



The Simmering Cauldron Newsletter

Beltane
2018

A mystical and magical resource based in Mid Wales

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

Gods and Goddesses

Pagan paths often refer generically to ‘the gods and goddesses’ but which ones and from which pantheon? There are literally 1000s of deities to choose from which may correspond to earthly and celestial phenomena or to human values, pastimes, and institutions, including love, marriage, hunting, war, and the arts. Normally they are more powerful than humans but often described in human terms. It was not surprising that when we visited the Greek Oracle of Dodona we found that many of the questions to the oracle were asking ‘which god/goddess do I seek help for ...’ An example was ‘Thrasyboulos would like to know which god he should indulge with a sacrifice in order for his eyes to be healed’.

Inevitably pagans are drawn to deities that impact on aspects of their lives and the community they live in, for example the range of gods of Wales include

Arawn	Welsh Celtic God of the Underworld, Terror, Revenge, and War
Arianrhod	Welsh Celtic Goddess of Air, Reincarnation, Full Moons, Karma, and Retribution
Amaethon	Welsh Celtic God of Husbandry, Agriculture, and Luck
Blodeuwedd	Welsh Celtic Goddess of Wisdom, Moon Mysteries, and Initiations.
Cerridwen	Welsh Celtic Goddess of the Moon, Poetry, Music, Luck, Earth, Death, Fertility,
Dewi	Welsh Celtic God of Dragons
Don	Welsh Celtic Goddess of the Heavens, Air, Sea, and the Moon.
Dylan	Welsh Celtic God of the SEA
Elaine	Welsh Celtic Maiden Goddess
Gwydion	Welsh Celtic God of Warriors and Magic
Gwynn Ap Nudd	Welsh Celtic God of the Underworld
Math Ap Mathowyn	Welsh Celtic God of Magic, Sorcery, and Enchantment
Myrrdin	Welsh Celtic God of Druids, Magic, and Sorcery. Also known as Merlin

It was not surprising that people are drawn to the simplicity of the monotheistic religions.

Many pagans focus on one male and one female deity (eg. Sun God, Mother Earth) being the foundations of our existence as we live through the wheel of the year. In addition other ‘old gods’ are invoked at particular times of the year eg. Herne (Cernunnos, The Horned God, and Green Man) associated with Beltane, god of nature and all wild things and Brigid associated with Imbloc, Goddess of fire, fertility and the hearth. Many modern Pagans and Wiccans describe themselves as eclectic, which means they may honour a god of one tradition beside a goddess of another. At

other times pagans often generally invoke ‘the gods’ or ‘the old gods’ when working with deities.

A Pagan’s relationship with gods and goddesses is one of ‘working with’ rather than a request for action. Symbolic offerings are often made as a way of showing appreciation for assistance in magical working or problem solving. So whatever your understanding of what gods and goddesses are and what they mean to you, it’s worth stepping back and thinking about which ones you might invoke and why.

PS. enjoy Beltane. *Tony*



Cauldron Card Spring offer FREE Pack of Incense when spending over £10
(Offer subject to conditions)

Of shop windows and human nature....some random ponderings!

Long time ago, when I was teaching, the dreaded Ofsted Inspections used to roll around with depressing frequency. Towards the latter years, it became the norm to nominate a colleague to be present when you received your 'feedback' from the inspectors. This was done because, sadly it is human nature to recall and dwell on negative feedback and ignore the positive. The idea being that the colleague would be able to retain a balanced view of what was said. I was forcefully reminded of this the other day in the shop. I had had a merry time 'setting' our Beltane window with lots of green men, logs and ivy. As is my wont, I trotted outside several times to check placing and balance. On the final occasion, I met a man taking a good long look. He complimented me on the window and said he always stopped to look, because our shop window is such a delight. We mused a while on the workmanship (I have in there some pieces by David Jermy of Summerisle design). Turns out the gentleman to whom I spoke had been a pottery teacher. After a bit more chat, and a few more compliments, we parted company. Great! An hour or so later, an older couple walked by, casting a cursory look at the window, and through the open door, I heard the woman say, "Hideous things..." Now I know not whether she referred to the objects in our window, but immediately the glow of the previous gentleman's comments were obliterated and I found myself pondering whether this woman had been referring to our window and what was in there that could be described as 'Hideous' Sad, but true.



On a more positive note, we do love setting our windows and often receive compliments. What pleases us in particular is when people stop to look and gradually, a smile lights up a face, because they have seen something to delight. This is especially true of children. A number of parents and grandparents have told us that whenever their child/grandchild is given money as a gift, or when they have saved a bit of pocket money, they will insist on spending it at 'The Magic Shop'. It is a joy to watch them carefully budgeting the money they have; carefully choosing a crystal, a small figurine, but most importantly, enjoying the 'magic'. I recall as a child, going shopping with my mother. She used to go into the Market; at the time a huge barn of a place with trestle tables; the old fashioned sort. It was the highlight of my week to stop at the toy stall and look at the array of desirable things on there. Each week my brother and I were allowed to choose a small toy for 3d? 6d? I can't remember which. Some of you might not remember 3d! There was another shop which sold just about everything from fruit in sacks to paraffin. I recently found out that it was called 'Seeley's'. What an utterly magical place it seemed! I recall being fascinated by an animated advert for Lucozade, where a woman's wagging finger encouraged, 'Buy a Bottle Now' Oh and the metal Fry's chocolate advert! These places were magical to me. They weren't magical shops as such, of course, but still, places of mystery and excitement.

We often hope that children (and adults) will find magic at The Simmering Cauldron; in fact, we're sure they do. And if our shop enables youngsters to hang on to the feeling that there is magic in the world for a little longer, then that makes us happy. For indeed there truly IS magic in the world, but we sometimes forget.....

Angela

Our Diary

Newtown shop opening hours	
Tuesday – Friday 10.00 – 5.00 Saturday 10.00 – 4.00	
Monday 7 th May 13 th -15 th July	Clun Green Man Festival, Clun, Shropshire (tbc) Healing Weekend, East Huntspill, Somerset