

# MYDDLE EARTH

Quarterly Journal of the Pagan Federation Midwest & Wales



**SUMMER SOLSTICE  
2016**

# Hello,

It's me again, stepping into the editor's shoes after Apryl's resignation. We are very sad to see her go, will miss the beautiful artwork and design skills that she brought to the magazine, but all good things come to an end and unfortunately for us, Apryl's editorship has. My skills are minimal in the editing department, so please understand this is as good as it gets for the foreseeable future!

So, may I ask if anyone out there would be willing to take over as Myddle Earth (ME) editor?? You must be a current PF member and be willing to sign a Data Protection statement. This magazine is on-line only, it will be sent to your email address and archived on the Myddle Earth website.

So, I will try my best to keep you entertained and up-to-date with things PF-wise in this District. Contributions from you are most welcome, try to keep to 1,000 words or less. Any photos must be at least 300dpi, and .jpeg is best. Sorry, we don't pay for submissions but you will see your name in print, which is quite satisfying!

Articles, poetry, announcements etc. either seasonal or Pagan (if both, even better) should be emailed to:

[<myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk>](mailto:myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk)

by **August 31st** to be sure of inclusion in the Autumn Equinox issue. No promises, but I will try my best.

I look forward to hearing from you, and as we look to the ripening of the corn, hope you are all keeping well.

Best Wishes,

*Amber*



## ***District Managers' Report – Summer Solstice 2016***

This is a rush job in light of the recent upheavals in the District, so please bear with us. We are in need of some volunteers to help run the PF so if you want to give any of these a go, please contact us at:

[mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk) or phone 07968-599882

### \*\*\*\*\* SITUATIONS VACANT \*\*\*\*\*

Applicants must have at least *one year* of membership behind them. Computer skills are *essential*, as is internet access. Please also note all PF staff posts are **unpaid**, and will require signature on a Data Protection statement. Regular contact (approx. once per month) to be maintained with District Managers either by email, phone or in person.

**Regional Co-ordinators** wanted in **two** Regions: -- Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Dc), and North Wales (Dd). Admin/clerical work involving keeping membership records, building a team of Local Organisers for moots, etc. Applicant should reside in appropriate Region. About 2 hours work per week.

**Myddle Earth** editor – producing the on-line quarterly journal (using desktop publishing software) to keep members in touch with what is happening in the District, articles of Pagan interest, etc. Mostly a relaxed pace but will get very busy as deadlines approach.

**Treasurer:** keeps the District Accounts and submits these to PF Treasurer annually.

We can discuss anything you may be unsure about. Both of us have done these jobs in the past and know roughly what to expect of applicants, so please get in touch if you are interested. The PF has always been run by volunteers, be part of our team and let's make this District the best that it can be.

Thank you, all good wishes,

Audrey & Richard  
(*District Managers, Pagan Federation Mid-west and Wales*)

## North Wales RC's Report

Hello, and a very merry Mid-Summer to you all. What a wonderful time of year this is and also what a wonderful place North Wales is. I've been fortunate enough recently to have traveled around North Wales a bit and if you've never been here it's well worth a visit both for it's natural beauty and it's ancient monuments which are numerous. If anyone is wanting to travel North Wales and view the ancient sites please get in touch as I can tell you where the best ones are.

Not quite sure what actual news I have of the North Wales Pagan Federation other than to say that membership has slightly increased over the past 3 months so if anyone is isolated please get in touch and I should be able to put you in touch with someone quite close.

Now for the personal bit. I've been involved with the Pagan Federation, either as District Manager or Regional Co-Ordinator (or both) for over 30 years now and feel it's time to pass this on to someone else. Maybe someone younger. The job is not particularly demanding as it is a low membership area. Basically it's a case of writing to each new member to welcome them in when they first join and also to write again when they renew their membership. Other than that there is this Report to be done once every 3 months then it's pretty much up to you what else you do with the region. I will still be here to help and guide anyone with the new job but feel it's well time for new blood. North Wales could be a very vibrant area with some new enthusiasm and I'd love to see it thrive but no longer feel that I'm the right person for the job.

I've met lots of very wonderful people and had some great times over the past 30 years so would like to thank all members from the whole district for the help, friendship, laughter, joy and merriment that we've shared. I've loved my time in the Pagan Federation, it has given me so much and made me realise just how many lovely people there are out there. Being part of the P.F. can certainly enrich your life greatly. You should all be lining up for the job as it's a fantastic way of meeting new people, helping out and being able to put something back into the Pagan community.

If you are interested but wish to know more about the position, please give me a ring on **01691 679066** any evening and I'll be only too happy to answer any questions I can. As they say on the cartoon.. *That's all, folks!*

Blessed Be., Steve (R.C for North Wales).





# Petroglyphs of Ontario:--

## Ancient art and living ritual (by A Bailey )

During a visit in 2014 to my family in Ontario, Canada, I went on a trip to Petroglyphs Park to see pictures carved on rock. These carvings pre-date European colonisation, and are an estimated 600-1,000 years old. The rock is limestone and became overgrown with moss and lichens after the people who made them had, for unknown reasons, abandoned the site. Being open to the elements (they are not in caves) also exposed the glyphs to erosion.

They were uncovered in the 1950's during mining in the region, and were preserved as items of cultural and spiritual significance. People of the local indigenous community of Curve Lake today manage the site, part of which is contained in a climate-controlled building to help keep the glyphs from weathering and becoming overgrown again. There is a centre for visitors with displays explaining the local culture and significance of the petroglyphs, and a walkway around the sectioned-off site where indigenous people leave offerings such as tobacco, their sacred plant.

The site is known in the local Algonquin language as '*Kinomagewapkong*', (translated into English as 'the rocks that teach') suggesting the glyphs contained information useful to the community. Symbols include turtles, serpentine forms, human-like forms such as the one depicted here (taken from an information leaflet, as photography is prohibited), and possibly boats with passengers. Many of the glyphs are of identifiable things, but others are open to interpretation. Underground streams can be heard through numerous fissures in the rocks, and these may have been regarded as the voices of the ancestors and spirits talking to their people. The site could also have been a place of solitary worship because it is very isolated from main waterways where settlements would have been large.

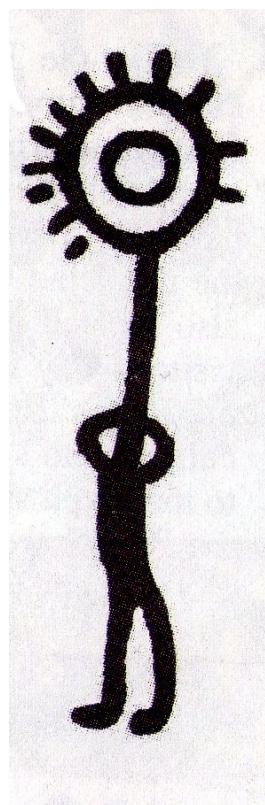
The local indigenous community of Curve Lake First Nation invites visitors wishing to learn about their culture.

They have a gift shop and gallery 'Whetung Ojibwa Centre' which can be accessed via their website:

<[www.whetung.com](http://www.whetung.com)>

Furthermore, they hold an 'Annual Traditional Pow-Wow' open to all visitors. See more about this at:

<[www.curvelakefn.ca](http://www.curvelakefn.ca)>



## Notes from Ceridwen's Womb – by Laurence Main

### BE A PILGRIM

Walking the living land is an ancient spiritual practice: hence the priority of pilgrimage. Walking for a long distance over many days along a traditional route (often much older than Christianity and linked to leys) is the way to do it. Backpacking, sleeping and dreaming in the ancient sites is even better. Everybody should go on a pilgrimage sometime.

I had backpacked the great Dragon Ley (otherwise known as the St Michael Line) described by Hamish Miller and Paul Broadhurst in their book *The Sun and the Serpent* for 303 miles from Carn Les Boel in Cornwall (when I reached Hopton-on-Sea in Norfolk the total was 558), when I spent the night in Wayland's Smithy Long Barrow in Oxfordshire (pictured below). This area is one of the most potent in England, being close to the crossing point of the Dragon Ley with the Spine of Albion.

Going to sleep in the front chamber on my right as I entered Wayland's Smithy, I slept so soundly that I didn't remember any dreams that night. When waking up around 5.30am (on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010), I kept still and quiet when a (real flesh and blood!) lady entered the long barrow purposely and did something at the stone blocking further access into the long barrow. Wearing practical trousers and coat this woman had the ring of the site guardian, in her own territory. I couldn't see what she did or hear what she muttered and neither of us acknowledged each other as she departed. This was too solemn for cordialities. Not that I felt like an intruder: on the contrary, I felt I was playing the part of the passing pilgrim.

Desperate for a pee, I stumbled out into a cloudy dawn hoping to hail the lady for a conversation but she had gone. Returning to the burial chamber, I had to face into the barrow looking at the blocking stone which had received her attention. My spine tingled as I realised I was being privileged with a special experience. The blocking stone ahead of me bore a vibrant, pulsating, brilliant white image of concentric circles (I think there were five circles within each other:-- I didn't count them because I concentrated on checking that they were concentric circles and not a spiral).

Go to Newgrange and you'll see concentric circles (as well as spirals) carved into the stones. This was alive and full of Spirit. Does it happen every dawn inside Wayland's Smithy? Did the 'site guardian' trigger it? I don't know. If you went there with a scientific frame of mind to witness it, I suspect you'd be disappointed. Maybe the Goddess was just pleased to see me! Indeed, it did look as if she had exposed her birth canal for me to enter. *Sacred. Privileged. Real!*

I ducked into the sleeping chamber on my right to roll up my sleeping bag (I had 25 miles to backpack that day to Whittenham Clump). Re-emerging, I saw that the vibrating white circles were gone from the blocking stone. I felt so blessed, so honoured by their manifestation. I don't think I'd have seen them if I hadn't been backpacking the Dragon Ley and dreaming in the sacred places. And, just for the record, I have never taken drugs or drunk alcohol.

- If you'd like to join a small group of ley hunters on a rolling programme of pilgrimages, please telephone me on **01650-531354** (NB: keep trying, as I may be away on pilgrimage).



## xxxxxx Costume Capers xxxxxx

With the summer festival season upon us and school hols just around the corner, let's have some fun! This design works for kids *and* grown-ups.

(all measurements are metric, so take care not to confuse your *mm* with your *cm*)

1. Get some sheets of strong white craft paper or white card (\*not\* mount-board). Three sheets of A3 should be enough, to allow for any mistakes.
2. Cut a strip of card about **25mm** wide, and long enough to go comfortably in a ring around the neck. Attach a white ribbon or string tie-piece to each end of the strip.
3. Cut petals about **30cm** long and **30mm** wide from the remaining card (exact number can be worked out by clever people measuring length of the neck strip, otherwise just guess). Petals can be rounded, notched or pointy at the tip but \*must\* be square-cut at the base. Cut a small length-wise incision (**25mm-ish**) up the middle at the base of each petal.
4. Lay the collar ring flat then staple each petal to it, crossing the incised bits at the base over slightly to give it a 3-dimensional shape. This also adds stiffness and helps keep the petals horizontal (otherwise they go all floppy and that would *never* do!). The petals will gradually flatten out towards the tips. Keep attaching petals until the whole collar looks like a daisy, then tie it around the neck using string or white ribbon. Avoid anyone wanting a hug:- it'll crumple your petals.
5. Wear a close-fitting, brimless bright yellow hat (a beret would do), or a headscarf, or paint your face daisy-yellow.
6. Dress in green from the neck down, finishing off with perhaps brown or black shoes to represent the ground.

Well, what are you waiting for? Have a nice Daisy!



MOOTS – These are current to the best of our knowledge, but we advise you check listed contact.

### Caerphilly

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When: Every Thursday from around 11am.  
Where: Location varies. Currently at the Grazing Ground on the High Street (as of Nov '14).  
Facebook: "South Wales Pagans"  
Details: A really informal group of mostly Pagans who like to meet up and have a natter.

### Cardiff

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When: Second Monday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: Upstairs at The Rummer Tavern, 14 Duke Street, CF10 1AY.  
Contact: LC Derek Storey at [spirit.brighid@virginmedia.com](mailto:spirit.brighid@virginmedia.com), or RC Catherine Abbott at  
Facebook: "Cardiff Pagan Federation Moot"  
Details: Monthly meet up for Pagans and Heathens of all paths in and around Cardiff. We hold workshops,

### Cardiff "Coffee-n-Craft"

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When: Third Saturday of the month from 10am.  
Where: Pipi's, 31-32 Caroline Street, CF10 1FF.  
Contact: Midnight at [coffee-n-craft@midnightofcardiff.com](mailto:coffee-n-craft@midnightofcardiff.com)  
Details: As you come in, look out for the table with a pink card on it or Midnight's hat with feathers.

### Carmarthen

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When: Last Thursday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: Get Stuffed Pizza, Cambrian Way, John Street, SA31 1QN (at the back of Marks & Spencer).  
Contact: Susan on 01267 281414 or Paul Rousselle on 07872 992162, alternatively email [paulkwrous-](mailto:paulkwrous-)  
Facebook: "Carmarthen Pagans"  
Details: Moot dates are subject to change! Please contact for confirmation.

### Cheadle

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When: Third Monday of the month from 7pm.  
Where: Moshi Coffee, 88 High Street, ST10 1AJ.  
Contact: Email Caroline Hill and Jan Edwards at [rowangrove99@gmail.com](mailto:rowangrove99@gmail.com)

### Chester

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When: First Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: The Town Crier, City Road, CH1 3AE.  
Contact: Amanda on 07722 133056, or email [maywaterdragon@gmail.com](mailto:maywaterdragon@gmail.com)

### Cowbridge

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When: First Saturday of the month from 11am-1pm.  
Where: Upstairs at The Little Shop of Calm, 1 Westgate, CF71 7AQ.  
Contact: Email Siyah at [sianyh@aol.com](mailto:sianyh@aol.com)  
Facebook: "Cowbridge Moot"  
Details: Kids welcome. Tea, coffee and cake provided.

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When: Last Tuesday of the month (not December) from 8pm.  
Where: The Blue Bell, Hardingswood, ST7 1EG.  
Contact: Glenys on 07973 635318 or email <[glenys.walmsley@hotmail.com](mailto:glenys.walmsley@hotmail.com)>  
Details: Talks, quizzes, socials, raffles. Everyone welcome. £2 for speaker fund



### **Kidsgrove, Stoke on Trent**

When: Last Tuesday of the month (not December) from 8pm.  
Where: The Blue Bell, Hardingswood, ST7 1EG.  
Contact: Glenys on 07973 635318 or email <glenys.walmsley@hotmail.com>  
Details: Talks, quizzes, socials, raffles. Everyone welcome. £2 for speaker fund.

### **Lampeter**

When: First Sunday of the month from around 7.30pm.  
Where: Cwmanne Tavern, Cwmanne Terrace, SA48 8DR.  
Contact: Carle at [pagan@lamp.ac.uk](mailto:pagan@lamp.ac.uk)  
Details: An informal meeting of Pagans, Druids, Asatruans, Wiccans, Witches, Shamans, Heathens, etc.

**Llanelli** When: Second Monday of the month from 11 am.  
Where: The Half Moon Pub, 71 Wern Road, SA15 1SP.  
Contact: Bee on 07906 098284.  
Website: [www.sabrain.com/half-moon](http://www.sabrain.com/half-moon)  
Details: Children welcome.

### **Neath**

When: Last Thursday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: The Highlander, Lewis Road, SA11 1EQ (first roundabout when you come into town).  
Contact: 07975 634990, or email [pfsouthwales@gmail.com](mailto:pfsouthwales@gmail.com)

### **Newcastle Mysteries Group**

When: Second Tuesday of the month (September to May) from 8pm.  
Where: Bridge Street Ale House, 31 Bridge Street, ST5 2RY.  
Contact: [mjwaltersuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mjwaltersuk@yahoo.co.uk)  
Website: <http://mysteriesgroup.atspace.org/>  
Details: Researching the unexplained. £2 for speaker fund.

### **Newport Coffee Morning**

When: Last Saturday of the month from 11 am.  
Where: Coffee #1, Commercial Street.  
Contact: Laura or Craig at [the.shadows.light@hotmail.com](mailto:the.shadows.light@hotmail.com)

### **Newtown**

When: Third Thursday of the month from 8pm.  
Where: The Bell Hotel, 30 Commercial Street, SY16 2DE.  
Contact: 01686 625540 or 01686 626727. For directions call Steve on 01691 679066.

### **Oswestry**

When: First Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: The Golden Lion, Upper Church Street, SY11 2AA.  
Contact: Email [contact@oswestrymoot.co.uk](mailto:contact@oswestrymoot.co.uk). Alternatively, telephone Angie or Den on 01691 680017, or Darryl on 01691 829111.  
Facebook: "Oswestry Pagans"  
Details: Regular talks plus seasonal celebrations and rituals.

### **Pontardawe, Swansea Valley**

When: First Monday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: The Pontardawe Inn (known locally as Y Gwachel), SA8 4ED.  
Contact: Jude on [ygarregarcrochan@gmail.com](mailto:ygarregarcrochan@gmail.com), or telephone 07966 206536.  
Website: [www.ygarregarcrochan.moonfruit.com](http://www.ygarregarcrochan.moonfruit.com)  
Facebook: "Y Garreg A'r Crochan Pagan Moot"  
Details: Talks and workshops.

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## Rhyl

When: Second Thursday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: Caskeys Pub, 19-23 Vale Road, LL18 2BT. \*POSSIBLY MOVING VENUE SHORTLY\*  
Check out our Facebook page for further information.  
Contact: Steve on 01691 679066, or email [offasring@gmail.com](mailto:offasring@gmail.com)  
Facebook: "Rhyl Moot"  
Details: A friendly, cosy and informative social moot to meet up with like-minded souls and share what we know and love.

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## Rugeley

When: Third Tuesday of the month.  
Where: The Wishing Tree, 47 Albion Street, WS15 2BY.  
Contact: [elric@live.co.uk](mailto:elric@live.co.uk)

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## Shrewsbury

When: Last Wednesday of the month from 2pm-5pm.  
Where: Shrewsbury Coffeehouse, Castle Gates, SY1 2AE.  
Facebook: "Shrewsbury Pagans Online"

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## Stafford

When: Third Monday of the month from 8pm.  
Where: Ye Olde Rose & Crown, 10 Market Street, ST16 2JZ. \*VENUE MAY CHANGE\*  
Contact: Maggie Jennings on 07825 285688.  
Details: Meet like-minded people for a chat and a drink. £3 entry when there's a speaker.

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## Swansea

When: Third Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: Mozart's, Walter Road, SA1 4QA.  
Contact: Cyt on 01792 578309.  
Facebook: "Swansea Pagan Moot"

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## Treharris

When: First Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: In the Back Bar of the Colliers Cwtch.  
Contact: Storm at [pandoras-storm@hotmail.com](mailto:pandoras-storm@hotmail.com)  
Details: You're welcome to join us for a drink and a chat.

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## Valleys

When: First Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm-10.30pm.  
Where: The Griffin Inn, Gilfach Goch, Porth, CF39 8YL.  
Contact: Richard Blackburn on 07980 977515, or email [krishak2099@hotmail.com](mailto:krishak2099@hotmail.com)  
Details: This is an informal evening where 'anyone' is welcome to discuss Paganism in its many forms.

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## Wellington, near Telford

When: First Wednesday of the month from 8pm.  
Where: Red Lion Pub, Holyhead Road, TF1 2EW.  
Contact: Pat French on 07967 329909, or email [flutes@moonforge.com](mailto:flutes@moonforge.com)  
Details: Open and social moot. All welcome.

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## Wrexham

When: Last Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: Wrexham Lager Sports & Social Club, 1 Union Road, LL13 7SR.  
Contact: Steve on 01691 679066, or email [offasring@gmail.com](mailto:offasring@gmail.com)  
Facebook: "Wrexham Pagan Federation Moot"

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