second Mini-Talk and open discussion aimed primarily at those relatively new to Paganism, though hopefully of interest to older hands too. This time, we'll be covering the basics of Magical and Ritual working, beginning with Protection and Earthing (with practicals)

and moving on to cover the basics of ritual working proper, including techniques and tools.

21: July: Social Moot

28 July: Experienced Sasquatch-hunter and biologist Jackie Tonks talks about the attempts to separate truth from legend and discover what is really behind all the sightings and stories about Bigfoot, and reports on her latest expedition.

4 August: An Open Ritual to mark Lughnasadh, followed by a social so we can all eat, drink and be merry, as is appropriate!

Future talks in our Paganism 101 series are planned to include Chakras, Psychometry, Mediumship, Aura Reading (practical!), use of crystals and more besides.

**Druid Order of Tamaris** regularly hold rituals on both sides of the border, some are family friendly. Their base is in Plymouth and can be contacted via their public Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42727913048>

**Editor's note:** if you know of or are organizing a Pagan event in Devon, Cornwall or the Isles, then please let me know as soon as possible before the date. Remember that the Dark Mirror comes out quarterly (see submission dates). Of course, you can then tell us how well it went and we'll include it under 'News'.



## Moots

### Cornwall (Kernow)

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#### 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](mailto:budemoot@lchambers.co.uk) or [Debbie@specialdaysinspecialways.co.uk](mailto: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

FFI Contact Alli or Dave on 07840295635 or email [alli\\_99@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alli_99@hotmail.co.uk)

Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/271716272934061](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:tarewaste@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [www.penwithpaganmoot.co.uk](http://www.penwithpaganmoot.co.uk)

### Devon (Dumnonia)

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#### Devon Pagan Communities

Is a friendly and lively discussion, sharing and support network for Pagans from any and all paths in the Devon area. We hold weekly Moots every Thursdays at 7.30pm at the Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton St, Exeter (just by Exe Bridges); for details please either check the DPC Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1691622644418864/> or contact [natalie@dawnmist.org](mailto:natalie@dawnmist.org).

#### Plymouth Pagan Moot

Is currently taking a break. FFI Sarah email [plymouthpaganmoot@outlook.com](mailto:plymouthpaganmoot@outlook.com)

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Please visit our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1600854500172058/>

### **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](mailto:pdq.mears@virgin.net) or find us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/paganfedplymouth/>

### **Tavistock West Moor Pagans**

Contact us for information on planned seasonal rituals. Email Michele [westmoormoot@gmail.com](mailto:westmoormoot@gmail.com)

Please join our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/277029935661700/>

### **Taw and Torridge Moot.**

Meets 3rd Monday of every month at Torridge Arms, Torrington EX38 8BX. 7.30pm for 8pm start. Open to all paths. Please be aware landlady knows it as a Folklore and Antiquarian group. A copy of Pagan Dawn will be on the table. FFI Minerva on [oldcrone24@gmail.com](mailto:oldcrone24@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

<https://www.facebook.com/Okehamptongathering>

### **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](mailto:taniakennedy67@hotmail.com)

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

### **Totnes Moot**

Meets every 4th Thurs of month, in the red wizard café, 4 Apple Lane, High St, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5SQ. From 6:30pm for a 7pm start. FFI Facebook

[https://m.facebook.com/groups/members/search/?group\\_id=1514258918890054](https://m.facebook.com/groups/members/search/?group_id=1514258918890054)

### **Swan Shield Moot**

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month 7:30pm - 10pm. Come along and join in the fun of the Swan Shield Moot held at The Monkey House Soft Play Cafe, Brunswick Place, Dawlish. Children are welcome to attend some of the moots and make use of the play equipment the café has to offer. Tea and coffee is available with a small donation towards a local cause or charity. The Swan Shield Moot aims to provide an opportunity to forge friendships with other like-minded people of all traditions and backgrounds. A place to learn new skills and crafts and find out about things you never even realized you were interested in! All are welcome. FFI [mirealms@gmail.com](mailto:mirealms@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1136136679770200/>



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Maia Messenger –email: [maiamessenger@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.specialdaysinspecialways.co.uk) for more information.

**Temple of the Sun and Moon:** Contact us for bespoke Celebrations of Life and Rites of Passage, Oracular Consultation, Shamanic and Magical practices. Michele and Harvey, [templesunmoonoracle@gmail.com](mailto:templesunmoonoracle@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](http://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](http://www.pagan-supplies.com)

**Wise Old Crow, Bude,** Cornwall for all things wicca, pagan and esoteric

[www.facebook.com/wiseoldcrow](https://www.facebook.com/wiseoldcrow) . Sue Clarke [www.sueclarkereadings.co.uk](http://www.sueclarkereadings.co.uk) [www.wiseoldcrow.com](http://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](http://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

(<http://cornwallschoolofmysteries.co.uk/>) lists current activities and future events. It can be downloaded here

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8b4deb991eb99baf86ccce211/files/SummerSolstice2016.pdf>



## Who is who locally

### Pagan Federation Devon, Cornwall & Isles

District Website [www.paganfederationdevonandcornwall.co.uk](http://www.paganfederationdevonandcornwall.co.uk)

District Enquiries [dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk)

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

### Your PF District Officers

#### District Manager:

Maia Miller: [dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk) 07747016220

#### Regional Co-ordinators:

Devon: Michele [dci.devon@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dci.devon@paganfederation.co.uk)

Cornwall: Eve [dci.cornwall@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dci.cornwall@paganfederation.co.uk)

Isles: Oak Leaf [dci.isles@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dci.isles@paganfederation.co.uk)

#### Newsletter Editor

Contact Harvey [DarkMirrorMagazine@gmail.com](mailto:DarkMirrorMagazine@gmail.com)

#### District Conference

Contact the organizer [dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk)

#### Interfaith officers

All areas [dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk)

#### District webmaster

Contact Charles [charles@cadgwith.com](mailto:charles@cadgwith.com) 0800 787 9208  
<http://www.cadgwith.com/>

National Website: [www.paganfed.org](http://www.paganfed.org)

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



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