

Myddle Earth

The quarterly Magazine of the Pagan Federation Midwest and Wales District

Beltane 2018

Issue 141



Welcome to Myddle Earth

Your **Pagan Federation District Manager** is Audrey and Richard

Contact details are: <mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk> **or** write to

Pagan Federation, BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX

Myddle Earth Editor is Ailim Email: myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk

Myddle Earth is distributed four times a year to local PF members (and a few others). Your contributions are welcome, whether they are letters, stories, poems, suggestions and/or black-and-white drawings. Don't be shy—share them with us: this is **your** magazine.

These are the copy deadlines:

31 December for Imbolc issue

31 March for Beltane issue

30 June for Lughnasadh issue

31 September for Samhain issue

You may advertise in *Myddle Earth* (in black and white) - this is free for non-profit-making ventures.

How to advertise? Post it as a hard copy to:

Pagan Federation, BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX or e-mail to: myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk

Editor's Blurb

Hello everyone! My name is Erica and I'm usually known in Pagan circles by my druid name, Ailim. Some of you may already know me because of my Pagan funeral resource site, "Pagan Transitions". I'm an OBODie druid and have been a Prison Pagan Chaplain for over ten years.

There is an old folk saying about March, "If it comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb". Well, it certainly felt like the lion was in for the duration as we had a good mix of rain, hail stones, snow and wind throughout. Sometimes though, "bad" weather is necessary for us to connect spiritually as well as physically to nature's life force. When you feel the wind tearing at your hair, and the rain bucketing down, you can feel the power of the elements.

Now at Beltane we can feel the joyful force of life energy soaring upwards, from the deep rich earth to the tips of the trees and beyond. Let the fire energy of Beltane take you to new heights of creativity and achievements.

I hope you will enjoy this issue as we kick-start our district magazine. However, we can only make this magazine great with Your contributions, ideas and helpful suggestions. So come on folks, put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard, and send in your contribution for our next issue.

Bright blessings to you all,

Ailim

CONTENTS

Editor’s Blurb 2

Situations Vacant 3

“Wassup??” 4

District Manager’s Report 5

Regional Co-ordinator’s Report – Bristol 6

Regional Co-ordinators’ Report -- Herefordshire and Worcestershire 6

Mid-West Staffordshire/Shropshire Report 7

“Chasing the Dawn” 8

The Plastic Peril 9

District Moots and Meetings 10

Submission Guidelines 12

SITUATIONS VACANT -- SITUATIONS VACANT -- SITUATIONS VACANT

We urgently require Regional Co-ordinators (RC) to do PF admin and organising work in the following Regions:

Herefordshire/Worcestershire –postcodes HR and WR

Bristol – postcode BS

Staffordshire/Shropshire --numerous postcodes (this is following the recent resignation of long-serving RC Ian, many thanks mate for your enthusiasm and good service!)

In the meantime the RC work for these Regions will be done by us, but really it needs people living in those areas to take on the jobs. Please contact us at the addresses below if you want to help.

With good wishes,

Audrey & Richard

mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk

Pagan Federation, BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX

WASSUP??

Wassup??

Nothing is happening so folks don't renew
The solution is easy: it's up to you
'But I've paid a fee!' we hear the old cry
Ah, but the PF is d-i-y
No-one gets wages, we do it for free
Supporting the Pagan cause, you see
So banish your shyness and make a stand
To put on events in our fair land
We were all new once to this endeavour
It doesn't take somebody awfully clever.

Moots, camps and conferences please, we implore
Come let us gather on hillside and shore
Put away laptop, tablet and phone
If you want socials, don't sit home alone
Dance, sing and frolic, Pagans are fun
Meet in a caff for a cuppa and bun
Sit by the fire with a beer in the local
Have a great natter, a chin-wag, get vocal
No need to fear or feel under a cloud
Just take the plunge now and do us all proud!

AUTHOR WISHES TO REMAIN ANON

To volunteer, contact your District Managers Audrey & Richard at mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk
or write to Pagan Federation BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX

DISTRICT NEWS

District Managers Report – Beltane 2018

Hello,

For this re-launch of our District Magazine 'Myddle Earth', may we extend a warm welcome to our new editor Ailim, and new members across the District. Thanks also to all who have renewed. It's great to have you with us!

Some of you are new to Paganism and the PF while others have been involved (in either and in some cases both) for many years, even decades. Whatever your path/faith/belief, or however you define it, we are united around a common purpose: asserting our rights, celebrating our variety and supporting one another in the many strands that make up Paganism.

The Pagan Federation Constitution declares that no path has seniority over another, all are considered equal and worthy of respect and support. Don't feel that you have any less of a 'claim' to be Pagan if you are just beginning in your discovery, or don't have any training in a tradition, or prefer to let your spirit guide you. We can learn from each other, whatever level we are at. As in all areas of life, everyone was a newcomer at one time, taking those first steps on a path. PF membership includes a wide range such as Druids, Heathens, Traditional and Eclectic Witches, Shamans, Wiccans, or folks who simply call themselves Pagans.

We refer you to this clause from the PF Code of Conduct, "Spiritual Tolerance":

Spiritual tolerance:

The PF recognises that there are many traditions under the umbrella of the term "paganism". We hold that no single religion can be described as a "One True Faith" for all peoples. Members of the PF are encouraged to share their beliefs and practices, and to learn about the beliefs and practices of other members. No one tradition will be promoted above any other. Members found to be promoting, whether verbally or in writing, any spiritual tradition as the "Only True" tradition will be subject to the disciplinary procedure.

So there you have it, the PF is an equal-opportunity organisation.



REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORTS

Regional Co-ordinator's Report – Bristol

Greetings Bristol Pagans!

This is a new adventure for PF Mid-west and Wales, as this District has only recently absorbed Bristol when the PF did a re-organisational shuffle.

The first thing we need to do is appeal for someone in Bristol to take on the role of Regional Co-ordinator (RC) from us. We don't live in Bristol and apart from a few brief visits don't know it very well, so ideally someone who lives in the city would be the best person for this. A bit of admin work, organising Pagan activities, being the PF rep there is what we are looking for.

We understand there is already a lively Pagan scene in the city, gatherings at nearby sacred sites, the Goddess Temple. Is there anything else?

It is essential that the volunteer is someone online and IT-literate.

Please contact us if you want to help:

Audrey & Richard (District Managers and acting RC's for Bristol)

mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk



Regional Co-ordinators' Report -- Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Hi,

This is going to be brief as again there is nothing significant to report.

These two counties are still eagerly awaiting someone (or two) to be Regional Co-ordinator (RC) which involves a bit of admin work and organising events, moots, or other things Pagan-related. If past experience is anything to go by, there are Pagans around here who love socialising over a drink in the pub or café, getting out in the wilds and having rituals in back gardens or parks. Some of those folks have dropped out of the scene, or moved away and others have moved in. It would be really nice to have these gatherings again, let's not stick to being 'keyboard Pagans' when we can have fun in real-live company! All it needs is someone to help get things going again.

It is essential that the RC is IT-literate and has internet access.

If you want to volunteer, please contact us, your District Managers, at mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk or Pagan Federation, BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX

Thanks,

Audrey (acting RC)



Mid-West Staffordshire/Shropshire Report

It's been a while since I have written a report for Myddle Earth and it is great to see that it is up and running again.

If you aren't already aware there is a major event happening in Rugley at the end of May on Saturday 26th. This is Witchfest Midlands at the Rose Theatre, but I believe the tickets for this event have sold out. However, it is worth checking on Facebook to confirm this.

I have discovered, as no doubt many already have, that Facebook is the main contact point nowadays for communication of events which is useful, but not convenient for everyone. The New Stafford Moot, which I organise, is a closed group but if anyone local to Stafford wishes to join please send a request to join via Facebook. The moot takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in *The Shrewsbury Arms*, Eastgate Street, with occasional speakers.

One of the longest running moots is at Kidsgrove which is held at the *Bluebell* on the last Tuesday of each month except in December. Again the moot is on Facebook but is another closed moot.

The Lamb & Flag at Little Haywood hosts the Stafford Pagan Moot Group and again can be found on Facebook.

A very successful Moot is at the White Star in Stoke on Trent run by Elric Sullivan and is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month with regular well known speakers. Elric is also the organiser of the successful Midland COA events.

If anyone has news of forthcoming events or anything of interest please contact me at the email address below.

There is a new series currently available on DVD which a lot you might like; it is called 'Britannia' which is really quite enjoyable though it could possibly offend a few druids. It is historical but taken as fantasy and is very entertaining and keeping you guessing as to what's going to happen next. The scenery is breath-taking and the characters are brilliant and I do like a Druid with a sense of humour. If you haven't already seen this do so.

It is now officially Spring and the clocks have been put forward an hour with the hope of warmer and sunnier days. I am currently sitting writing this in front of a log fire and my wife has just informed me that snow has been forecast at some point over this coming weekend. Oh well its not the first or probably the last time we've had snow in April but I do long for the summer and climbing Glastonbury Tor on a sultry day..

May your Goddess be with you,

Ian Robinson

Contact: mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk





CHASING THE DAWN

Chasing the dawn
Down grey roads,
Foot to the peddle
Into the dark.

Chasing the dawn
Past silent boxes
Lights all green
Clock ticking fast.

Racing the dawn
It's getting lighter,
Colours of hedge and lawn,
But man is nothing
In the eye of the Sun!

Ailim

Behind the words!

I wrote this many years ago, after I missed the Summer Solstice dawning of the sun at Stanton Drew Stones in Pensford, Somerset. Although I had left home on time, road works along the route delayed me which meant I had to abandon my journey. I felt frustrated and annoyed because my plans had gone awry, but returning home eastwards I felt an uplifting sense of joy as the dawn sky spread before me. I realised then that the Sun's time keeping is better than mine.



PAGAN TRANSITIONS was created to provide Pagans with the resources to create meaningful and beautiful funeral rites to reflect the spirituality of the person who has passed through the Gateway.

If you are a Funeral Celebrant and would like to have a free listing at Pagan Transitions, please send me your application form available from the website: www.pagan-transitions.org.uk

If you would like further details please email pagantransitions@virginmedia.com or telephone 07947 357825

THE PLASTIC PERIL

Pagans are eco-friendly and, where possible, try and live in a way that minimises harm to the natural environment. If we all work together towards being sustainable in our own lives, then the Earth will be a better place for all. If we don't, then we are condemning our future generations to living with the pollution we have created. Plastic pollution is perhaps one of the greatest threats to life on our planet. Land and marine ecosystems with thousands of animals choking on plastic materials. Plastic waste also affects their habitats so we are, in fact, polluting our own environment, especially as plastic residue i.e. micro beads can find its way back into our food chain.

Pagans revere the natural habitat and wildlife. We know trees are the lungs of our planet. Each time a forest or wood is chopped down, our Mother Earth will take longer to recover from the environmental damage we are causing.

Yet, how can we live without plastic? If we go back to using more paper products, more trees will be cut down. Plastic does have its uses and can be beneficial if used in a responsible way and discarded in the correct manner.

We can help by not using plastic straws, cotton buds and single use drink bottles, but I find most of my plastic waste comes from packaging. I recently received the *National Trust* magazine in a "plastic" see-thru cover—it felt like plastic and looked like plastic—but it was made from potato starch! All their issues now come in a biodegradable wrap that can be placed in our compost bins. If only more manufacturers and supermarkets went down the "plants, not plastic" route, perhaps we could start to turn the tide against plastic waste.

If we work together, we can make a difference.

THE HEALTH OF THE EARTH IS THE HEALTH OF ALL LIFE!

Ailim

TIPS TO SHARE

Do you have any tips or advice on how we can reduce our plastic waste? We'd love to hear your thoughts. Please send them to The Editor, Myddle Earth Magazine:

e-mail: myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk or post to Pagan Federation, BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX



MOOT LISTINGS

North Wales

Wrexham Pagan Moot

Held on the last Thursday in the month

Wrexham Lager Club

7.30 p.m. doors open at 7 p.m.

At present we are working with Gillian from Llangollen Museum to produce a short 3min film on the tale of Taliesin.

Oswestry Moot

1st Wednesday in the month

Golden Lion, Upper Church Street, Oswestry. SY11 2AA

7.30 p.m.

Facebook page:- Oswestry Pagan Moot

Mold Moot

Dates varies

Liz Rose house

7.30 p.m.

Pagan Moot in Mold

The date of meetings varies due to Liz husband's work schedule. Please contact Liz for date and instructions on how to find her home.

Rhyl Moot

Dates vary due to members work commitments

Caskeys Pub. Vale Road, Rhyl

7.30 p.m.

Rhyl moot is involved in the May Day Weekend at Gwrych Castle. Dawn Elizabeth Butters is on the organising team. If you are interested in becoming May pole dancers, please contact either Dawm, Sammii or myself.

Mid-West Staffordshire/Shropshire

New Stafford Moot

3rd Tuesday of each month

The Shrewsbury Arms, Eastgate Street.

Occasional speakers.

This is a closed group but if anyone local to Stafford wishes to join please send a request to join via Facebook.

Kidsgrove Moot

Last Tuesday of each month, except in December.

The *Bluebell*

This is a closed group. Please send a request to join via Facebook.

Stafford Pagan Moot

The Lamb & Flag at Little Haywood

(Continued on page 11)

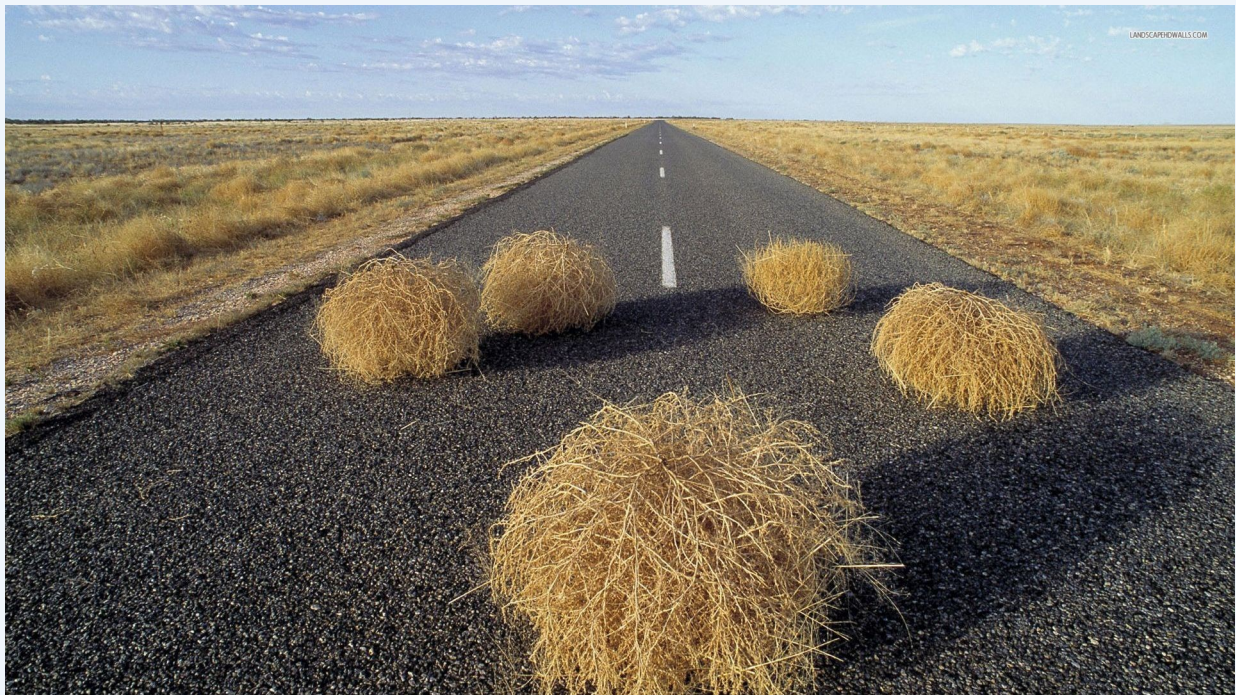
Stoke-on-Trent Moot

2nd Wednesday of the month.

The White Star in Stoke on Trent

Run by Elric Sullivan with regular well known speakers. Elric is also the organiser of the successful Mid-land COA events.

**If you would like your Moot listed, please email details to:
The Editor, myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk**



Don't let the tumbleweed take over :)

List your Moots here!

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Myddle Earth is the newsletter of the Pagan Federation, Mid-West & Wales District and is published four times a year at Imbolc, Beltane, Lughnasadh/Lammas and Samhain.

We would like to encourage our readers to submit articles, artwork, poetry and other creative works for inclusion in future newsletters. Please see the guidelines below when preparing your material. If you have any queries, please email myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk.

- ◇ Your submission must have a Pagan theme or be of interest to the Mid-West & Wales Pagan community.
- ◇ Articles need to be submitted as a Microsoft Word or OpenOffice document. Please use Arial or another standard font; 12pt; single-spacing; left justified; without indentation.
- ◇ Please ensure that articles are between 800 and 1200 words in length, unless agreed otherwise.
- ◇ Use a friendly, casual tone. We want to make the information as accessible as possible.
- ◇ We reserve the right to abridge articles and to edit them for clarity, style, grammar and accuracy.
- ◇ Authors are responsible for the accuracy of references and reference citations.
- ◇ Images should be sent as separate files, not embedded into the document. Please indicate recommended insertion points of the images within the body of the text, and ensure that the file names enable them to be easily identified.
- ◇ Images need to be of a high quality (minimum resolution 300dpi), preferably in JPEG format. Also, please ensure that you have copyright permission for their further publication.
- ◇ All articles/artwork remain the copyright of the author/artist.
- ◇ Please send your contributions via email to myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk. Please include the type of submission and the suggested issue for publication in the 'Subject' line. For example: 'Poem for Imbolc'.
- ◇ Although every effort will be made to accept your contributions for publication, we reserve the right to refuse submissions.
- ◇ We're sorry but we are unable to pay for submissions.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by writers are not necessarily those of the Pagan Federation or its Officers.

Images used in this edition:

Cover image from cdm.quotesgram.com

Page 5: Image from http://www.raleighcharterhs.org/images/Diversity_Matters-hands.jpg

Page 8: Stanton Drew Stones by Erica MacGilp

Page 10: investorshub.advfn.com