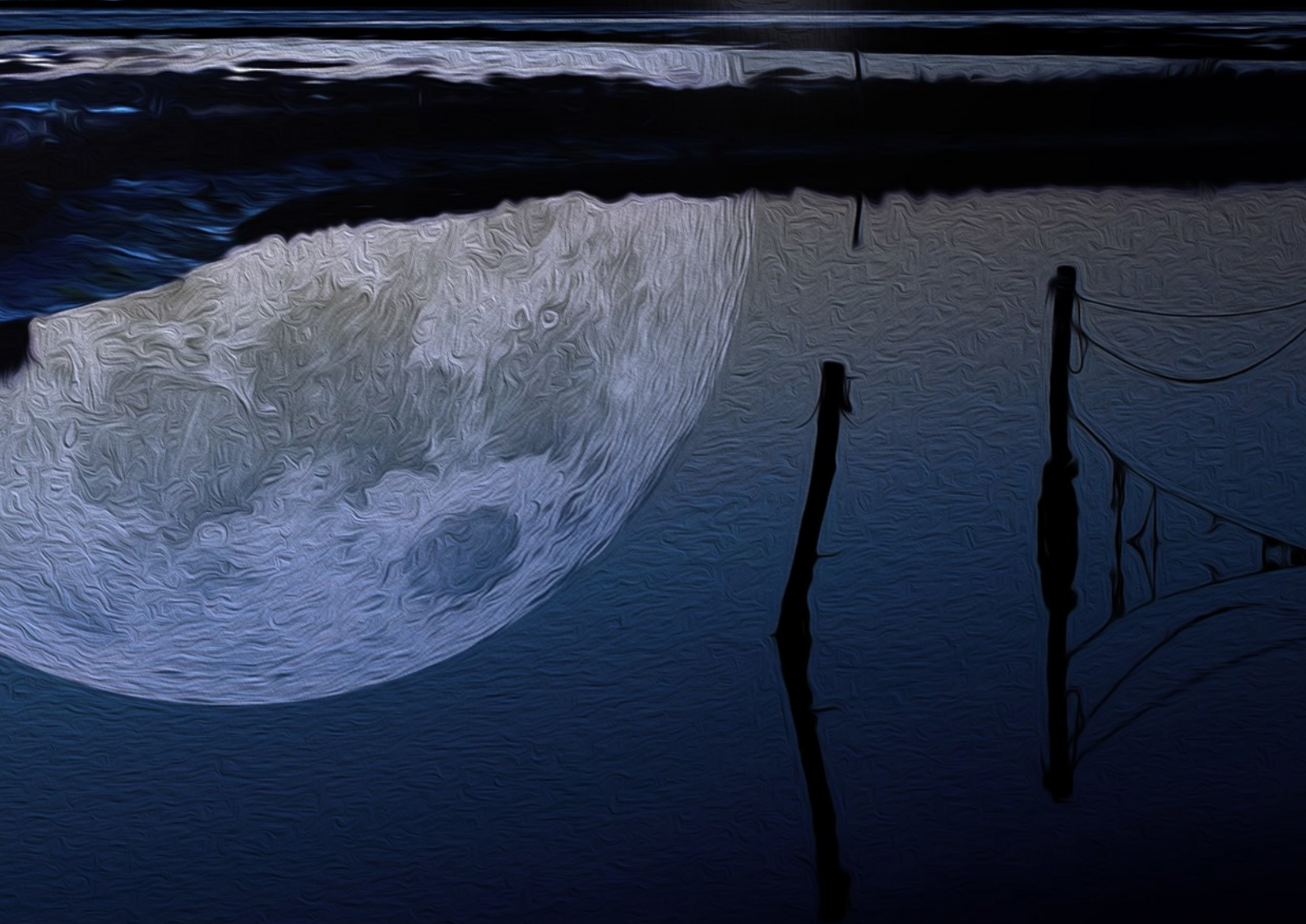


# Middle Earth





# Welcome to Myddle Earth



Winter Solstice 2015



**Y**ule marks the darkest time, when the Earth seems bare and forlorn. We adorn our homes with evergreens such as holly, ivy and mistletoe to remind us that the Earth will soon again be reborn.

So at this time rejoice with those you hold close and dear. Feast, drink and be merry to celebrate this special time of year.

**Welcome to your Winter Solstice 2015 edition of Myddle Earth.**

In this issue, Laurence Main treats us to

another wonderful article in his regular feature - *Notes from Ceridwen's Womb*; we welcome an insightful and thought-provoking piece from Lady Jane; and Steve Ludford explores Mars, Jupiter and Saturn's influence in his latest offering of *The Art of Astrology*.

As always, I must extend my deepest thanks to all our contributors, including my hubby, Gaz, for his ever-inspiring front cover artwork; and to you, our readers - thank you for your support.

So, until next time, may you all have a joyous Yuletide.

Love and Bright Blessings,

*Angyl*



## Moon Phases



**New Moon**

**First Quarter**

**Full Moon**

**Third Quarter**

10th Jan

16th Jan

25th Dec

2nd Jan

8th Feb

15th Feb

24th Jan

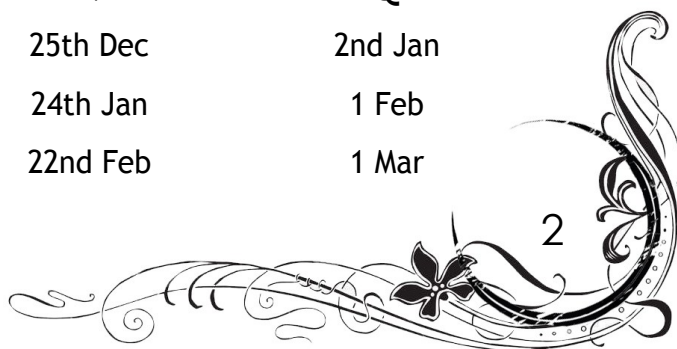
1 Feb

9th Mar

15th Mar

22nd Feb

1 Mar





# District Managers Report



ello,

Firstly, it saddens us to report that our Regional Co-ordinator for Herefordshire and Worcestershire has stepped down for personal reasons. Until someone else is appointed, we will assume the duties of RC.

Audrey had a go at the plaiting that you read about in the Mabon issue. This took a little while and involved much cussing (never been great at following instructions) but perseverance paid off and a reasonable result was obtained. Thank you Lady Jane for this very detailed article which must've taken you a long time to put together!

**Warning: complacency endangers rights.** Thanks in no small part to the Pagan Federation's campaigning work since 1971, UK society on the whole is happy to co-exist with us. Furthermore, the quantity and quality of information on Paganism nowadays is something us 'old-timers' envy. Books, journals, gatherings, and the mighty Internet all supply as much on Paganism as nearly anyone could want. Rarely is there a problem for people in the workplace, hospital patients, prisoners, etc., in revealing their spirituality. It seems that there has never been a better time to be Pagan. People may get the impression that the PF has achieved it's aims and we can all rest easy now.


However, rights are fragile things and can be eroded gradually but insidiously, or suddenly and violently. We need only to look at the Middle East and parts of Africa to see how fanatical sects can take over communities and deny rights to all but those who share their own extremely restricted views. It's happened in Britain in the past: think of the English Civil War. Therefore, to protect our right to be Pagan requires that we have someone to fight our corner when those rights are threatened, and that is where the PF comes in. All of the information in the world will be to no avail if a change of government or rise in religious extremism decides to stamp us out, either slowly or rapidly. All of those hard-won rights could be gone. The PF relies on a constant supply of funds in the form of memberships (our only source) in order to campaign on our behalf, so thank you all for your support! Please keep renewing and encourage others to do so when you can.

Finally, we ask that you please think of Pat Pitts, our previous District Manager, who is currently rather ill and confined to bed after a hospital stay. She needs healing energy and loving thoughts.

Have a safe, blessed and joyful Yule,

Audrey & Richard

District Managers PF Mid-West & Wales  
Email: [mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk)



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# Notes from Ceridwen's Womb

Explain the Inexplicable by Laurence Main

When it comes to ancient monuments, don't always expect answers from archaeologists. You have to cast your net wide to find truth. There's no better example of this than Avebury in Wiltshire, including Silbury Hill.



Are you old enough to remember the Silbury Hill Project on BBC television from 1967 to 1969? Described as one of the most exciting researches ever undertaken in British archaeology, it starred Professor Richard Atkinson and involved commentator Magnus Magnusson. For younger readers, this was big stuff, gripping the nation until the final anti-climax.

The archaeologists couldn't find the answer! They had no idea why the biggest artificial mound in Britain had been constructed some 4675 years ago. It took a dogged individual unencumbered by academic blinkers to find the truth.

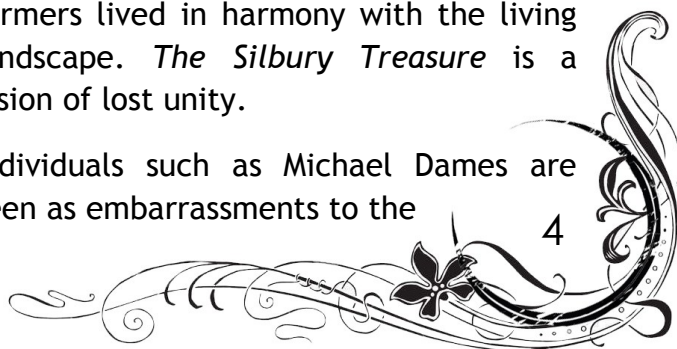
In the 1970's, when I was teaching at schools in Swindon, Michael Dames was a college lecturer in the same Wiltshire town. His subject was art. His degrees were in Geography and British Archaeology and he looked at the sacred landscape south of Swindon through eyes blessed by the Goddess. Whilst I was inspecting the rights of way as the

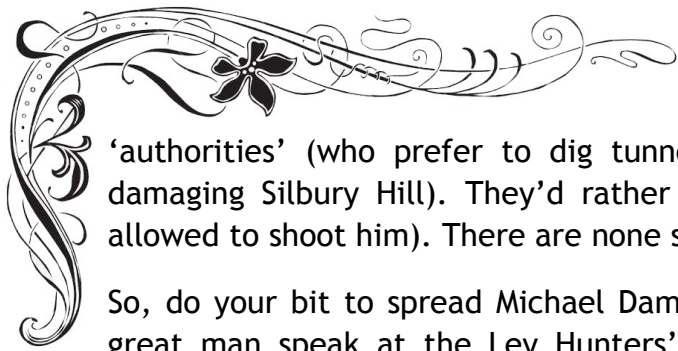
voluntary Footpaths Secretary of the Swindon Group of the Ramblers' Association in the drought summer of 1976, Michael Dames was publishing a book which provided the answer to the enigma on our patch, Silbury Hill.

Read *The Silbury Treasure* by Michael Dames (Thames and Hudson, 1976). This was followed by *The Avebury Cycle* (Thames and Hudson, 1977). Authors die, books go out of print, and information is lost. Be grateful to be able to read them.

Michael Dames shows how our Neolithic ancestors worshipped the Mother Goddess and represented Her in the landscape. The various monuments in the Avebury area represent a different aspect of the annual fertility cycle corresponding to the agricultural year. Silbury Hill is the pregnant belly of Lughnasadh. The first farmers lived in harmony with the living landscape. *The Silbury Treasure* is a vision of lost unity.

Individuals such as Michael Dames are seen as embarrassments to the





'authorities' (who prefer to dig tunnels on TV at great cost to no avail - except damaging Silbury Hill). They'd rather ignore the messenger (given that they're not allowed to shoot him). There are none so blind...

So, do your bit to spread Michael Dames' message. Take the opportunity to hear the great man speak at the Ley Hunters' Moot in Oxford on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2016. There's a campsite. See you there!



### Spring Moot 2012 at Avebury



Michael Dames holding the ceremonial Plough, preparing to harness the oxen (played by Network Members) for the mystery play dance.





Interested in Leys and patterns in the landscape? Come to our Moots!

Book Now for the Ley Hunters' Moot in Oxford 2016

Top Speakers - Coach Trip

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Come for a day, weekend, or for up to 5 days



◆ **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May** (12pm-7pm)  
Moot with speakers: Laurence Main, Liza Llewellyn, Trish Mills, Ian Woodcock, Susan Hale, Michael Dames and Gary Biltcliffe, plus stalls. In Oxford. Tickets £30 each \*

◆ **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** (9am-5pm)  
Coach trip with Caroline Hoare and Gary Biltcliffe, authors of *The Spine of Albion*, to Uffington White Horse, Wayland's Smithy, the Rollrights. Tickets £30 each \* Secure your seat now!

Plus free guided walks led by Laurence Main, author of *Walks in Mysterious Oxfordshire*.



◆ **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** - Wittenham Clumps.

◆ **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May** - Sir Winston Churchill's birthplace, Blenheim, and grave, Bladon, via the Column of Victory.

◆ **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May** - Oxford City Leys.

Pay your own bus fares and admission charges.

\* All mootgoers must be subscribers to the Network of Ley Hunters' (who also receive four quarterly newsletters). Subscribe now by sending £15.00. Make cheques payable to Network of Ley Hunters' and post to Laurence Main, 9 Mawddwy Cottages, Minllyn, Dinas Mawddwy, Machynlleth, SY20 9LW. Telephone: 01650 531354. Please print your name and address legibly.

Any profit made on Moots is used to improve the Newsletter (add colour) and to reach new people through advertising the Network. Moots are a good way to meet other ley hunters as well as to explore the living landscape with expert guides.





# Mid-West Report

**N**ews, do I have any news?

Yes, there is a new local officer for the region. Her name is Fiona Ward and she is based in Shropshire and can be contacted on her mobile phone number: 07939 664511, or via Facebook. Fiona is always busy, she has her own website: [www.cupsandwands.co.uk](http://www.cupsandwands.co.uk) and is also the editor of *The Sage* - an online magazine which covers a whole variety of subjects. Check it out as it is well worth reading.

Anyone out there who loves the Peak District should also check out Byron Machin's DVD's which cover the history, folklore, natural history and archaeology of the area. You can get sneak previews on You Tube. They would make an ideal gift.

Stafford Moot is having a Yule moot on the 21st December at Ye Old Rose & Crown and promises to be an interesting evening. I have been informed by Maggie Jennings (who has been running the moot

since January this year), that there will be music, an open microphone, poetry and maybe even story telling.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone out there reading this for supporting Myddle Earth and the Pagan Federation. A very special thank you must go Apryl, the editor of Myddle Earth, for a superb magazine.

Have a great Yule,

Ian Robinson

Regional Coordinator for the Mid-West  
Email: [mwaw.midwest@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:mwaw.midwest@paganfederation.co.uk)



## Cups & Wands

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Goddess Oracle Card Readings

**Friday Mornings**  
Indian Head Massage,  
**Friday Afternoons**  
Spiritual Healing

**Saturday Afternoons**  
Tarot Card Readings

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# CROSS CULTURE COMMONALITIES

*By Lady Jane*

**H**uman beings have three things in common. For survival they require sustenance, shelter and sex. Whatever the culture humans recognise in each other the need to eat; though the individual cuisine might be as diverse as a portion of fish and chips to the witchetty grubs of the famous Bush Tucker trials.

Also all humans at some point require shelter from the elements. They might live stationary in permanent high rise apartments to garden bungalows. Alternatively, humans may live a nomadic lifestyle in temporary shelters constantly moving through necessity following their animals or to find water. Humans are extremely adaptable and are found in nearly every possible terrain but they do have limits. Even during leisure time they usually require some sort of shelter albeit in a five star hotel or roughing it under canvas, desperately trying to cook sausages over an open fire with an umbrella in the rain.

As for the third point even in the most primitive cultures humans have recognised the need for males and females in their society. This applies to either patriarchal or matriarchal cultures. They might not have fully understood the biological mechanics but knew they needed both in order to reproduce and create new humans. Otherwise their community, complete with its relevant culture, would simply cease to exist.

So since these three things are an essential part of human survival why is it 'we' concentrate primarily on 'our' differences? Why pander to the old 'Us verses Them' concept.

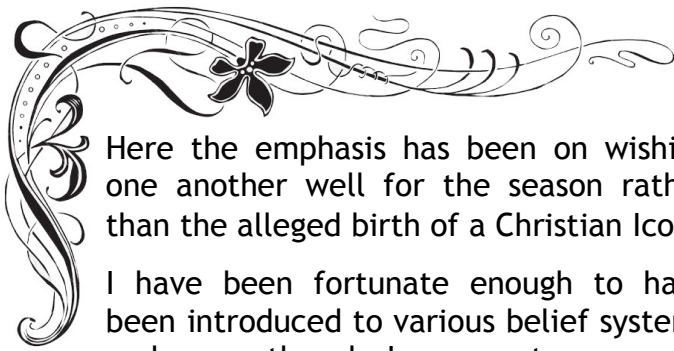
Paganism encompasses a rich variety of beliefs and although we live in an officially Christian country we can practise reasonably openly even if we do get some strange looks. Over the years I have encountered different belief systems and cultures both at home and abroad. I admittedly have only mixed with the Pagan society in recent times. However, I have begun to observe in some quarters a veiled trend.

With slow recognition of the Pagan movement within the U.K we are under closer scrutiny. There are persons, particularly in the media, who cannot wait for us to 'Come a Cropper'.

Britain has had its fair share of religious wars and even in some localities today there is still friction between communities. We have learnt that when dealing with people outside the Pagan community to use discretion. To take an extreme example I doubt that anybody reading this article would make the mistake of offering a member of the Jewish or Muslim faith 'a nice piece of pork pie'! On the other hand I would not be personally offended if I was given a portion of Xmas Pud. Also I have on many occasions swapped Christmas cards with Christians, Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus.







Here the emphasis has been on wishing one another well for the season rather than the alleged birth of a Christian Icon.

I have been fortunate enough to have been introduced to various belief systems and even though I may not personally totally agree with what they may practice, I recognise that within each area there are certain core elements. Most of the Pagan beliefs systems, and I know I have not been introduced to all, do tend to have some sort of regard for the natural world. Rituals play a part even if it is only once in a blue moon. Food and drink often have an important role in the ritual. Offerings are often made to deities or elements. This can include something as simple as putting leftovers on the bird table. If there is not a sacred indoor space, a handy tree is often used for shelter.

As for reproduction I will leave that to the individual imagination but we do seem to be swelling in numbers. However, reproduction is not necessarily in this case restricted to the human race. In certain faiths there is a great emphasis on the planting, growing and reaping cycles of the year. As I said earlier, humans do need to eat.

I think the next time we automatically rush to defend our little corner of Paganism as being so much better than their area of Paganism we should pause a moment for thought. Do we really want to step on what is such a slippery slope? Aren't we in danger of replicating the historical mistakes of the external Pagan community?

To quote a well known piece of Shakespeare *'If you prick us do we not bleed?'*

I think Paganism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century should be above that. Don't you?

**First published:**

The Hedge Wytch Magazine Issue 61 February/Imbolc 2013 - Cross Culture Commonalities page 16.

Silver Wheel 4 - Cross Culture Commonalities page 49.



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# North Wales Report



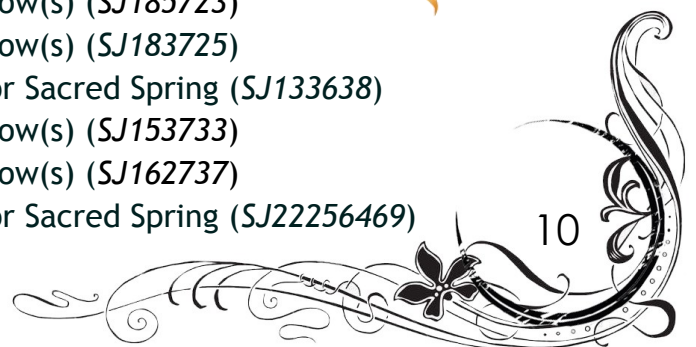
very merry Yule, Christmas and New Year to you all from your local coordinator. Feast, drink, laugh, make merry and celebrate the turning of the year, just as mankind has done for at least the past 10,000 years.

There are more ancient and prehistoric sites aligned to the Mid-Winter Solstice than there are towards the Mid-Summer Solstice, including one of this region's most ancient and sacred sites on Anglesey known as Bryn Celli Ddu. Although no bodies have ever been found inside it, it is still classified as either a passage tomb or a burial mound, which is a shame as this gives a totally in-accurate idea of what the monument is all about. As well as being lined up to the Winter Solstice, Bryn Celli Ddu also shows the Spring and Autumn Equinox. On top of that, once every 8 years the planet Venus shines through a small hole called the letter box and shines directly on the stone at the back of the chamber lighting it up with Venusian light, making this an amazingly accurate calendar. I'll try to find out when this will next occur and we could have a Pagan Fed outing to go and see it.

In fact, here in North Wales we are spoiled for ancient sites, they are all around us. On Anglesey alone there is Lligwy Comlech, Llyn Cerrig Bach; there are Standing Stones, Hut Circles, a Hillfort, Din Lligwy, Branwen's Cave, St. Seiriol's Well and Cell, plus more that I've forgotten and that's just on Ynys Mon. We also have two wonderful Stone Circles on the North Wales coast at Penmaenmawr called The Druid Circles (well worth a visit), then 5 miles NW of Mold is a lovely Stone Circle called Penbedw Park and near that is a whole batch of ancient sites including:

[Penbedw Park Standing Stone](#)  
[Penbedw Park Tumulus](#)  
[Pen-Y-Gelli](#)  
[Ffynnon Leinw](#)  
[Hendre Farm](#)  
[Moel Arthur](#)  
[Moel Arthur, Boundary Stone](#)  
[Moel-y-Gaer Circle](#)  
[Moel-y-Gaer \(Flintshire\)](#)  
[Penycloddiau](#)  
[Llwyn Erddyn](#)  
[Plas Captain](#)  
[Parc y Prysau 2](#)  
[Parc y Prysau 1](#)  
[Ffynnon Cynhafal](#)  
[Waen Isaf](#)  
[Gatehouse Farm](#)  
[Goblins Well](#)

Standing Stone (Menhir) (SJ168678)  
Round Barrow(s) (SJ170683)  
Round Barrow(s) (SJ18316851)  
Holy Well or Sacred Spring (SJ18636767)  
Round Barrow(s) (SJ19426838)  
Hillfort (SJ145661)  
Marker Stone (SJ1418366454)  
Timber Circle (SJ211691)  
Hillfort (SJ211691)  
Hillfort (SJ129677)  
Ring Cairn (SJ17567249)  
Cairn (SJ17367253)  
Round Barrow(s) (SJ185723)  
Round Barrow(s) (SJ183725)  
Holy Well or Sacred Spring (SJ133638)  
Round Barrow(s) (SJ153733)  
Round Barrow(s) (SJ162737)  
Holy Well or Sacred Spring (SJ22256469)





Carreg Carn March Arthur  
 Rhual Isaf  
 Bwlch Penbarra  
 Moel-y-Gaer (Loggerheads)  
 Babell  
 Brynford  
 Coed Clwyd Cairns

Marker Stone (SJ202626)  
 Round Barrow(s) (SJ22546496)  
 Marker Stone (SJ1584661500)  
 Hillfort (SJ14866175)  
 Round Barrow(s) (SJ153742)  
 Barrow Cemetery (SJ174746)  
 Burial Chamber (Dolmen) (SJ16026127)

We also have:

- ◇ Cefn Coch Stone Circle - 2½ miles NNW of Portmadoc
- ◇ Cerrig Arhur Stone Circle - 2 miles NE of Barmouth
- ◇ Cerrig Pryfaid Stone Ellipse - 5 miles SSW of Conwy
- ◇ Ffridd Newydd Double Ring - 3 miles N of Barmouth
- ◇ Llyn Eiddew Bach, incomplete Ring of 7 Stones (originally 13)  
 - 4 miles ENE of Harlech, plus ½ mile from that is Bryn Cader Faner
- ◇ Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle - 4 miles SSW of Corwen
- ◇ Tyfos Ring Cairn - 5 miles SW of Corwen and
- ◇ Banc Du Cairn - 9 miles SSW of Newtown



We have Standing Stones at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and two Standing Stones at Llanfihangel. There is Carreg Lefn near Rhosgoch, Maen y Cleddau near Sylfaen Farm (SH632186). Then in St. Mary's Churchyard at Welshpool there is a massive Standing Stone.

This is by no means a complete list as that would take up the rest of this magazine, I just wanted to point out that we are very fortunate to be surrounded by these very ancient, prehistoric Sacred Pagan sites.

If a few people are interested then I propose that in the Spring or Summer we visit some of these. Please let me know if you might like to join us and I'll see if there is a circular route we could take to include as many of these as possible.

As far as the actual North Wales report goes, I'll just say that the Wrexham and Rhyl Moots are still going but if you wish to attend either of these please take a look at the Facebook page beforehand to

see what's happening. For Wrexham look up 'The Wrexham Pagan Federation Moot' and for Rhyl it's simply 'Rhyl Moot', or you can contact me either by e-mail at [offasring@gmail.com](mailto:offasring@gmail.com) or phone 01691 679066 (I'll be away from 20<sup>th</sup> until 29th December), or just ask on the site.

I'm always happy to receive any comments, ideas, suggestions, questions or complaints.

Again, I wish you all a very Merry Solstice/Yule break.

Bright Blessings for the ever increasing Light,

Steve

R.C for North Wales

Email: [mwaw.northwales@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:mwaw.northwales@paganfederation.co.uk)





# THE ART OF ASTROLOGY

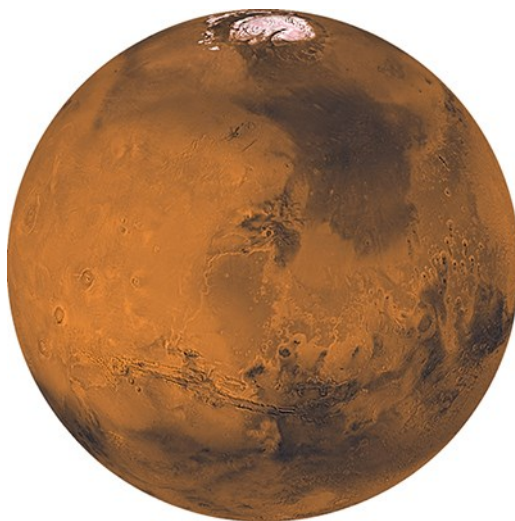
By Steve Ludford



OK then folks, in the last issue I promised to tackle Mars, Jupiter and Saturn so here goes.

Now Mars is one Planet I'm sure you all know something about. For a start we all know that it's known as the red Planet. Why red? Well partly because it looks red and partly because red is the colour of blood and associated with war. Mars is the God of war, but don't let that put you off as it is also the Planet of energy, strength, positivism, liveliness and vitality. Without its influence we would all become very lazy and apathetic. We say that Venus is the Female Planet of Love and we also say that Mars is the Male Planet of action and movement. Your energy levels will be largely determined by the position of Mars in your personal birth chart (you can get this information from either <https://alabe.com/freechart>, <http://astro.cafeastrology.com> or [www.psychicscience.org/astrochart.aspx](http://www.psychicscience.org/astrochart.aspx). There are also other sites which are equally as good, just type in 'free birth chart' and you'll find loads, or you can just ask me. Some of these sites will also give you a brief analysis of your chart which should be reasonably accurate).

The symbol we use for the Female is the same as the symbol for Venus and likewise the symbol we use for the Male is the Mars symbol. This is reflected in the fact that Mars rules the muscular system and the gonads or sex glands. This is an extension of the Planets



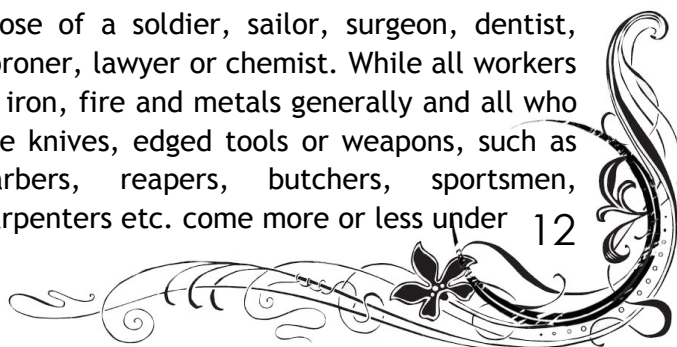
general association with physical sexual expression.

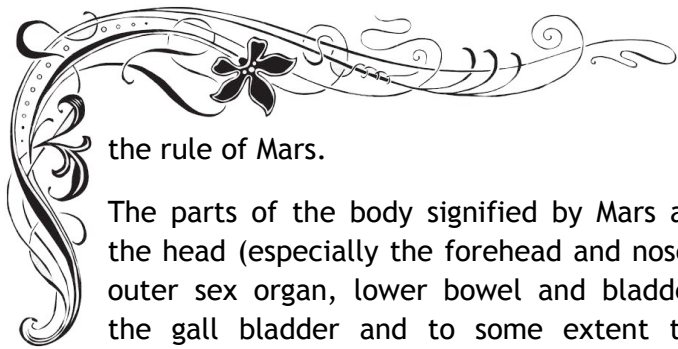
In the physical world Mars causes accidents, violence and fevers. But if we could see the growth of the Ego, if we could trace its history, we would find that impulse and rash action in the past has brought its inevitable reaction in accident or fever, for every effort has its cause. There are no mishaps or misadventures which could not be traced to a cause set in motion by the Ego in the past.

When Mars is weak in any chart it gives cowardice or faint-heartedness, which may lead to criminal tendencies. A cruel and brutal nature is often the result of a weak and uncontrolled Martian nature.

In the horoscope and in the outer world, Mars represents a person who is active, strong, energetic and muscular; of average height, not usually tall. The hair is often red but not invariably so and is often curly or wiry. Of average proportions, often more slender than stout. Eyes are usually hazel, quick and observant. Perceptive faculties as a rule are more developed than the reflective.

The trades associated with this Planet are those of a soldier, sailor, surgeon, dentist, coroner, lawyer or chemist. While all workers in iron, fire and metals generally and all who use knives, edged tools or weapons, such as barbers, reapers, butchers, sportsmen, carpenters etc. come more or less under





the rule of Mars.

The parts of the body signified by Mars are the head (especially the forehead and nose), outer sex organ, lower bowel and bladder, the gall bladder and to some extent the muscles, sinews and arterial system.

Enough about Mars, let's move onto Jupiter - the giant of the Solar system.

The keyword for Jupiter will always be 'expansion'. Everything about Jupiter points towards expansion in every aspect. In the Zodiac it rules over Sagittarius and in old astrology it ruled Pisces also (now attributed to Neptune). It works well in Cancer but not in Gemini.

It is associated with knowledge, advanced studies, a philosophical outlook, speculative thinking, religion, universities, foreign countries, languages and book publication. On the body, it rules the liver.

The positive qualities of Jupiter include optimism, generosity, loyalty, joviality, a kind nature, a sense of justice and compassion, breadth of vision, well directed mental powers, a flair for languages and good at sport.

On the negative side Jupiter can lead to being blindly optimistic, an extremist, wasteful, self indulgent, a gambler, extravagant, lawless and unbalanced in beliefs.

Jupiter is the thinking-person's Planet. As the guardian of the abstract mind, this Planet rules higher learning, and bestows upon us a yen for exploring ideas, both intellectually and spiritually. Intellectually speaking, Jupiter assists us in formulating our ideology.

In the more spiritual realm, Jupiter rules over religions and philosophy. A search for the answers is what Jupiter proposes, and if it means spanning the globe to find them, well, that's probably why Jupiter also rules long-distance travel. In keeping with this theme, Jupiter compels us to assess our ethical and moral values; it also addresses our sense of optimism.

Luck and good fortune are associated with Jupiter for good reason. This is a kind and benevolent Planet, one that wants us to grow and flourish in a positive way. Jupiter may be judge and jury, but it's mostly an honourable helpmate, seeing to it that we're on the right path. While our success, accomplishments and prosperity are all

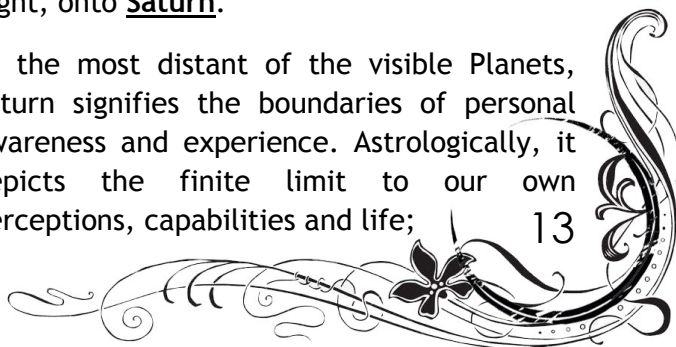
within Jupiter's realm, this largesse can, at times, deteriorate into laziness and sloth (Jupiter, at its worst, is associated with weight gain!). More often than not, however, Jupiter will guide us down the primrose path.

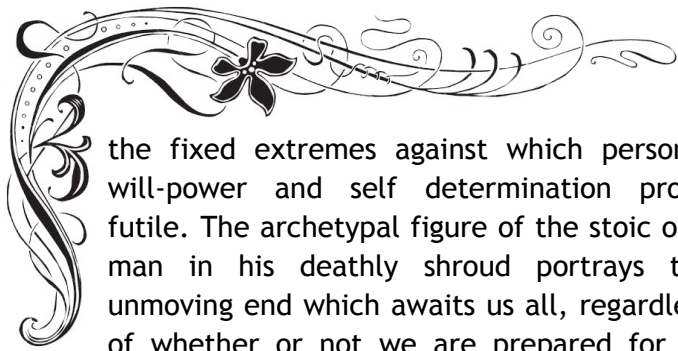
Leisure time is also one of Jupiter's pastimes. Sports of all kinds, games of chance and a stroll in the park with the family pet (Jupiter loves animals) - these are all ruled by this Planet. Finally, Jupiter often presages great wealth, material and otherwise. This is a good friend in the heavens!

It takes Jupiter about 12 years to circle the Zodiac (the Planet visits an average of one sign a year).

Right, onto Saturn.

As the most distant of the visible Planets, Saturn signifies the boundaries of personal awareness and experience. Astrologically, it depicts the finite limit to our own perceptions, capabilities and life;

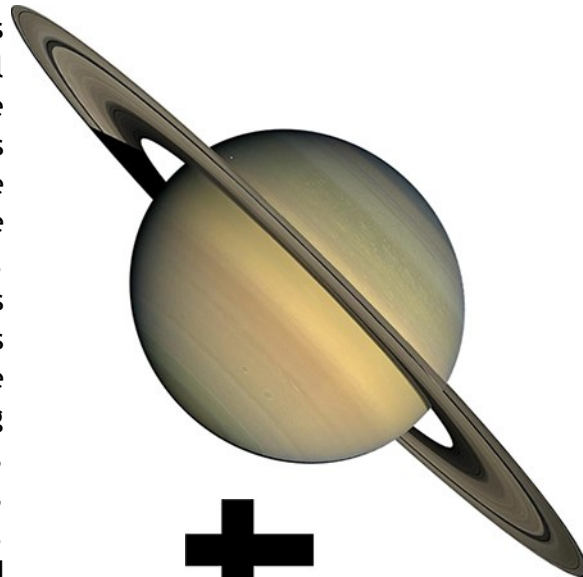




the fixed extremes against which personal will-power and self determination prove futile. The archetypal figure of the stoic old-man in his deathly shroud portrays the unmoving end which awaits us all, regardless of whether or not we are prepared for it. Death, after all, is an extremely limiting experience.

Much of Saturn's astrological interpretation can be traced to its astronomical appearance and movement. As the outermost Planet, extremes and boundaries of any kind fall under its influence: from mundane significations ranging from gateposts, doors, thresholds and walls, international borders, skins, leather, nails and hair, to the signification of personal limits imposed by fear, self-doubt, weakness and lack of resources. Though the Universe extends immeasurably beyond what can be seen by the naked eye, once a Planet has passed outside the range of human comprehension, its influence becomes impersonal. Liz Greene calls Saturn "*the membrane which separates the personal unconscious from the collective unconscious*". It is the final Planet to bring its influence to bear directly in our daily lives and observably in the structures that define our world. It has no interest in transpersonal awareness, higher philosophies or intangible collectives; its focus is realism and it stands as the absolute testimony to the need to honour reality as defined by common sense.

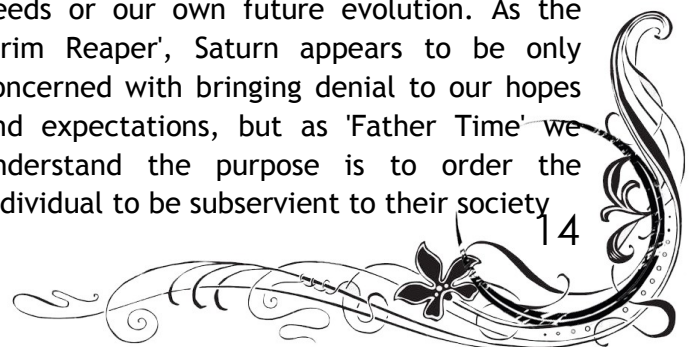
Saturn is the slowest moving of the traditional Planets, completing its cycle around the Sun every 29-30 years. It is also dim and unimpressive to view. Both its lacklustre appearance and its sluggish motion

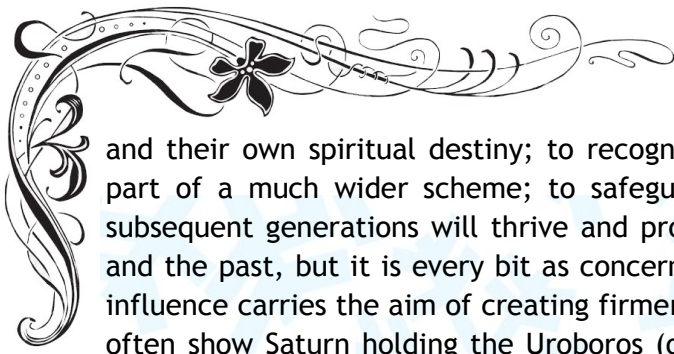


have contributed to astrological signification over old age and poor vitality, as well as a careful, determined and slow but disciplined approach. There is no heat and fire in the characteristics of Saturn, no burning passion or inflamed desire, its movement is deliberate, steady and predictable. In traditional texts it is known as the Greater

Malefic because it is placed furthest from the creative warmth of the Sun and the fertile moisture of the Earth and Moon. Its qualities are therefore defined as 'cold and dry', conditions that are antipathetic to growth and healthy development. Standing on the perimeter of our personal cosmos it is also considered dark, incapable of receiving or generating much luminosity. The absence of light further defines it as heavy, inclined to fall or weigh down - gravity and grave are two words that respond directly to its essentially serious, ponderous and sombre nature.

Thus Saturn has a natural rulership over places and conditions that are cold, dark, oppressive, or defined through weakness, decay or hard physical labour. It is the lord of winter, the enemy of the Sun, the symbol for the authoritarian father or the unswerving law caster who cares less about the spirit of personal morality than obedience to structures that serve a collective purpose. Saturn calls for loss, denial and sacrifice wherever our immediate ego-driven interests conflict with wider needs or our own future evolution. As the 'Grim Reaper', Saturn appears to be only concerned with bringing denial to our hopes and expectations, but as 'Father Time' we understand the purpose is to order the individual to be subservient to their society





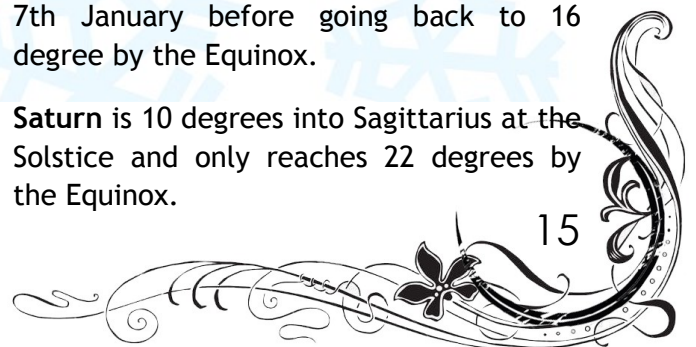
and their own spiritual destiny; to recognize that their life at any given time is only a small part of a much wider scheme; to safeguard the continuation of existence and ensure that subsequent generations will thrive and prosper. Saturn is often linked with history, traditions and the past, but it is every bit as concerned about the future. Everything that arises from its influence carries the aim of creating firmer foundations for future potential. Ancient depictions often show Saturn holding the Uroboros (or Ouroboros) - the serpent who eats its own tail, a symbol of eternal regeneration which forges birth and death into the endless cycle of past, present and future.

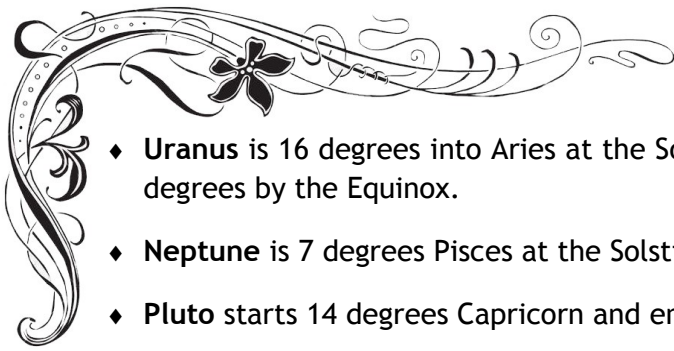
Saturn rules Capricorn and traditionally Aquarius (now attributed to Uranus) it works well in Libra but not in Cancer. It is associated with the skin and teeth, bones, the spleen and acid formation in the joints. It also governs old age, preservation, perseverance, slow change, the cold, inhibition, restriction and intolerance.

In the Jewish theosophy known as the Qabalah, Saturn is the third sphere of divine activity called Binah - Understanding or Intelligence. This is the power which organises the creative forces and imposes form on the Universe. It is thus the root of matter. It is also the Female Principle, for it is through conception and birth that we acquire material form. Binah is the Great Mother, The Primal Ocean from whence we all originate. In a sense you could say that Venus represents the Virgin, The Moon represents the Pregnant Mother and Saturn represents the Crone. Although it is also true to say that all three Planets represent the different aspects within themselves.

#### Where are the Planets between now and Spring?

- ◆ **The Sun.** The exact time of the Winter Solstice (when the Sun enters Capricorn) this year is 04:48 GMT on 22nd December 2015 and travels through Capricorn to reach Aquarius by 21st January then onward to Pisces by 19th February. The Sun remains in Pisces until the Spring Equinox on 20th March.
- ◆ **The Moon.** Please see page 2 for the Lunar Phases.
- ◆ **Mercury** is half way through Capricorn as the Sun enters it at the Solstice and reaches the end of that sign and the start of Aquarius on 2nd January. It then turns retrograde and re-enters Capricorn on the 9th January, going back to 15 degrees when it starts forward motion again and reaches the end of Capricorn by 13th February. From there Mercury travels through Aquarius and reaches Pisces on 6th March. At the Spring Equinox on March 21st, Mercury is just entering Aries so is very close to the Sun.
- ◆ **Venus** is situated 18 degrees into Scorpio at the Solstice and reaches the end of that sign and the start of Sagittarius on 30th December. It travels through that sign and reaches Capricorn on 24th January. Continuing its way, it then reaches Aquarius by 17th February. Venus is travelling quite fast now and reaches the next sign (Pisces) on 12th March. By the Equinox, Venus is 11 degrees into Pisces.
- ◆ **Mars** is 22 degrees into Libra at the Winter Solstice and reaches its next sign (Scorpio) on 4th January. From there it travels through that sign to reach Sagittarius by 6th March. By the Equinox, Mars is 5 degrees into that sign.
- ◆ **Jupiter** is 22 degrees into Virgo as we start but only reaches 25 degrees on the 7th January before going back to 16 degree by the Equinox.
- ◆ **Saturn** is 10 degrees into Sagittarius at the Solstice and only reaches 22 degrees by the Equinox.





- ◆ **Uranus** is 16 degrees into Aries at the Solstice and will only travel a few degrees to reach 19 degrees by the Equinox.
- ◆ **Neptune** is 7 degrees Pisces at the Solstice and reaches 10 degrees by the Equinox.
- ◆ **Pluto** starts 14 degrees Capricorn and ends at 17 degrees.

That's all folks. Merry Yule, Christmas and New Year.

BB, Steve



## Are you a budding Writer, Artist or Poet?

- **Yes? Then we need your help!**

Myddle Earth is the perfect platform to get your work seen and your voice heard. Even if you'd just like to share a recipe, a ritual design, or to review a book that you think our readers would be interested in, please get in touch!

*As long as it has a Pagan theme, pretty much anything goes!*

### Advertise Your Event Here!

We especially want to hear from you if you know of an upcoming event within our Mid-West & Wales District.

Email your submissions to: [myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk), or post to:

Myddle Earth, 80 Unicorn Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2DH

*Thank you!*







PAGAN FEDERATION MID-WEST & WALES

# District Moots & Meetings

This list is as up-to-date as we can make it but newcomers are \*strongly\* advised to check with the listed contact before setting out to make sure there are no last-minute changes to time or venue.

## 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 [catherine.abbott01@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.abbott01@gmail.com)  
Facebook: "Cardiff Pagan Federation Moot"  
Details: Monthly meet up for Pagans and Heathens of all paths in and around Cardiff. You don't necessarily need to be a member of the PF to attend! We hold workshops, talks and other stuff in a pagan-friendly environment. Please visit our Facebook page to find a list of events.

## 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. Coffee-n-Craft is a social gathering for solitaries of all paths and those interested in or attending Midnight's Gems to network and make new friends. We welcome Pagans of all paths and Pagan-friendly non-Pagans. Please note that Coffee-n-Craft replaces Curry and Craft.

## Carmarthen

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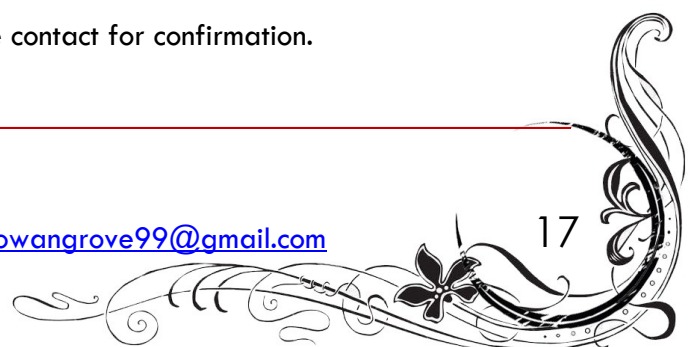
When: Last Thursday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: Get Stuffed Pizza, Cambrian Way, John Street, SA31 1QN (at the back of Marks & Spencer).  
Contact: Susan on 01267 281414 or Paul Rousselle on 07872 992162, alternatively email [paulkwrousselle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulkwrousselle@yahoo.co.uk)  
Facebook: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

## Cheadle, Stoke on Trent

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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)

Middle Earth : Winter Solstice 2015





## 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, Vale of Glamorgan

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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 Siany at [sianyh@aol.com](mailto:sianyh@aol.com)  
Facebook: "Cowbridge Moot"  
Details: Kids welcome. Tea, coffee and cake provided.

## Kidsgrove, Stoke on Trent

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When: Last Tuesday of the month (not December) from 8pm.  
Where: The Blue Bell, Hardingswood, ST7 1EG.  
Contact: Pat on 01782 863532, or email [pat.pitts@ntlworld.com](mailto:pat.pitts@ntlworld.com)  
Details: Talks, quizzes, socials, raffles. Everyone welcome. £2 for speaker fund.

## Lampeter

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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, Magicians, Muggles, Students, Klingons, and anyone else who wants to come along.

## Llanelli

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When: Second Monday of the month from 11am.  
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.

## Market Moot

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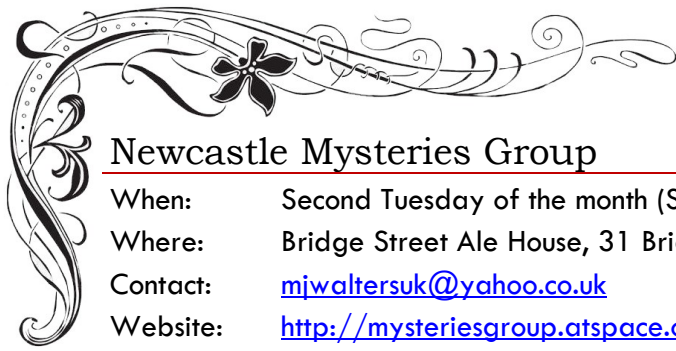
When: First Saturday of every other month from 1pm.  
Where: Bettws near Newport.  
Facebook: "Market Moot"

## Neath

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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

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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

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

## Newtown

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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

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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

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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.

## Rhyl

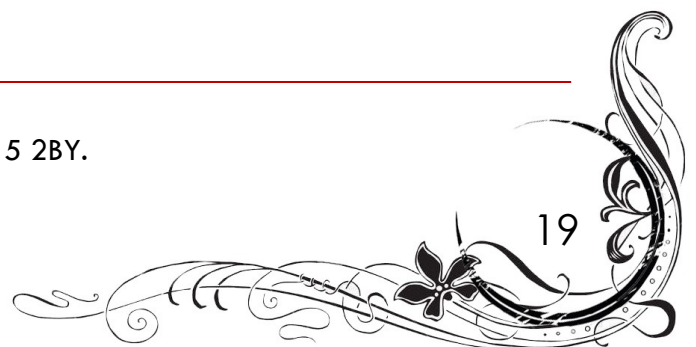
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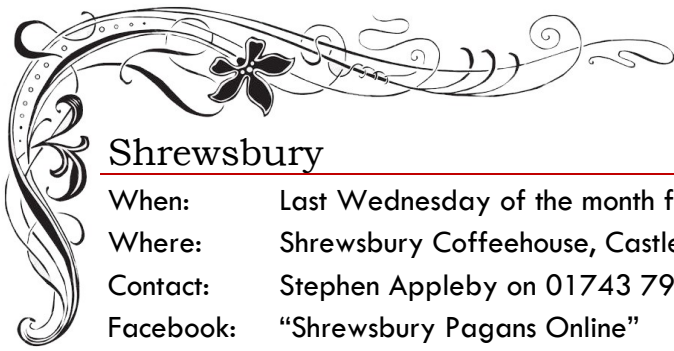
When: Second Thursday of the month from 7.30pm.  
Where: Caskeys Pub, 19-23 Vale Road, LL18 2BT. \*MOVING VENUE SHORTLY\*  
Check out our Facebook page for further information.  
Contact: Steve on 01691 679066, or email [offasring@gmail.com](mailto:offasring@gmail.com)  
Facebook: "Rhyl Moot"  
Details: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

## Rugeley

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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)





## Shrewsbury

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When: Last Wednesday of the month from 2pm-5pm.  
Where: Shrewsbury Coffeehouse, Castle Gates, SY1 2AE.  
Contact: Stephen Appleby on 01743 792604.  
Facebook: "Shrewsbury Pagans Online"

## Stafford

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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.

## Swansea

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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"

## Treharris

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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.

## Valleys

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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. You may just have a passing curiosity or you may well be a Pagan seeking to network with others. Regardless of what it is, you will find a warm, friendly atmosphere with people who are open-minded.

## Wellington, near Telford

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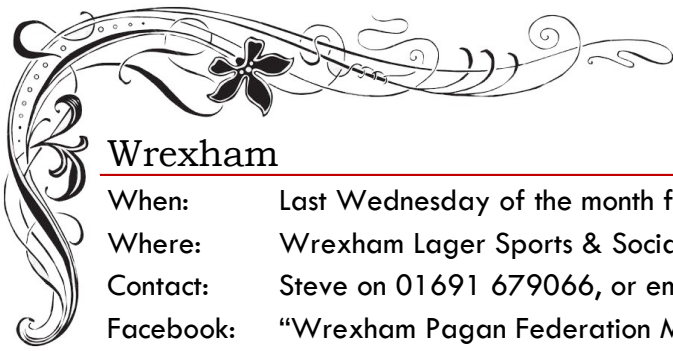
When: First Wednesday of the month from 8pm.  
Where: Red Lion Pub, Holyhead Road, TF1 2EW.  
Contact: Pat French on 07967 329909, or email [flutes@moonforge.com](mailto:flutes@moonforge.com)  
Details: Open and social moot. All welcome.

## Worcester

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When: First Monday night of the month.  
Where: Cap 'N' Gown Pub, 45 Upper Tything, WR1 1YZ.  
Contact: Karen on 07920 111371 after 6pm, or Kerri anytime on 07528 084030.  
Facebook: "Worcester Moot"  
Details: A Pagan moot open to followers of any Pagan path. Newcomers welcome.





## Wrexham

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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 [offasing@gmail.com](mailto:offasing@gmail.com)  
Facebook: "Wrexham Pagan Federation Moot"

## Moot Organisers

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Thank you all very much for hosting these get-togethers. They are often the first chance newcomers get to meet Pagans and to find out what we are all about, as well as being great for keeping all of us, newbies and oldies, connected. Please keep us informed of any changes to your listing.





# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Myddle Earth is the newsletter of the Pagan Federation, Mid-West & Wales District and is published four times a year: at Yule/Winter Solstice, Ostara/Spring Equinox, Litha/Summer Solstice, and at Mabon/Autumn Equinox.

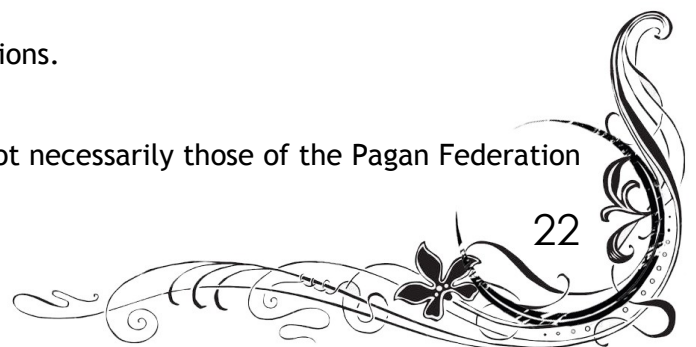
We would like to encourage our readers to submit articles, artwork, poetry and other creative works for inclusion in future newsletters. The guidelines below should provide some assistance in preparing your material. If you have any queries, please email [myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk).

- ◆ 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 .JPG 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](mailto:myddleearth@yahoo.co.uk). Please include the type of submission and the suggested issue for publication in the 'Subject' line. For example: 'Poem for Yule'.
- ◆ You can also post your articles, artwork, poetry and other creative works to the following address:

**Myddle Earth, 80 Unicorn Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2DH**

- ◆ 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.





## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The current deadline dates for inclusion in the upcoming editions are as follows:

- ◆ Ostara/Spring Equinox - 21st February
- ◆ Litha/Summer Solstice - 21st May
- ◆ Mabon/Autumn Equinox - 21st August
- ◆ Yule/Winter Solstice - 21st November

Back issues are available for PF members to download from our District Website:  
<http://myddle-earth.info>.



*Thank you for reading*



Myddle  
Earth

**Next Issue : 20th March  
Spring Equinox**

Until then, you can find more articles at our community website: <http://myddle-earth.info>



And for the latest news and details of forthcoming events, please join our District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PFMidWestandWalesDistrict>

