

Myddle Earth

The quarterly Magazine of the Pagan Federation Midwest and Wales District
Imbolc 2021

Issue 152



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Welcome to Myddle Earth

Your **Pagan Federation District Managers** are Audrey and Richard

Contact details

mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk or write to us at Pagan Federation, BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX. You can also find us on Facebook: 'Pagan Federation Mid-west and Wales'

Myddle Earth Editor: Email: mwaw.editor@paganfederation.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.

Copy deadlines:

- 31 December for Imbolc issue
- 31 March for Beltane issue
- 30 June for Lughnasadh issue
- 30 September for Samhain issue

Advertising: This is free for non-profit-making ventures. For commercial advertising, prices on request. Adverts can be posted as a hard copy to: Pagan Federation, BM Box 7097, London WC1N 3XX or emailed to: mwaw.editor@paganfederation.co.uk.

Back-copies available: Beltane 2018 to current issue.

Editor's Blurb

Our magazine is small this issue, due perhaps to contributions being sent to our Yahoo account and lost when Yahoo removed it's Group mailing system in December 2020. As always, if you would like something to be considered for our magazine, or you have a comment about any of the content, please email me at:

mwaw.editor@paganfederation.co.uk

I do appreciate it can be difficult to remember deadlines, or think of something to send. I'm the same - I get emails from groups I belong to asking for content for their newsletters, and I'm always thinking, "I'll do something this time", but either my mind goes blank, or I've forgotten (they call that old age I think). But we don't have to wait until a deadline, we can send in items throughout the year and the Editor will choose the ones best suited for a particular theme or time. So come on folks, I know you all have a ton of creative mojo, even if its just a comment on previous articles, please help make our magazine fun to read for everyone.

The last edition of Myddle Earth to be uploaded to our district website was Samhain 2018. The PF is making some changes to their main website, so hopefully we will be able to update our district website and get all our back copies of Myddle Earth up there. However, for that we really do need an IT guru to help us, so if anyone is interested, please let us know.

Until our next issue, may the Lady Brigid watch over you all.

Blessings of Imbolc

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SKY AT NIGHT

Would you like to take over our "Sky at Night" section.

If interested please write to the Editor at: mwaw.editor@paganfederation.co.uk

February:

Thurs 11th	New Moon 19:05
Sat 27th:	Full Moon 08:18

March:

Sat Mon 13th:	New Moon 10:21
Sat 20th	Ostara/ Spring Equinox
Sun 28th:	Full Moon 19:48

April:

Sun 11th:	Super Full Moon
Mon 12th:	New Moon 03:30
Thu/Fri 22/23rd:	The Lyrid Meteor Shower peaking
Tues 27th:	Full Moon 04:31

Oldest Recorded Meteor Shower: Named after constellation Lyra, the Lyrids are one of the oldest recorded meteor showers—according to some historical Chinese texts, the shower was seen over 2,500 years ago. The fireballs in the meteor shower are created by debris from comet Thatcher, which takes about 415 years to orbit around the Sun. The comet is expected to be visible from Earth again in 2276.

Super Full Moons: When a Full Moon takes place when the Moon is near its closest approach to Earth, it is called a Super Full Moon. When there is a New Moon around the closest point to Earth, it is known as a Super New Moon

2021 will see two Super Full Moons—on April 26/27 and May 26. The Full Moon in April is traditionally known as Pink Moon and the Full Moon in May is called the Flower Moon in many Northern Hemisphere cultures.

Above information taking from timeanddate.com



PRISON MINISTRY— Pagan Writing Minister
co-ordinated nationally by the PF Prison Ministry (PFPM).

This is a voluntary role and done from the comfort of your home, corresponding with Pagan prisoners on matters of religion and spiritual matters.

For security, we use a pseudonym and use the Pagan Federation postal address.

For more details and an application form please email: erica.pfpm@paganfederation.co.uk

DISTRICT NEWS

District Managers Report – IMBOLC 2021

It is a bit difficult to compose this report, as at the time of writing (end of December 2020) there is so much uncertainty in the wider world, but here goes.

Our PF membership in this District is a little over 200, many of you are renewing (which is always a compliment) and we have Regional Co-ordinators in four out of the five Regions. Of course, the ongoing Covid pandemic has put an end to moots and other Pagan get-togethers, some of which have shifted online. This looks set to continue into the foreseeable future, so all we can say is that we are thinking of you and want everyone to be in good health and getting on with life as best you can. Everyone is struggling to cope with the 'world turned upside-down' feeling that the virus has brought about, some will have it worse than others and we will all certainly feel sympathy with those who have been sick or grieving the loss of someone they love.

This issue of *Myddle Earth* has also undergone a change, in that we are no longer using the Yahoo mail service because Yahoo has discontinued mass-mailouts. This does not mean an end to *Myddle Earth* though, it will carry on following the chorus of support from many members.

Our online links:

District website: <https://pfdistricts.info/midwestandwales/>

Facebook page: The Pagan Federation Mid-West and Wales | Facebook

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS (your first line of contact regarding PF matters):

Three Counties Region (Hfd'shire, Glos'shire, Worc'shire)

Audrey at mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk

Bristol Region

Alex at mwaw.bristol@paganfederation.co.uk

Mid-west Region (Staffs, part of Shropshire) is **Vacant**

South and Mid-Wales

Catherine at mwaw.southwales@paganfederation.co.uk

North Wales

Jackie at mwaw.northwales@paganfederation.co.uk

We are always open to new suggestions and ideas on the service to PF members, it's an ongoing project so please don't keep it to yourself or think 'someone else has probably said it, this might not be the case. There is room for improvement in any organisation or venture.

Wishing everyone good health and happiness as Spring returns once more,

Audrey & Richard

(District Managers, Pagan Federation Mid-west and Wales)

DISTRICT PF OFFICERS

LGBTQ+ Officer (for Pagans of alternative sexualities):

Catherine W - mwaw.lgbt@paganfederation.co.uk

REGIONAL REPORTS

THREE COUNTIES REGION (Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire)

Find us here: https://www.facebook.com/Pagan-Federation-Three-Counties-2127069290717190/?modal=admin_todo_tour

MID-WEST REGION (Staffordshire and Shropshire)

Please see the Moots listing towards the end of the Myddle Earth magazine for get-togethers in Kidsgrove, Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent. We don't have a Regional Co-ordinator for this Region so if anyone wants to get active and volunteer for the PF we would love to hear from you, please contact us at mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk

BRISTOL

The city hosts the well-established 'Bristol Open Circle Moot' that has been going for over ten years now. It is independent of the Pagan Federation, and there are others in the area. Find out more via their page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BrOCM/>

You might also like to know about the Bristol Goddess Temple which is open to visitors, find out more at https://www.facebook.com/BristolGoddessTemple/?ref=br_rs

Note: If you don't use Facebook, please contact us at mwaw.dm@paganfederation.co.uk and we'll find out the information for you.



Amazon Conservation - please support this!

We are raising funds to support tribes in the Amazon and the forest itself. The current deforestation level of the Amazon is estimated to be 17 percent, and its tipping point at 20-25 percent. If the tipping point is surpassed, the largest rainforest on Earth could become—at best—a dry grassland.

Covering some 40% of the South American continent, the Amazon spans more than 1600 million acres across nine countries. Over 400 tribes, each with a distinct culture, language, and territory, continue to live in a largely traditional manner, relying on these forests for their survival. Nearly 100 of these tribes are "uncontacted" or in "voluntary isolation," and the forest offers their only protection.

The Amazon's role as a climate regulator is critical as the planet gets hotter and drier. It's survival is intrinsically linked to ours.

If you would like to make a small donation, please visit:

<https://www.paganaid.org/>

Being on the Inside

By Ailim

For the past year, the government has urged everyone to stay in their 'bubble' to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. We have spent months under varying degrees of lockdown with many elderly and vulnerable people afraid to leave their homes since March 2020.

At first, we thought it was a short-term solution and we'd all be back to normal by the summer. Yet, here we are, nearly a year later in another lockdown. The effects on the mental health of both young and old are apparent, and the highest rate of unemployment since 2015 only adds to the misery.

Yet, there is light at the end of the tunnel. As the first buds are showing for Imbolc, the tremendous achievement of those involved in creating a vaccine has given us all hope. It's not the cure-all that some believe, but will be needed for a long time, just like our annual flu vaccinations.

We've probably lived in a 'bubble' most of our lives: family, street, race, gender, school, work, country, religion, and politics etc. When I was thinking about our 'bubble', I started to wonder how it affects the way we think and look at life outside it. We shape our thought processes from within our 'bubble' and that colours the way we see the outside world around us.

Can you imagine all those 'bubbles' floating in the sky, each filled with people staring out from their own comfort zone. Some bubbles will gravitate to others, to offer help and sympathy. Others will try and steer away, believing their particular world view is the

only one. Being in a 'bubble' can be beneficial as it allows us to grow in the love of our family and friends - but the day will come when we need to meld with other 'bubbles' in order to grow in knowledge and empathy.

When we were part of the EU 'bubble' we viewed the world from that perspective. Now we're outside their 'bubble', we may see the EU in another light. We often hear the term, "Westminster bubble", a classic example of people becoming blinkered to anything happening outside their 'bubble' to the extent they appear to have a limited understanding of what's happening in "the rest of the country".

How many times have we made decisions based on negative reports via social media or biased news

channels about an individual, or a specific group of people? Yet, if we come into contact with them, we may discover a different side and actually enjoy their company. This is a type of 'bubble' based on what we read or hear.

I believe that in order to gain a good perspective on life, we need to touch as many 'bubbles' as we can. To learn from each other, share our knowledge, and gain a new understanding to aid us in our decisions.

Imbolc is a time of renewal and new growth, a time of healing and also creativity. Whilst we remain inside our 'bubbles', let us also look beyond its ethereal skin at the world outside and ask ourselves: "What can we learn; Who can we help; what can we do this year to help Mother Earth."

A ilim



MOOT LISTINGS

Please note these moots are not run by the Pagan Federation, although some may (by chance) be run by PF Officers. The Pagan Federation has not been responsible for organising moots for a very long time. However, the Pagan Federation does hold events, conferences and various other things. If you need further clarification please contact our District Manager.

Useful information and links to local events can also be found on the Pagan Federation South and Mid Wales Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PFSouthWales>. It would also be helpful if contact telephone numbers could be given for those who don't use Facebook.

NB: Details are supplied by the Moot organisers and we are dependent on them advising us of any changes.

**If you would like your Moot or Event listed, or make any changes, please email details to:
The Editor, mwaw.editor@paganfederation.co.uk**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Frampton on Severn

3rd Tuesday of each month at the Three Horseshoes, The Green, Frampton on Severn, GL2 7DY, meeting from 8:15 onwards. More info from Jan at janethardy95@gmail.com or phone 07779 246841.

South Gloucestershire

2nd Wednesday of the month, the Huntsman at Falfield, right on the A38. 8pm for an 8.30pm start. More info from Jules & Bob <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southglospaganmoot/>

Stroud:

2nd Thursday of the month, Kings Street, upstairs in Curios lounge. 1.30 till 3 pm. Its very informal. and an opportunity for people who don't like going out at night. Bring poems, stories—all are welcome. Come and have a chat and a cup of tea. Facilitated by Janet Hardy.

Cheltenham:

1st Monday of the month, 8pm onwards at the Sandford Park Ale House.

Forest of Dean:

1st Thursday of the month, the White Hart Inn, Cinderford, 7:30pm onwards. More info on the Forest of Deans Pagans FB page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/290741101652877/>

Open Seasonal Rituals:

Crickley Hill Country Park: Gloucestershire Pagans Open Circles, Crickley Hill - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/crickley-hill/

These take place for each festival, and are on a Sunday afternoon at 3pm. Meet at the Visitors' Centre for 2:45pm, to move to nearby woodland site at 3pm. Each Circle is a simple honouring and acknowledgement of the Festival, as reflected in the Land and forest around us and explores the theme of the season. No experience necessary and no fee (you will need to pay for car-parking). Children are welcome, as are dogs on leads.

MID-WEST STAFFORDSHIRE/SHROPSHIRE

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.

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.

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 Midland COA events.

WALES

Abergavenny Moot

Second Tuesday of every month

Hen and Chickens pub, Flannel street, Abergavenny, NP7 5EG

Start: 7pm

Contact ask on the South Wales Pagans FB group -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/25298269292/>

Aberystwyth Pagans

Have seasonal/monthly moots. Check out their group for more information - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aberystwythpagangroup/>

Bridgend Moot

Please ask Siany for further details in the group page - https://www.facebook.com/groups/257960161278244/?ref=br_rs

Caldicot Pagan Moot

Please join the group for details of the next moot.

Start: 7.00 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/422381884945564/>

Carmarthen Pagans

Last Thursday of the month

The Parrot, 32 King St, Carmarthen, SA31 1BS

Start: 7:30pm onwards

Contact the Carmarthen Pagans group -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CarmarthenPagans/>
Carmarthen Pagans also have a mini-moot. Please ask on their group page.

Cardiff Pagan Moot

Monthly talks, workshops and discussions, including guest speakers. £1 donation to pay for room hire. They also host seasonal rituals in and around the Cardiff area.

Downstairs in the back room of *The Owain Glyndwr*, 10 St John St, Cardiff CF10 1GL ... /continued

Start: 7pm for 7:30pm.

Contact C. Abbott (07989 261 773) or visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/167919513251601/>

Cilgerran, Pembrokeshire Pagan Moot

Last Friday of the month

Venue changes, please ask in the group for details of the next moot venue

All welcome! Ask out on West Wales Pagans group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/westwalespagans/permalink/1617896464923421/>

Cwmbran Pagan Moot

Usually the third Sunday of the month, but please check

Pontrhydyrun Community Center, NP44 1SB

Start: 7:30pm

Contact <https://www.facebook.com/groups/541651255974373>

Lampeter Pagan Society

For all those lively people who are or were members of the Pagan Society at SDUC/UWL/TSD; of all paths and interested parties in the area.

First Sunday of the month

Cwmanne Tavern

Start: 7.00 - 7.30pm

Contact the Lampeter Pagan Society group -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/24065160648/>

Maesteg Moot

Has monthly/seasonal moots and rituals.

Please visit their FB page for more information -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1723661897866164/>

Mold, Flintshire: "The Pagan Tree Moot"

2nd Friday of the month

£2 entry which includes a drink.

There's a different topic each month with speakers. It's in a hall which has full disabled access and some parking

Contact us on Facebook as "The pagan tree moot"

Or email pagantreemoot@gmail.com

Or ring 07890646870

Newport coffee morning

First Saturday of every month

The Pen and Wig, 22-24 Stow Hill, Newport NP20 1JD

Start: 11am - 2pm (ish)

Contact: Catherine Abbott or Kalli Bowden-Porter or ask on the South Wales Pagans group -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/25298269292/>

Newtown

3rd Thursday of the month

The Monty Club, 11 Broad St, Newtown SY16 2LU

Start: 7:30pm

Facebook 'Simmering Cauldron' Contact Simmering Cauldron 01686 668404

Oswestry Moot

1st Wednesday in the month
Please contact Merion for directions to the new meeting place.
Start: 7.30 p.m.
Facebook page:- Oswestry Pagan Moot

Pontypridd Pagan Moot

3rd Saturday of the month (but please check first!)
Pontypridd Museum, Bridge St, Pontypridd CF37 4PE
Start: 12pm
Talks, workshops and discussions
Contact the Pontypridd Pagan Moot group -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1590076611232881/>

Port-Talbot Pagan Pathways Gatherings (PPP Gatherings)

Last Friday of the month
Burgess Green pub, Port Talbot
Start: 7pm
Contact the PPP Gatherings - (Port-Talbot Pagan Pathways) group for further details - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/409240675924726/>

South Wales Drum Circle

Shamanic and drumming events based in and around Cwmbran.
Please contact their FB page for details of their next event - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southwalesdrumcircles/>

Swansea Pagan Moot

Talks, workshops and more.
Third Tuesday of the month
Start: 7.30pm
Contact the Swansea Pagan Moot page -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/108929852508325/>

Teifi Pagan Moot

Last Thursday of the month (unless it clashes with something else)
The Black Lion Hotel, High Street, SA43 1HJ
Start: 7pm - 9pm
Contact Tamra at owla@ravensrede.org.uk or visit the group page -<https://www.facebook.com/groups/westwalespagans/>

Valleys

1st Wednesday of the month
The Griffin Inn, Gilfach Goch, Porth CF39 8YL
Start: 7:30pm
Contact Richard krishak2099@hotmail.com

Wales Wandering Moot (Asatru)

Irregular moots in various locations and events for all heathens.
Please contact the Asatru Wales FB group for details of the next event- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/asatruwales/>

Wrexham Pagan Moot

3rd Wednesday in the month
Wrexham Lager Club
see 'Wrexham Pagan Moot' Facebook page

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: **mwaw.editor@paganfederation.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 **mwaw.editor@paganfederation.co.uk**. Please include the type of submission and the suggested issue for publication in the 'Subject' line. For example: 'Poem for Imbolc'.
- ◇ Welsh language submissions: please accompany with the English translation.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ **GDPR STATEMENT:** If you would like to get a copy of our GDPR Statement please email **mwaw.editor@paganfederation.co.uk**.

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

Images used in this edition:

Cover image: wiccaitaliaofficial.altervista.org

Page 6: goodfreephotos.com/albums/other-photos/large-soap-bubbles.jpg

Fun Quiz Answers

1. The Daghdha. 2. Bolline. 3. 23 October 2012. 4. Artemis. 5. Both Horde and Alliance.