



The Simmering Cauldron Newsletter

Beltane
2017

A mystical and magical resource based in Mid Wales

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

Clun Green Man Festival

We are so fortunate to live and work near this fantastic event. Long before the days of The Simmering Cauldron we would visit the area to witness the 'battle on the bridge' and the street entertainment as well as attend the Fair in the Castle Grounds. Nowadays our day begins at 9 o'clock in the field setting up the tent and stall to receive the first customers at around midday. This is followed by a frantic few hours greeting customers followed by another two hours 'packing away'. We love it, not least because so many friends drop by and say Hi, many having travelled to the borders just for the event. Roll on next year!



Distance shopping from the 'Cauldron'



A growing number of 'Friends of the Simmering Cauldron,' who cannot easily get to the shop, take advantage of our distance shopping facility.

The first step is to check the latest shop photos and the featured items page on the website and then contact us anyway you like (phone, email, Facebook messenger) about what you want.

Next choose how you want to get your goodies. Either reserve and collect from the shop, reserve and collect at an event or reserve, get a postage quote, pay and receive by post.

This process is not as slick as shopping through eBay but we're not faceless box shifters!

Fantastic



**Cauldron
Card offer**

(Offer subject to conditions)

FREE



**Simmering Cauldron
'Squiggle' Pen**

When spending over £10

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

**Next Numerology day
Saturday 10th June**

Jacqui Cooper will be available by appointment
Standard numerology or Yearly reports £25

Spirit Houses

We first came across spirit houses in Thailand, where there is a belief that if a building is erected, the spirits who dwell in that space have been displaced. Consequently, every building has its accompanying spirit house to provide another home for the attendant spirits. The 'houses' vary enormously in style and are often related to the size of the building. A small house may have a modest wooden structure tucked on a shelf or window sill, whilst a large hotel may boast an ornate concrete structure on a pedestal. What all these spirit houses have in common, however, is that they are beautifully decorated and lovingly tended. Decorations include tiny Buddha figurines, elephant statues and flowers (sometimes plastic) and vividly coloured. Daily, incense is lit in or near the spirit house and fresh flowers (especially jasmine) and small plates of food are left as offerings. We bought a modest one in Chatuchack market in Bangkok, and invited our house spirits to live in it. We decorated it with a tiny Buddha, a rather larger figure of Quan Yin, a jasmine garland made of soap and a small elephant. After a while, we could feel the house 'settle down' and become psychically quieter; we guessed the spirits were pleased.

In the UK, we have our own tradition of 'spirit houses' although they tend to be indoor affairs. Several examples may be seen in Boscastle Museum of Witchcraft. They range from mini houses made of clay along the lines of a conventional bungalow to woven wicker structures. You can make a spirit house of twigs

bound together with wool or string. In her excellent book 'A Witch's Mirror' Levannah Morgan suggests that the shapes be irregular and decorated with objects attractive to spirits; feathers, gemstones, small sun catchers, shells and so on and lined with something comfortable such as sheep's wool. Unlike the Thai ones, Levannah recommends that this type of house is hung up in a quiet corner of the home (she suggests the kitchen). After a while, you may be able to sense spirit presences around the house and you should always honour and respect them.



We often have people in the shop who complain of being bothered by spirits in their homes. Could this be one way of dealing with them? Much more friendly than fighting against them or trying to banish them!

Angela



Available soon

Pendle Witches

Our Diary

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| 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 | |
| Friday 14 th - Sunday 16 th July | Healing Weekend, Near Highbridge, Somerset |