



Image: Carolyn Vibbert/Susan & Co.

Newsletter for members of The Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids in the Southern Hemisphere

About **Serpentstar**...

Serpentstar comes out four times a year at each of the Fire Festivals, Imbolc, Beltane, Lughnasadh and Samhuinn.

Opinions expressed in **Serpentstar** are contributors' own and not necessarily opinions of the editor or of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids.

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Via Paypal: to ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com

Please email: ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com to advise if you have made a payment, including your postal address.

www.serpentstar.wordpress.com

You can follow us on Tumblr, and submit photos, stories, music, links and we can share them with everyone straight away rather than waiting for the next edition

<http://serpentstar.tumblr.com> Password: aw3n

Have you contributed to **Serpentstar** yet?

We'd love to hear from you!

Contributions are eagerly sought for future editions. Whether you like to create masterpieces in the Kitchen, with paper and pen, a camera, or you've read a relevant news article or some links of interest. Maybe you've created your own Sudoku, or you've written a piece on Druidry, we can use it all.

Please email ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com

Serpentstar Calender 2011 - Specific to the Southern Hemisphere

We are considering producing a calendar for the 2011 year. Contributions of photos, and quotes are welcome. This would be available to download/print yourself or a professional print version.

Cost: Download Version - no more than \$5 (in the form of a receipt for a donation to your favourite conservation/rescue charity)

Print Version - no more than \$25 including postage. (the more orders, the lower the cost.)

No profit will be made, the cost is simply to cover printing and postage and also rights to photographs if we don't get enough submissions.

If you are interested in contributing or obtaining a copy of the finished product, please email your expression of interest to ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com

Submission deadline: 10 December, 2010

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Wyvern's Words

SerpentStar changes editors this issue.

As we welcome Kim (LadyA), our new editor, it's time for me to take a fond farewell of the delightful task of bringing SerpentStar to you each quarter. Editing SerpentStar has been an enjoyable job, a wonderful way of getting to know you all, and a stimulating and creative part of my life for three years.

I'd like to thank all those who contributed and the many who gave me personally kind encouragement and useful feedback and assistance and so helped to make our newsletter the success it is. As you all supported Stormwolf and Sooty Owl before I took it on, I know you will continue to give support, encouragement and, above all, contributions to Kim as she takes the helm.

Have a blessed Beltane!

vyvyan ogma wyverne

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself. My name is Kim, and I live with my Husband, and also my mischievous familiar Roger (pictured above), in Sydney, Australia. Roger likes to sit on my lap or lay beside me whilst I study the Gwersi and has taught us so much about nature and love.



This Beltane edition we have an insightful article from Vyvyan Ogma Wyverne, an invitation to the 2011 Southern Hemisphere Druids Assembly & a focus' on Beltane, and looking ahead to Alban Hefin.

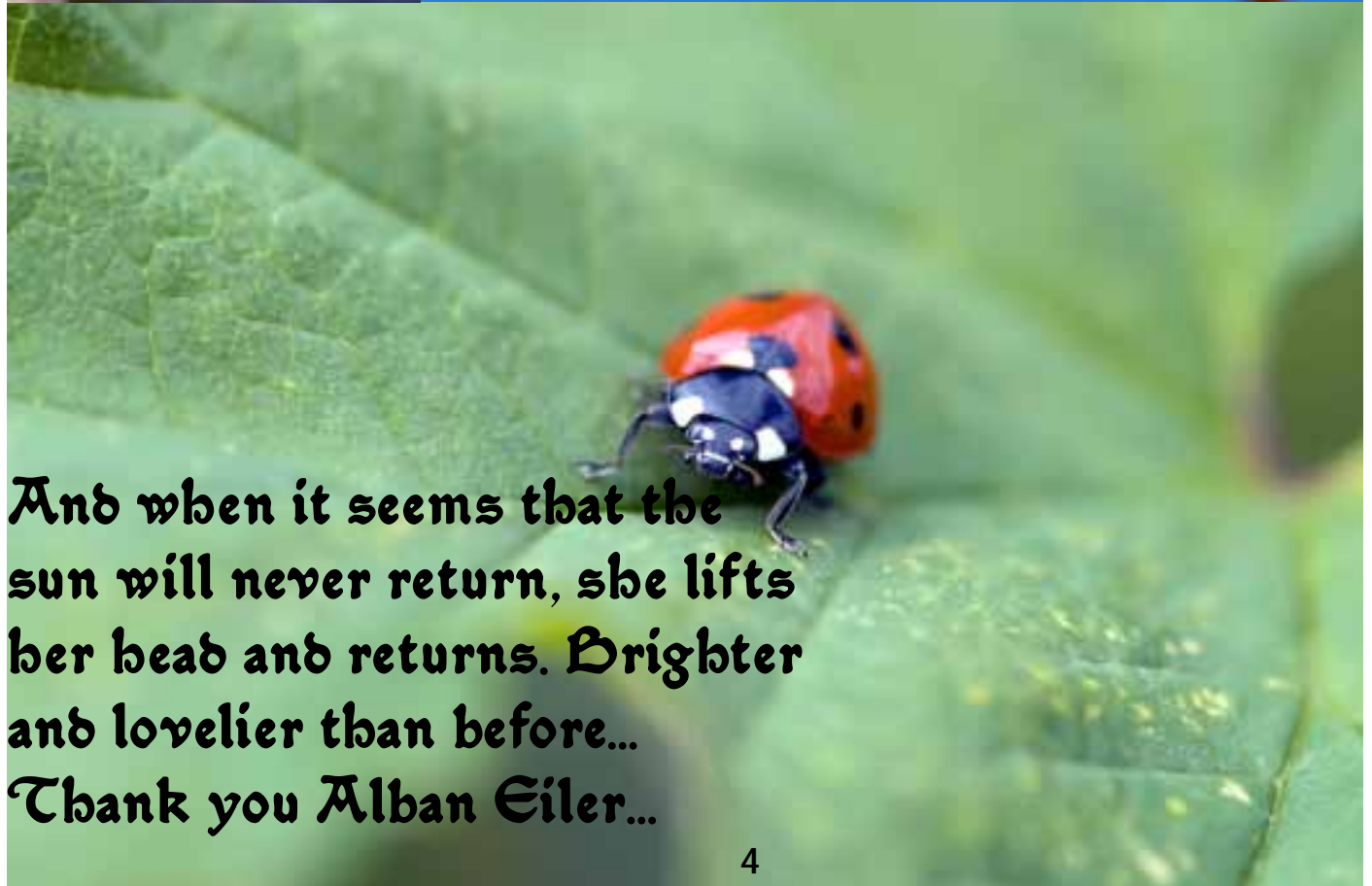
I have added a few new features to this edition. I would value any feedback (good or bad) on this, & also any contributions you have to add! I felt this edition was lacking in the way of creative prose/poetry and articles, so please ensure that you keep the content coming. Special thanks to Wyverne for her patience in teaching me the ropes for this edition, and for her contribution of the crossword and the article. And also to Aurora, Rafayard and Debra for their valuable contributions.

Have a blessed Beltane, and Alban Hefin. May you feel the blessings of the earth more and more each day.

Bright Blessings under the Southern Stars, LadyA



**"Blossom by blossom the
spring begins."
Algernon Charles Swinburne**



**And when it seems that the
sun will never return, she lifts
her head and returns. Brighter
and lovelier than before...
Thank you Alban Eiler...**



Out of cave! Out of hole!
Bear, rabbit, little mole,
Hatch from egg in nest in trees!
The birds are back and so are bees.
The flowers bloom. The leaves are green.
How do they know when it's spring?

Build your web! The bugs are back!
Little spider dressed in black.
Bears, rabbits, birds, and bees,
Flowers, grass, and trees,
Just like me their face is warm,
That's how they know spring has come.

Three Things

- Vyvyan Ogma Wyverne

The magical work we do as druids and shamans is most successful when we truly understand what we're doing.

War, sickness, crime, corruption, pollution and energy-greed are serious problems for humanity, and addressing them is our business as human beings, whether druids or not.

Traditionally, druids occupied top political positions and were expected to exercise some control over these things, along with climate, game, nature and the afterlife as well. We don't follow in their footsteps exactly, but we're usually druids at all because we feel we recognise in ourselves qualities that identify us as such, or else wish to cultivate them in ourselves because we value them.

We trust and believe that our circle magic and shamanism can have far-reaching effects for the healing of our planet and thence our own species and our domesticated crops and animals.

When we practice magic, three things are involved: the actor, the act, and the acted upon.

The best magic happens when all three are well prepared for the rite, when all three are clearly understood by the actor(s), whether one person or a group.

i) THE ACTOR

For the magician, the obvious primary requirement is a good knowledge of him/herself, as a material, spiritual, emotional, aesthetic, physical, metaphysical, magical, moral, mental and psychical being – plus any other aspects that might seem relevant.



It's a good idea to 'brainstorm' your concept of a person, writing down all the words that come to mind as you explore yourself inside and out. No-one can be right or wrong about this, and everyone is different, so the old 'body+soul+spirit' division might not necessarily work for the modern druid. The important thing is to know your way round yourself, the map of your being, the logic or narrative, or interplay of meaning that gives your inner experience continuity, or defines or characterises you.

Most of the energy of the magic to be done comes from the person or persons involved. If the idea is to send healing energy, you will know how to draw on the magical resources – nwyfre – that you will have been concentrating and conditioning in your preliminary meditation on the spell to be cast, brewing them into the perfect elixir.

Of course, you need to be healthy enough to spare the energy, and internally balanced and clear enough to produce a pure elixir. Your spiritual, emotional, aesthetic, physical, metaphysical, magical, moral, mental and psychical health, purity and sanctity are prerequisites for good magic. This doesn't mean you can't do useful magic while sick or emotionally disturbed – you can sing with a sore throat, and walk with tight shoes on – but the magic will be better if you are in a state of ritual purity.

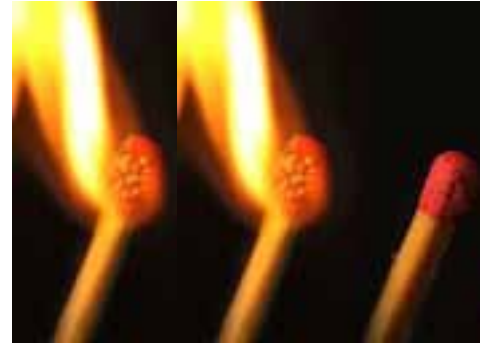


ii) THE ACT

No one has a monopoly on definitions of magic, yet most of us agree in the main with the 'mind over matter' idea. Whether you agree with this definition or not, what matters is knowing what you mean by it. Again, brainstorming can help.

Even experienced spell-casters can benefit from closely examining their way of working in order to really know what they think they are doing and what assumptions they are making about it.

For example, if a wand channels my energy, how does it do it? If it modifies mine, adding its own nwyfre, how does it do this, and why? Obviously it is going to be a more effective relationship if I know my wand well: where it gets its power, the effects of any runes, crystals or other add-ons - even the glues and varnishes used, since they too contribute nwyfre. If I cast a circle, understanding my circle will greatly enhance the enchantment within. Whether indoors or out, I should know the environment well – its ambience, magic, spirituality, fairies, feng shui, soul, ghosts, fairies, its recent history, its current condition and its past. This is why magicians always take a few moments to orient themselves to a place before they begin work.



ii) THE ACTED UPON

The magic works best when the thing or person acted upon is clearly understood. If you wish to heal something, the more you know and understand its condition, the better your nwyfre will be conditioned for it.

Whether the object of your rite is a person or animal, a landscape, a city, an institution, a political situation, it helps to have a realistic sense of its place in the scheme of things.

My starting point is with Gaia. If I am moved to send healing to a population of traumatised people, I first get a sense of where they are within Gaia, whom I see as a living being, suffering from a stressed and traumatised humanity, which I see as comparable to, say, an inflamed tissue in a person.

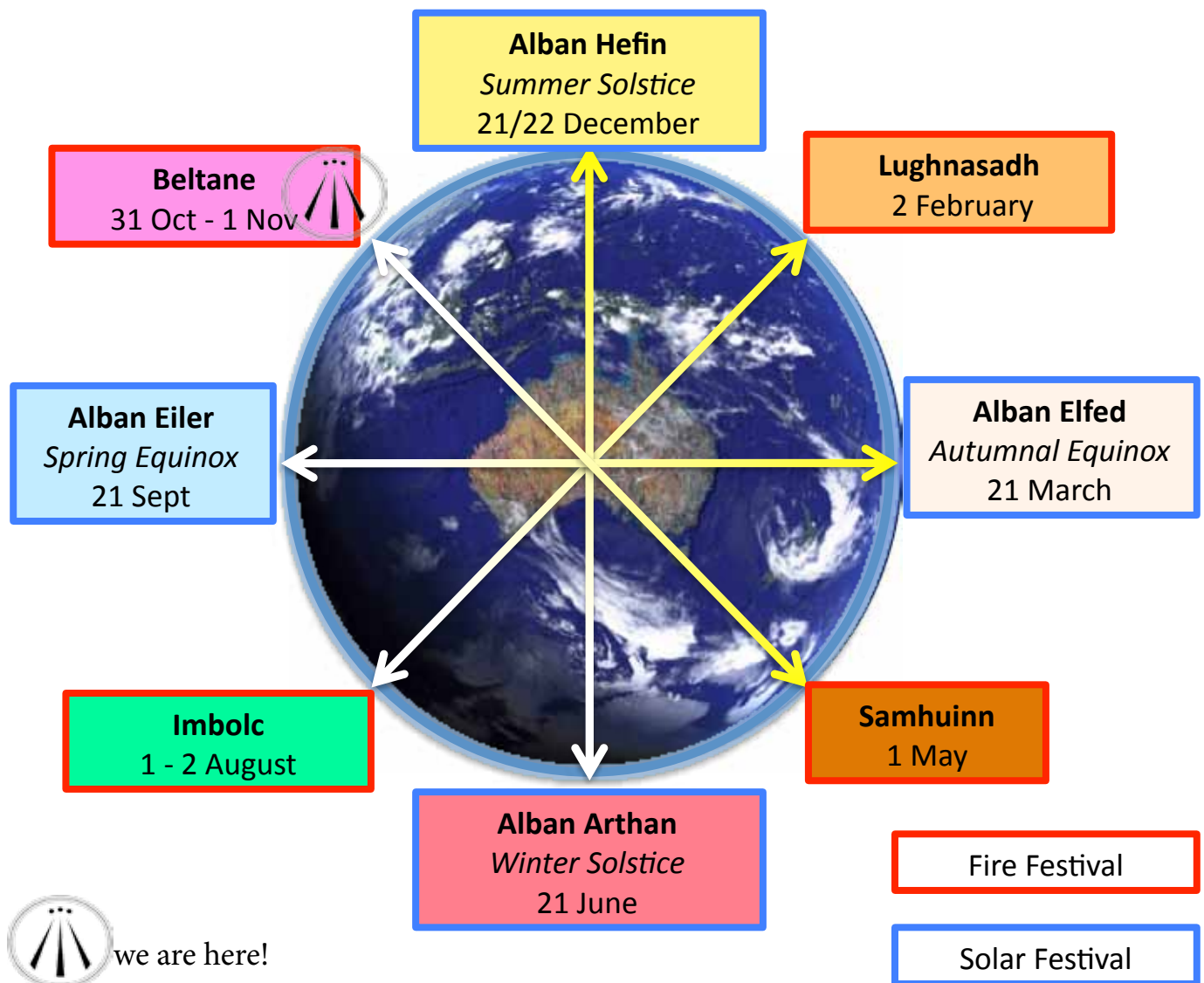
Only then do I home cautiously in on the area, and always seeking permission at every step, enter into the communion with the situation that will permit the flow of nwyfre. If I probe in ignorance, I could cause pain. If I home in on corruption or crime, I address the souls of the people involved, who may be helplessly trapped in their crimes.

The more I learn about any situation, the more effective my magic will be.

A magician needs a good working relationship with Gaia. The better we know our world, the better our world magic will be!



Celebrating the wheel of the year in the Southern Hemisphere



Beltane

meaning 'bright fire' or 'lucky fire' is held on May 1st (May 15th in Scotland) and celebrates the start of summer, the crop and pasturing season.

At Beltane, we open to the God and Goddess of Youth. However old we are, Spring makes us feel young again, and at Beltane we jump over the fires of vitality and youth and allow that vitality to enliven and heal us. When young we might use this time as an opportunity to connect to our sensuality in a positive creative way, and when older the mating that we seek might well be one of the feminine and masculine sides of our nature. Integration of the male and female aspects of the Self has long been seen as one of the prime goals of spiritual and psychotherapeutic work, and Beltane represents the time when we can open to this work fully, allowing the natural union of polarities that occurs in nature at this time the opportunity to help us in our work - a work that is essentially alchemical.

This Beltane set an intention &



- * **Celebrate Living** - e.g spend some quality time with your loved ones. Turn off distractions & go on a picnic, or play a board game. Write a letter to someone you haven't seen in a while. Call someone just because, not because you need/want something.
- * **Celebrate Death** - place flowers on long neglected graves at the cemetery, honoring them in death.
- * **Commune with the old Ones** - perhaps you could visit some older relatives, or ask a local nursing home if you can visit some people who don't have family who visit them. There is so much to learn from the "older" ones...
- * **Honour your teachers** - School/Uni teachers, Mentors, even Nature herself
- * **Walk barefoot in the park, or at the beach...** Feel the earth beneath your feet
- * **Enter a competition** (check out the ones on the back page!)
- * **Try something new!** Eat something you've never tried before, Sit in a different part of the bus/train/tram
- * **Reflect on the great mystery and the part you play in it**
- * **The Solo Ceremony in the OBOO Beltane booklet is truly beautiful**



May we live more wisely within our overlapping ecosystems.
May we cherish anew the wonder of clean waters & fresh winds.
May we more wisely tend & respect the animals & plants that nourish us.
May the sacred fires of Beltane guide us into new paths of hope.

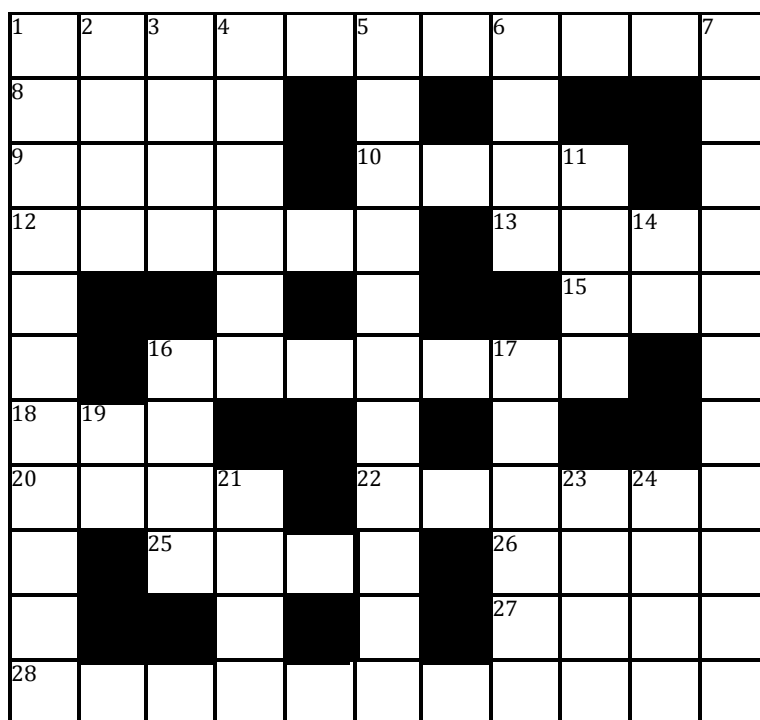
Source: www.beliefnet.com



The May-pole is up,
Now give me the cup;
I'll drink to the garlands around it;
But first unto those
Whose hands did compose
The glory of flowers that crown'd it.

- Robert Herrick, The Maypole, 1660

Bestane Crossword!



Across

1. Changes form magically
8. Unmixed
9. Trees
10. Author of poems
12. Fortress
13. Bargain
15. A cobbler's tool.
16. Answerer.
18. A kind of spring.
20. Eurasian mountains
22. Deadly snake.
25. A Hindu queen.
26. Alchemy's noble metal.
27. Source of inspiration.
28. Elixir of Youth.

Down

1. Exciting to view.
2. Hawaiian dancing.
3. Upper limbs.
4. Mortar and . . .
5. Excelling.
6. Covered with icing.
7. Enchanter.
11. Rend.
14. Cry of protest.
16. Raise.
17. A riddle.
19. Expression of uncertainty.
21. A rune.
23. Make an angry moue.
24. As well.

Spring Rhyme Riddles

Find rhyming words that match the clues...

e.g. What does does that rhymes with pelt.. Answer: Melt

- (1) What flowers do that rhymes with mud.
- (2) What flowers do that rhymes with room.
- (3) What plants do that rhymes with pout.
- (4) A spring blossom that rhymes with merry.
- (5) A spring flower that rhymes with hill.
- (6) What birds lay that rhymes with legs
- (7) What a bird builds that rhymes with best
- (8) What eggs do that rhymes with match
- (9) What gardeners plant that rhymes with weeds
- (10) A spring rain that rhymes with flower

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Here's a 'classical' sudoku puzzle. It's a grid 9 squares wide and 9 squares deep. The lines of squares running horizontally are called rows, and the lines running vertically are called columns. The grid is further divided by the darker lines into nine 3 X 3 square 'boxes'.

Some of the squares already have numbers in them. Your task is to fill in the blank squares. There's only one rule:

* Each row, column and box must end up containing all of the numbers from 1 to 9.

This rule has an important side-effect, which is the basis of all solving techniques:

* Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

<http://www.paulspages.co.uk/sudoku/howtosolve/>



Sudoku

Make your own : <http://sudoku.com.au>

	4					5		6
9	2			6		3	8	
			4	3	1			
7	6	8			2			9
		4	3		8	6		
2			6			1	5	8
			8	7	3	9		
	9	3		2			4	1
5		6			4		2	

Kitchen Magic...

Beltane Feature - desserts!

Aurora's Baked Cherry Custard

750g pitted cherries

2 eggs

1 egg yolk

1/2 cup sugar

5 Tablespoons melted butter

1 cup of milk



Preheat oven to 200 celcius, prepare cherries and butter baking dish large enough to hold cherries in a single layer, place cherries into dish.

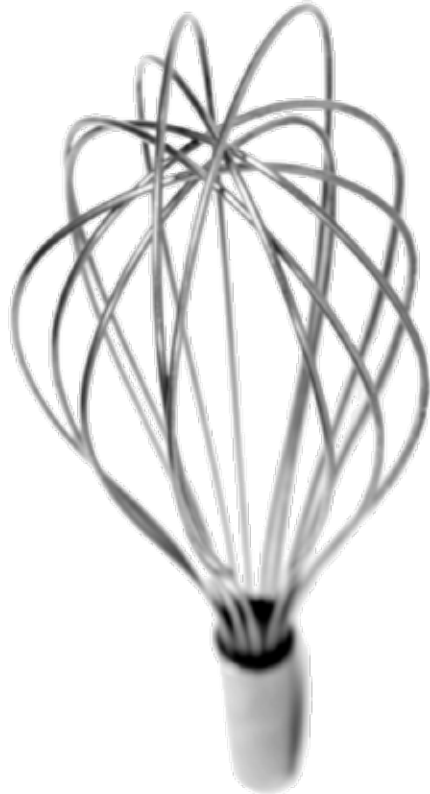
Combine the eggs, egg yolk and sugar in a bowl and whisk until well combined and pale in colour. Now whisk in the milk and melted butter.

Sift in the flour and mix until the batter becomes smooth and silky.

Pour the batter over the cherries and bake for 40 minutes or until browned.

Dust with icing sugar just before serving.

Best when still lukewarm :)



Lady A's gooey vegan chocolate brownies

2 cups self raising flour

2 cups raw sugar (or white sugar if they don't need to be vegan)

3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup water

1 cup vegetable oil

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 175 degrees C

Combine all dry ingredients, before adding all wet ingredients. Mix until well combined

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes in the preheated oven, until the top is no longer shiny.

Let them cool for 10 mins before cutting

Ritual in Daily Life...



- Lady A

Do you ever daydream about being able live in a small cottage somewhere, just being able to spend time with your closest family (or perhaps be alone). Spending time in meditation, tending to nature, talking long walks amongst the trees, along the beach, or up a hill, where you can sit and look out over the lands below, and see Mother Nature's gifts up close and personal.

As nice as that would be, unfortunately "life" simply gets "in the way". We live in a busy world, aching for health, peace, harmony and wisdom. A place that needs us as Bards, Ovates and Druids to use our gifts within it, making it a better place.

I had been feeling pressured and if I'm honest a little guilty that my life was so full, that I wasn't getting a lot of time to study the Gwersi and do more "druidic" type things.

I live in the suburbs of Sydney, so am still blessed to be surrounded by a little nature. I had planted a little herb garden on our apartment balcony, hoping to use it as my "grove" when one morning I heard a very loud squawking coming from outside. I went to the door to see a very mischievous cockatoo rudely ripping the herbs out of the garden, and throwing them off the balcony. He then proceeded to sift through all the dirt in the pot looking for worms, before he sat on our clothes line, and then ate all Roger's food. My emotions ranged from annoyed to amused, to frustrated that I no longer had that space to use as my grove.

Through working through those emotions, and subsequently planting more herbs (this time with cockatoo-proof covering), I discovered that many of the "everyday" things I'd been doing, were rituals in a way. It was all about my intent, and I could do a few things differently to make them even more meaningful.

I have found a few small things that I have dedicated to being rituals,

- * Cleaning - As you vacuum, sweep, visualise yourself removing negative energy and feelings from the space. Fill it with clean energy, intending it to be a place of harmony, relaxation (or if an office, perhaps productive). Regularly "cleansing your home" is also highly beneficial.
- * Baths/Shower - Washing the dirt/weariness of the day away with the power of water, and drying with the power of air.
- * Preparing a meal for your family/yourself - You are a caregiver. Entrusted with looking after yourself and others (Others have the same responsibility, so let them help you sometimes too)
- * Watering plants - Place fresh filtered water in a glass jar with a cork top in the light of the full moon. Use that water for your plants/grove each day, being thankful for the gift of water, moonlight, the opportunity to tend nature and the food the plants provide.
- * Driving in the car/on the bus/train - take some time to bless each person around you. May they have a good day and learn something new about themselves today, and honour nature. (This can be done silently if necessary as we want to bless not "freak" anyone out). *Particularly good if you are prone to road rage*
- * Daily exercise - I am fortunate enough to live near the ocean, so on my semi-frequent walks along the beach, I have taken up collecting rubbish from the beach, and picking up a few freshly washed up shells from the ocean for my altar at home. You could "tend" your street, collecting rubbish, trimming hedges, making the street look beautiful

Assembly 2011



Hi everyone,

At the assembly last year, (in the William Rickets sanctuary to be precise!) I offered our place for the 11th Southern Hemisphere Assembly. It will run over 5 days from the 6th to the 10th of October.

Each of the three middle days will be full days embedded in the energy of Bard, Ovate and Druid. The first and last days will be for coming and going! There will be a ceremony for each grade and initiations if required.

My husband Dean and I have 60 acres of land that has been revegetated, 15 acres of which are home to our herd of alpacas. We also have 3 kelpies, 1 rescued moggie and 2 rescued galahs. Oh yes and 3 teenagers! Cooringal is just 10 minutes away from the lovely seaside city of Port Lincoln. Our coastlines are spectacular and there is a very beautiful place called Greenly which our family goes to every year camping. We plan to go there on the Ovate day for a sea blessing so that you can see some wild west coast under the Greenly mountain!

That evening will be our quiet night for more reflective activities. We plan to hold a women's and men's circle and follow this with the Beltane ceremony on the Druid night where we will walk between the fires.

On the Bardic night there will be some very fishy business as we celebrate the Crustacean Ball in our finest sea garb. Over the gathering there will be time for story telling, music, catching up with old and new friends, spinning, weaving, quiet moments of contemplation and healing, an open fire and glorious food.

If you want to do something, share something, start something or bring something you are most welcome- in fact you are encouraged! Please share your ideas with me so I can see where it will fit in over our time together. Costume is mandatory for the ball, I have also written some special sea dances. Please bring your castanets and send me your favourite dance tracks so we can dance the night away. Accommodation will be camping on the property. You will need to let me know if you want me to help out with some camping gear. There will be also room at the music school in town for people to stay and car pool to the farm each day if you want a roof over your head. The school has kitchen and bathroom facilities. There is also plenty of fantastic accommodation in Port Lincoln should you wish more luxury!

For more information and bookings please email me at rafayard@bigpond.net.au or telephone in the evening h 08 86842003 mob 0427186874, Blessings Rafayard



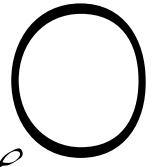
*Rafayard
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You are cordially invited to the

Seventh Southern Hemisphere



Druid Assembly

Thursday 6th – Monday 10th October 2011

To be held at Sooringal Grove

near Pt Lincoln in South Australia

Cost – \$175 per person, children free

Join us as we gather and celebrate and pay homage to Brigid and Manannan mc lir

There will be three full days given to the Bardic, Ovate and Druid grades

with arrival and departure days either side.

for more information and bookings contact

Rafayard – ph: 0427186874 e: rafayard@bigpond.net.au



Technology reviews/recommendations...

As much as we can try to avoid it, technology is a fair part of our lives, and we can use it to our Druidic advantage :)

All reviews this edition from Lady A. If you would like to submit a review PLEASE email it to ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com

Podcasts (available via iTunes worldwide, or some are available to listen to online at <http://www.podcastdirectory.com>)

^ **Druidcast** - Brought to you by the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids

Listening to this podcast is actually what reminded me of the "introduction" pack I'd ordered from OBOD and never read through fully months ago. I reviewed it, realised what I was missing and enrolled the next day! I encourage any regular listeners to listen to some of the older episodes, there really are some great gems of wisdom in the podcasts. I thoroughly enjoyed the "day in the life" series by Paul Newman and also the interviews with people who follow other paths of spirituality and how they interrelate to Druidry.

Available: Itunes store, www.druidcast.libsyn.com/, www.podcastdirectory.com

Frequency: Monthly, usually released around the middle of the month

Cost: Free!

^ **Meditation Oasis Podcast** - Mary and Richard Maddux of <http://www.meditationoasis.com>

I have been meditating for years however never seemed to be able to master "complete" relaxation. I always seemed to remain tense throughout the meditation. Listening to a couple of these podcasts, I realised that instead of just ignoring my busy mind and thoughts, I was trying to force them quiet, and shut and in doing so was causing myself more stress than not doing the meditation. There are meditations for deep rest, and for starting your day, stress relief, grief, and many others.

Available: Itunes Store, www.meditationoasis.com, www.podcastdirectory.com

Frequency: They appear to be released "at random" and as they are intent focused, that works well.

Cost: Free!

iPhone Applications (available via iTunes Australia. Reviews of apps available for other phones coming soon!)

^ **Relax Melodies** - sleep, meditation, yoga and relaxation helper

This app is pretty amazing. I can combine a lot of different sounds (such as the harp, birds singing, ocean waves) with differing volumes, which is useful for meditation and relaxation. I can also set an alarm or timer, however I am yet to see how I can use my customised sounds for the alarm.

Available: iTunes Store

Cost: Lite Version - Free (version reviewed). The paid version is AU\$1.19 and promises more sounds, and you can also have the music play in the background whilst using your phone for other things

^ **Relax Forest**

This app is great if you are happy with just some forest sounds. It was quite comforting and beneficial to listen to whilst studying my Gwersi. It also has a timer option which is great for using whilst meditating.

Available: iTunes Store - there are also many other options such as Waterfall, Ocean

Cost: Free

Music / Mp3's etc

^ **Wild Wisdom Meditations with Earth, Water, Air and Fire**

I was introduced to these Meditations through Druidcast, Episode 39a in which the meditation on all 4 elements is given in full as a gift. It was the first time I have felt truly relaxed and at peace in a meditation, and I use these meditations frequently to re-energise and reconnect.

Available: Mp3 Download only via iTunes Store, CDBaby, Amazon

Cost: iTunes - AU\$16.99, CDBaby US\$9.99, Amazon US\$17.98

Activities for the young, and the young at heart

Arts and Crafts

In the Northern Hemisphere, Beltane is celebrated on May 1.

Traditionally children danced around a Maypole holding a ribbon, wrapping it around the maypole as they danced.

You can create your own Maypole!

Materials Needed

- * Dead branch/ruler/paddlepop stick/empty paper towel roll (approx 30cm)
- * 6 Different Coloured ribbons (long enough to wrap around the pole)
- * Stickytape or stapler
- * Pen

How to..

If you'd like to, write what you are thankful for on 3 ribbons, and on the remaining 3 ribbons, write any wish or desire for the coming year.

Use the sticky tape or stapler to attach the ribbons to the pole.

As you wrap them around the pole, think about what is written on each ribbon.

Keep the Maypole somewhere you can see it, and be thankful for everything you do have, and will have in the future.

Email a photo of your completed Maypole to ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com and we'll place it on our new Tumblr for all the readers to see!



Honouring Teachers at Beltane..

Beltane is a great time for honouring our teachers.

Who are you teachers? School teachers, sports coaches, music teachers, tutors, parents, grandparents, mentors even nature itself.

Think about ways that you can honour your teachers this Beltane? Perhaps you could make a nice card for them with a message thanking them for being a teacher to you. Or you could offer to do something for them, that they need helping with...

Beltane is a great time to send warm, loving thoughts to your teachers, and be Thankful for their influence in your life.

Got a story about how a teacher has influenced your life? We'd love to be able to share it!

Looking ahead to Alban Hefin...

Alban Hefin is also known as the Summer Solstice, or Midsummer...

As the name "Midsummer" indicates, this is considered the height of the summer. Yet there is an undertone of darkness in the light. While we celebrate the power of the sun, we also note its decline. From now on the hours of sunlight will decrease.



The evening before the Summer Solstice is also known as Herb Evening. This is the most potent night (and midnight the most potent time) for gathering magical herbs, particularly St John's wort, vervain, mugwort, mistletoe, ivy and fern seed. In some legends, a special plant, which is guarded by demons, flowers only on this one night a year. Successfully picking it gives one magical powers, like being able to understand the language of the trees.

Celebrating....

This is a great festival to celebrate outdoors. Go camping. Go out into the woods or up into the mountains or down to the beach... Bring along plenty of flowers (especially roses or yellow flowers like calendulas, St John's wort, or marigolds). Fashion them into wreaths, wear them as you dance around. Bring along sparklers too (but use them carefully). Indoors, use whatever symbols represent light and warmth to you: golden discs, sunflowers, shiny metal trays, chilli pepper lights.

<http://www.schooloftheseasons.com/midsummer.html>



*Sound of cicadas
dropping like sleepy hot rain
beneath the window*

Source: <http://www.sulisminerva.org/2010/06/summer-solstice-poetry.html>



ULinks of Interest

This issue we have decided to try something different. Rather than including the actual links, which will require you to type them into your web-browser or attempt to copy/paste off the wordpress file, we have included all the links on the new Serpentstar Tumblr page...

Web address to access the links below: <http://serpentstar.tumblr.com>
Password: aw3n

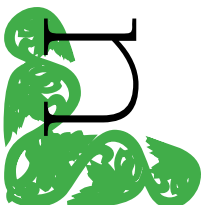
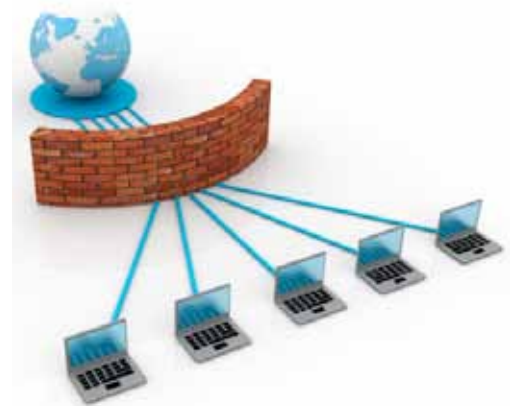
The Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids website...
www.druidry.org

"Druid Grove" forum
<http://www.druidry.org/board/dhp/index.php>

Druidspace, the ning community
<http://druidspace.ning.com/>

Many thanks for Debra for submitting this issues links!

- < NATURE IN SHORT / Neo-druid thoughts on managing sustainable ecosystems
- < Dorset horse owners warned over increases in theft
- < A Gathering of Spirits Harvest Festival
- < Pagan group invites, tries to raise awareness
- < World celebrates autumnal equinox 2010, brightest in over a decade
- < Spring Equinox sunrise 2010 at the South Pole
- < Ancient sanctuary dedicated to Mithras discovered in France
- < Enormous Gallo-Roman temple complex unearthed near Le Mans, France
- < Wiccan pagan grounds yell slander Christine Odonnell's remarks
- < Stonehenge an ancient tourist destination?
- < Stonehenge replicas around the world, impressive and whimsical
- < Stonehenge burial may be prehistoric tourist
- < Remains of a Bronze Age boy found at Stonehenge
- < Consultation on Stonehenge and Avebury- Have your say
- < Australian Aborigines 'world's first astronomers'
- < For Stone Circles, Skip Stonehenge and head for Callanish
- < Chanctonbury Ring: Magic and mystery through the ages
- < Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant Can't Remember the Glory Days
- < Qu'ran honored at California cathedral
- < Cerne Abbas – giant penis was added by 12-year-old boys
- < Do Christians really believe Jesus is God?
- < The Ratzmobile



Getting to know the Southern Hemisphere

According to Wikipedia, the following countries are part of the Southern Hemisphere... (if not the entire country, the southern part of it)

African countries

* Angola	* Botswana	* Burundi	* Comoros	* Lesotho	* Madagascar
* Malawi	* Mauritius	* Mozambique	* Namibia	* Rwanda	* Seychelles
* South Africa	* Swaziland	* Tanzania	* Zambia	* Zimbabwe	* Gabon
* Democratic Republic of the Congo			* Republic of the Congo		* Kenya
* Equatorial Guinea	* Somalia		* São Tomé and Príncipe		* Uganda

Asian countries

* East Timor * Indonesia

Oceania countries

* Australia	* Fiji	* Nauru	* New Zealand	* Papua New Guinea	* Samoa
* Solomon Islands		* Tonga	* Tuvalu	* Vanuatu	* Kiribati

America

* Argentina	* Bolivia	* Chile	* Paraguay	* Peru	* Uruguay
* Chile Island	* Easter Island	* Brazil	* Ecuador	* Colombia	

Other territories

* American Samoa (USA)	* Antarctic & sub-Antarctic islands	* Bouvet Island (Norway)
* Chagos Archipelago (UK)	* Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)	* Easter Island (Chile)
* Falkland Islands (UK, claimed by Argentina)		* Jarvis Island (USA)
* Mayotte (France)	* Kerguelen Islands (France)	* Kermadec Islands (NZ)
* French Polynesia (including Tahiti) (France)		* Cook Islands (NZ)
* Juan Fernández Islands (Chile)	* Territory of New Caledonia and Dependencies (France)	
* New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands (NZ)	* Niue (NZ)	* Réunion (France)
* Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands (United Kingdom)		
* Saint Helena (UK)	* Saint Paul Island and Amsterdam Island (France)	
* South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (UK, claimed by Argentina)		
* South Orkney Islands (Antarctic Treaty signatories)	* Swains Island (USA, claimed by Tokelau)	
* Tokelau (NZ)	* Tristan da Cunha (UK)	* Territory of Wallis and Futuna Islands (France)

So if you're country is listed above, you are part of the Southern Hemisphere, and we'd love to hear from you. We'd like to hear how weather, cultural influences, traditions, history of your country influence your Druidry, and also anything that you feel is specific to your region for Druidry. Ideally this would become a regular feature, so please don't hesitate to contribute!

If you aren't listed in the above, or don't want to write in, we encourage you to perhaps take a country or two from the list, do some research about it, and send healing thoughts/energy to the country and its population. May its leaders make wise informed decisions, and may the population be good caretakers of their native landscape.



Competitions

Submit your photos, drawings, articles, photos of your completed art and crafts from the "young at heart" section, for a chance to win an amazing prize!

Prizes will include:

- * Free mail subscription to Serpentstar
- * Seeds to plant in your garden
- * Materials to build the featured art/craft

Email: ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com for further details

Competitions for this issue...

- * Submit a photo of how you celebrated Beltane, or Alban Hefin.
- * Submit a poem/prose for Lughnasadh
- * Submit a recipe for Lughnasadh
- * Email the editor with constructive criticism/feedback on this edition! (be honest!)
- * Colouring-in Competition - colour the front cover of this issue or draw your own version of it, and email a photo or scan of the finished product!

Include your name, address and which type of prize you'd prefer.

Email: ladya.serpentstar@gmail.com by January 20, 2011

Answers to Crossword, Sudoku and Spring Rhyme Riddle

3	4	7	2	8	9	5	1	6
9	2	1	7	6	5	3	8	4
6	8	5	4	3	1	2	9	7
7	6	8	1	5	2	4	3	9
1	5	4	3	9	8	6	7	2
2	3	9	6	4	7	1	5	8
4	1	2	8	7	3	9	6	5
8	9	3	5	2	6	7	4	1
5	7	6	9	1	4	8	2	3

Spring Rhyme Answers

- (1) Bud
- (2) Bloom
- (3) Sprout
- (4) Cherry
- (5) Dill
- (6) Eggs
- (7) nest
- (8) hatch
- (9) Seeds
- (10) shower

1	S	2	H	3	A	4	P	5	E	6	S	7	H	8	I	9	F	10	T	11	S
12	P	13	U	14	R	15	E	16	U	17	C	18		19							P
20	E	21	L	22	M	23	S	24	P	25	O	26	E	27	T	28					E
29	C	30	A	31	S	32	T	33	L	34	E	35	D	36	E	37	A	38	L		
39	T	40		41		42	L	43	R	44				45	A	46	W	47	L		
48	A	49		50	R	51	E	52	P	53	L	54	I	55	E	56	R	57	B		
58	C	59	E	60	E	61		62	A	63		64	N	65				66	I		
67	U	68	R	69	A	70	L	71	T	72	A	73	I	74	P	75	A	76	N		
77	L	78		79	R	80	A	81	N	82	I	83	G	84	O	85	L	86	D		
87	A	88		89		90	G	91	V	92	M	93	U	94	S	95	E				
96	R	97	E	98	J	99	U	100	V	101	E	102	N	103	A	104	T	105	O	106	R

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