

TOUCHSTONE

The journal of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids
July 2023

Issue 311



Stonehenge dawn ceremony: Kristoffer Hughes

THE SUMMER GATHERING EDITION

IN SUMMER TIME

When summer time has come, and all
The world is in the magic thrall
Of perfumed airs that lull each sense
To fits of drowsy indolence;
When skies are deepest blue above,
And flow'rs aflush,—then most I love
To start, while early dews are damp,
And wend my way in woodland tramp
Where forests rustle, tree on tree,
And sing their silent songs to me;...
'Tis wealth enough of joy for me
In summer time to simply be.

Paul Laurence Dunbar. 1872–1906

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Greetings to members all over the world: this edition celebrates the summer gathering, but the next is already brimming with contributions, so thanks to their authors for your patience.

Looking at the contents, you might wonder, who is Brenda? I suggested 'Brenda' as your Druid confidante: the one you write to and, in writing, relive precious memories. Thanks to all who took up the invitation: I was delighted when Brenda passed on your comments; pp 6&8.

Our July totems are on p 5 - what will you suggest for August? Do send a poem, photo or info. piece to celebrate *your* totem of high summer. P 4 introduces us to the new office staff, bright-eyed and bushy tailed, so you'll know who will be answering your emails and on p 11 there's a memorial to an Italian member. It reminds me of how wonderfully idiosyncratic we all are and of how generous members are with their unique gifts. OBOD is shaped by our individual, creative response to the course. It results in a vibrant magazine whose contributions it's always a pleasure to read, for we are all strange, fascinating and endlessly surprising - rather like the greater world of nature, our home!

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SUMMER STARS

Bend low again, night of summer stars.
So near you are, sky of summer stars,
So near, a long-arm man can pick off stars,
Pick off what he wants in the sky bowl,
So near you are, summer stars,
So near, strumming, strumming,
So lazy and hum-strumming.

Carl Sandburg 1878–1967

SUNRISE MUSING

Looking
at sunrise listening.
Stirring wildlife
Sitting,
warm at the window.
Horizon brightens,
Thoughts—
Inside world,
Mechanistic.

Horizon brightens
Silhouetted, trees
Warming clouds,
Blasting, color,
Magenta, salmon, orange.
Bright disc
timed to the minute
Still,
Was the moment
Seen
Or distraction, King?
Dana Evans, Sutton, MA USA



Solar exotica - Golden Pheasant: John Davies

WISE WATER

Womb-waters speak across time
Stories of love, pain, joy, death
From primordial pools
To tides made of tears

Excrement and excitement

The ugly and the beneficent
The mud and muck
The rain and rivers

The pounding heartbeats
Rippling through eternity
Present in the pause if you listen

Purify, consecrate, lave, and love
Heal, cleanse, refresh, and revitalize
Make whole in the depths of our mother's
channels and chamber

The moon, pulling and tugging toward
heaven
These watery ways of birth and life
Transmuted forms
Adapting, aging, dying

Condensation rising
Clouds releasing
Earth accepting again
This magical, mystical cycle into her essence

Bonds of a lifetime
Air and fossils
Telling their tales together
In our bones

Angie Bergeson



A heart-filled welcome to our new Oak Tree Press team members, Jo, Chris, Lena, and Lisa!

New staff at the office - Welcome!

him an invaluable asset to us and he is currently working on getting all the foreign language editions online.

When not weaving digital spells, you might find Chris contemplating the secrets of the universe while sipping elderberry tea!

So much goes on behind the scenes to help members receive their gwersi and Touchstone on time, to look after the online store and websites, to answer queries and make all the increasingly complicated IT systems work efficiently. With Stephanie and Annie having retired after decades of service, and with Kate due to retire in September, four new team members have joined us and here they are...

Lena, originally from Elgin in Scotland, joins our administrative team having had a diverse background in energy regulation, magazine publishing, and healthcare. Lena possesses a wealth of knowledge, enjoys helping people sort out problems, and loves walking with her dog and exploring the Sussex countryside.



Lisa joins us as our new Graphic Designer and Digital Media Manager. With a background in responsible tourism and a passion for capturing the essence of wildlife in her own artwork, Lisa is working on breathing new life into the visual components of the course and website.

From Left to Right:

Jo enjoys meticulous organisation, and has transitioned from the world of finance administration to join our bustling office as Office Administrator. In her free time, Jo has a passion for live music and long walks with her dog in the countryside, forging a deep connection with the natural world that echoes the very essence of Druidry.

Chris joins us as our resident tech guru responsible for nurturing and safeguarding the intricate web of our IT systems. His expertise in the realm of technology makes

We're all excited and delighted to have these four lovely folk on board, bringing unique talents and passions that enrich our collective journey. They are enjoying getting to know the community and helping in the development and nurturing of Druidry. As they embrace their roles, we extend our warmest wishes for success and fulfilment in their endeavours. Our doors are always open to the winds of change, and we celebrate the arrival of each new member who contributes to the growth and vibrancy of the order.

The Oak Tree Press

JULY TOTEMS

Blackbird (Welsh: Mwyalchen): The blackbird keeps the portal between the worlds and can lead us through...The birds of Rhiannon are three blackbirds, whose singing can slow time, cause sleep/trance and open the gate to the Otherworlds. the blackbird can impart mystic secrets.

In Culwch & Olwen the blackbird of Cilgwri is the first of the Oldest Animals to lead us to the Mabon, via the the Stag of Redynfre, the Owl of Cwm Cowlyd, the Eagle of Gwern Abw and finally to the Salmon of Llyn Llyw. To find the magical youth, follow the blackbird's song!

BLACKBIRD

In a secret place
the blackbird drinks, dipping
his beak of gold into the shimmer
of dappled water, a bowl wedged in shadow
cool as green wine I hope
laced with a trail of tiny, floating leaves

Dip, dabble, sip and quaff, dip again
and jewels of water fly
a flash of jet; he knows I'm watching him
a dip and a sip, a little cooling splash of wings
and off he hops with princely nonchalance,
back
to his leafy realm,
a door
where none may follow
marked strictly private in the hawthorn
hedge

Last night he crossed my path
fleet as a cat in the bewitching dark
skimming the earth
his beak bright as a candle flame
as if to light a way
through all the holy, scented places
of my secret purple garden *Vanessa Fielding*



ELDERFLOWER

In July, the Hawthorn's bridal bouquets of sensuous blossom give way to aromatic white plate-like umbellifers: the elderflower is monarch of the hedgerows. Its associations are too complex and run too deep to be explored now, but here's a tip from herbalist Jo Dunbar...

I wonder if anyone else does this? Every year, I think "Ooh, I've got away with hay fever", and then, bang - as soon as the Elderflowers pop out, I start sniffing and sneezing. I was reaching for yet another tissue, when Adrian asked why I don't follow my own advice, and drink Elderflower tea. What a good idea - and it worked so well.

I simply drop an inflorescence of Elderflower into a cup of boiling water. Inhale the steam, and drink. Within 10 minutes or less, I feel clear.

I love the Elder trees. The whole countryside is frothing, and when the flowers turn to blue-black berries, we will harvest them for winter viruses, but for now, I am grateful for the flowers' help with allergies.



At the Gathering, I invited people to imagine they were writing to an imaginary friend, Brenda, telling her about one special moment they'd experienced - and being generous OBOD members, there were a few expressions of gratitude as well...

Dear Brenda... thoughts on the Gathering

However it may not be needed next year.

We spoke about Bear

over the weekend, his gentle leadership and how grateful we were that he was holding that space, so though we may never be in that circle with him and all the others there that day we would like to send our heartfelt thanks for this year and every year he has offered this to those who need it. Standing up and taking on service in offering to the people who need it is a very special thing to do Thank You Bear.

Blessings, Sian Harding Badger & Toad SG.

Hi Penny, Memories: Too many to name, two highlights to cherish

1. 200 people chanting the Awen. Makes my heart sing.
2. Singing with the Tor singers in the ceremony a great honour to sing Jennifer's beautiful song. *Yours beneath the trees, Lesley*

Hi Penny, I wanted to write a little note to say what a wonderful time my friend and I had at our first Summer Gathering. Both of us have some mobility problems so when it was announced that there was a alternative in place for those who could not climb the Tor we were very grateful not to miss out on the opportunity to be held in ritual space, and that someone had already thought about those that may have different needs and put together a ceremony for us: but we wondered if it would lose that special something that Glastonbury Tor brings.

I'm very happy to say that was not the case. Bear who lead the ritual was very welcoming , calm and clearly knew exactly how to guide everyone while allowing for the fact that everyone in the room would have different needs. With a very soothing voice he guided our group of fifteen to twenty on a journey so that our energy met that of the others on the Tor so we felt together with them while we conducted our ceremony.

Afterwards Bear told us that he has been holding this space for five years starting with just a few people but growing over the years,

Dear Brenda,

We've just come back from our very first OBOD summer Gathering in Glastonbury. In a weekend full of highlights I would love to share a few of them with you.

- **the Cascading Awens** in the opening ceremony - spine chilling - the resonance stayed with us for ages.

- **waiting in the High Street** for the coach to Stonehenge, eyes blurry from too little sleep and too much fun at the Eisteddfod I spotted a badger across the road, the stripe on his head unmistakable in the moonlight.



He stared at me and I stared back then he turned and waddled away, perhaps, like me, looking for a strong black coffee.

- **the eerie sound of the bagpipes** as Chris Parks played at Stonehenge and then the fun

and laughter as people started to dance

- *the hilarious Storytelling Workshop* when our Chosen Chief Eimear opened up the session with a story that had us laughing within seconds and then telling versions of the story later. Such fun.

- *the absolute conviction* seen, felt, heard and voiced by those gathered saying the Druids' Vow in the closing ceremony

I could go on, and on but as you can see it was a truly magical gathering.

Love Carol & Terri

What a wonderful and joyful summer gathering this year! I would like to make special mention of the warmth and inclusiveness I felt as an attendee of the special session led by Bear for those of us unable to make the climb to the Tor. It is this empathetic attention to detail, making sure all of us could attend in a meaningful way, that helped make each one of us feel we are a valued member of the OBOD community. My heartfelt thanks!

I am now safely back in San Diego. Here's me drinking mead at the Stonehenge sunrise ceremony

Blessings, Jessica McGee

*Mead at dawn -
Druid's delight!*



Hi, We were asked to send in some words about the weekend and I always forget to do that but this time I'm breaking the habit. This was my first OBOD gathering and I had no idea what to expect, but from the amazing rolling Awen at the opening right through to the closing I had a wonderful experience.

That opening Awen was so uplifting it set the mood for the weekend.

The people I met in the workshops were all brilliantly supportive and really helped me learn from them (I'm still terrible with names though so can't name check anyone). Many many thanks to everyone involved in putting the weekend together.

Blessings Kevin



Hello; if it is not too late... (We came home 11h ours late, had a terrible flight connection.... Unpacked, washed and were off again for work)

We have squeezed the summer gathering weekend plus Thursday and Friday in our busy June schedule and knew already while sitting in the bus from Bristol to Glastonbury that the time would be too short! It was our first time in Glastonbury. I had the feeling of finally arriving, the landscape looked very familiar to me. coming home in some way.

The weekend was exciting, overwhelming, beautiful, magical, peaceful, all plants radiated a lot of energy (and not only the plants) The whole time was a balm for the heart and the soul.

Thank you, Monika

OBOD'S Gift - a circle of trees under the Tor

Members might remember being invited to add on £10 donation for tree planting and at the Gathering Philip gave us the update:...The money was passed on to Glastonbury town council, and this spring volunteers planted a circle on the Fair Field; the 'foothill' of the Tor. From local film maker/OBOD associate Kevin Redpath:

'They are a particular variety of Crabapple that flowers at Beltane. 27 trees in a 42m diameter circle. 100% funded by OBOD's very generous donation. The final bill came to £3,700 and the balance of £300 will go towards more trees throughout the parish. Joel Bunting, the NT officer responsible for Tor management tells me they are arranging for a plaque explaining the significance of the circle, why they chose this variety and thanking OBOD for their donation. The National Trust plan is that this will eventually be one of three concentric circles of crabapples which will all blossom at different times. They were planted by the community in January, which of course was followed by a Wassail! It's part of a much bigger Isle of Avalon project called 5 Mile Food and Farming which I am involved with.' Find Kevin's film here: <https://youtu.be/Lz3wSP96CB8>



And a response to the circle news -

I was so moved by the planting of the OBOD grove, I ended up writing a poem - I hope you enjoy it . The bits in italics (apart from the final line) are all taken from the labels from the trees, which I've worked into the poem.

HUPEH CRAB APPLE

a
Medium-sized tree with broad head.

"Hupeh Crab Apple" the label said,
An unassuming tree in Avalon
Yet these are in a circular spread
For Tor pilgrims to gaze upon.

Height and spread to 12 metres.

Funded by Order members,
A simple donation from the tickets,
Yet an act the land honours
With songs from birds, and sheep, and crickets.

Fragrant flowers start pink opening to pure white.

Embraced in the shadows of the night
And kissed by the silver moon,
Wrapped in a cobalt blanket
And the heat of the sun at noon.

Cherry-like fruits yellow / orange to purple / red.

We are connected by a Druidic thread
Of spirit, of peace and of love,
From hand, to heart, to head,
From ranging roots to lofty limbs above.

Vigorous.

We cannot wait for that leafy ring of oneness,
To see the sun-fruits burgeon,
To hear the song of Wandering Aengus,
To bathe in the shade and the Awen.

This is a sacred space.

Suzie Johnston

Dear Brenda,

You may wish to get a cup of tea Brenda. Possibly the odd hob nob or chocolate malted milk biscuit. I have so much to tell you about such a glorious weekend.

Dear Brenda.. a longer letter

building, it's the people in it." So, I look forwards to new experiences and

venues. If any group can make it work, the Druids can!

What a wonderful weekend I've just had the pleasure of being part of. Gathering together as like minded people from all corners of the world. Some I have met, and some new friends made this weekend. I do so love the gatherings. We meet once or twice a year. It feels like no time has passed, since we met previously. We connect together with the cascading Awens that resonate and you can feel your personal and the room's frequency just lift to a glorious level. Oh if I could bottle that moment, and take it home to drink throughout the year. I feel, that alone, could sustain us all. One of the amazing features about the gatherings, is that you can attend as a single person, knowing not a soul. But leave much richer in friendship.

We have been informed that the venue is too small for all the growing Druids, which is wonderful in its own way. Meaning there are more people walking this path in life. So, change is now necessary, although not always welcomed. We humans are a funny lot where change is concerned. But we need somewhere that others can enjoy what we have enjoyed this weekend. I feel this will work. As the saying goes, "It's not the

Now, something I really felt in my heart.

With such love and joy, was the beautiful circle of trees at the bottom of the Tor. This did make my heart sing. What a truly wonderful idea and creation. Even more wonderful when Philip let us all know that this magical creation was from the funds from last years tickets for the gathering. How marvellous is that? Imagine in years to come when we no longer walk the land. This grove of trees will stand for future generations to hold ceremonies within. Just wonderful. I do wonder if the future people will imagine who the people were who planted the trees.

Oh the Stonehenge ceremony was absolutely marvellous. It was vibrant, beautiful and heartfelt. You felt the celebration of the time of year. Connecting with each other on the land to give thanks. The humour, the love, the fairy queen. We all had a wonderful rose to take away and keep as a memory, I was contemplating pressing the rose and putting

it in a picture so it invoked the feelings and memories of the ceremony. The piper was wonderful and provoked emotion. His fairy queen danced and embodied the energy of summer. The drumming was vibrant and



celebratory. People danced, people smiled and gave thanks to the space and land. Each person of the quarters embodied the element they represented. You really felt the connection through them to that element they were bringing through. An incredibly magical experience. So grateful to have been there. The ceremony was so beautiful and really came from a heartfelt place. You could feel the genuine love connection. They were not there for themselves giving a performance, they were there honouring and the heart was open. To remind us to dance or sing and live lushly whilst the sun is high. To share to connect. That we are all stars shining in the sky.

Also, although I am not a story teller. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the story tellers and admiring their talents. The story telling workshop was really fun. Loved hearing others tell the story and the various new endings were so entertaining. Really upbeat and light.

Another huge highlight for me (so many), was seeing the embroidered cloak. This creation is lovingly beautiful and really brings a tear to my eye. Birthed as an idea from Eimear's fireside chat with Fleur, and put into motion with Marseille the most talented cloak creator and logistics manager!! The stitching so far is so stunning. You can feel the love in the cloak. It has travelled many miles across the globe with people weaving their stories into their designs. I would so love to be a part of this creation. Fleur spoke on Sunday so eloquently. She spoke of how her grandmother taught her to sew and how

some of us, like her, tell our story's in different ways and weaves our story's in the embroidery of the fabric. I felt this so much, so emotional. My grandmother taught me the same and I feel that she can live on through me when I sew stitches or knit. I love how everyone who contributes takes a photograph of their hands and writes about their story. Which is put in a booklet to accompany the cloak. Really really loved that OBOD have a platform for us people who love to hear the stories, but don't always want to stand up and release the bard within, or are a little reluctant to perform or sing. We can leave our mark on the tapestry of life in a different way. Tell the story of our grandmothers through craft. So it never dies, it changes its form and is redirected.

Just think in time to come, someone will be wearing the cloak, embroidered by the hands of Druids far and wide, holding and telling the stories of their ancestors. That person will be standing in ceremony, within the grove of apple trees, at the bottom of the Tor. With all the energy of us at the gathering and who contributed, standing besides them energetically. This is what a gathering is about. This is the magick that comes from us coming together and working as one. Creating for the future. Where ever we live and where ever we gather. Magick happens !! That is the Druid way. To bring magick into the worlds. I wonder what will be happening next.

Until we meet again dear Brenda, and you share all of your exciting experiences. I wish you well.

Many blessings from the Grove, Jamesina



Memorial For Hagal

JJ Middleway

I was asked by Antonella to provide a few lines on Hagal's recent passing. Antonella is the editor of The Badger magazine - an Italian Druid publication. She was also the intrepid translator who endured all sorts of crazy hardships along with us in those early days.

Kal Renato Mancini, Hagal, Moon Bear.

All of these and more no doubt - for you were big on names, big in stature and big on ambition. Large in body; Large in life.

It was my honour and privilege to share some very special times with you Hagal, during the early days of the re-emergence of Druidry in Italy. Together with Isa you pioneered the translation of the OBOD teaching programme into Italian: valuable work.

More than that, you helped arrange and organise the first OBOD Druid camps and gatherings, which is how Adrian and I found our way to your fair land. To say they were memorable is an understatement, in much the same way as would be the case for you Hagal.

Magical and mad; Fantastic and foolish; Beautiful and nuts (crazy). I was referring to the camps, but on reflection I could just as easily have been speaking of you Hagal. You made things happen, you inspired, you annoyed, you frustrated. You nearly killed us driving like a madman at ridiculous speeds. Yet you also created events and experiences that live on in our hearts which will inspire story and song until we die (and maybe beyond). Some of the most beautiful experiences of our lives.

For which we give eternal gratitude.
With love and blessings... And this picture - which is worth a thousand words.



JJ, Hagal and Adrian on the first Italian OBOD camp in the mountains - remarkable and memorable. How we survived that I'll never know.



SOUTH YORKSHIRE SEED GROUP

We are a newly formed Seed Group based towards the East of Sheffield, South Yorkshire close to Worksop, Doncaster, Chesterfield. We welcome OBOD members (and friends and family of) from South Yorkshire and the surrounding area. If you would like to be involved in our group please contact us on our Facebook page "South Yorkshire Seed Group".

The group is run as a collective mind, everyone's ideas and suggestions are welcome, we are currently looking to start using a fairly local ancient woodland site for our meet ups so if that sounds like your kind of thing come and join us, it would be wonderful to meet you. Many Blessings Nicole, Mark & Laura

Messages from the Grade Groves

Stephen Barnes



On this day at this sacred place, the grove of the Bards wish to share their message with the world.

These three things call from the soul of the wild:

A cycle of life and death,
we trust with joy in the process
to sing our way back home.

A spirit free and unbound
Returning to the healing love of friendship
when the day ends.

In the in-between still places
where earth and water meet.
Be Still and let the tide renew you.....

-oOo-



On this day at this sacred place, the grove of the Ovates wish to share their message with the world.

From Stardust, drawing from the Imbas,
we radiate love, hope and peace, with
gentleness.
We accept death, knowing there is continuity in
the Universe.

Listen to the heart, Ignite Peace,
Remember home.
Love Joining light in Awe....

In the rivers of the soul, in the simplicity of
hearth and home,
Together we survive and thrive.

(Doonlit memories of connection
illuminate the path of strength
and compassion in the Universe....

-oOo-



On this day at this sacred place, the grove of the Druids wish to share their message with the world.

I am consciously, fully present
To myself and to all beings.
I chose to weave the thread
of wisdom and understanding with
playful invitation.

May our tapestry of loving connection
be our gift to you.....

-oOo-

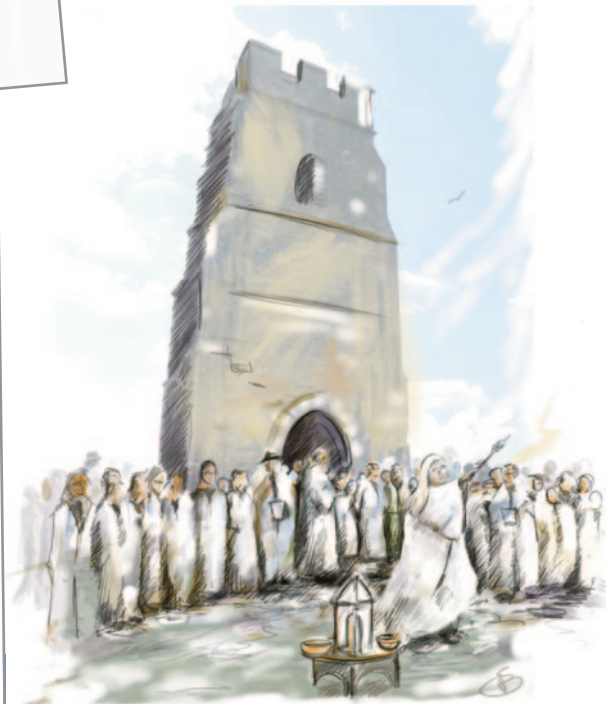


Photo: Kris Hughes

Storytelling on Sunday morning

Today I learnt that Patricide, Matricide, Suicide or letting the woman wear the trousers are all acceptable endings for the same basic tale in the art of storytelling.

Ricky Gellisen

This was the first time we'd had a full morning storytelling session on a Sunday morning in Glastonbury: its title Scéalaíocht intrigued and was itself subject of some ribald speculation...Ricky's quote sums up and echoes the session, in being succinct, quirky and full of humour: the mood was set for fun and boundary pushing.

Thanks to the four excellent storytellers who presented and - a rarity - stuck to their time limits. Within ten minutes each, we learned about The Golden Comb from Eimear (mischievous), Vortigern's Tower from Lorraine Munn (stately & riddling), assisted by Derry Rose, the tale of The mermaid of Zenor from Heidi (great humour & Cornish vernacular) and the tale of a farmer who offended an Elder Mother with a taste for cow's milk from Dan Goodfellow (spooky).



Heidi, Derry, Eimear, Lorraine, Dan

And what happened next?? It was a, 'Hey, kids, let's do the show right here!' time of four workshop sessions where we all astonished ourselves with our conglomerative, collective gothic-tinged creativity... The stories had to be heard to be believed! But then, Ricky has already summed that up perfectly. *PB*

And post-gathering, life continues

OBOD is not the only donor of trees - here's a letter to gladden the hearts of cricket fans:

Sporting gesture for the environment

The BCCI – Board of Control for Cricket in India – has taken the decision to plant 500 trees for every dot ball – ie every ball when neither run nor wicket occurs - in this year's IPL – Indian Premier League – playoffs.

Before the final match a total of 200 dot balls had been bowled, meaning the BCCI will be planting at least 100,000 trees.

ARB

Members are doing it for themselves

It's been heartwarming to hear from members & Seedgroups who, unable to attend the Gathering, have connected energetically with their own local celebrations. This is the Druidic 'Think global, act local' ethos in practice, so congratulations to all, especially Dorset and N Wales... This is all anecdotal, so if you want to let the wider OBOD world know, do send in a report.

Making the most of our opportunities

Lots of members from abroad also took the opportunity of being the UK to connect to our megalithic treasures.

Whilst some of us were sleeping the sleep of exhaustion the just after the gathering, many were Stonehenge- and Avebury-bothering to great effect: do send in your impressions! Others took advantage of a few extra days to explore & prove the walks, nature trails, flora and fauna of the Goddess' own Summer County, Somerset. Thank you all for spreading the love across the landscape & for your pictures... keep sending them in, now!

THE VOICE OF TOMORROW

It is the power of the Imagination that frees
us,
Awakens us from our sleep
We the makers of machines, of wires, wheels
and rust,
Whose science binds us in its keep

Not they, nor any them, we might father or
mother,
As mechanical stewards of salvation
But the devices of efficiencies we further,
To extend our commands across material
Creation

In the hubris of soulless objectivity,
We cast our tools and lot to entertained
damnation
As twilight scatters, it beckons for creativity,

Whispering to the grove of sacred contem-
plation

A pebble drops, and echoes its sound,
To the receptive, a myth is born
A program is cropped, its knowledge sur-
rounds,
To the foolish, a pantheon is formed

An electronic child begot in waning hours of
an era aesthetic
Yet bright youth is squandered in the
absence of story and epic

Goddess Ceridwen, grant us patience to
hear the heart as beating drum
To teach the minds of ether the wisdom of
the cauldron, rather than that of outcome.

Skye Cooley

A GATHERING IN GLASTONBURY

Gather!
Calls the horn
Gather!
Gather!
In this place
Of sacred well
And holy thorn

Swear!
Claim where you now stand
Swear!
Swear!
Promise peace
With love walk hand in hand

Call!
East! South! West and North!

Call!
Call!
Draw sacred beasts
And all the elementals forth

Awen!
The sacred Druid chant
Awen!
Awen!
Atop the Tor
Then in the Hall
And Henge we all enchant

Return!
The world does still await
Return!
Return!
Yet carry on
And ne'er forget
The Grove we celebrate

Joshua Ramey-Renk

Other stone circles are available...



Avebury sunset: Steve Smith

REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS:

APPLESEED GROVE Glastonbury FFI: theappleseedgrove@googlemail.com

ARTURIAN GROVE Seasonal rituals near Otley. optimistichannah@outlook.com

ASH GROVE, GLASTONBURY meeting OBOD visitors for druidic chat. FFI jacki.woolmington@btinternet.com

BIG SKY GROVE, NORFOLK OBOD and BDO members 8 festivals, walks, discussion/social. FFI: rebnikc@btinternet.com

BADGER & TOAD SEED GROUP, Folkstone area. Seasonal/meet ups FFI: Sian and Hazel obodbadgerandtoad@yahoo.com

CIRCLE OF COLL Seattle Seedgroup public rituals, workshops, tree walks every month. circleofcoll@circleofcoll.org

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: N Yorks 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.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FOUR DIRECTIONS, BRISTOL. Monthly park meeting/ceremony FFI: fellowshipotfd@hotmail.com

BOREALIS CIRCLE SEED GROUP 3rd Saturday of the Month: Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. Public rituals in local parks. FFI: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lakeagassizdruids/> email: borealiscircle@gmail.com

LIGHT OF AWEN SEED GROUP, Bristol. Celebrating the wheel of the year & healing. Email. Lightofawen8@gmail.com

MACADAMIA GROVE Seasonal/events, Brisbane Australia. Sandra.macademiagrove@hotmail.com

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 alex@alexrigg.com

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

SHINING MOUNTAINS GROVE W. Montana, 8 rituals, community, hikes, zoom. FFI: Heather: roanrobbins@aol.com

SETANTII GROVE Seasonal Rituals in Manchester / S. Lancs. Always outdoors. groveofsetantii@yahoo.com.

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

TAMESIS (LONDON SG) festivals/moots/workshops Contact Ferdiad tamesisgrove@gmail.com
www.tamesisgrove.com

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 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/facebook

Alban Hefin: June 17th * Lughnasadh: August 5th * Alban Elfed: September 23rd *

Samhain: November 4th * Alban Arthan: December 16th *

REGULAR OBOD MEETINGS

Fireside chat with Eimear. Join CC every Thursday, 8pm. Google You Tube + Fireside chat

Tea with a Druid: With Philip Carr Gomm/guests every Monday 8pm

Monthly OBOD Peace meditation: with your Grove or by yourself every full moon: 7pm local time

Building Resilience in Difficult Times A monthly OBOD Listening Circle. Online zoom gathering, 1st Wednesday of the month 7pm UTC. Contact harrietlock@gmail.com for link.

EVENTS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

26 - 30 July The 21st Druid Camp. Roots and Stones: A pilgrimage into mythic landscapes. West Wales. Keynote speakers, workshops, eisteddfod, ritual... FFI: <https://druid.camp/>

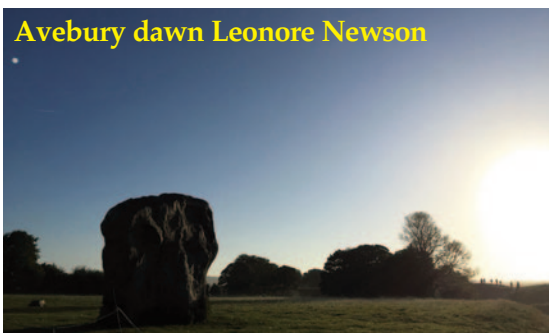
Mon 31 July - Sat 5 Aug White Horse Camps Lughnasadh Camp: at West Town Farm, Devon - for more info please contact communications@whitehorsecamps.org.uk

11-13 August Éigse Spiorad Cheilteach join us in the centre of Ireland for a weekend of workshops, talks, fun and laughter . Organised by OBOD members Eimear Burke, Paul Corcoran and Anna Coote. See Eigse.net for tickets and information.

7-10 Sept BAM Druid Gather: Fire ~ Igniting Community. Join us for our fourth year in beautiful Ashby, MA! Adults \$190, children (12 and under) \$60, includes meals and cabin/tenting space. Immerse yourself in a thriving community experience, learning new skills and deepening your connections to the land and fellow Druids. There will be songs, dance, and feasting around the sacred flames; workshops, meditations, Makers' Market, children's activities, Bardic & Ovate initiations, Eisteddfod... and lots of Fire! FFI: <https://bamdruidgather.org>

30 Sept & 1 Oct Inner Journeying and OBOD ritual Level 1 Non-res weekend workshop in Glastonbury with Penny Billington and Matt McCabe. 'What we do in OBOD and why we do it.' FFI/booking form Email mattmccabe.1@outlook.com

26 - 31st Oct Thurs - Tues White Horse Camps Samhain Camp: at Wildways, Shropshire - for more info please contact communications@whitehorsecamps.org.uk



Avebury dawn Leonore Newson



Avebury dusk with Stephen & Marita