

# TOUCHSTONE

The journal of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids  
December 2022

Issue 304



From Card Deck of the Sidhe ill. Jeremy Berg

Hello, I am a therapist by trade: here is my first ever Triad, based upon the principals of Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy (REBT).

*Three fine things flow from a flexible preference: a balanced sense of perspective; a strong sense of empowerment; and a kinder understanding of ourselves and others.*

When we accept that life doesn't always go the way we want it to and that we don't always get what we want, we are much more likely to accept situations as bad but not catastrophic; more likely to realise that we can and do cope with all of our challenges and difficulties, and that our mistakes and shortcomings are as much a part of us as our skills and achievements: we are all worthwhile, fallible human beings doing the best we can as we go through life.

*Daniel Fryer*

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# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the last Touchstone edition of 2022; perspicacious Druids will notice that we now have 12 editions, and that the Annual Review has been repositioned.. expect the year's roundup in the first of 2023.

*There's material here* to keep you thinking over the Solstice... transformations, power objects and ritual artefacts, wild flowers, thoughts on immortality and poems, poems, poems. And one Grove plugged into national events and the esoteric zeitgeist; read their transition ritual which 'rises above political and constitutional concerns' in commemorating the UK's change of monarch, p6.

*Now is the time* to say **THANK YOU** to all you wonderful members who've contributed this year. And to all readers - Touchstone is what we make it: so maybe you'll be sending your first submission soon? To encourage you, there will be a new column... a Totem Animal for each month. You choose, and explain your thinking to us through three main qualities of your animal, or bird, in any form. Who'll take January??

*Sweet nights and magical dreams,*



| Dec. '22 | TOUCHSTONE            | Issue 304        |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 3        | Bards' Page           |                  |
| 4        | Waterfalls            | Kate Weager      |
| 5        | Immortality           | Anthony Burns    |
| 6        | Times of Transition   | The Sylvan Grove |
| 8        | Power objects...      | Anita Pisch      |
| 10       | Progress on flowers.. | Rachel Wakeman   |
| 11       | Open Forum/ G&S news  |                  |
| 13       | Bards' Page           |                  |
| 14       | Reviews               |                  |
| 15       | Regular meetings      |                  |

## SKELETON WOMAN

Skeleton Woman rattles  
the seed pod,  
my long body is almost dry.

I am winter fruit  
clinging to the great tree  
until I fall.  
Then I will sleep and wait  
for the white flowering.

Now, the sun soothes my skin  
and still a little fragrance rises.  
But at night, the moon says:  
Silly child, soon you will go home.

I finished the Sleeping Beauty myth  
the witches floating like leaves  
in the stream below.

I own a bit of gold,  
a feather's worth to swirl about in the dream  
world  
until I fold back to whatever I came from.

I was loved and bore a child.  
Friends were with me, and one dog was  
mine.

I knew the wild green  
and heard the music of the wind.

*Adrianne Sinclair*

## WILL O' THE WISP

Tossing as upon a windswept sea  
turning like a hand upon a clock, "tick"  
It slips through me grasp, "tock"  
like fog rises from the water's surface, "tick"  
lingering as a forgotten dream. "tock"

I chase,  
It eludes me, "tick"  
I pause,  
It pursues me, "tock"

Like chasing a sidhe... "tick"



I bargain with It, "tock"  
plead with It, "tick"  
make promises to It, "tock"  
pray that it Spirits me away  
across the sea.

To the halls of Brú na Bóinne  
to hear the swan song  
of Caer and Aengus  
and slumber for three days.

*Jamie Belisle*

## SAMHAIN

Autumn leaves in shades of red, orange  
and brown,  
wisps of mist interweave the empty field  
and silent garden.

Shuddering plants and animals, preparing  
for a chilly night,  
for the frosty winter is near,  
sooner than expected.

Whispering ancestors, palpable like floating  
shadows,  
speaking to us, snug and warm inside.

When our never-spoken words coalesce  
into sentences so large,  
let them become a message,  
through time and death.

*Geert Bonhomme*

*This summer I have been attempting to play, starting in early Spring, creating a garden full of fruit and vegetables with companion flowering plants. I created an altar with the mother goddess figure I made last year and my small north facing garden has become a jungle of plants singing together and a place which has helped me when I have felt a bit overwhelmed.*

## Waterfalls KATE WEAGER

*My daughter and I have visited so many waterfalls this summer, I have a feeling that they were places of*

great learning. I can imagine ancient druids, healers, witches coming to sit, to meditate, to learn something of mystery here. It makes me think of the lost places of learning mentioned in the stories of student druids coming to Albion to learn their craft, that they would have come to places like this. I wrote a poem :

*Earlier this year* I had to clear my dead partner's mother's house, to support my daughter and to honour who they were and all the love, laughter, sense of family and memory they have given me over the years. I spoke to them as I cleared, feeling them watching me over my shoulder, sensing what to keep: photos, old wallets, things that my daughter might like. It was a painful journey, dismantling a home, remembering all that had to be remembered, taking apart someone else's life and throwing it in a skip, trying to honour all that has been all that has gone.

*Afterwards,* the numbness and relief sets in, but my sense of earth energy I think consolidated within the practical nature of this doing. And so I moved into water without realising it was the next part of the bardic journey. I had a need for waterfalls, to clear and to cleanse my soul and aura. There is one at Church Stretton, about half an hour's walk and then... a clear crystal waterfall, asking the spirits by quietly raising my energy, flowing upwards and downwards, expanding out, feeling for that sense of spirit and just feeling that it is okay to approach. Standing under the waterfall, I don't like to just take but to try and give a sense of healing to the flowing water spirits, the land, to try to honour that sense of space and to laugh along with the gurgling wild and ancientness of this place.

Waterfalls are my place this year,  
I seek them out to feel the energy of flowing,  
sparkling, cool clear spirit.  
Flow, flowing down with the music of all  
time onto rocks and wet earth.  
I can dance here,  
shout my pain and laughter, and feel it flow,  
clearing, cleansing amongst the rock spirits,  
the earth spirits.  
I raise my arms up slowly, feel sky spirits  
flow down my body,  
feel it mingle with bubbling water spirits  
sinking into cool earth.  
Raise earth and crystalline fire energy up  
through me with laughter,  
it's been a long hot walk.  
I feel this energy as I clean and clear,  
acknowledge the past, honour it, keep or  
clear?  
Knowing that the spirits watch.  
"I honour you, I honour your lives, your  
laughter and your love"  
But now it is time to move on, let another  
family build love and connection in this  
place.  
Let you all settle and be released, knowing  
that we love you and will never forget you.  
I feel like I am a chrysalis breaking open.  
I watch the garden that this year I have tended  
with love,  
vegetables, flowers and fruit sing and swell.

I love being in this place.  
And so, as I feel the ever growing energy of  
sun and light,  
I also feel the waterfall within me, flow, keep  
flowing,  
keep bubbling, clearing, healing, playng ,  
laughing , singing  
and maybe , just maybe a brighter path is  
flowing in my soul today.

## Immortality ANTHONY BURNS

### WE ARE IMMORTAL

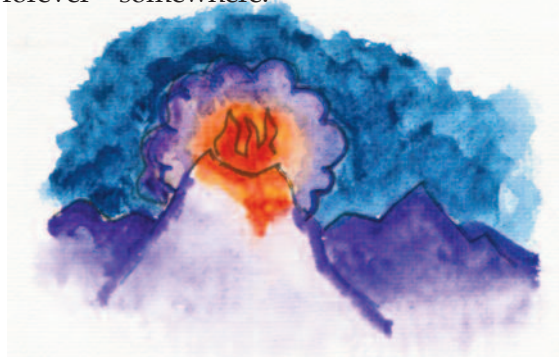
*Along with all sentient creatures* we are immortal. When we 'die' we do not cease to exist: we simply discard our old physical bodies, while our memories and thought processes continue as before. Even from an early age I have seen evidence that this is so.

*When I was five years old*, I had two very powerful dreams. The first was of a volcano, surrounded by a landscape covered in white ash and accompanied by a dark sky and an oppressive atmosphere. In the dream I was aware that this was something that I had remembered from thousands of years (and many lifetimes) ago. In the second dream, even more powerful than the first, I entered a cinema-like auditorium in which there was a series of lamps with faces. At the front was a cinema screen from which a low buzz emanated. Years later, I learnt from the BBC's Tomorrow's World programme that foetuses hear a similar buzz when they are in the womb. Suddenly the 'meaning' of this dream became clear: the 'lamps' were my foetus in its various stages of development, and I was remembering joining it – having previously lived another life elsewhere.

*Years later*, I became acquainted with Jenny's Sanctuary, a small spiritual centre near Banbury, where I live, and where from time to time they have held séances. I have been fortunate enough to attend a number of these over the years, and have been impressed with the results that I have seen. I have no doubt at all that what I have seen is genuine. I have spoken to 'deceased' friends and relatives and, on one occasion, my late friend Geof' came through and threw a Mars bar into my lap (in total darkness, which is essential for séances to 'work'). I have also, on another occasion, experienced at first hand, the de-materialization (and teleportation) of a metal bolt that had become wedged behind my chair.

*Professionally I am a physics teacher*, now retired. I have a physics degree from Newcastle University and know that efforts are still ongoing to find out more and more about the laws of physics. Knowing what I do about the 'paranormal' events that I have witnessed over my lifetime, I have no doubt that these must somehow fit in with the rest of what we know about the workings of the universe. It is only a matter of time before the 'paranormal' becomes part of our ever-growing body of scientific knowledge.

*Rest assured, friends*, that we are all immortal beings, housed in our temporary physical bodies, and that we are all destined to live on forever – somewhere!



# Responding to rhythms and transitions - News from The Sylvan Grove

*The impetus:*

## LETTER TO THE SYLVAN GROVE

*Hello everyone, I feel moved to do something in the Grove to mark the passing of the Queen and the accession of the new King.*

This is not about the institution of the monarchy but rather the energy that lies behind the symbolism it represents. It's difficult to explain in a few words but the inner tides are changing and it feels right to recognise this in some way. I'm not intending anything like the tributes we're seeing in the media, instead I'd like to perform a short ritual to witness the transition of energy. I'll be taking our shields and our Hallows with me to the Grove on Monday morning. Let me know if you'd like to join me; there will be space for your own words and tributes.

*Many of us* will understand the esoteric significance of the roles of King and Queen and therefore rise above political and constitutional concerns. *In the Peace of the Grove, Marion Sibbons* / I \

## CEREMONY IMPRESSIONS

*I was very grateful when Marion shared her desire to mark the transitioning of the monarchy in the Grove and was keen to attend as this felt a respectful*



and nourishing way to acknowledge my thoughts and feelings on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. We met in the summer carpark and walked to the Grove as a group. As a new member to both OBOD and the Sylvan Grove I'm still finding my place and my way at every ritual, and as I wondered what our ritual would be like, I realised this was new for everyone. Today we were all in a state of unknowing, today was a new ritual, never performed before.

*As Marion's backpack* emptied and the roles were shared out, the familiar feeling of comfort that someone knows what's happening edged over me and I relinquished myself to the group and the part I had, settling into the acceptance, growth and safety that are developing at each gathering I attend.

*The ritual was short* and beautifully written with an air of respect and dignity and the Hallows of the Grove being transitioned from Queen Elizabeth II to King Charles III. This was followed by a wonderfully moving eisteddfod for everyone's poems or their personal thoughts. We heard extracts of speeches from our longest serving Queens, Boudica, Elizabeth I, Victoria and Elizabeth II, created by Paul and read by four of the group. That Queen Boudica was one feisty lady!

*As the ritual progressed* we were joined by the wider forest family, a raven called out from the trees above, and the squirrels ran up and down the branches of the trees around the grove. Out of the forest four beautiful ponies wandered into

the clearing snorting and trilling to make their presence known, and then as peacefully as they had arrived, they wandered back into the cover of the forest and we closed our ritual.

*As we sat after the ritual*, the buzzard called as he flew over us, completing the attendance of the forest family at our special ritual. Thank you Marion for such a sensitive ritual to mark a lifetime and a transition. It was a privilege to be able to share this momentous occasion with members of The Sylvan Grove.

*Nicki Wisbey*

### LIFE VIBRANT AND FLOWING...

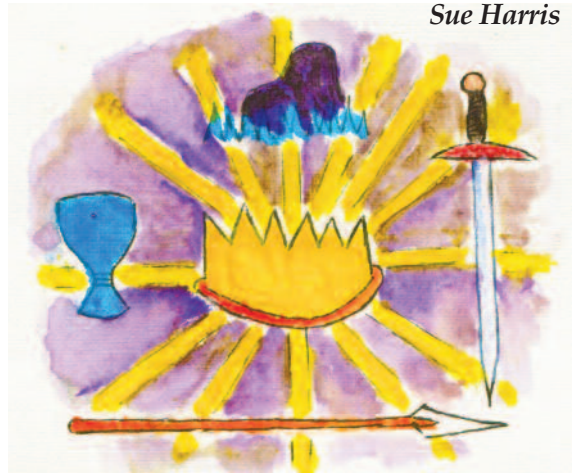
*The Day of the funeral* of Queen Elizabeth 11 When Marion posted that she was hoping people would join her in the Grove to honour the transition of sovereignty I felt pleased to be able to do something positive at such a sad time of change. We gathered and processed to the Grove on a beautiful late summer's day with the air full of bird song. Though life was busy, all around us there was a still energy as though time had slowed down.

*With just enough* to cover all the parts in the simple ceremony we processed to the singing bowl tolling as a bell and the rite began. With reverence we said our parts and enacted the gentle, symbolic actions. Each quarter carried their hallow, (E) the sword (S) the spear (W) the chalice and (N) the stone of destiny which played a key part in the ceremony as each one was solemnly laid down on the altar cloth and covered with a black cloth as a symbol of the death of the Sovereign and then the cloth was removed to acknowledge the transition of power to the new King. *The eisteddfod* gave us the chance to share some of our feelings in words and poetry and for each of us to place one of the deep velvety red roses Marion had

bought for the occasion onto the altar cloth. Paul had found quotes from four British Queen's speeches which we read aloud which was very inspiring.

*There was a sense of tranquility* all around in the Grove almost as if we weren't physically there and could not be seen on this plane. The warm sun shone, dappled through the beech tree, we could hear the soft echo of a raven's call on the breeze. Then the sound of snuffling as four horses came meandering through the far edges of the Grove, seemingly oblivious to our presence though who knows. It felt that in the midst of death, life was still vibrant and ever present and continuing its flow as a new era begins. Farewell Your Majesty / | \ Hail and Welcome Your Majesty / | \

*Sue Harris*



*Help for all tired Druids* - if your energy levels dip at this time of year, give your condition a name, courtesy of Scottish dialect:

*'Feeling dumbfungled* - you are feeling mentally and physically worn out.'

*The solution* come from the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates:

**The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not in fighting the old but in building the new."**

*Happy building to all members in 2023: take this advice and you'll soon be feeling braw.*

*An interest in healing in general – and the necessity of undertaking so much healing on myself – has ultimately led me down an energy medicine pathway. Along this meandering pathway, I have encountered several methods of working with energy.*

*These have included*

working with energy somewhat indirectly through the creation and use of constructs; attuning to certain energies that have been channelled by others; directly calling in specific energies for specific purposes; and using power objects that embody energy – both in the world of ordinary reality and in non-ordinary reality. Working in these ways has effected tremendous transformation in what has felt like a long process but – in reality – has been remarkably rapid. I cannot see that such enormous change could have been wrought so quickly by any other means.

*My first conscious encounter* with a power object was when I undertook ‘shadow work’ – uncovering, coaxing out and inviting back all the parts of my authentic self that had been hidden and locked away through being shamed or scolded. In the protocol I was taught, a mask is created to hold these returning energies, ensuring that the force of the returning energy does not overwhelm you and that it can be integrated slowly. At the end of each session, the energy can be returned to the mask so that you are not carrying it constantly and it does not wreak havoc in your daily life.

*This experience* – and many subsequent ones – led me to explore how to effect change

Can we use power  
objects to create  
transformation?

ANITA PISCH



through the employment of power objects imbued with healing and transformational energies. I sampled the literature across a wide variety of traditions that use forms of power objects, including Druidry, shamanism, Christianity, Buddhism, and also glanced briefly at some of the anthropological research into various

indigenous practices. I then undertook journeys with my helping spirits to receive their guidance in relation to the questions raised by my research.

*Definitions of power objects* vary across traditions and are largely reflective of different attitudes to, and interpretations of, where power resides and how it manifests in the world. In the *Encyclopedia of Shamanism*, Christina Pratt defines a power object simply as ‘a physical object in which power resides’ before continuing, ‘The object itself can be naturally occurring or created by hand. The power within the object can be naturally occurring or invited in by the shaman through an embodiment or empowerment ritual.’ Others assert that power objects are created through intention and prayer, or that some objects already have power and are seeking their next home.

*In some Christian traditions*, such as Greek and Russian Orthodox, the icon is a created object in which power resides for the purposes of facilitating communication between the human and the divine. The icon acquires enhanced power through repeated use and some icons are known for carrying enormous power – enough to protect a country under invasion.

*In the tradition* of the Roman church, thinkers like Thomas Aquinas and Gregory the Great regarded the religious image as primarily holding the power to inflame the human heart with love for the divine. However, objects such as relics can hold power and visiting and touching the containers within which they are housed can impart this power to believers/pilgrims. Roman Catholicism also has a tradition of transference of special power through holy water, objects that appear with spontaneous images of Christ or the Virgin and weeping or bleeding statues.

*Power objects have long existed* in Buddhist traditions, including protective amulets, paintings, statues and reliquaries, but also, in the past, objects used to repel armies and achieve victory in battle. Although elite Buddhist circles appear to be focused primarily on philosophical issues, Buddhists at all levels use sacred objects in ritual and prayer.

*In shamanic*, Wiccan and other traditions, power objects can be used simply as a channel for communication with the divine – as with the Orthodox icon – but objects carrying significant power are seen to be imbued with spirit and, in many cases, as possessing a life and spirit of their own.

*The Druid's crane bag*, which is similar to a 'medicine bundle' in other traditions, is a sacred receptacle for the sacred tools and power objects that a Druid uses in rituals, healing and in other forms of practice. It is frequently believed that the items contained within the crane bag are personal to the Druid and should not be displayed outside of ritual or sacred settings. Certainly, they should not be discussed in an offhand, unguarded or public manner as this may cause them to lose their power. However,

one of the defining features of Druidry is its anti-dogmatic nature and openness to all philosophies and beliefs that are based in integrity and a genuine desire to seek the truth. Thus, there is no core belief in Druidry that any particular sacred tools or power objects need be employed and it is considered possible to work without them.

*Bardic tales and mythologies* of the various Druid traditions are steeped in tales of powerful and magical objects, some of which carry extraordinary power and others which behave as if they are independently alive and can be actively punitive or vengeful. One such object of power (among many) is the Cauldron of Annwn, which could restore the dead to life.

*Not everyone* regards the power object itself as being alive. Many, like Piers Vitebsky and Michael Harner, state that crystals and even rocks are receptacles for spirits – in other words, the power object itself is not alive but it houses a living spirit. Harner, whose foundational philosophies of contemporary core shamanism grew out of his anthropological research, notes that indigenous people from some areas of Australia, Mexico and South America hold crystals as especially powerful objects that are inhabited by spirit. He quotes the example of the western Yuman shamans, who 'enter into a special partnership with their quartz crystals and must "feed" them.' Pratt, who does see the power object as being independently alive, also asserts that power objects must be fed and honoured in particular ways and remarks that there are many stories of dishonoured power objects causing problems ranging from mischief to death.

*Many of those* who do not believe that the power object itself is alive assert that an object is empowered only when spirit is breathed into it or invited to enter the object

during an empowerment ritual. Further, some believe that power resides neither in the object nor the practitioner but somewhere in the relationship between them.

*My own journeys* to the helping spirits brought the following insights on these matters:

1. A power object is not created through the inscription of thoughts, prayers or affirmations on an object, nor through intent alone. A true power object is created when spirit is invited into partnership with the object and the Druid.
2. 'Found' power objects are often an invitation from spirit to engage in the above process.
3. Once a power object is in existence, power resides neither in the object itself nor in the Druid but in the relationship between the two. The interaction between Druid and object is, in effect, a relationship with spirit that uses the power object as a channel.
4. Power objects do not need to be fed and there is no prescription for housing them. It is the relationship that must be nurtured and this is done by regular interaction, i.e. through regular use of the power object as a channel to spirit. However, caring for and respecting the power object is one means of nurturing and respecting the relationship with spirit.
5. Crystals are especially powerful objects and are either alive themselves or house living spirits.



## Progress on a wild-flower meadow RACHEL WAKEMAN

*Following on from the article in the July 2022 issue (page 8), we would like to report on the progress of the wildflower meadow at The Lost Gardens of Heligan.*

*We have had our ceremonies* to mark the changes in the year as well as watering the seeds along with other organisations and the flowers have flourished, giving the field a lovely colourful area with all the bees, butterflies and other insects able to take their food from them.

*A photo of The Ova*, taken from above, shows what the glyph looks like and you can only imagine the work that has gone in to tending the field over the months since the seeds were first sown.



*Together as a group*, and individually, we have been back to see the progress of the flowers which were a sight to behold. Walking through the meadow and being surrounded by nature was wonderful.

*We did not see the seeds* being harvested although we were there at the Equinox in September seeing the seeds being sifted

many times and put into seed packets by children from the Sensory Trust in Cornwall.



Thanks to Philip C-G, John Marchant and Jamie Reid for this wonderful opportunity.



## Pagan Academics Pagan PhDs (PAPPs) – online event

*PAPPs*, an informal online group for Druids and Pagans who view their work through a Pagan lens, will be celebrating their first year with a special webinar open to all. **Professor Ronald Hutton will be giving a presentation 'Changing Views of Paganism In and Out of the Academy' January 5th 19:30.** The Professor will be sharing how he thinks things have changed for Pagans over the past few decades, in and out of the academic system.

Our group usually gathers the third Tuesday of each month 17:30 (London time). If you are interested in joining us, email with a little

information about yourself and I will forward the Zoom link. *Lynn R S Genevieve.* [l.genevieve.1@research.gla.ac.uk](mailto:l.genevieve.1@research.gla.ac.uk)



## NEW SPEAKERS' RESOURCE

*I'm creating a Druid Directory of Speakers for my website*, where podcasters can find Druids to be interviewed about nature-based topics - because I'm often looking for speakers I can interview and I haven't seen a directory specifically for nature-based speakers, though others exist (such as [podcastguests.com](http://podcastguests.com)) for general topics.

*If you enjoy speaking* and being interviewed, please fill out this form: <http://hollyworton.com/directory>. I will then create a page on my website where podcasters and other content creators can find people to speak on nature-based topics.

*Thank you! Holly Worton*

**NORTH CUMBRIAN MEMBERS**, would you be interested in forming a local, north Cumbrian and Eden Valley Grove? There are so many stone circles, avenues and sacred sites in our region, such as Long Meg, Castlerigg, Elva Plain, and Mayburgh Henge, and sacred, powerful fells, such as Carrock Fell and Talkin Fell. Could we meet at them in turn at the festival ceremonies, bringing a landscape-wide sense of connection and belonging to our Grove?

*If you are interested* in exploring this possibility, or would just like to meet local OBODies with no pressure to meet, please do get in touch with Harriet at [harrietlock@gmail.com](mailto:harrietlock@gmail.com)

## ALTAR

Even before the first of us  
This stone was made an altar  
Raised to unions - Earth to Sky  
Sky to sleeping Waters.  
Even before the first of us  
Its surface was made tidy  
Brushed with fox tails, dressed by birds  
and trails of wild ivy.

And then the singing people came,  
In coloured beads and wolf fur  
Painted with the heaven's blue  
Bearing blood to offer.  
And then the singing people came,  
From the old men and wise women  
To the ever gorgeous lovers paired  
In intimate communion.

Even in these dark times, now  
It has not lost its meaning  
Though the rock has long subsided some  
A touch more western leaning  
Even in these dark times, now  
As we stumble, hand in hand  
We dance like wildthings from the crowd -  
Like shadows on the land.  
And we make our secret offerings  
Of ash and stolen liquor  
Another union laid in praise  
By a dying candle's flicker.

*Zack Mitchell*

## LETTING GO

'Deep inside the wildwood of my heart,  
The call of the Horned One beckons.  
Long has this tangled soul been lost in the  
corners of modernity,  
whispers of its location revealed by a few  
chance,  
...or not,  
encounters by such seers along this highway  
of life,  
suggesting 'Listen,listen'.  
So, at last, I cast the net of awareness into the  
void.

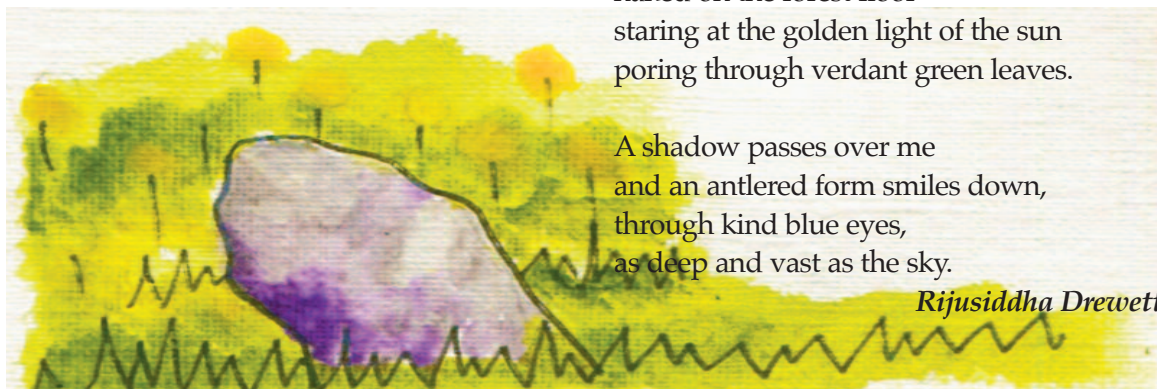
Now the wolves are howling,  
The dragon breathes,  
the drumbeat quickens  
and the senses elevate.  
I tear off my shirt and self-imposed shackles.

Eyes and heart aflame  
as I plunge into the thicket,  
and re-join,  
am gone,  
at one again  
held by a green, a brown,  
a spark, a flame,  
a dewdrop, a gushing river,  
a soft breeze, howling gale.

I let go into a tumultuous bliss  
and awake in stillness  
naked on the forest floor  
staring at the golden light of the sun  
poring through verdant green leaves.

A shadow passes over me  
and an antlered form smiles down,  
through kind blue eyes,  
as deep and vast as the sky.

*Rijusiddha Drewett*





*...continuing our suggestions for Solstice gifts. For more books, jewellery, ceramic, drop in at the OBOD online store: <https://store.druidry.org/>*

### **OGHAM AND THE WOOD WIDE WEB**

*By Sandie Coombs, Diane Maxey, Wendy Trevennor ISBN 9781838418557  
pp. 203, [www.greenmagicpublishing.com](http://www.greenmagicpublishing.com)*

*Woods have the ability to rejuvenate & heal, to smooth away stress & anxiety, even to alleviate grief & anger. Trees have been sacred to many cultures and in one instance have inspired a very special magical alphabet and divinatory system: Ogham. This beautiful and mysterious writing system is very much a part of the world of the Celts, important to the Druids and their nature wisdom – their relationship with trees and with sacred groves which is still part of the British psyche & still as relevant today.*

*In this charmingly-titled book* an OBOD Druid & two Wiccans invite us to join them for a walk in the woods to explore the primeval forests of the mind and see how the trees of the world might communicate their wisdom to us. Valuable chapters include “Connecting with Trees”, “Using Ogham for Divination & Magic” and one I found particularly interesting, an in-depth appraisal of “Robert Graves and his Tree Calendar”. A special chapter on the Forfedra – five Ogham created at a later time – examines the case for their inclusion for divination purposes



### **THE ALCHEMY OF AVALON Jenna Paulden**

*The reader can involve themselves as deeply as they wish in this story, using the pronunciation guide, wheel of the year image, bibliography, glossary and Ogham moon calendar. And, in case that sounds heavy, it's also a cracking read with lyrical, evocative passages carrying the narrative inexorably on.*

*“In turbulent times, an Avalon initiate falls in love with a Roman soldier...”* And there you have it, a deceptively simple synopsis of a complex and engrossing story of love at the time of the clash of cultures and inevitability of events, starting at Ynys Mon in 42CE, and every reference inhabits this world. The evidence of research, which never intrudes but touches memory in the reader - of alchemy, Akashic records, Kabbalah - is very satisfying, as is the inclusivity; Pagan and Christian coexist harmoniously. I appreciated the sections on the Romans' arrival to these islands, the mirroring of the two characters until they meet and the special ops. that will end in the sailing to Ynys Mon: the dates of the Roman invasion earthed this story of spiritual impulse, heritage, karma and conflict in the journeys of the hero and heroine.

*Second Edition at all online venues--including UK /US Amazon, WH Smith, Barnes*

*TWO DISCOUNTED BOOKS TO TEMPT YOU...*

*THE TREE OF LIFE AND DEATH:  
TRANSFORMING THE QLIPOTH pp 226  
Ian Rees Aeon books*

For Druids who feel that the Qabalah - The Tree of Life as a glyph of the universe - chimes with their Druidic tree-consciousness, this is the book: accessible, researched and a very thorough exposition. It is no light read, but equally valuable for the beginner and the

most experienced practitioner. So what is the Qlipoth which needs transforming? It is the world of disconnection, of aridity, of being cut off from life, the awarenessness of which was the prompt for many of us to study Druidry.

*The book contains a lifetime* of experience, of practical study and the fruits of years of teaching and its scholarship is lightened with personal anecdote and reminiscence. The explanations are lucid and illuminating, and may well prompt a series of 'light-bulb' moments in the reader as the profound relational nature of the Tree is revealed.

**Discounted until 31/12/22: use code - TL20 - fat the checkout at [www.aeonbooks.co.uk](http://www.aeonbooks.co.uk).**

#### OTHER DRUID-FRIENDLY BOOKS FROM AEON:

*The Way of the Golden Section* by John Michael Greer - a manual for self-study and self-initiation into the tradition of occult study and practice, and ultimately into the Golden Section Fellowship.

*The Sacred Geometry Oracle* by John Michael Greer - card set and book exploring the sacred geometry, basic patterns of the universe and hidden structure of our everyday lives.

*Spiritual Herbalism: The Magic and Medicine of the Plant* by Josh Williams - which unlocks the powerful, magical, and transformative gifts of the plant world and invites the reader to engage in a reciprocal relationship with our green allies and their medicine.

## OPEN FORUM

*My name is Marc Meier.* I followed the OBOD course and became a mentor for a couple of years. All this time, during my meditations I felt some frustrations. It was like watching a movie without any sound! I tried meditation music but I couldn't find the right one who will provide a wider range of emotions than just calm and peacefulness. That's why I decided to offer myself a gift: tailor-made music! But not anybody could do the job as I wanted the best result! That's why I asked Nicolas Shuele to do it. A real expert who works for Hollywood. His sensitivity met mine and the result is the encounter of our universes. His world of epic adventures such as *Harry Potter*, *Dune* or *Avatar* and our magical inner world! The result is just overwhelming!

*Discover it during a free 10 minutes* inner grove meditation. Or live a real adventure during a journey to Dinas Affaraon with me. The music will take you to Dinas, into the deepest part of yourself, where you will find the answer of all your questions!

*To access the inner grove meditation:*  
<https://epic-inner-journey.com/meditation>

*Next journey to Dinas Affaron:*

- Sunday december 18th 2022 7 PM UK Time

- Sunday january 8th 2023 7 PM UK Time

Book your ticket on [epic-inner-journey.com](http://epic-inner-journey.com)!



PB

Awen Descending  
 Awen strikes like lightning,  
 a wind of inspiration blows.  
 In me, through me, from me,  
 The light of inspiration glows.  
 Creating, writing, singing,  
 As the rush of Awen flows.  
*Adam Grose (Meirneal)*



Solstice approaching  
 Connecting Millenia  
 Drink from the same Well

*Christian Thurow*

*Dear Grove and Seedgroups communicators,*

*Some of these regular group meetings have been in this section for a long time!*

I will be writing to all on this page to ask you to check/update your details & confirm that your insertion is still active & responsive, to avoid disappointment for new OBOD enquirers.

**Only groups who reply will be included on this regular events page**

so for your group to keep its space, *Repondez S'il Vous Plait!*

*Blessings to all G&Ss for Alban Arthan & keep up the good work! Ed*

#### **REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS:**

**ANDERIDA MOOT:** 2ND MON The Ship, Southwick, nr Brighton. 8pm FFI: info@anderidagorsedd.org

**ARTIO SEEDGROUP,** Switzerland (Zurich) Meet/rituals/walks. Lily or Britta at Info@druidry.ch (+41 76 326 6963) c wc

**ARTURIAN GROVE** Seasonal rituals near Otley/York. Optimistichannah@outlook.com

**ASH GROVE, GLASTONBURY** Seasonal rituals OBOD visitors welcome. FFI jacki.woolmington@btinternet.com

**BRIGANTES SEED GROUP.** YORK, England. Gatherings on the full moon. brigantes.group@gmail.com

**BIG SKY GROVE, NORFOLK** Our name reflects the vista and big skies of our Norfolk landscape. Open to members/ former OBOD members. Meetings (zoom) for the 8 festivals & meetings, walks, discussion. FFI: rebnikc@btinternet.com

**CORNOVII GROVE.** Seasonal rituals in Worcs. www.cornovii.org or email via keith.southall@creativelandscapes.co.uk

**DÓITEAN AGUS UISCE** (Flame & Well Druid Grove). Seasonal rituals, moots and other gatherings. Colorado Front

Range, USA. FFI: flameandwellgrove@gmail.com, https://flameandwellgrove.org

**DRACAENA GROVE:** Saltburn/Cleveland area of North Yorkshire. Seasonal celebrations & informal meetings.

dracaenagrove@hotmail.com

**DRUID PILGRIM GROVE:** Pilgrimages, gatherings and rituals. Encouragement for pilgrims. Australia and NZ. Contact:

danuta@adruid.com; FB: Druid Pilgrim group.

**FAVERSHAM PAGAN MOOT** 2nd Mon The Sun, West St Faversham Kent & events FFI www.favershampagans.org.uk

**GOLDEN WATTLE SEED GROUP, ADELAIDE S. AUS.** Regular meetings, rituals FFI: golden.wattle.seed.group@gmail.com

**LAKE AGASSIZ SEEDGROUP** 3rd Saturday of the Month: Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. Public rituals in local parks. FFI:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/lakeagassizdruids/email agassizseedgroup@gmail.com

**LIGHT OF AWEN SEED GROUP** in Bristol. Celebrating the wheel of the year, and healing. Email.

Lightofawen8@gmail.com

**MACADAMIA GROVE** Seasonal/events, Brisbane Aus macademiagroove@hotmail.com FB "OBOD Macadamia Grove

**THE MELBOURNE GROVE** Seasonal celebrations, Melbourne, Aus: Trudy Richards moondancer@outlook.com.au

**OVERTON PAGAN MOOT-** 2nd Thurs The Red Lion, Overton, Nr Basingstoke, Hampshire. 8pm. FFI

cherylzellen@hotmail.com

**PENDLE GROVE.** Clitheroe/around Lancs. Sionnach on 0161 3432705 or email drvernon@hotmail.co.uk

**SHINING MOUNTAINS GROVE** western Montana, USA, Eight festivals + seasonal hikes, on-line in winter. contact

Heather: roanrobbins@aol.com

**SETANTII SEASONAL RITUALS IN MANCHESTER / S. LANCS.** Always outdoors. GROVEOFSETANTII@YAHOO.COM.

**SEATTLE SEEDGROUP CIRCLE OF COLL** - public rituals, workshops, tree walks &... every month.

circleofcoll@circleofcoll.org

**SLIABH ANAM GROVE** Rituals and monthly moots Durango, Colorado, USA. FFI: contact sliabhanam@gmail.com.

**SONG OF THE EASTERN SEA SEEDGROUP** Central Coast of NSW Aus, FFI: contact Chris at chris@druidryaustralia.org

**TAMESIS** (London Seedgroup) seasonal festivals/moots/workshops Contact Ricky: gelli3@me.com

***Touchstone December 2022***

# EVENTS

OBOD members and friends are welcome to submit events they have organised for inclusion here. This section may also be posted on our website at [www.druidry.org](http://www.druidry.org) Please tell us if you don't want your event posted on the www.

## **OBOD WHEEL OF THE YEAR ONLINE RITUALS**

On fb and youtube. Hosted by CC Eimear Burke Check [druidry.org](http://druidry.org) / facebook  
Alban Arthan Dec 17th

## **REGULAR MONTHLY OBOD MEETINGS**

**OBOD PEACE MEDITATION:** *with your Grove or by yourself every full moon: 7pm local time*  
**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN DIFFICULT TIMES** An OBOD Listening Circle. FREE monthly online ZOOM gathering, 1st Wednesday of the month 7pm UTC. Contact [harrietlock@gmail.com](mailto:harrietlock@gmail.com) for link.

## **2022**

**17 December** OBOD online ritual & day of activities. FI via the OBOD website & FB page

## **2023**

**5 January** PAPPs present - **Changing Views of Paganism In and Out of the Academy** 19:30. A Webinar with Professor Ronald Hutton (Eventbrite listing) – contact Lynn – [l.genevieve.1@research.gla.ac.uk](mailto:l.genevieve.1@research.gla.ac.uk)

**3-5 March 2023** **Druid Grade Gorsedd** in the New Forest National Park, Hampshire, England.

Email [druidry.sylvangrove@gmail.com](mailto:druidry.sylvangrove@gmail.com) for further details. EVENT NOW FULL

**1&2 April** **Inner Journeying and OBOD ritual Level 2.** For previous level 1 participants. EVENT NOW FULL. Email FFI: [mattmccabe.1@outlook.com](mailto:mattmccabe.1@outlook.com) to go on waiting list.

**OBOD Glastonbury Gatherings: Summer - 3rd/4th June \*\*\* Winter - 2nd December.**

## **THE LIGHT OF OG**



'Here is a wee creative submission titled "The Light of Og". I am loving this becoming of the Druid. I am home to my heart.

'The tiny 2x4" canvas is adorned with acrylic paint and autumn gifts.'

**Julie Melton**

*And some more colour to take into the darkest time..*

*'Here's one for the gorgeous persimmon trees in Fall:*

Windstorms stole her leaves  
Leaving her arms full of moons  
Rising in orange.

**Jessica McGee**

*Stay safe, happy & magical; until 2023, Ed / \ \*