



The Simmering Cauldron Newsletter

Samhain
2015

A mystical and magical resource based in Mid Wales

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

Warming lights and cosy fragrances

This year we have been concentrating our advertising in the local free paper, the Montgomery Advertiser. Each month's advert has had a theme and the latest one (November) is on 'the time for restful lighting and cosy fragrances'. Of course we provide a wide range of things for just those needs.

However it set me thinking about how our ancestors would have created a warm and light filled (and safe?) space during the dark and dreary time of year. Fire would have been central to that giving heat, light and some defence against prowling beasts. Those of you who have 'real fires' will also know of the entertainment that hearth gazing can provide.

Nomadic camp fires, fires at cave openings, central hearths in Celtic round houses, grand fireplaces in medieval castles, multi-purpose ranges in Victorian houses and the multifarious 'front room' fireplaces of our more recent ancestors all gave comfort and a sense of security at this challenging time of year.

Today's homes mostly make use of central heating and electricity to keep us warm and lit, but many people still seek to recreate the sense of 'real fire' with look-alike fires, subdued lighting, candles



and artificial fragrances to provide the tranquillity of the past.

We are just at the start of winter, but as the period deepens we will bring greenery and glitter into our homes, exchange greetings and presents, attend social gatherings and feast extensively just as people have done for many thousands of years. Fire and light will be at the heart of all these activities so it is not surprising that we see towns lit by 'Christmas Lights' and New Year heralded by fireworks in many towns including Newtown.

PS – any comments about our adverts would be great – have you seen them?.

Tony

Exhibition of Healing & Complementary Therapies

Priory School, Shrewsbury SY3 9EE

Sunday 6th December

11 am – 5pm

FREE ENTRY

Over 20 workshops & 75 exhibitors

The Simmering Cauldron will be there

