



# The Simmering Cauldron Newsletter

Ostara  
2018

*A mystical and magical resource based in Mid Wales*

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

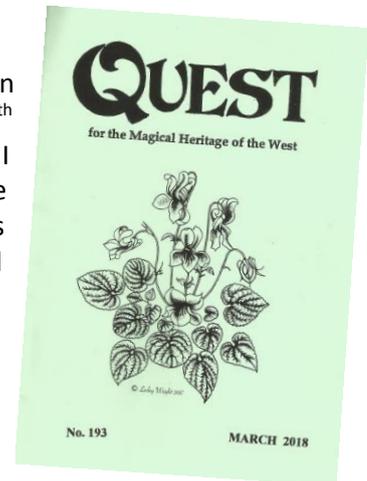
## Getting together

We have just returned from the Devon and Cornwall Pagan Federation conference, feeling spiritually refreshed and recharged. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference, which we have attended for many years and I would go as far as to say it is our favourite event of the year. We were treated to five speakers, all well known in the Pagan world; names such as Julian Vayne, Penny Billington and Prof Ronald Hutton. I was also delighted that my first teacher Marian Green was scheduled to talk. I haven't seen Marian for many years and it was wonderful to reconnect with her. She is a renowned solitary witch, whose wonderful book *A Witch Alone*, I always recommend to those starting out on the Pagan path. I also took the opportunity to re-subscribe to her quarterly magazine, *Quest*. This is a feat of old 'cut and paste' technology; Marian chooses not to use computers! I

read the current copy cover to cover and was delighted (and a little relieved) to find that it was reminiscent of the pagan publications of many years ago which provided the reader with thought provoking and well written articles. There were once a number of these publications, sometimes containing controversial material, in the days before everything went online or as in the case of the few remaining magazines, went 'glossy' and tried hard not to offend.

In one of the articles in *Quest*, I came across one describing the 'egregore'. An article by Harry Wendrich described how, at a gathering of magical people, he became aware of a presence enveloping them all. This was the egregore, something that is created by the 'group mind' which can become so strong that it almost exists as a separate entity. He describes this particular one as being masculine in nature, friendly and nurturing. The more I think back to the Cornwall conferences of past years, the more I realise that those of us there must have fallen under the influence of such an entity. This one, however, I would describe as strong and 'earthy,' redolent of the land of Cornwall itself. Its effect is restorative and renewing and lasts for some time after the event.

Conferences and gatherings are precious in the Pagan world. True some are more worthwhile than others, but the experience cannot be replicated by 'going on line' which so many of us do these days. Marian Green's conference in Bristol is now in its 51<sup>st</sup> year, and indeed, Marian probably began the conference tradition. I would



advise anyone to attend such a gathering, given the chance. We have two upcoming events along those lines. The first is this Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March at Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton. This is run by Ali and Matt Poole of Hawthorn Crafts and is a witches market which is free to enter. There will also be workshops, for which a small charge is made. The second is a conference run by Gary Nottingham, to be held at Montgomery Town Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Tickets cost £12 and speakers include Jake Stratton Kent on Greek Magical Papyri, Sian Humphries on Hecate and Gary Nottingham on Solomonian Grimoires. Further details of these events can be found on the Facebook group, Pagans in Mid Wales and Borders. Get along and 'feed your head'!

Should any of you wish to subscribe to *Quest* magazine, the cost is £10 per year (for four magazines, published quarterly). The contact details are *QUEST*, 80 Bishopsworth Road, Bristol. BS13 7JS UK. Cheques should be made payable to *QUEST*

*Angela*

Spring is here,  
Oh no it's not,  
Oh yes it is,  
Oh no it's not!



What a winter, Mother Nature has been having a great time! Snow, hail, wind, rain; freezing days, dark days, sunny days, we've experienced it all.

Spring is a time of hope for new beginnings, planting crops, starting new endeavours and feeling optimism for the year ahead, so when there are so many false starts it can be very disappointing. It is a time to be philosophical, remember that Mother Earth and Father Sun are in charge and in time our patience will be rewarded.

For many Spring officially begins at the Equinox, the 20<sup>th</sup> March this year. Celebration of the time can include decorating an altar with eggs, daffodils and a hare, planting something in the garden or a pot, and meditating on new projects and plans. This all raises ones spirits for the year ahead and if combined with some feasting can make for a really uplifting occasion. Enjoy.

*Tony*

### Shop Photos

The latest set of shop photos can either be found on our website or on the Facebook page and group. The most recent set proved to be one of our most popular posts!

### NEW EVENT



### Cauldron Card

Spring offer

**FREE**

### Pack of Incense

**When spending over £10**

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

(Offer subject to conditions)

### New stock for the season

Handmade wall plaques

- Wheel of the Year
- Hare
- Green man
- Maiden Mother Crone



### Our Diary

<b>Newtown shop opening hours</b> <b>Tuesday – Friday 10.00 – 5.00 Saturday 10.00 – 4.00</b>	
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Wolverhampton Witches Market
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Psychic and Wellbeing Fair, Montgomery Town Hall, SY15 6PH
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Clun Green Man Festival, Clun, Shropshire (tbc)