



The Simmering Cauldron Newsletter

Beltane
2016

A mystical and magical resource based in Mid Wales

Shop address – 7 Shortbridge Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2LW

Big Changes in the Shop

After 3½ years in the shop we have refurbished it; a new floor, decorated throughout and considerable rearrangement of the layout all in 4 very busy days! Floor laid by Powys Carpets, the rest by us! We posted the progress on Facebook and there was a lot of interest but the real test came when customers came in and saw the result. There were lots of wows and 'it seems so much bigger' type comments so it seems have had the all-important seal of approval. Our first customer came in with a pushchair and had no trouble navigating round the new layout. Very importantly people can now see the whole shop from the entrance and then decide which part they want to explore first.



So, do pop in soon and tell us what you think.

Tony

Hawthorn

Hawthorn is inextricably linked with May day/Beltane. Hawthorn is an 'edgy' tree; wild and enchanted and under the protection of the faerie realms and the old magic. In the Celtic Ogham alphabet it is 'Huath' and it means variously, 'terror', 'blanching of faces', 'difficult at night', and obscurely, 'assembly of hounds'. It is associated with Olwen, Celtic goddess of spring and with Cardea the Roman goddess of childbirth. In Italy, torches of hawthorn were carried at weddings to propitiate this goddess. Cardea was also a guardian of the threshold, looking forward to the future and back to the past. Thus, its appearance in an Ogham divination can indicate 'challenge' indicating that we may need to test our strength and abilities to the limits in order to explore new territory and make changes. A talisman made of hawthorn can help face the immobility sometimes brought on by fear, transmuting terror into power and daring.

Traditionally, hawthorns were often planted next to sacred springs or wellheads connecting with the ancestors to whom running water offers

access. It is still a custom in Britain to tie scraps of cloth, called 'cloodies' and other offerings to the branches of the hawthorn, especially those next to water. These represent people's wishes and hopes. They can also represent something that needs to be lost; the idea being that as the cloth disintegrates, so the undesirable element that it represents fades and finally disappears.

Beltane is traditionally associated with fertility and was once celebrated with wild abandon! Indeed, the rich, heady scent of May blossom is said to carry an erotic charge, a further link to its associations with marriage, though it is often also viewed as an unlucky tree!

Angela

Current **Cauldron Card** Offer

FREE 3D bookmark

when spending over £5

Don't forget to flash your CC when you shop!

Offer for limited period

Conditions apply

May!

Traditionally May is the first month of summer with joyous festivities on May Day to herald its start. Customs include dancing around maypoles and the appearance of 'hobby horses' and characters such as 'Robin Hood' and 'Jack in Green'.

May is named after the Greek goddess, Maia. The Anglo-Saxon name for May was Tri-Milchi, in recognition of the fact that with the lush new grass cows could be milked three times a day. It was first called May in about 1430. Before then it was called Maius, Mayes, or Mai.

Many superstitions and sayings relate to the month.

On May 1st, young girls would rush out to wash their faces in the May dew as it had magic properties to give them a beautiful complexion all through the year.

The month of May was considered an unlucky month particularly for getting married.

'Marry in May and you'll rue the day'

Cats born this month will not be good rodent catchers and even worse, will bring snakes into the home.

There are many sayings relating to harvest.

"A wet May makes a big load of hay. A cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely. "

"Mist in May, Heat in June makes harvest come right soon"

May the 29th is Oak Apple Day, a public holiday, celebrated in England until 1859, to commemorate the restoration of the English monarchy, in May 1660.

Oak Apple Day was a time for dancing and parties. People wore sprigs of oak leaves or a sprig with an oak apple. Children would challenge each other to show their oak sprigs or apples, and those not wearing one would face some form of punishment such as a pinch on the bottom or whipping with nettles

"The wise boy wore his oak leaves, armed with a stinging nettle and carried a few dock leaves for first aid just in case"

Oak Apple Day continues to be celebrated in parts of England today for example in Worcester, the 'Faithful City', Oak Apple Day is commemorated by decorating the entrance gate to Worcester's Guildhall with oak branches and leaves.

Let's not forget the wisest saying of all, 'don't cast a clout till (the) May is out'

**We will be at the
CLUN GREEN MAN FESTIVAL**
Monday 2nd May
Battle on the bridge at 12 noon
Castle grounds, Clun, Shropshire

Our Diary

Newtown shop opening hours	Tuesday – Friday 10.00 – 5.00 Saturday 10.00 – 4.00
Notice - We endeavour to keep the Shop open whilst we are away attending events or on holiday but this may not always be possible. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause	
Monday 2nd May Sunday 3 th July Friday 8 th – Sunday 10 th July	Green Man Festival, Clun, Shropshire Mid Wales Fairy Festival, Elephant and Castle Hotel, Newtown Healing Weekend, Nr. Highbridge, Somerset