



Dark Mirror



Ostara (Spring Equinox) 2015

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Behind the Mirror

Dear readers,

Welcome to the Dark Mirror Spring Equinox Issue - this edition celebrates the return to spring via Imbolc, Ostara, Beltane, and, of course, our Spring Conference.

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

I am delighted to report that the District Spring Conference in March 2015 was another resounding success. Almost 200 people attended in all and the feedback I received was filled with comments like 'the best atmosphere ever, and I have attended for years', 'a wonderful welcome and a great day', and many more comments that make me blush. The Conference team are an amazing group of committed and generous people and they made it so. A review of the Conference day is in this magazine so I do not need to go into more details about the great speaker choices here.

We had people arrive from all over England, many from Wales, and in fact the world was represented by someone from Canada. As usual, around half of the audience were PF members, and I also noted that all popular pagan paths were represented. It is lovely that we can all meet as one and enjoy sharing the day (and the mead). As usual, the Druids won the Infernal Quiz on Friday night and it was clearly enjoyed by everyone, with chanting and drumming in the bar afterwards. For many, the weekend continued on Sunday with a morning visit to the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Boscastle. Once again they kindly opened their doors for us, giving us free access despite still being in process with the refurbishment. Thanks go to them for their kindness and generosity.

A huge thank you also goes to all of you for your amazing generosity. We raised an amazing £500 from the raffle and PF stalls, which has already been given to assist our chosen charity, RSPB South West for their wildlife initiative. We have been advised that it will help to build a sensory garden in Devon to benefit wildlife and people. They were really delighted with us and I believe our name will be mentioned on site.

We will be planning for Conference 2016 shortly, and I know our fabulous Conference Organiser has already taken on board some great suggestions. If you have any further comments or suggestions we are very happy to hear them. Send an email to dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk before mid-April when we meet next and I will pass all your ideas onto the Organiser and the District Team.

The Conference day weather was beautiful. It most often is. Another person said 'this conference always marks the beginning of Spring for me'. As if in reply, on the way home on Sunday, I noticed that the magickal call of the sunny day had been answered in the hedgerows. Blossom, daffs, primroses and snowdrops had appeared in abundance since my drive along the same route two days earlier. Nature is truly wonderful to witness at any time, and as I write this, it is even more uplifting. I am watching and hearing a massive influx of small birds, who appeared out of seemingly nowhere to sing with joy as the light returns after the solar eclipse on this day for Ostara. The sun is now shining warmly and our wildlife sings with joy. For many, as the Moon kissed the Sun she veiled herself with a sheet of modesty, saving our eyesight maybe! However, the birds knew exactly what was happening. It is a real day of celebration of life for many traditions around the northern hemisphere.

Please take a look at the Moots and Meets page as there are some changes to older established ones and some new(ish) ones. I would like to remind you that we (PFDCI) are committed to supporting any District PF member who is starting a new moot and (for example) taking a risk with room hire expenses. Any PF member considering running a local

event, you only need to ask. Terms and conditions have to apply but they are very reasonable. Email me about it and we will see what we can do for you.

Finally, if you are a PF member who is organising local moots, meets or events, and wish to attend and contribute to the District Council Meeting, you are most welcome. The next one is in April.

Blessings of the season of hope, growth, increasing light and Beltane abundance

Maia

PF DCI District Manager, 20th March 2015 Email: dcidm@paganfederation.co.uk

Calling all moots and readers

The Dark Mirror is written by members for members. It is here to let members know what is going on in their region, as no-one can be everywhere at once. It is here to let everyone share in the diversity of pagan activities that take place.

So I need to ask every moot leader and anyone leading a pagan event to let me know, and send in a short note to the Dark Mirror. If you have an active moot, let others know so that they can chose to join in if they wish. If you've led an event or a course that you think others will enjoy, then use this forum to let others know. If you've attended something of interest, again, here is the place to tell others.

It does not have to be much, a paragraph of a few sentences can be all that's needed. A newsletter is only as useful as the 'news' and 'information' it holds. And that is up to all our members.

Harvey (DM editor)



PFDCJ Spring Conference March 2015

Conference highlights

A report by Dr Alan Jones, Cornwall School of Mystery and Magick

It certainly does not feel like the wheel of the year has turned a complete cycle since the last time we were at Penstowe Manor and the 2015 Devon Cornwall and Isles (DCI) Pagan Federation Conference. The welcome was warm; the organisers had again done a fantastic job in putting it all together and the spring sun was as sparkling as it was some thirteen moons ago – clearly magic was afoot.

Levannah Morgan opened the proceedings with a meditative moment and continued to MC the bulk of the day. She is to be congratulated in compiling a diverse programme in which two very practical and personal types of talks were bookended with what could be considered as more formal, research based presentations.

Mark Norman



The first speaker was Mark Norman, a folklorist, who was speaking about Black Dogs and The Wild Hunt.

The Wild Hunt is an interesting and important mythic tale featuring ghostly or phantom riders with all the trappings of a 'traditional hunt' who are in pursuit of some quarry. Coming from Northern, Western and Central European folks tales the leaders of this hunt have been identified as Gods or folk heroes – amongst them Odin, Wodan, King Arthur, Wild Edric (a Saxon rebel), Hereward the Wake; Herne the Hunter; Herodias (who rides with witches at sea – a Guernsey folk myth); Fionn mac Cumhaill and the Fianna; Gwydion, Gwynn ap Nudd and even Sir Francis Drake.

Some of these could be considered as psychopomps (those guiding the souls of the dead) or, in some cases, pursuers of wrong doers.

As Mark spoke in his introduction of the Wild Hunt, I was reminded of the country and western song 'Ghost Riders in the Sky' which in Americana is a retelling of this myth.

The core of Mark's talk however was not *The Hunt* itself, but the Black Dog which is frequently associated with the core myth. This is a very niche topic and Mark is one of a handful of folklorists who have made this their speciality. Over the years Mark has researched and archived over 750 accounts of The Black Dog which is in probability the largest collection of Black Dog sightings in Europe.

Humans and dogs have coexisted for centuries, and Mark noted that the dog was possibly domesticated in the Mesolithic period. From my own readings I am aware of a piece of DNA research published in November 2013 which firmly places the place of canine domestication in Europe no later than 18,800 years ago.

Mitochondrial DNA analysis from this research suggested that domestic dogs last shared a common ancestor 18,800 years ago, and collectively, they last shared a common ancestor with a wolf around 32,100 years ago. They must have been domesticated at some point during this window. (Olaf Thalmann University of Turku 2013). Although not the last word in

this research, it never the less reminds us that our association with our canine partners goes back to the time of hunter gathering and so it is hardly surprising that stories have evolved about our relationship with these animals.

Mark noted that some researchers suggest that the Black Dog, in its spectral form, is harbinger of death. Cŵn Annwn, Garmr, and Cerberus, exist with our folk tales and all are in some way guardians of the underworld. However Mark reported that more than fifty percent of his records do not have this deathly connection.

Mark identified some key themes within Black Dog mythology.

Firstly the difference between what he called the 'True Black Dog' and the second being the Barghest and Black Shuck. Secondly the shared description of being 'the size of a calf' and having 'big eyes' variously described as 'red' or 'yellow'. In terms of eye colour Mark noted that the 'red eye' Black Dog features in older reports whilst the yellow eyed appears in later sightings.

Mark's talk was informative, engaging and 'dense'. This last statement is not a criticism, but a recognition of the scope and depth of the topic he was presenting.

What I personally took from the talk was the desire to explore the shifting cultural iconography which may be represented in these various stories. The possible transition from 'hell hound' in the spiritual sense to the 'hellish hound'; descriptor which could be applied to a person whose behaviour was oppressive and dictatorial.

The Black Dog links to weather, particularly storms, was also thought provoking and I came away reflecting upon the etymology of such phrases as 'Dogs of War'; "You Dog"; "Hell Hounds Snapping at your heels".

Marks book is due out soon and if the lecture was anything to go by will be a fascinating trip through the history and possible symbolism of The Black Dog.

He is happy to be contacted on :-

Facebook : mark.norman.948 Email : mark@viewfindervideo.co.uk

Levannah Morgan

In contrast to Marks' research driven presentation, Levannah presented the coventioneers with a delightful, and personal, outline of Magic with Mirrors.

For any magical practitioner mirrors are special. Levannah reminded us that the first mirrors used by people were most likely pools of dark, still water, or water collected in a primitive vessel of some sort; whilst the earliest manufactured mirrors were probably pieces of polished stone such as obsidian, a naturally occurring volcanic glass.

Examples of obsidian mirrors found in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) have been dated to around 6000 BC. Other polished stone mirrors date from 2000 BC (Central and South America). We also know that mirrors of polished copper were crafted in Mesopotamia from 4000 BC, and in ancient Egypt from around 3000 BC. Metal-coated glass mirrors are said to have been invented in Lebanon in the first century AD, and glass mirrors backed with gold leaf are mentioned by the Roman author Pliny in his Natural History, written in about 77 AD.

So mirrors have been around a long time and magic mirrors feature in numerous folk stories.

Levannah shared her personal experiences of using mirrors in magic and in doing so reminded us all of the importance of recording (journaling) our magical practices. Talking

about some general uses of mirrors in terms of 'reflecting back unwanted attention' Levannah outline three specific 'types' of mirror magic.

The Sun Mirror consecrated and dedicated by observing reflections of the landscape lit by sunlight. The importance of not looking directly at a landscape when using mirrors for magic was emphasised.

The Sun Mirror, in Levannah's experience, can be used for magic in which there is a clearly defined outcome; the need for creativity; to seek answers to material questions; a lens through which to see 'what is happening'. By extension any solar magic could be emphasised with the use of such a mirror.

The Moon Mirror consecrated and dedicated by observing reflections in the landscape lit by moonlight.

Levannah spoke of the place in nature in which she often practices, a place where land and sea meet and the moonlight can cast a silvery path across the water. The reflection of this path in the mirror offers more scope for personal magic and inspiration. The Moon Mirror, once dedicated, is never exposed to the daylight and can be used to consecrate tools, to 'charge water' which can then be kept in a blue bottle for magical use.

It can be used for binding magic and casting back in the first quarter of the moon and during lunar eclipses act as a gateway to 'ancient' and 'powerful places'. Levannah noted that scrying at this particular time could empower connection with deep, dark, spiritual energies and should not be undertaken lightly.

The importance of not only intention but proper personal preparation was emphasised and, of course, is a valuable reminder for all magical practices.

Again, with a lunar mirror, magic linked to the phases of the moon and the moon itself can be enriched by its use.

The Dark Mirror, a mirror, according to Levannah, which we should make for ourselves. Coating glass with layers of black paint so that the reflective surface is uniformly dark is important. Such a mirror, according to Levannah, assists in connecting with *'the eternal tides of death, rebirth and what has never been'*.

In such a summary, it is difficult to convey the special-ness of the material Levannah shared. As mentioned at the outset, it was her personal journey, the ideas about the uses of the mirrors punctuated by her poetic descriptions of her workings. It was these, for me, which were inspirational and reminded me that I needed to revisit the world of reflections, refractions and reversals.

Merv Davey and Kemysk

The after lunch spot is often referred to by speakers as 'the grave yard' spot since galvanising and energising a post-protein fed population can be a challenge. So what better place to put an energising presentation featuring Merv Davey and Kemysk.

Merv is well known to convention goers as he leads the spiral dance at the closing ceremony with his pipes but today he presented a series of traditional Cornish dance tunes. Merv was supported by a small band of musicians – guitar, saxophone, beat-box, mandolin – and by a team of dancers who gave a physical interpretation of the tunes.

Starting with a dance and tune called Cocking Breeches (from St Austell around 1900), the group explained how the dance movements represented the actions of tilling, sewing, raking

and reaping the land. As Merv said "it's about the Rhythm of the Seasons and the Rhythm of the Feet".



This was followed by a 'pair's dance' and a jig with the tunes Bolingey Ferry (from Perranporth) and The Cornish Knight – possibly the oldest known jig in their repertoire.

Moving onto step dancing the group demonstrated a competition dance, which would have apparently been attempted on a barrel, to the tune Boscastle Breakdown.

The footwork of the dancers and the energy of this dance was spectacular – a superb set piece

which brought perhaps the loudest applause that day from the audience.

The forty minutes or so of non-stop dancing also included the tunes Three Hand and Four Reel; the Newlyn Bell and the jig Amongst the Horses where the tip taping of the dancers' feet echoed the movement of the horses' hooves.

Another spectacular dance was the Tin Stamp, created by Alison Davey some twenty years ago. This dance saw the dancers recreating the sound of the 'tin stamp'- the industrial 'click-clack' of the machines.

The final twenty minutes of their session saw some intrepid members of the audience becoming involved in the action. They were taught the Cocking Reel, were invited to learn the steps to the barrel dance (Boscastle Breakdown) and paraded the dance floor with a north Cornwall Furry Dance.

A superb wake-up for all and a reminder that sometimes words are not the best way to communicate ideas. Music and folk dance have their lessons to impart of only we learn to look at the music and move to the rhythm.

Robert Ansell

The final talk of the day was by Robert Ansell who gave a fascinating insight to a side of Austin Osman Spare some have forgotten.

Considered by many as 'the grandfather of Chaos Magick, Austin Osman Spare (1886 - 1956) was an artist and occultist who worked as both a draughtsman and a painter.

Heavily influenced by symbolism, his art was known for its clear use of line, and its depiction of 'distorted' and sexual imagery. In an occult capacity, he explored magical techniques such as automatic writing, automatic drawing and the creation of sigils. He had some particular idea about the relationship between the conscious and unconscious mind and it was on this area of Austin's work that Robert chose to focus - in particular the idea of self as an animal.

Spare believed in what he called "atavistic resurgence", which can be explained as the idea that the human mind contains atavistic memories that have their origins in earlier species on the evolutionary ladder. So the "soul" could be seen as the continuing influence of "the ancestral animals" that humans had evolved from.

For this reason, he believed in the intimate unity between humans and other species in the animal world and this was the focal point of Roberts discourse.

Robert explored the gradual development of this idea within Spares art with a number of examples from the artist's portfolio of work. From the simple juxtaposition of animals and humans to the incorporation, perhaps better stated as the transformation of animal into human.



The depiction of metamorphosis was explored in the artwork shared in the lecture and Spare's interest in the two ideas of Zos and Kia was mentioned. Spare described "Zos" as the human body and mind, and would later adopt the term as a pseudonym for himself whilst the term "Kia", referred to a universal mind or ultimate power, akin to the Hindu idea of Brahman or the Taoist idea of the Tao.

With such a focus on the unconscious mind, and what could be called the underlying unconscious memory of evolution I was surprised that Robert's presentation did not mention some of the psychoanalytic ideas of Freud and Jung of whom Spare, I imagined, would be aware.

A quick check when I returned home suggested a possible reason for this. Apparently Spare did not care too much for Jung and Freud referring to them as "Fraud" and "Junk".

It's difficult to write too much about this lecture without the artwork to which the comments are directed. Many of the ideas in the talk have appeared in Robert's books, which I would heartily recommend if this aspect of Spares life interests. For my part the idea of the human animal 'forms' being first in juxtaposition, then in penetration and finally in 'continually shifting metamorphosis' is something well worth meditating upon.

The Closing Ritual

This was led by members of the Bude Moot and featured some lovely banners made to represent the four quarters. On each banner was the motif of a dragon designed to reflect the element to which each was assigned.

Overseen by Steve Merritt, attendees were invited to stand before an element, in a quarter to which they felt an affinity or which reflected their birth sign, and each received a blessing from that direction. The quarters being thanked heralded the arrival of the masked piper and drummer to lead the congregation in a spiral dance.

Another conference was over, and with many returning for the evening entertainment, all that was left to do was say 'hail and farewell' to those who we may not see until the next turning of the wheel and say a hearty 'well done' to all those who have worked to make this event happen.

With £500 raised for the RSBP charity thanks to the generosity of the stall holders and attendees; the hospitality of Penstowe Manor and their staff plus the tireless work of the committee and helpers we can all say in one voice – 'didn't they do well!'

Alan // 11th March 2015

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Spring conference fund raising

The conference team is pleased to announce that the 'raffle' and the 'fifth elephant' stall raised a combined amount of £500 for the RSPB. Well done everyone. And here is their thank you letter.



Dear Pagan Federation of Devon and Cornwall Conference

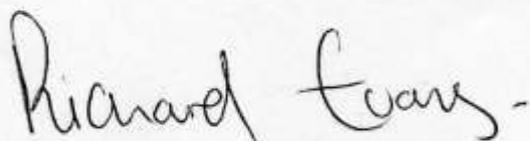
RE: Donation to the RSPB

I just want to take the time to write to you thanking you for all the fundraising you have done and your generous donation of £500 to the RSPB in the South West. It's important to point out that all the money you raised will stay in the South West and will help contribute to our conservation efforts.

Each and every donation like this is used within 10 weeks of it being made. This is a hugely powerful tool for the RSPB and is instrumental in our running. The income generated from the fundraising activities like yours is fundamental for the RSPB's survival.

It was a wonderful surprise to receive such a large donation. On behalf of the RSPB I would just like to say a massive thank you for all your hard work.

Kind Regards



Richard Evans
Community Fundraiser South West Regional Office

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654





Friday night quiz - winners



"Wings in the night" stall



Procownik's stall

Raffle winner with DM



Merv and Kemysk



Merv readies the dance

News and events

Solar eclipse

Exploring the energies of the Partial Solar Eclipse 09.28 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) and the Spring Equinox 22.45 UTC 20th March 2015.

Devon and Cornwall were on the edge of this Solar Eclipse path and saw up to a 90% totality. In the few months around this event, we can heal our being and realign ourselves with Sun and Moon, Earth and Sky.

During a Solar Eclipse the Dark or New Moon covers the face of the Sun; their energies merge, connect and become one. This moment is potent with both cosmic awareness and mystery. Our modern minds know the fantastic improbability that the Moon is just the right size and distance from the Earth to turn day into night for a short while. However, it remains a profound and primal experience. With the Sun we journey through the underworld; a dramatic point of transformation on our soul journey to greater comprehension. But where are we going?

An eclipse can bring a time of stillness or feelings of uncertainty. Various cultures depicted the eclipse event as a monstrous creature, a serpent, dragon or great wolf thought to be devouring the Sun or the Moon. Ritual noise making such as shouting, drumming and perhaps firing of arrows into the air could help scare off the attacker and restore cosmic order.



The sacred nature of an eclipse is a deeply spiritual event, granting us a special occasion to venture "between the worlds" to work magic. When the Sun's bright force is cooled and we can take a cosmic breath and go peacefully inwards to perceive our inner being and seek spiritual transition. Self-reflection whilst under the Moon's shadow can bring forth hidden issues and help you come to an understanding. In this strange darkness align yourself within the worlds, and release negative and destructive pressures. Clear your being

and empower yourself with inner change. Question your personal motivations, your potential, how do you communicate and respond, put your spiritual-self in order. There are opportunities for healing after releasing the past.

Eclipse energy can empower a desire to become a positive, considered and effective force in our own lives and of those we meet. The union of solar and lunar energy reinforces the sense of wholeness, completion and cycles. This is an ideal time to make fresh commitments to a higher cause, to be of service, or to work in deeper harmony with the Earth.

'Equinox' means 'equal night' and is the tipping point between the last lingering night of winter and the bright day of summer's return. The Spring Equinox is a time to start putting our plans into action and importantly to 'spring clean', to free-up and to freshen-up our energies.

In combination with the new Moon, it is an ideal time for seeding new ideas and plans. Add to that the potent energies of the solar eclipse we can instigate a powerful cleansing process, by dismembering the old and remembering the new.

Thus so cosmically blessed, we can shake off self-imposed limitations and retrieve our lost and scattered energies by way of private soul retrieval to heal our fragmented parts. The powerful force of this event will aid a rebirth when we can come into balance, nourish our new beginnings and step courageously into the future.

Michele (image curtesy of Maia)

Cornwall

RC Cornwall – Eve

It is now a year since I took over as RC for Cornwall from the estimable Fiona. From my haunts here in the far west I have enjoyed finding out how varied and lively our Cornish pagan community is. I have enjoyed receiving emails and phone calls from many of you (keep them coming!) and hope to meet many more of you in person over the coming year.

I visited the Bude Moot's wonderful Samhain ritual and was made very welcome. Driving the length of the county there and back in the winter darkness gave me the opportunity to reflect on how easy it is to feel isolated and alone in our mostly rural county. The road wound through little hamlets, lights of isolated homes twinkling in the distance. The sea kept me company on one side with the moors a very real presence in the darkness on the other. Even cocooned inside my car, I had a sense of being alone with the natural world, remote from other people. In one sense our wonderful landscape is very intimate. Most of us are blessed to live close to the land. The old Celtic elements of land, sea and sky are very self-evident. But although this spiritual connection may be particularly tangible in the beauty of Cornwall, there is also a place within most of us for human companionship, for sharing and learning together, for being part of a larger community, for celebrating in the good times and helping and supporting through the bad. This is something that has been very difficult for most pagans in the past. For some of us in rural Cornwall, who do not have transport, this is still very difficult.

Before the advent of the internet, before social media and a mobile in everyone's pocket (yes, children, some of us can actually remember back to this prehistoric time!) it was often very difficult for pagans to connect. Being a seeker on a path was often an actual physical activity, travelling, making plans, committing time and effort. Nowadays this physical travelling has often been replaced by cyber travel. We keep in touch via Facebook or Skype. We can talk to friends at any time, seek advice, share worries or concerns. Is there still a place then for good old fashioned regular Moots? (Please do not rush off at this point to arrange a lynch mob! Read on). What need do Moots and pagan get-togethers fulfil? What do you yourself value most in meeting face to face with other pagans?

And possibly the crunch question – how much would you be prepared to commit to have these get-togethers? How much effort would you be prepared to make?

Paganism is not a default setting. You don't get to be "Pagan" just because you aren't anything else. We might describe it as who we are, but in reality that means it is what we do. It is our actions, choices, responses, the ways we interact with the Divine, with Nature, and with our fellow humans. How do you think we as a pagan community should interact?

I hope this will get you thinking – and giving us your thoughts. - Eve

Devon

RC Devon - Spring Equinox 2015 - Michele

It is time to sweep out those cobwebs, open the windows and cleanse the dust from the house. Spring is here, go work in the garden, get your hands in the soil and grow with the season and the light. We all need some nurturing after the struggles of winter, reconnect with land and plan how you will celebrate your connection with nature.



<http://www.earthday.org/about-earth-day-network>

Earth Day is on the 22nd of April and is the 45th anniversary of the movement. Countless Pagans hold ritual to honour the land or perhaps work towards major political change such as urging governments to sign climate change treaties. You could help your community care for green spaces, or work with the nature spirits in your garden, visit a local river or the sea, or find a way to live more sustainably, or spend time in a place that reminds you of your birth right and guardianship of our planet.

What is important is to acknowledge the support the Earth gives us, celebrate this connection and give our support back to the Earth in whatever way you can. Even small magical gestures made each Earth Day amount to a whole lot of power to create a healthier environment. Please let your RC know of any planned events or put them up on the main Facebook page 'Devon, Cornwall and Isles Pagans'.

Devon and Cornwall PF Lammas Picnic



This year's picnic will be celebrating 25 years of our diverse Pagan community meeting together to celebrate the harvest! Over the years, our counties held a joint picnic, then held separate celebrations as we are so widely spread. After a few years we again joined forces and fostered the Lughnasadh spirit of competition in honour of the gods. My fellow RC and I have been mulling plans over to mark this event and we would love to hear your ideas too about the picnic, games and ritual. The 'Silver Jubilee' PF Lammas Picnic and games will be on Sunday 16th August from 2pm at The Hurlers on Bodmin Moor (see advert in this issue).

Devon Moot (Facebook) round up

South West Devon Moot. Lots of Pagan news, information about events taking place in Plymouth of Pagan interest, posts from local Pagans holding workshops. Moots have been on the subject of organising rituals for the festivals and talking about our local PF conference.

Tavistock West Moor Moot. Sadly the January moot was a victim of colds and whatnot. But in February Phill gave us an excellent talk on witch bottles, their history and uses, and their place in modern day spell casting. Phill & Julie generously supplied small bottles and numerous varied magical ingredients to place inside (but no liquids). March moot focused on celebrating the Spring Equinox and exploring the energies of the partial eclipse that echoed the seasonal energy of moving out of the underworld and into the light.

Torbay/South Devon Pagan Moot. Busy FB group, their meetings included a Spring Equinox Ritual, a 'Pagans Against Fracking' presentation from a member of warrior's call about ritual as action. They have been working with spring energy and entities, and have shamanic herb meditations with Frances at the Alathea herb garden.

Three Moors Pagan Moot. Three Fold Pagans offer a warm social moot in the most wonderful Highwayman Inn in Sourton. They also hold seasonal rituals. Further information can be found on Facebook 'Threefold Pagans Okehampton CoA Gathering'.

I have not forgotten Teignbridge Moot and am especially grateful they have taken the opportunity to give a personal account of how their moot is fairing.

Spring Equinox Blessings

Michele RC Devon

Teignbridge Pagans moot has been going from strength to strength recently. We were crafty in November creating twig pentagrams and learning about them at the same time. Mariya ran a great Yule quiz at the December moot. We managed to hold a Yule ritual (indoors) at the Solstice and our January moot was on Imbolc, Bride and knot magic.

As we have quite a few younger members now, we are focussing on their needs asking them what topics they would like to see at the next moot. They asked for something on Maid, Mother and Crone, and Mariya and I facilitated a workshop on aspects of the triple goddesses in February. Our March moot will be on animals in magical practice, again at their request. We are getting a bit full for our room at the pub but as it is a very friendly, cosy room, we just have to squash up and some people end up on floor cushions.

Bright Blessings Elaine Bailey and Mariya Limerick



Interfaith

The Brickmaking is about to commence!

March 1, 2015

Help us build the Dor Kemmyn Interfaith Centre! During March we will literally be making with our own hands cob bricks to line the walls of the Dor Kemmyn building. Shortly we will be erecting a long polytunnel where we shall making the bricks in. We will be getting a digger in to level the land where the building is going to lie, and will be using the clay component of the soil together with gravel to make the bricks.

The brick making will take place on Sunday and Monday afternoons at Penmount. This will be done in groups of eight. So if you fancy getting yourself muddy, please contact Matt Robinson mat@build-art.co.uk tel. Matt 01326 221130 to register your interest.

See flyer for further information [Dor Kemmyn bricking making 2015](#)

Eve

Forthcoming events

Museum of Witchcraft and Magic (MWM)

The Museum of Witchcraft and Magic (MWM) will be open from March 28th this year so we will be open over the Easter holidays. They will be open every day until October 31st. Monday to Saturday 10.30am-6pm and Sunday 11.30am-6pm. Last entry is always half an hour before we close (5.30pm).

For events check out the MWM Blog www.museumofwitchcraft.blogspot.co.uk

Women in Print: Witchcraft and the Popular Press 1920- 1990, April 11th 2015 9.30am-4.30pm, The Wellington Hotel, Boscastle, Cornwall. It will be a fantastic day of talks and discussions (with a chance to hear a talk by the Museum's own Joyce Froome!)

For more information and to book tickets, use the websites below. Please note, tickets cannot be purchased from the Museum directly (sorry)

http://buyonline.mmu.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=9&prodid=317

<https://womeninprintnetwork.wordpress.com/>

Magic and Folklore: Ancient and Modern a day of talks hosted by MWM, Saturday May 16th 2015, Wellington Hotel, Boscastle, £10 on the door. Advance booking recommended. Book through MWM. For full details view the MWM blog.





Devon and Cornwall PF Lammas Picnic

Sunday the 16th of August 2015 from 2pm

Join us for the Fifth 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.

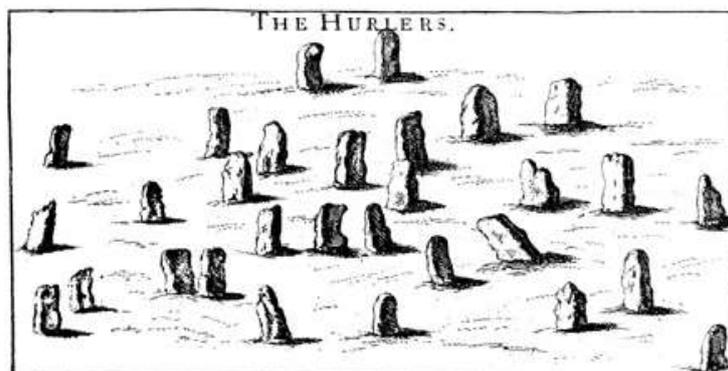
Families and well-behaved dogs welcome! Bring food to share and leave no trace.

FFI: dcf.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

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 Debbie@specialdaysinspecialways.co.uk or call 01409 254144

The Dolmen Grove Ivy Moon Moot

Meets on the 1st Wed of every month, 7.30pm, 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: 07411 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 01579 340796 email: liskeardmoot@yahoo.co.uk
Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/271716272934061

Pagan Paths

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm, Bodmin area. Warm and friendly group. Sabbat celebrations, sacred sites outings, workshops and talks.
FFI contact Wendy on 01208 832977 or email: paganpaths05@aol.com

Penwith Pagan Moot

Currently meets for seasonal rituals celebrating the Wheel of the Year. In between we keep in touch via our Facebook page. We also assist the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network with clear-ups at Ancient Sites in Penwith.
FFI contact – Eve email: meadowsweeteve@googlemail.com or 07927671612
Website www.penwithpaganmoot.co.uk



Devon (Dumnonia)

Exeter & Devon Pagan Circles (new details)

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

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 Moot

Meets on 3rd Friday of the month at 7.30pm. A place to share news and topical Pagan discussion. Seasonal ritual, Wheel of the Sacred Year, meditations and interaction with the Spirits of the Land. Visiting speakers on Pagan subjects. Walks to sacred sites and ancient spaces of Dartmoor and beyond.

FFI Michele 01822 617903, or 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 Highwaymans 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 Manor Inn Preston Paignton on the first Thursday of the month, 7.30 -9.30pm. We meet for open celebration, study and have an invite only women's moon group.

FFI Tania 07812724213 email taniakennedy67@hotmail.com

Dorset (Pſ Wessex)

Bridport Pagan Moot

Meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at The Ropemakers Pub (at the back of the pub) West Street, Bridport, from 8pm. People of all paths are welcome.

FFI Ben 07539316595 email - bridportpaganmoot@yahoo.co.uk
www.bridportpaganmoot.moonfruit.com

Members advertisements

To advertise here for FREE, please email your advert, limited to just 3 lines, to:

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 – 07747016220 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 or call 01409 254144 for more information.

West Moor Celebrants: Contact us for bespoke Handfastings, celebrations of life and rites of passage, Michele and Harvey, westmoormoot@gmail.com or 01822 617903.

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/SpringEq92015.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:

Maia Miller: dci.dm@paganfederation.co.uk 07747016220

Regional Co-ordinators:

Devon: Michele dci.devon@paganfederation.co.uk

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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Please visit the website <http://www.paganfederationdevonandcornwall.co.uk>

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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>

