



**Lughnasadh Issue
Year of the Reform “LIII”
August 6, 2015 c.e.
Volume 32, Issue 5**

Editor's Notes:

Lughnasadh almost slipped by before I noticed it. Where I currently live it is already rather hot and dry and just the amount of daylight changes, so seasons aren't as obvious as where you live.

I quite enjoy watching all the creativity of others, but I have to admit, when you take a Druid out of the forest, it seems that you take out a lot of their inspiration. I probably should take my prescribed two hours of visits to parts twice a week to stay healthy. I hope you'll excuse my lack of contributions to this issue and hope the creativity of the others will more than make up for it.

Best wishes for the season, and I hope you and the squirrels will find a great bounty in the oak trees quite soon.

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NEWS OF THE GROVES



Oakwood Grove: News from Minnesota

aurora borealis, 06/23/2015, Maple Plain, MN, zero light pollution, zero cloud cover, "The One of Night," and a haiku:

Aurora shimmers,
Mystical cascading glow,
Powered by the sun.



Attended an ADF ritual put on by Dancing Waters Protogrove today. It was a very elaborate ritual, but it was really nice, too. I was anointed as an honorary member, and everyone was asking me questions about the RDNA at the feast that followed. Also sounds like they may be involved in planning the regional ADF mega-gathering for next summer, too. -John

Poison Oak Grove: News from California

Happy Solstice! And the day shall conquer night...

I attended a sunrise service with a local OBOD grove this morning. It was foggy and windy and the trees were dripping with moisture, but we greeted the Sun even though we could not see Him. The service was followed by a bardic circle where we sang, drummed, recited poetry and drank elderberry cordial.



Koad Grove: News from Ohio

Six new Druids of the 1st Order at Chrysalis Moon Festival!!!

LLanoz Grove: News from Australia

Celebrated Alban Arthan by the cold but beautiful Brisbane River here in the tropical winter. Whilst the conjunction blessed us from above, the weather was bitterly cold down by the River, but that did nothing to dampen the magick of the eve'. Most beautifully, as we completed the 'Waters of Life' and looked up at the conjunction above us, a Kookaburra laughed. It rarely happens at night, but is not unheard of. The Mexican Hot Chocolate prepared before, warmed the fingers and made the evening complete. Solstice Blessings to all.

My dearest friends TAG. We have just finished the consecration of Reverend Druid Shimon as a Druid of the 7th Degree. This was performed by Reverend Druid Aranyadhara from the beautiful state of Idaho. My gratitude and love go out to Druid Aranyadhara and his family, and to all my fellow Druids. As a druid dedicated to the Goddess Danu I send to you each, my love, my blessings, and heartfelt wishes; May You Never Thirst.

-Shimon

News from MOCC

From our MOCC grove here in [Bowlegs, Oklahoma](#), this is one of the games we're planning on having at our Lughnassadh Eisteddfod and Games. Incidentally, if anyone wants to submit poetry or such, the theme this year in our Eisteddfod is "Bardic Potluck".



Druid Clan of Celliwig: News from Cornwall

Alan J entered the 6th order in UK with Rev Druid Moon Thomas

Lost and Found Druids

- [Brandon](#) is looking for Druids in Washington State.
- Sebastien says he has a grove member in Ogdensburg NY looking for fellow Druids.
- [Mateusz](#) is looking for Druids in Poland

Passing Druids



Mach Nightmare is a longtime member of the Covenant of the Goddess, founder of Reclaiming Collective, author, bay area resident, and friend and supporter of druid organizations and their members. May the healing powers of Brighid and Airmed bring her to a full and quick recovery.

Sad news: I have just learned, through Druid [Jól Retzloff](#), that Rev. Druid John Harling, OMS, went to the Summerlands last year. He was Archdruid of the Middleburg FL Grove. Memorial page <http://www.reformed-druids.org/?q=node%2F123>

Druid Poems

With Sticks or Bones and Crystal Stones.
Stars of night and hidden Light
Mirrors Black and Cards of White
The Pendulum's swing and Birds on Wing
With all these things I see what's right
Tomorrow's Future and today's Fright
For I am Druid and Witch by Night
And talking with the dead is my Delight.

TDK / The Druid King
Copyright George King June 02, 2015

Words and Wine from Heart's Long Still:

To taste the Wine or the Words of another Soul
I by reading is a great blessing told.

Of Wine and Words and Blood gone cold.
I raise my sweet cup to that which is old

Grapes and wine like knowledge old.
Preserve the a record of Root ,soil and
season's soul.
In which they grew and kissed their Sun's
special gold.

For one to taste this precious gift.
The Jug or Book one must lift.

To Lips or Mind and Warm the heart.
For writing and wine are Man's great art.

Giving others far away in time and space.
Of these long gone days but a sweet taste.

Still we too must plant the Root.
Raise with care life's delicate shoot.

And should we make wine or a Book.
Others of our life may then take a look.

Moon Rising
Plant and harvest life with care
That other may know you were there

TDK
Dedicated to those that are not afraid read and
learn from the past.
(c) 2013 George King

Robes Chains Drugs and Demons on the Druid Path.

While those that know me also know I do not
judge what Robes, Chains or Titles others in
Druid's Woods wear.

Nor do I seldom take a public position on the
use of Psychotropic drugs plants or fungi.
Yet I do judge those I would call Druid's of
the Oak and Leys in the Woods I walk.
And yes I do feel that Psychotropics can aid a
Uate or Bard at times.

But when it comes to Druii Level lack of
control of any addiction or demon prevents
one in my eyes of bringing Honor the White
Robe or Gold Chains of rank of these high
offices.

Be them Drugs Drink Sex Power Greed Envy
Pride Jealous Anger Hate or so many more
demons that haunt the human mind.
Which also brings to mind my (different from
most well know Druid Orders) views on the
Order of Training for a Druid.

Druid's order of training
Order of Training on the Ley path of a Druid.

Vatis or Ovate as seer, psychic and prophet must learn to hear and see with the Psychic mind as first.

Bard as poet and warrior must learn to teach , how to bless and curse (druid rhetoric {Rosc or roscanna magick poems}) with the psychic mind, tongue and body as second.

Druid as wiser warrior and peace keeper must learn to deal with the Politics of Life both Human and Gods as last.

<<

TDK



A rather trippy Beatles tune based on Vedic scripture

Without going out of my

door,

I can know all things on earth
without looking out of my window,
I can know the ways of heaven.

The farther one travels
the less one knows
the less one really knows.

Without going out of your door,
You can know all things on earth
without looking out of your window,
you can know the ways of heaven.

The farther one travels
the less one knows
the less one really knows.

Arrive without travelling,
See all without looking,
Do all without doing.
-George Harrison

Hennie's Corner

Hennie has apparently been ill recently but is still producing poetry so here is a selection of recent poems. Hennie now has a blog, in addition to her poetry on FB, <https://hennievangeel.wordpress.com/>

for the love of the Goddess
sing me a song of beauty and love
hope and understanding
the promise of the first day
for the love of the Goddess
hug me to sleep
visit me in dreams
share my fears
for the love of the Goddess
let go gently
death
is the last
gift of love
-Hennie

hurt to death by the rainbow
she slowly found her way back
she didn't even feel very low
not a thing did she really lack
so she went home in a mist
but more lucid than when alive
she no longer felt somebodies wife
forever awake she was kissed
forever whole and united
no more fears she flighted
she no longer needed to be clever
but how long is forever?
-Hennie

'though Time is just an illusion
and Room is an other mistake
I must leave this bitter seclusion
for another beautiful fake
Otherworld is daunting
before my troubled sense
still, I'll in the end go whence
for the attraction is deeply haunting
my daily walk and speech
my dreaming and awaking
these chains I will go breaking
freedom I will reach
-Hennie

the pain, I never lost
the hope, I never lost
the insanity, I never lost
the innocence , I lost
the love, all around
the hate, all around
the misunderstanding, all around
the Oneness, in me
the Oneness, in you
the dreams, in you
the anger, in you
Life, in all of us
-Hennie

might as well admit
caught red handed
fact of the act:
talking to a tree
this gross overestimating
of the possibilities of communication
this Messiah complex
this showing off
overwhelm him with laughter
mockery and shame
talking to at tree
how mad does he think we are?
-Hennie

one day I'll wake up understanding
seeing clearly through the mist
all darkness to an ending
thoughts no longer in a twist
one day I'll wake up seeing
the essence of pure light
the glow in every being
like viewing from enlightened height
one day we will all know
the love in all things living
singing along we'll go
sharing, taking, giving
and, at last, at peace
-Hennie

in the end, the miracle is just too big
the pain too gross, the beauty too rich
in the end, wonders make blind
nature is all there is, politeness underestimated
in the end, we're all one
in the end, it is the love that counts
in the end, the hurt is just illusion
in the end, the fear is relative
in the end, what is there to say about the end?
-Hennie

Druid Blogs and Links

Welcome to the webpage of Well-Grounded Druid podcast

Your host of this druid podcast is Sébastien Beaudoin. Seb's is a 3rd Order Druid and priest within the Reformed Druids of North America. Each episodes will feature views on druidry and showcasing druids within the RDNA tradition. A podcast is about druids living a devoted life in our modern day. You will find interesting ideas and concepts devoted to the druidic traditions. These podcast will also be exploring such things as ethical principles and values found within Druidry.



Episode 1 <http://well-grounded.weebly.com/well-grounded-druid-podcast>



Damh the Bard
DruidCast

Druid Podcast (OBOD) has its 100th episode <https://soundcloud.com/damhthebard/druidcast-a-druid-podcast-episode-100>

Aontacht is the global magazine of the Druidic Dawn.

This issue - Views of the Inner Planes - is a powerful 66 pages of Druidic and Earth-Based submissions from across the globe. It includes an interview with Joanna VanderHoeven, one of the Founders of the Druid College UK, and Features on The Realms of the Siabhra, the Palace of Memory, The Inner Realms, The Shimmering Window, Herbs for Communicating with the Inner Planes, as well as original Poetry, Art, Recipes and MUCH more!

<http://www.druidicdawn.org/files/Aontacht%20-%20Volume%207%20Issue%203.pdf>

John Becket blogs <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/johnbeckett/author/johnbeckett> on respecting pagans, Solitary Lughnasadh, religious diversity in a cemetery, pagan discipline, what motivates the gods?

Nimue blogs on the Raven's Child graphic novel, learning to meditate, reviews Mark Townsend's new novel on failure's lessons, fragile things, feelings for nature, reviews Graeme Taloby's "Stealing into Winter", positive thinking, panicking, Aspiration, Foxes, the gift of the gods, doing the right things, and "John Clare" the bard of the English countryside.

<https://druidlife.wordpress.com>

Celtic Myth Podcast [Special Episode 41 - A Pint and a Chat with ... Spiral Dance!](#)

22nd July 2015, 1h 43m 34s, 97.2Mb

This is the first of an irregular series of informal interviews that we'll be holding as the opportunities arise, and our first is a superb, epic Show with the fabulous Australian band, **Spiral Dance**. In this show, we all meet up at the pub and talk about where they have come from, how their Spirituality comes out in their music and what their plans are for the future. With five fantastic pieces of Spiral Dance magic, this is a great chat and includes a surprise appearance by some extra special guests!

Celtic Myth Podcast [Episode 41 - Of Sea-Monsters & Golden Hair](#)

25th June 2015, 27m 42s, 27.2Mb

Part 12 of the First Branch of the Mabinogion. We shift our attention now to the Kingdom of Gwent and its' Lord, Teyrnon, who has a terrible problem with his Prize Mare. At the same time as young Pwyll and his Bride, Rhiannon, are being punished for the 'alleged' crime that Rhiannon has committed, Teyrnon and his wife are deciding to end the unspeakable horror that comes upon the Horse every year as she tries to give birth at Beltane. What comes next is a huge surprise..!

This episode is also the twelfth and penultimate episode of the First Branch of the Mabinogi and carries on with the second half of that Branch.

We hope you enjoy it!

Promo - Story Archaeology Podcast



Story Archaeology combines the breadth of knowledge and skills of the storyteller with academic exploration of ancient texts. We focus on the Irish tradition, peeling back the layers of modern folklore to unearth the potsherds and treasuries of our heritage. On StoryArchaeology.com, you will find regular podcasts and articles about Irish Mythology by the Story Archaeologists, Chris Thompson and Isolde Carmody. You can find the show in [iTunes](#) or listen/download the Podcast directly from the [Story Archaeology](http://StoryArchaeology.com) website. Take a look at their side-board of past stories!

Ellen Hopman has numerous Archeology links <http://elleneverthopman.com/?cat=4> such as:

- [White-nose syndrome in bats successfully treated!](#)
- Celtic warriors, male and female, found near Paris
- Celtic Ceremonial Axes
- Churching the Cow – an old Galway custom How Norwegian iron forged Iron Age Europe -
- A Celtic warrior burial from Slovenia

No blogging updates from:

1. <https://helgaleena.wordpress.com/>
2. <http://aren.org/newsletter/>
3. Druid Magazine should be out in another few days <http://druidmagazine.com/>

John M recommend nature-art being produced at parks in Slovenia <http://timewheel.net/Image-This-Artist-Brings-Nature-Spirits-To-Life-In-Parks-Across>

George states: I seldom share books outside of "The Druid Path" Reading Room FBg. But found this a interesting book and I believe Both hybrid (Christan / Druid) and Pagan Druids will too. The People And The Book By Peter J Gadsden
<http://www.indrefmin.org.uk/People%20of%20the%20Book2.pdf>

World Goddess Day Sept 6th <http://www.worldgoddessday.com/>

Cerridwen recommends a blog on Lammas Day <http://thegoddesscircle.net/lammas-august-1-abundance-awareness/>

Ellis suggests a blog about the benefits of being around trees
<http://blog.sfgate.com/morford/2015/07/28/the-awesome-benefits-of-trees/>

Cerridwen found a website to help you find the right forest <http://www.discovertheforest.org/>

Cerridwen shares a all-female commune http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/30/leah-devun_n_7690580.html

Ellis shares a Washington Post article that trees are good for your health
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/07/09/scientists-have-discovered-that-living-near-trees-is-good-for-your-health/>



Faith shares a story about a man who grew plants in the shape of a church
<http://www.boredpanda.com/living-tree-church-nature-installation-barry-cox-new-zealand/>

Penny shares an academic paper on Irish sacrificial magic and two fold division of the calendar
https://www.academia.edu/13421496/Sacrificial_Magic_and_the_Twofold_Division_of_the_Irish_Ritual_Year

Shimon suggests an article on eco-friendly burials
<http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/DeathandDying/ss/Green-Burials.htm>

Druid Videos



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8878chOvfi> John Barley Corn by Steve Winwood.
Suggested by Seb.



Mike shares a documentary on a shell-lined underground chapel that might be over a thousand years old in Britain's chalky south.
<https://youtu.be/NMs9ztNj3XQ>



Alan recommends Buffy Saint-Marie's "Starwalker"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeH_vTqnR1w&feature=youtu.be



What do you really know about FIRE?
<https://youtu.be/tMDKeBaLWDw>

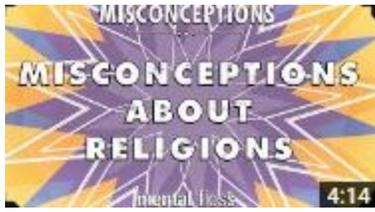
George recommends a comparison of Wiccan and Druid festivals
<http://howtobeadruid.blogspot.com/2015/08/there-are-four-main-wiccan-festivals.html>



Mike shares a video guide to how to have LUCID DREAMING and be awake in your sleep.
<https://youtu.be/AssEleww810>



MOCC and Patricia N produced this song.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1d5JR9BKFw>



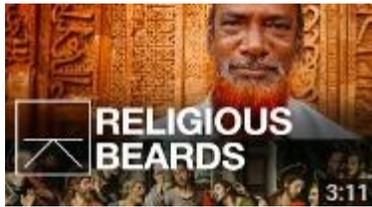
Misconceptions about religions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZtnkqmUj14>

10 Fictitious Religions in Movies

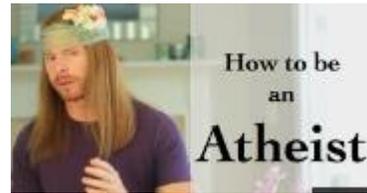


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sKsdeY8SZA>



What is the religious importance of beards?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7L2ptx7W2U>



Humorous guide to being an Atheist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS1icEssOUM>



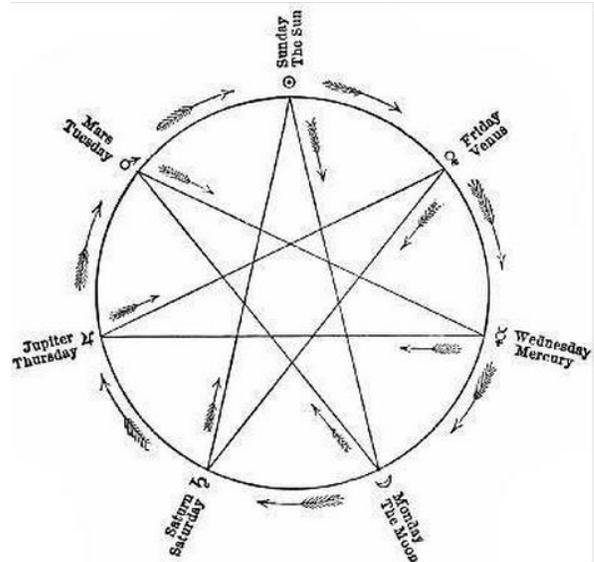
Mike asks do you need to go outside

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhoAkUalqnM>

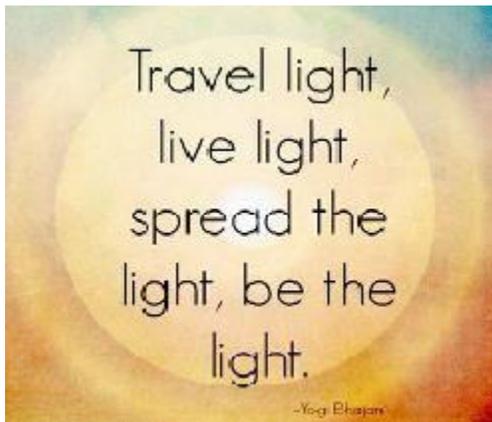
Druid Art



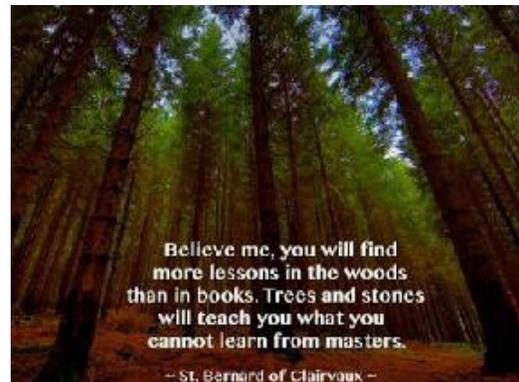
Found by at Katya



Jol shares this sketch by a friend



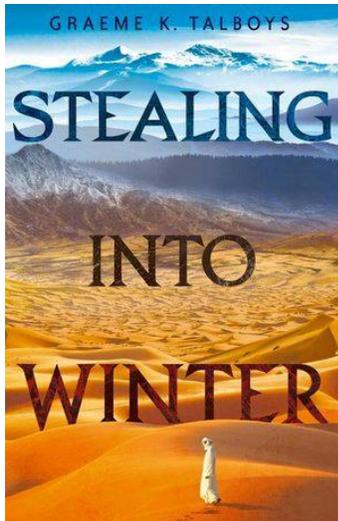
Shared by Ellis



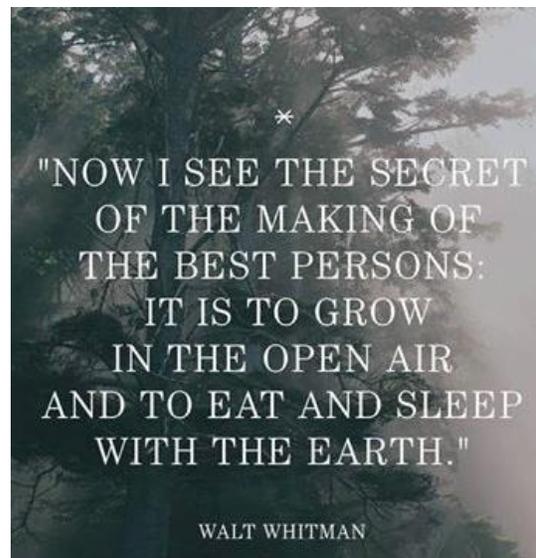
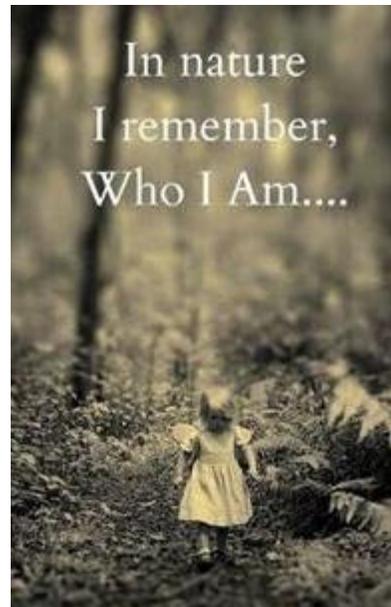
From Cerridwen



Cornhenge from Shimon



New book by a Druid author



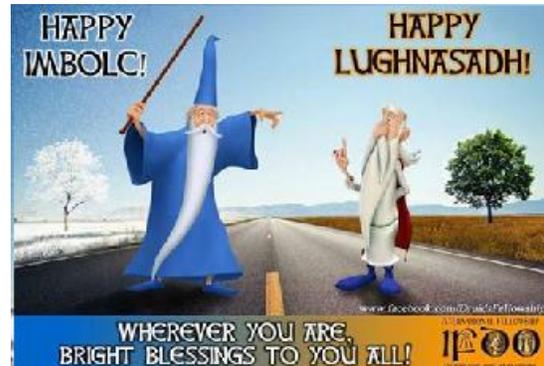
From Sharyn



From souljourneywisdom.com given by Cerridwen.



Found these at Trader Joe's today. Just had to share. Not only are they very good, the name is pretty cool also. – John C



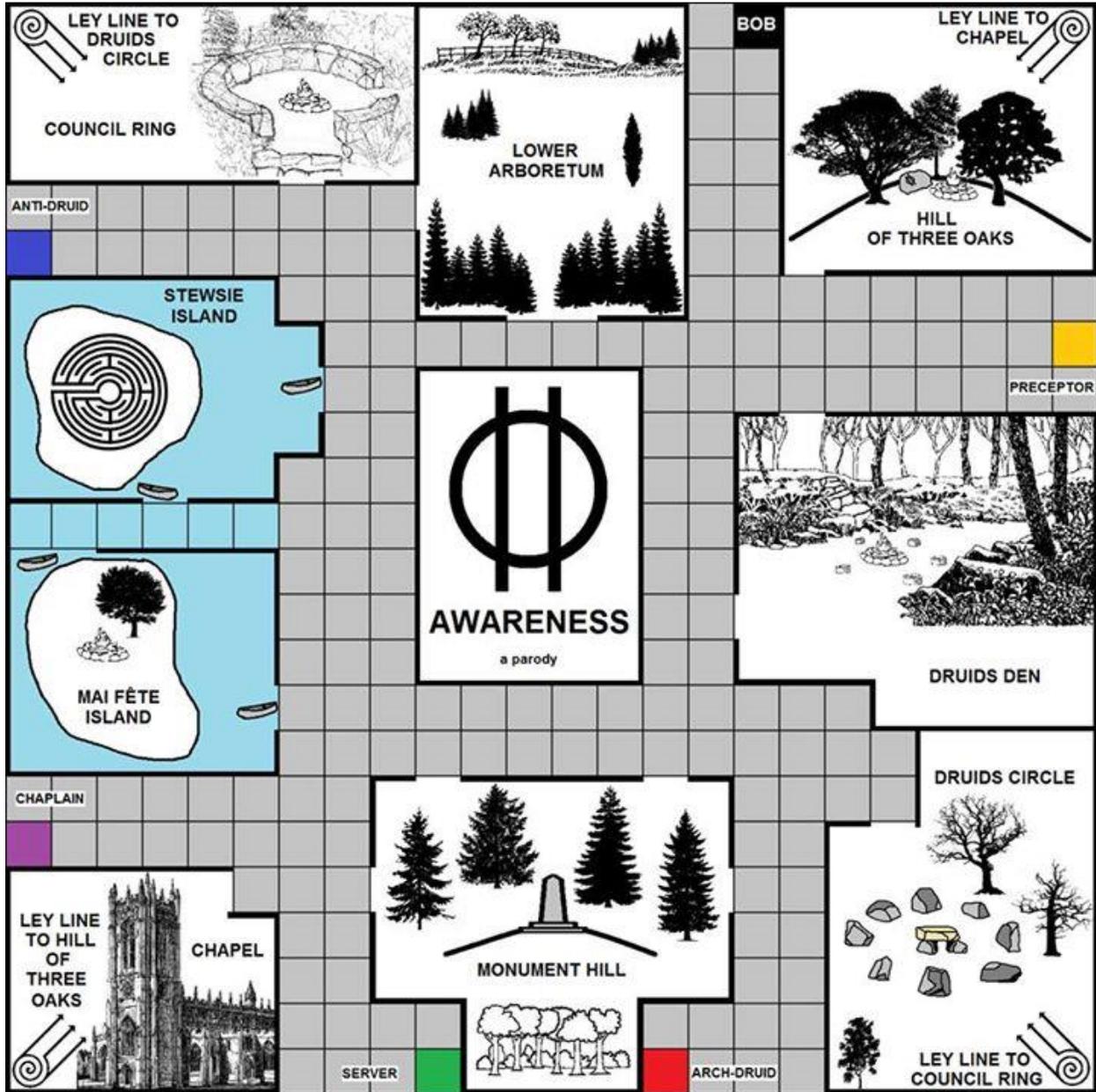
For all you swingers out there.
Suggested by Cerridwen



John M recommend egg-capsules to live of the grid (nanoo nanoo) with solar/wind power
<http://qz.com/413081/portable-solar-powered-ecocapsules-mean-you-can-live-rent-and-electric-bill-free-globally/>

The Mystery of Awareness – A Board Game

By John M. of Oakdale Grove
Still in Development



Familiar with the board game "CLUE?" Presenting: "AWARENESS," a fair-use parody version of the former by Parker Brothers! This one is a nonviolent version, but the essence of the game is the same.

Six characters, six items, nine locations. Create some makeshift game pieces, round up your dice, and gather up some players to find out WHO has claimed to discover ultimate Awareness, the SOURCE of their Awareness, and WHERE they were when they made their discovery! Was it the Chaplain with the BOB (Black Obsidian Ball) Sphere in the Druids Den?

The six people are the Arch-Druid, Preceptor, Server, Chaplain, Anti-Druid, and the BOB Entity. The six meditative objects are ARDA, Waters-of-Life, Fire, Altar, Bible, and the BOB Sphere. The nine locations are the Council Ring, Lower Arboretum, Hill of Three Oaks, Druids Den, Druids Circle, Monument Hill, Chapel, Mai Fete Island, and Stewsie Island. Instead of secret passage ways, this version has "Ley lines" for astral travel across the board!

This version of the game is based on real places at Carleton College where druidism was founded and still flourishes. I plan on printing off one of these on a 24" x 24" poster at FedEx and mount it on a board for use in grove activities.

I've typed up a basic excel spreadsheet that resembles the format of the "CLUE" game sheets. The character, item, and place cards will be printed on business cards since I've got a bunch of those. I'm making the game pieces which were more expensive than I anticipated, but I was able to raid the 'miniatures' aisle of my local craft store and found almost everything I needed



Druid Debate 1: Protogroving and Ordinations

Daniel W: Can a 1st Order Druid Start a Proto-grove, I know Technology only a Third Order can Hallow the Waters of Life. But I have had a few experience where I called upon Dalon Ap Landu to Hallow the water, since I see him as the Collective Engery of all Third Order Druid, I don't feel like I am hallowing the waters, but all Third Orders past and Present are..

Like Comment

Sébastien Beaudoin, John Michael Martens, George King and 2 others like this.

Stacey J. Yes, that's what proto-groves are for, for when you do have a Third Order to start a full grove. The ARDA has a section on proto-groves and there is a liturgy you can use or borrow from.

Jól Yep; I'll be recruiting over the next few months. When I hit 3, it's Proto-Grove time.

Daniel K I am Seriously considering starting a Proto-grove.

Stacey J. Lots of good info here too: <http://www.rdna.info/newgrove.html>

Starting a New Grove

If you want to have more detailed recommendations, how to improve your grove's place and relation with...
RDNA.INFO

Stacey J. I forgot to add to look at the Welcome package. That's the juicy stuff.

Jól it never occurred to me to bring in non-humans! I recall a Hindu who ordained trees . . .
hmmm . . .

Stacey J. Well I personally don't agree with that because of the non-human giving consent or not. That's a later "development."

John Michael Actually, I think Mike listed my Oakdale Proto-Grove with membership of "one" back in 2011 when I mentioned wanting to form a Proto-Grove but didn't have other members yet.

Then after I entered the 3rd Order I noticed it had changed to Grove status.

But when your Proto-Grove is ready, be sure to email mikerdna@hotmail.com any details about it that you don't mind being public, and he'll add it to the map when he has time. Though he seems to be very busy or cautiously reclusive whilst in Egypt.

Mike Sand Protogroves have between 1 and a million members. It picks up steam once you have 3. When a member enters the 3rd order it can declare itself a grove, usually after a constitution is made and hopefully they decide to be democratic and have an election, although benevolent theocratic dictatorship seems popular...

Jól RDG requires 3 humans, only one of which has to be a member. So all it will take is two more interested people. I can do it as 1st degree; but I hope to be 2nd degree by Midsummer & wear my Seren Derwydd with my robes for the rite. Should be a blast.

Thomas Hm, I was digging through in studying mentions of Dalon ap Landu and found this post. I was wondering about the Consecration of the Waters of Life, as it was somewhat untouched upon by others due to the proto-grove discussion. I thought that the consecration deserved a tad more comment. What does everyone think of the requirement of the Third Order to consecrate the Waters? Can it be done as if Dalon were doing it (ie, the celebrant in persona of Dalon), or in anticipation? I'm curious as to everyone's take on this.

Thomas Can it be done by proxy, with the Third Order in another location?

John Michael Well, for a druid organization founded on rebelling against rules, I know somewhere in the anthology it does say only third order druids [or higher] may consecrate the waters. That being said, before I was even even of the first order, I was consecrating my own waters with the Common Order of Worship, and I truly felt it was working. I felt a bit blasphemous, but because it worked, I won't discredit anyone else who does it either.

Though now that I am in the Order of Dalon Ap Landu, I do acknowledge there is technically a difference in the political "legitimacy" of the consecration. Hehe druid politics.

John Michael For proxy services as you describe, Thomas , it depends on the presiding druid. I know cyber services and cyber ordinations can be a polarizing topic, but as technology has improved since the days of the telephone ordinations, I personally would be fine with conducting a service over Skype. Again, it really depends on the druid.

Stacey J. I don't see ordination as a political issue. I agree with Isaac in his essay "Varieties of Initiatory Experience" where he breaks out the initiatory experience into three types: 1) Initiation as a recognition of a status already gained, 2) Initiation as an ordeal of transformation, and 3) Initiation as a method for transferring spiritual knowledge and power, and that the Third Order ordination is a little bit off each of those. I had the pleasure of seeing Isaac give his presentation that this is based on. He said of all the initiations he had undergone, the Third Order in the RDNA was the most powerful for him. <http://www.neopagan.net/Initiation.html>

Varieties of Initiatory Experience
Isaac Bonewits on Varieties of Initiatory Experience
NEOPAGAN.NET|BY ISAAC BONEWITS

Thomas I agree that the Third Order initiation was very well thought out. I don't know if it was intentional or a happy accident, but it's amazing. Aside from the Initiation, though, what do you feel about the Waters? Does it take a Third Order to Consecrate the Waters? It's kind of one of those questions that we kind of dance around from time to time... though it's usually under the heading of the Initiation into the Third Order. And if Third Order is required to Consecrate, how is the Third Order required? Can it be done via UPG of a sort, can it be in anticipation of the a member of the Third Order coming in, or can it be done by proxy?

Jól Stop over-thinking things. Just do. If it "catches", wonderful. If not, you've had a nice ritual.

John Michael I've had one of my Second Orders consecrate the Waters-of-Sleep in winter to practice for entering the Third Order.

The Book Of The Law only has the following mention of the role of the Third Order in verse 1:8

"And first among them shall be the Arch-Druid, who shall be a priest of the Third Order or higher; and the Arch-Druid shall preside over the Druids assembled."

The Book Of Customs 6:7-8 states "This is the Third Order, the Order of the priesthood, the Order of Dalon Ap Landu. Unto it shall be given the consecration of the Waters-of-Life."

In each case, there is no indication of exclusivity. To add to this, in the past, Carleton Grove had been without a Third Order from time to time. They set the precedent that in the absence of a Third Order, the highest ranking druid present would consecrate the Waters-of-Life.

They also decided they could ordain fellow druids into their same order (ie, a Second Order druid could ordain others to the first or second orders). Lots of rule bending going on. :)

Jeffrey Fascinating, especially for those of us not near any of the Druidic power bases :)

Sébastien OBOD and ADF have also such structure.

Ethan I would think most issues of legitimacy would boil down to organizational issues rather than spiritual authority and relationship with the divine. Kind of like how ADF requires their core order of ritual be used for public functions labelled as ADF events. If you don't have a third order, or are solitary, I personally don't see why an individual would lack the capacity to hallow waters or ask a deity to do so. Granted, I'm new and feeling out RDG since ADF doesn't resonate with me (my local group is great, though), but if part of Paganism is to empower one's own spiritual quest and ability to work with the divine it seems kind of limiting to feel you're held to the idea that you must have a person of a certain rank to perform a task that sanctifies something that, in many ways, could already be considered hallowed by the blessings of Nature and its beings.

Jól If you have questions on legitimacy . . . read the ARDA. Some of the things they pulled to keep druidry alive were way stranger than a 1st order starting a proto-Grove & consecrating the waters.

Jól "As a priest, I do not seek to consecrate the Water to any use with my words, but rather think of my words as a common means for others, who watch and listen, to consecrate the Waters within themselves" ~~ David Fisher, 1964, "The Book of Faith", ARDA

Jól "If one but says "Dalon ap Landu" with the knowledge of the power behind it, truly the whole universe will be forever consecrated!" ~~ Wisdom of Thomas the Fool, 1970, ARDA

John Michael <https://youtu.be/VH4HZIfvbgU> The Book Of Faith, video book style
The Book of Faith
50 years ago, April 12, 1964, David Fisher, the founder of the Reformed Druids of...

Thomas Which really brings up an entire 'nother question that I've been haggling with personally as of late. The Be'al. How many of us have focused, outside of liturgical references, to Be'al in the last few years? The utter concept of Be'al... let's face it, no other way to really describe it... is so Reformed Druid. Yet with us focusing on the various pantheons of antiquity, we very often forget to look at the idea these days.

Jól I regard it as another expression of Brahman.

Jól Dyeus Pater, Sky Father of the proto-Indo-Europeans. The Great Husband (Ishvara) of the Earth Mother.

Thomas I've personally experienced it, Be'al, as more of immanence/emminence.... kind of pervasive rather than pronounced. It's not a personality type thing in my experience, so it's kind of difficult to describe in terms of that which is Named, but rather that which is Transcendent of Names, incapable of being male/female, and improperly labeled and stuffed into a box that defines it.

Druid Debate: Are we reforming?

JohnC Asks..... Wondering if someone can answer this question for me. Is there any reason RDNA was named ReformED and not Reform? To me, reformed means that the reforming has been completed with nothing else to reform, while Reform is in a constant state of reforming. That's one reason the name of Reform Judaism is not Reformed Judaism, because they knew they were not done (nor would ever be done) reforming their faith. Or am I just reading too much into this?

Valarie Grammatical really. Reformed doesn't necessarily mean that the reforming is done - has been reformed, will be reformed in the future. Calling something Reform Judaism (for example) is grammatically incorrect. I could drone on at length, but nobody ever really wants a grammar lesson. :)

Stacey J. I think it has to do with the adjectives and nouns used. Judaism is a religion/philosophy/movement and a singular noun whereas Druids is a plural noun and a group of people. Reform Druids doesn't sound right although the movement is called the Reform.

Valarie Ok I have to... reform is a verb. Reformed is an adjective. There's that too.

John Thanks - I think!

John Or, how about Reforming Druids of North America (sorry, just had to do it!)?

Stacey J. I do! But then there is Conservative and Orthodox Judaism. Is Reform being used in this case stylistically?

Stacey J. Then we would be in the act of reforming rather than having been reformed. :)

John That was my point. Change just one thing and you are no longer reformED, but are still reformING, unless you come to a complete and full stop.

Jól There is the Reformed Church. The founders of RDNA had no real intent to vacate Christianity, and had Christian examples before them to chose from.

Caedmon Plus, on the biggie reform of not sacrificing one another, I hope there aren't very many still reforming.

Historically, in Christianity, that "reformed" tag usually refers back to a particular, historic reform. The community as a whole has separated ...See More

Chad ReformED doesn't imply no more reforms are forthcoming, just that a reform happened in the past.

RDNA may *also* be currently reforming some more, but that doesn't invalidate the other.

For example: if I say my child grew (past tense) 3 inches that doesn't mean he's done now and not still growing presently.

Michael V Also, wasn't RDNA originally at least partly a joking protest formed by college kids with no real roots in Druidry?

John I think of reformED similar to asking my doctor about a disease and she tells me I am curED - meaning disease is over, done. I am healED.

Valarie Think about all of those future tenses that use an -ed ending. Plus its semantics.. or is that syntax..

Chad Well...just cause you're cured of something doesn't mean you can't get sick again.
July 2 at 3:01am · Like

Jól they charge a syntax?

John That's true about being cured, but it also doesn't mean that I am going to relapse either. At this time, I am done with the disease. So, at least to me, ReformED means that the ReformING is assumed to be over, complete (at least for the time being). I guess we will only agree about disagreeing.

-ed

suffix

1. forming the PAST tense of most English verbs

Past tense

1. A verb tense used to express an action or a condition that occurred in or during the past.

July 2 at 3:41am · Like

John Michael Michael V you are largely correct, though they do have a few things in common, such as the high days, the white robe traditional stereotype, nature lovers, interpreters of omens, and guardians of the oak.

The word "Reformed" was a caveat because when they were in the early phases of hashing out their resistance movement, they admitted that they weren't certain what it was the ancient druids actually DID, ergo they were "reformed."

Not long after, they took this concept further by reforming from the old ways of ritual animal sacrifice. I shall cite from the Book of Early Chronicles, Chapter the Fifth, verses 5 through 9:

5. For there were some among them who were in favor of a small sacrifice and some who were persuaded that the sacrifice should be a large one;

6. those being in favor of the small sacrifice having a desire that it be of the leaves and branches of a tree;

7. those being in favor of the large sacrifice having a desire that it be of the living flesh and blood of an animal or bird.

8. Wherefore, there did ensue a dispute among them concerning the manner in which this sacrifice should be made.

9. And it came to pass that Howard, who was Preceptor, did arise and he spake unto them saying: "Have ye not forgotten that we are reformed, yea, we do even call ourselves by the name of Reformed, wherefore we must put behind us those things which do bring offense to our senses;" for Howard was one of them who were in favor of the small sacrifice.

There were additional famous firsts of the Reformed Druids also being the first to ordain women in a time when many existing druid groups were still solely fraternal.

Sam Doesn't the RDNA even have its own dating system, in which 1963 is Year One of the Reform, or am I imagining things?

Jól Yes indeedy!

John Michael Beltane 1963 began year 1 of the Reform

John Michael ...the NRDNA and affiliated offshoots start the calendar at Samhain of the same year though, I think. That way it aligns with the traditional Celtic new year.

Sam So it's simply "reformed" in the sense that there is no original Druid order left, nor did the founders really intend to reconstruct one.

Sam I mean, they were definitely interested in Celtic lore, but in lots of other things too. The RDNA was and is a great place to start or continue an open-ended spiritual journey.

Sam And I hope you're all enjoying the full moon!

Stacey J. From what John Michael included, basically we are Reformed because we do not do animal sacrifice as the ancient druids did. See Tarb feis. See also the pamphlet from the (late) 70s that took a lot of the information from the original pamphlet by David Franquist, aka David the Chronicler. <http://orgs.carleton.edu/Druids/ARDA2/doc/dce2.pdf>

Jól Interesting document; though the branches of Reformed Druidry have changed some over the years. Only to be expected with a living thing.

Chad Yes John , the original reform happened in 1963. Past tense. It was over and done long ago. That doesn't preclude further reforms, reformings, rereforms, unreforms, preformings, deunreformings, etc.

Besides which "reformed" is a standard religious term that lets people know you are practicing something different than the original version. Both the new and old versions are still allowed to evolve and change and grow and schism into further reforms.

John Thanks everyone.



TDK

Druid Debate 2: Blessings and Prayers

George asks..... I would like to ask a question. I have for several years noticed that in Druid groups on FB. people asking for Prayers or Blessing get very little response, even well known Elders facing Major Surgery.

Yet in other Pagan groups this is not so and they are generous with their Blessing and Prayers.

Of course I have drawn my own conclusions to why this but would like to hear yours and if too you notice the same.

John Michael Sounds like there's a difference in the psychology between druid groups and other pagan groups. Perhaps the druid groups are less likely to advertise that they had cast a healing spell/sent energy/etc, though the altruism is there without posting anything.

With the sweeping generalization that "other" pagan groups have a different experience, I am reminded of the innate egoism and egotism that tends to permeate many Wiccan groups. I don't downplay their altruistic efforts, but if they advertise that they held a healing ritual or sent energy or cast a healing spell, stating it publicly can boost their ego.

Maybe I'm the only one who has seen this "witchier than thou" one-upmanship in groups that are heavily Wiccan, so maybe there are multiple factors at play, and my hypothesis is admittedly biased. I'm sure druid groups are not immune to egoism though either.

At least for me, when there's a healing request, things happen on my end, I usually just don't advertise it.

George King Never forget the Power of the Placebo Effect, it has often proven more effective than the real Medicines (perhaps because of no negative side effects).

Thomas Believe it or not, for all our academic musings and debate, Druids are, by and large, more silent than most other Pagans. This, perhaps, carries over into more silent and contemplative, rather than loud and proclamatory, acts of prayer. I know that the MOCC has had a very active Prayer Tree going on since 1996.

George Yes Druii Thomas and I too have ask of it and greatly appriacate its work.

George Prayer Trees and and Virtual Cantdle Alters are tools I have used in the past but sorely need to readdress in my own groups.

Thomas Honestly, the Prayer Trees are nothing more than continuations of the old holy trees with the cloths tied into them to continue the prayer with every breeze.... brought into the contexts of ourselves as part of the groves, manifestations of those holy trees. When I look at them, and at the vcirtual altars, I'm reminded of such scenes as was found at the shrine of Nehalinna, with all those artifacts left as votive offerings for healing and commercial ventures. Really, it's only the same spirituality brought to bear on changing social phenomenon and available resources.

Jól I don't often "pray" for others, in the Christian manner. When I make an offering to the gods, my goal is simply to be more Aware. Occasionally I will do a magical working on someone's behalf . . . but that's not prayer, and it's not often.

Sébastien Same hear. If I see a prayer request I think of them and simply feel for them. Prayers do not need to be in forms of words. I just take a little moment and acknowledge their request and send out my empathy and compassion to them. I believe in power of prayers but it has to be very clear and precise. I need to know what kind prayers they really need. They have to be requested to me personally as well. Prayers can also be damaging if not done for the right reasons and the right purpose. I do not just openly pray for people that I do not know.

Zarah Exactly Sebastian! Same here.

Jeffrey Very interesting topic; I wonder if it has something to do with druid groups having less a sense of an established process / form of liturgy / prayer approach?

Sébastien I don't think so. What I have seen and experienced is that most druidic practices are personal, such as prayers. I have also noticed through the years and in my own observations of other druidic practices and traditions that this is a common approach. I have come to acknowledge that druids do not normally do "magic" or "Craft" in groups or in groves. We mostly hold communion together and celebrate the passing of every seasonal festival. We gather to share your views, our experiences and celebrate together. When it comes to our own druidic work, this is totally personal. My method of teaching and practicing my druidry is a completely personal. As for group or grove liturgy, well it has an entirely other purpose and is a complete process on its own. I usually smile when I see druidic guide books or books on 'Druidic magic or crafting. :)

Sébastien Oh... please do not use this in your ODOB online magazine. This is an open topic and about our own views and practices. I don't think someone should pay for such information.

Jól I know that ADF has a place scheduled in to their services for things like weddings, initiations, magical workings. Also a spot in the service for each individual to do a personal offering; that could be a fit place for personal prayers.

Yet for all its benefits, it's the "organization" which sets ADF apart from Reformed Druidry. A much looser, more personalized spirituality.

Sébastien Welcoming ceremonies, weddings and funerals are part of our work as druid priests. But again, it is focused on the needs of people that are directly involved. This is usually not a grove thing. As for initiation and ordination well that's a Groove thing :)

Lowri I agree with Sébastien and do the same

Matthew I don't pray for anyone

Jól I remember fondly the certainty given when I believed in a deity who would always answer prayer. Now? Perhaps Earth Mother isn't looking at the moment (do you always watch your ankles?), or is too busy to scratch my itch. Be'ah is more the type who "helps those who help themselves", since in the end he's us. Others? Sure, pray; and hope for the best. Maybe Asphalta will find you a parking space; or maybe Dalon will indeed shelter you with his antlers.

George Or as Janice has reminded us, Blessing are direct focused psychic energies. From you to the one Blessed.

Jól I've seen that work when in the physical proximity

Mike Sand I'm not certain, but I think several Druids are less inclined towards magic working than to worship. As such, a request for healing and blessings from afar leave some with a feeling of helplessness to contribute much. A bit outside their usual activity. In any case, it is so with me. I also don't know whether I should "like" a posting with bad news in it.

John Michael Attended an ADF ritual put on by Dancing Waters Protogrove today. It was a very elaborate ritual, but it was really nice, too. I was anointed as an honorary member, and

everyone was asking me questions about the RDNA at the feast that followed. Also sounds like they may be involved in planning the regional ADF mega-gathering for next summer, too.

Jól it's great when different druid orders can get along, and play well together.

Sébastien RDNA and ADF always play well together, it's in the family you know! :)

Jól not from what I've read in ARDA of Isaac's letters!

Mike Sand Druids sometimes argue quite vociferously.

Mike Sand And we've return to mellow moods pretty quickly once the air is cleared

Mike Sand The trick is to be respectful and well-mannered, listen patiently, explain carefully, and avoid cheap shots. ANd most of all, when you don't know the answer or you're edge towards being wrong, either admit it or buy everyone a round and start drinking heavily until they forget what the discussion was about (evasion).



Druidry for Beginners – Where to Start? The Senses

By Damh the Bard (July 2015)

<http://www.paganmusic.co.uk/druidry-for-beginners-where-to-start-the-senses/>

Date: July 24, 2015 By: Damh the Bard

Comments: 14 Replies

Suggested by Stacey

Black_Forest-_path_(10562040746)

I know a lot of people who have been walking the Druid path for many years who hunger for books and information that take them deeper, but I also know there many people who are new to the path, who are looking for some kind of guidance on how to fully immerse themselves into their newly found Druid Way. The shelves of alternative bookshops (remember bookshops? Thankfully there are still some left out there...) once had a number of introductory books about Druidry, but over the years these books, and the bookshops themselves have slowly disappeared. I got my copy of Elements of the Druid Tradition by Philip Carr-Gomm from WH Smiths back in the early 90s and this book helped to guide me on my first footsteps on the path. Browsing

Amazon can be confusing. There are introductory books, but there is nothing like picking up a physical copy from a shelf, feeling its weight, browsing the contents, reading about the author. Harder to do in the Kindle store, or do I just sound like an old fart missing the good old days?

I've also read that peoples' reading habits are changing. Rather than sitting down to read a book, it would seem that many are exploring blogs, podcasts, and shorter fiction. This can't be 100% true otherwise the sales of George RR Martin's books wouldn't be so high – it takes a serious time commitment to read those! But there is no doubt that our time is precious, and that committing to reading an entire book is now, for some, a serious decision.

So I thought I would begin a series of posts on the blog about things people who are just starting out on the path can do to make their experiences deeper and more enjoyable.

To join an Order or not to join an Order?

My first port of call would be the course run by the Order of Bards Ovates and Druids. Way before I became their Pendragon in 2010 I sent off a self-addressed envelope in April 1994 to begin my Journey. It helped tremendously. Does it answer every question? No, nothing can. But what it did for me was to provide a focus. A map and a well-trodden path through the forest from which to explore the tributaries and smaller pathways along the way. So if you can, try their intro pack. I suggest this as a member of the Order for whom the course was a great help.

If for whatever reason you don't want to do a course or join an Order, this series of blog posts might be of help to you. Starting a course is also a commitment and maybe you just don't feel ready, or joining an Order might not feel right for you at this time. Whatever the reasons there is no requirement to join an Order to follow the Druid Way. As time passes though, you might find that the idea of community and meeting others might encourage you to look at this again.

Get outside

My advice right now? Turn off your computer, put on whatever clothes are appropriate for the weather, and get outside. Go for a walk in the countryside or in the woods. If you're in the city get yourself to a large park. This will be a walk with a difference. When you get to your destination find a quiet space. Even when we go for walks we can bring all the baggage of our everyday lives with us. We might be thinking about the bills we need to pay, what is going to happen to John Snow in the next episode, is the car MOT due? What do I have for dinner in the fridge? That person at work who is just getting you down. We can be focussed on anything other than the walk we are taking. Like we have this incessantly chattering voice sitting on our shoulders and talking into our ears, drowning out every other sound.

We need to shut them up.

See through the Eyes of the Owl

So find that quiet space in the woods or the park. What you are going to do is open up your senses. Raise your arms out to your side to make the shape of a T. Look at a point straight before

you, just above where you think the horizon might be. Then push your arms a little further back. Wiggle your fingers and whilst doing this slowly bring your arms forward until you see your wiggling fingers either side of you. Stop moving your arms, but keep your fingers moving when you see them in the periphery of your vision. Keep looking at that imaginary horizon too. In Wilderness Awareness this is called Wide Angle Vision. I've also heard it called Seeing through the Eyes of the Owl, which I much prefer. Once you can see your wiggling fingers slowly drop your arms but keep your awareness on all you can see around you. Using the Eyes of the Owl you can see so much more. More movement. Stay like this for a while.

Hear through the Ears of the Hare

Next place your hands behind your ears. Use your hands to direct your hearing. Listen and see how much more you can hear. Do this for a while then take your hands away and listen deeply to the sounds around you. I bet you will hear layers and layers of sound that you thought you were hearing, but until this moment you weren't aware of them. Listen deeply to the sounds around you, both near and far. Then, at the same time do the exercise above and see through the Owl's eyes at the same time as you listen with the ears of the Hare.

Smell through the Nose of the Fox

The next sense to work on is the sense of smell. Reach down and pluck some grass. Crunch it up and sniff it. Don't take a long sniff – that is our natural way of smelling things. This time sniff in short bursts, like you see a dog sniffing the ground. You will smell so much more if you sniff quickly. Do this with some earth, a twig, whatever is around you.

Then do the same with the air around you, hear the sounds through the ears of the Hare, and open your Wide Angle Vision to see through the Eyes of the Owl. Using all three senses at the same time.

Already you will notice that the chattering voice is becoming quieter. It simply can't compete if your awareness is on your physical senses. For some focussing on these three senses all at once can be quite hard, so I'll leave it there for today. This exercise is a standing meditation. It stills the mind, and brings us into a deeper relationship with the space around us. Try to do this every time you go for a walk in the country, woods or park, and you will notice so much more than you ever did before. More movement, more smells, more sounds, more wildlife, more birdsong, more flowers.

It's a great place to start.

RECIPES



This sounds like the perfect cake to share at grove meets :)

"Forage of the Month: Elderflower & Almond Cake

This is without doubt my favourite summer cake. If you're quick you'll still be able to find some good heads of elderflowers. The scent of the flowers delicately permeates the cake as it bakes. Sublime.

You can also use fragrant leaves, eg rose geranium or blackcurrant.

Ingredients 3 large heads of elderflower (pick ones that are fully open, shake to dislodge insects, & trim off the main stem), 110g self raising flour, 2 eggs, 100g sugar (or agave, rice syrup etc), 55g butter, melted & cooled, 55g ground almonds.

Method Line a 7" cake tin with baking parchment. Sit flowers on the base of the tin, flowers upwards. Beat eggs with the sugar until pale & fluffy. Add melted butter then sieve in the flour & ground almonds. Mix to a smooth batter. Pour into cake tin over the flowers. Bake at 180C/350F for 30 mins or until firm to the touch. Let it sit for 5 mins, run a knife round the edge & turn onto a rack to cool. Dust with icing sugar to serve. Bon appetit."

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Submissions Policy: Give it to me! If you have news about your grove, written a little essay, like to write up a book or move, have a poem, saw an interesting news article in the paper, or have a cartoon, send it in to mikerdna@hotmail.com I'll try to give credit to whoever the original author is, and they retain the copyright to their works, and we'll reprint it one day in a future binding also. Nasty works will not be published. Although my standards are not skyhigh, incomplete works will be nurtured towards a publish-able form, so send those earlier for assistance. Submissions are accepted from other publications and organizations, so you need not be a formal member of the RDNA to have your items published.

Deadline for Fall Equinox is Sept 10, 2015