GYLDEN MAGICK SEPT. 2019 Issue #



Gylden Magick

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Sept. 2019

PRACTICAL MAGICK & UNIVERSAL ENERGY FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Editor's notes

by Gylden Fellowship

Welcome to *GYLDEN MAGICK* – the spiritual magazine from Gylden Fellowship that spans both traditional and newer pagan beliefs and practice.

The **Gylden Community** is one of the most extensive pagan libraries in southern England. Its website, www.gyldenfellowship.co.uk, is growing too – our Lughnasadh sabbat blog reached 3200 people and we welcome new members constantly.

On Facebook, the *Gylden River LRC* (Learning Resources Centre) is a social learning hub with optional study units in key areas of magick and there's now a new group just for the followers of *GYLDEN MAGICK*.

Gylden Fellowship continues as a pagan support mechanism, i.e. visiting groups, Interfaith work,

fayres, calendars, helping our moot friends with rituals or meetings, etc.

Again, new from September, we've introduced a system for people to pre-order selected natural healing items from our stand at MBS fayres. All details can be found on our Facebook groups.

Our Barley Moon issue is our first anniversary. More people want to write for us and we're putting in new features or series – that's why this **GYLDEN MAGICK** runs to 20 pages with ever more guidance on spiritual issues and magick. But no ads – after all, we're a library and all the information is completely free.

Dates for your diaries – don't forget 15 September for the Violet Flame MBS Fayre in Worthing and 29 September for the MBS Fayre in Godalming. What else is there? Well, we have a piece on palmistry, photos from Pagan Pride South, an intro to the craft for new or young pagans, herbal healing, a new series on astrology, guidance on angel boards, poetry and a preview of the Wyvern Rises Festival in 2020. And some seasonal magick, as we look to Alban Elfed/ Mabon.

Anything else? Oh yes, the title – we never forget that our faith is based upon Nature and that our strength comes from earth magick. Many of our sabbats are based upon the light, eg solstices and equinoxes, as vital to us now as to our ancestors.

For more info, why not join <u>Gylden</u> <u>River LRC</u> or <u>Gylden Fellowship</u> groups on Facebook today and see our calendar, updates or briefings for September?

Monthly features

Pages 3-4

Contents: September 2019

	•	
	Altar tools — Colours	
	Crystals — Rainbow bismuth	
	Herbal healing — Dill	
	Kitchen witchcraft – Orange rocks	
Previev	v: Godalming MBS Fayre by Barbara Collins	Page 5
Summer photos: Pagan Pride South 2019 by Wayne Davis		Page 6
Spi-rituality: Lughnasadh ceremony by Basingstoke Pagan Circle		Page 7
Gylden Reflections		Page 8
First Steps (new series): sending Harry Potter back to Hogwarts by Gylden Fellowship		Pages 9-10
Divination: Palmistry by Sam O'Neil		Page 11
Using angel boards: by Paula & Zoe/ From Angels with Love		Page 12
Preview: The Wyvern Rises 2020 by Bob Knott		Page 13
Did someone mention the fae? By Gylden Fellowship		Page 14
Autum	nal showcase	Page 15
Seasonal magick (new series) by Gylden Fellowship		Page 16-18
Astrological signs (new series) by Paula Restall		Page 19
Gylden	contact info	Page 20



Altar tools: colours

We've featured a few key altar tools so far in this series, but haven't really looked at the meaning of colours yet.

It might seem to be self-evident, but different colours are associated with different types of energy. This belief has been around since the Middle Ages, until Goethe (the 18th century scientist and philosopher) wrote that colour was part of spirituality. This theory influenced Rudolf Steiner last century; we do know that colours affect us all in differing ways. For example, we're feeling blue, green with envy or red with anger.

OK then, here's a quick guide to sabbat altar colours.

- Alban Arthan/ Yule: white, black, light blue or silver
- Imbolg: white, light blue or light green
- Alban Eilir/ Ostara: light green or light yellow
- Beltane: medium green or pink
- Alban Hefin/ Litha: bright yellow
- Lughnasadh: bright green or gold
- Alban Elfed/ Mabon: gold, brown or orange
- Samhain: deep red, brown or dark orange.

Scott Cunningham suggested a set of colours for different magickal uses in 1988, as shown below.

- White for protection, peace, happiness, chastity, purification and spirituality
- Green for healing, money, prosperity, luck, fertility, beauty and youth
- Brown for healing animals and anything to do with the home
- Pink for emotional love, fidelity and friendship
- Red for lust, strength, courage, power and sexual potency
- Yellow for divination, psychic power, mental powers, wisdom and visions
- Purple for healing, power and exorcism
- Blue for healing, sleep and peace
- Orange for legal matters and success.



Crystals: rainbow bismuth

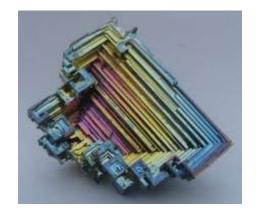
Earlier in the year, I was in White Witch in Waltham Abbey and, as ever, looking at the shop's extensive crystal cabinet. Not all the pieces are eye-wateringly expensive and I found myself buying a piece of **rainbow bismuth** for a friend. This is a crystal with an unusually high electrical resistance for a metal, a thermal conductivity lower than any metal except mercury and the ability to expand as it freezes. Most such bismuth comes from Bolivia.

The **healing uses** include the following.

- It stimulates energy and vitality, helping you to achieve your goals, especially when working as part of a team.
- Bismuth has a radioactive quality and should not be used for crystal elixirs.
- Physically, it aids with relief of isolation and loneliness.
- As with other crystals, it boosts protection against electromagnetic smog and harmful microwaves.

As a <u>magickal tool</u>, rainbow bismuth is good for these purposes.

- In general, rainbow bismuth helps with change, encouraging a calm acceptance and increasing your energy levels to adapt and transform.
- It also supports transformation by helping you to travel between the physical plane and realms of astral and spirit.
- It can help with visualisation during shamanic journeys.
- As might be expected from a stone that enhances transformation, rainbow bismuth is best used with all the chakras. It is linked to the zodiacal sign of Aquarius.



Herb of the month: dill

Dill or dill weed (anethum graveolens) comes from the Saxon word, dilla (to lull), but the herb was also used widely in Ancient Egypt and is listed in the Bible.

It is a good source of iron, manganese, calcium and dietary fibre. One tablespoon of dill seed has the calcium equivalent of one-third cup of milk. Although dill has no known danger warnings associated with its use, there is a possibility that oil of dill should be avoided during pregnancy.

Many people use dill as a key flavouring for cakes, fish dishes and pickles, but it also has lots of healing properties – using the leaves and seeds.

- The seeds can be made into cakes that help people digest rich food.
- Actually, talking about digestion, dill is used widely for loss of appetite, liver problems and gall bladder issues.
- It's also good for UTI and kidney problems.
- Dill and fennel leaves can be chewed together to relieve headaches.
- Fevers and colds, coughs and respiratory illness respond well to dill.
- Any neurological complaints or spasms can be treated with dill.
- Dill seed mouthwash or dill water can help with swellings in the mouth or throat.
- For new mothers, a tea made of dill seeds enriches the breast milk and helps the baby to overcome windy pains.
- Other complaints that can be treated by dill tea include insomnia and menstrual pain.
- It's also worth noting that there is current research on the potential of dill in cancer prevention. Dill contains a substance that minimises the effects of some carcinogens.



Recipe of the month: orange rocks

Now, this recipe follows on from the piece on harvest festivals in the August *GYLDEN MAGICK*. There, we referred to the harvest horkeys of the early 19th century, but by the end of that century, much of the harvest celebrations had returned to the church. And there were regular events, known as **chapel socials**.

So, this recipe is a real one from a chapel social event, held in the early Edwardian period (about 1904). The recipe is estimated to make about 18 small rock cakes and I've tried it myself several times – and it all went well for my family's events.

Ingredients

- 1. 225g plain flour
- 2. 2 level tsp baking powder
- 3. 75g butter
- 4. 75g caster sugar
- 5. 1 egg
- 6. Juice and finely grated rind of 1 large orange.

Method

- 1. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C.
- 2. Sift the flour and baking powder into a mixing bowl.
- 3. Add the butter and rub it into the flour by hand.
- 4. Stir in the sugar, orange juice and rind.
- 5. Add the egg and stir to make a stiff mixture.
- 6. Add teaspoonfuls of the mixture to a greased baking tray and bake in the oven for 15-20 mins (until brown and cooked).
- 7. Remove the cakes and leave to cool do not eat them all at once!



Preview: Autumn Godalming MBS Fayre

We've encountered the organisation that is **Crystal Pyramid Therapies** several times in the past year. This is the autumnal MBS event, set in leafy Godalming on 29 **September 2019**. from Barbara Collins & Crystal Pyramid Therapies. Free parking, entry fee of £3 or so, catering, lots of crystals, holistic healing, gong baths and mediumship. *Gylden Fellowship* has a natural healing stand here this year. So, let's listen to Barbara as she explains her craft.

As a practising therapist of reflexology, Reiki and crystal therapy, I would like to share a few of my insights into the use of crystals for holistic use and also in our daily lives. All my clients know that crystals will form part of their treatments when they book appointments and, over the years, similar questions are asked frequently – eg which crystals are the most protective? My answers vary greatly, depending on the specific needs of that person. For example, when someone is recovering from <u>personal trauma or injury (physical or psychological)</u>, I will often choose one of the following protective and nurturing stones that I know will gently bring their own Guides to their assistance.

• The clear energies in **apophyllite** connect directly to the spiritual realms, creating a pure light that will attract their angels and healing guides.



 Selenite is another gentle crystal, which will clear etheric blockages and is a very useful tool when used as a wand in a healing environment for clearing stuck energies gently, but effectively.

- Seraphinite is another of my favourite stones to attract angelic connection for healing and regeneration.
- Much has been written of protection from darker earthbound energies and the popular stones, ie schorl (black tourmaline), labradorite, smoky quartz and obsidian need little explanation. All may be used in grids, worn/carried as talismen or placed around the home to deflect environmental stress, negative energies and for grounding. Ungrounded people are most likely to attract negativity, in my experience.
- Our connection to earth's energies is vital for maintaining a healthy outlook and creating positive energy. One of my favourites is petrified wood (aka fossilised or agatized wood) - this is the stone of beginnings and ancient knowledge reawakening one's inherent knowledge of nature and earthpower. It is not only useful for grounding one's energy on this earthly plane, but also supports our physical growth and gives us the patience to achieve life missions.
- Finally, I want to mention chrysophrase as this lovely stone connects us to all nature's beings especially the elementals. It is a heart-centred stone of the pure green ray, maintains the harmony between our fellow humans and also of our personal joy in all of nature's gifts.

The subtle energies that each stone/ crystal emits can only be used to the greater good of all from those emitting low energies (not negative energies) to the crystals that resonate at the highest spiritual level. We all need the different energies of earth, fire, water and air – minerals and stones are the vehicles through which earth energy is balanced and distributed throughout the planet.

For more info on Crystal Pyramid Therapies, contact Barbara Collins at:
www.crystalpyramidtherapies.co.uk

GYLDEN MAGICK SEPT. 2019

Gylden Magick Sept. 2019

Pagan Pride South 2019 (photos: Wayne Davis)













Spi-rituality: Lughnasadh ceremony

By Basingstoke Pagan Circle and report by Gylden Fellowship

On 1 August, pagans across the world celebrated the festival of Lughnasadh. In Britain, the Saxons described this date as Lammas, from the custom of loaf-mass, ie the consecration of new loaves from the new grain harvest. This festival celebrates the basic food that sustains us through the winter and the seeds that become next year's harvest – the seed lives on and completes the cycle. Locally, there were Lughnasadh rituals in Alton, Basingstoke and Kingley and we're going to look at the Basingstoke one.

Written by **Paul Oakwolf Coombes**, the Archdruid who organises Basingstoke Pagan Circle, all the sabbat rituals are held in public places, eg the War Memorial Park in Basingstoke, on the weekend closest to the actual festival. One of the key points to note in advance is that all are welcome to come along and join in – it wouldn't be the first time that interested spectators are invited to join the circle too.

The second key point is that this is not exclusively druidic. There are druids present, but there are witches and those of a heathen kindred path too. So, what does the ritual include? As with many other ceremonies, there are standard parts like Calling the Quarters, a grounding element and blessings of bread and mead, but there are other parts that are less common.

- 1. One person takes the role of a sword bearer, to determine whether there is peace in each quarter.
- 2. Almost always, there is a poetical element read by someone for this ritual, the poem used was "John Barleycorn" by Robert Burns.
- 3. There's an Awen chant, followed by the druid oath We swear by peace and love to stand, Heart to Heart and Hand in Hand, Mark O Spirit, and hear us now, confirming this, our Sacred Vow.
- 4. Each ritual includes a ceremonial talking stick, passed from one person to another, for each to make a shared contribution.

Gylden Reflections

Proud oak tree, reaching skywards,

With long arms and deep roots.

The survivor of centuries of strife,

Amid new forests of sister birches,

Hornbeams, willows and alders.

Green leaves flourish in spring,

Bright yellows and ambers at Mabon,

And bare fingers during winter snows —

The circle of renewal never alters:

A forest-scape with new life, of nut and acorn.



Where once was a sea of jammed traffic,

Hooting and struggling for space,

Brave roads and new runways,

Now collapsed under the roots of trees.

Four centuries later, the trees have risen,

Returning to triumph over the cars,

Their drivers and failed representatives.

Lack of fuel destroyed both reputations,

And the excesses of material greed.

We had to adapt to new ways and beliefs;

Some could not do so - their bones

Lie bleached in the undergrowth,

Alongside the steel skeletons of cars.



As with the perished, dusty remains of

Triceratops and velociraptors,

So, planes and cars and trucks,

Belong now in museums – testament

To our obsession with flying or driving.

Memorial to a failed policy - destroy the trees,

And they return to victory over the wheel of ages.

Sending Harry Potter back to Hogwarts

By Gylden Fellowship

This article is the first in a new series for new or younger pagans. I was at Pagan Pride South 2019 on 18 August and a couple of stands were selling "Harry Potter wands". Harry Potter is a totally fictional character and it might be good to have magickal schools like Hogwarts, but the reality of learning about magick is something we can look at in more detail later in this series.

Actually, some of the names of the characters and themes are magickal in origin, such as Nicolas Flamel or the philosopher's stone, but the rest is fiction. However, due to the success of the novels and films, some schools and clubs play a form of land-based quidditch. If you really want to follow in Harry's or Hermione's footsteps, then this text is for you.



OK, we get it. Perhaps your parents are pagans or some friends at school/ college are really into the occult. Films and TV programmes don't help much and there's loads of books or magazines on the subject. Where do you start?

You want to find out more, but are not sure where to go and you don't want to appear stupid. As I say, I get it – this article is designed for anyone aged between 13-18 years-old, i.e. between joining Facebook and the theoretical age for joining something like the Pagan Federation.

Do you feel that organised religion is not for you? By organised religion, I'm talking church services, lots of rules or catechism, commandments and scriptures, not to

mention priests or bishops or whatever. It's OK – you're not alone. Paganism is one of the fastest growth faiths in the world.

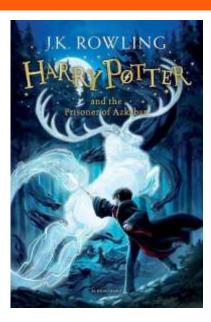
In this case, paganism is an umbrella word, to cover all the different paths, like druids, witches, shamans, wiccans, heathens, etc. Bit like Christianity covering Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, etc.

Pagans don't worship the devil. That's a myth. There is a separate movement for the worship of Satan - Satan is an essential part of Christian belief. No pagan believes in fallen angels or original sin – that's another faith. Most pagans believe in these general ideas.

- 1. Everyone is entitled to their own set of beliefs and we respect how others choose to worship.
- 2. We believe that nature should be preserved or just left alone – both plants and animals. So, no trophy hunting, fox hunting or fracking – right?
- 3. Everyone is entitled to their own lifestyle choices without prejudice or discrimination.
- 4. Everyone is allowed to believe in any number of gods or goddesses, again without interference from others. Several key paths involve the Horned God and the Goddess, but others do not and we'll looking at eclectic beliefs in a month or two.
- 5. We try to help those in the community less fortunate than us, eg by healing, helping those in hospital, in prison or in poverty.

Does this sound like you? Or, to put it another way, does this mindset seem attractive to you? If so, you may be a pagan in the making – let's have a look at what you could do next.

There's always a temptation to rush out and buy stuff, eg loads of witchy gear or wands or whatever. It's not really needed, not if you're short of cash anyway. It's possible to make a cloak from a duvet cover, a wand from a nearby tree and forage for crystals on the beach. The most expensive gear is rarely needed, eg swords.



Good ways to learn more about paganism are to talk to current pagans or listen to podcasts or stuff on YouTube. Here's a list of things you <u>could</u> do to start your path.

- If you're on Facebook, there's lots of sham sites that just try to sell stuff. What you really need are pagan learning circles – like Gylden Fellowship, Gylden River LRC, Discover Druidry or the Waverley Healing Wheel.
- Websites are everywhere, but for good info start with the main bodies, like the Children of Artemis, the Pagan Federation, British Druid Order or OBOD.
- 3. Try to persuade your school/ college to invite a pagan speaker.
- 4. These days, the pagan bodies work with the **Interfaith** movement it may be that your local diocese can refer you to a pagan group.
- Get some of your friends together and visit a local psychic fayre or mind, body & spirit event. Don't spend loads, but crystals are really cheap and these events give a flavour of the subjects.
- 6. Some organisations run free talks on paganrelated topics. You won't have to pay for entry, though there may be a small charge for refreshments.
- 7. Get some friends together and **visit pagan places**, eg stone circles, museums of witchcraft, shrines, Boscastle, Glastonbury, etc.

- 8. If you can find **local bands** that do pagan stuff, go to some gigs.
- g. There will be local moots, ie gatherings of pagans, but be careful many groups meet in pubs and some perform actual magick at their meetings. Younger people are normally welcome, but this should be checked in advance. If anything seems not right to you, leave that group alone.

You could start to create your own diary of progress, as an elementary **Book of Shadows**. This is your path, but compare it with others as you go.



Actually, here's a list of **don'ts** – many new pagans have been caught out in the past.

- Don't start by joining an online training group until you know what you want – it can be expensive for not very much.
- Never join a coven as a beginner or a meetup occult group.
- Don't flaunt pentagrams unless your school/ college is OK with it.
- If you're not happy about anything you've seen or come across, notify a friend, teacher or parent at once.
- Don't boast about what magick you saw or did in a group – paganism is not about bragging rights.
- Never try spells without practice or supervision (at first) – some spells may sound cool, but they may harm someone.

Divination: the headline

By Sam O'Neil

To date, **GYLDEN MAGICK** has included several features on divination, eg tarot, Tykhe dice and palmistry. This article is the second one on **detailed palmistry** by Sam O'Neil, who is a medium, spiritual palmist and spiritual teacher. Just like any form of divination, I use palmistry as a tool, but it is a very detailed tool. Like any other form of reading, it is a guide - as we have free will.

The headline is also known at the Wisdom Line. In some cultures, and for some spiritualists, the headline is not classed as a major line. As this is a state of mind, it isn't often timed by a timeline. The headline is the second line down on our palms, starting between the base of the thumb and forefinger going inwards, sometimes starting from the life line.

The headline is who we were, who we are and who we are going to be mentally. It has become more recognised that not just the body needs treating, but also the mind. The headline can be complicated, just as we ourselves are complicated and have lots of many different aspects to our personalities. The headline can also tell you what kind of career you would be suited to, as it tells you about your mindset.

- 1. A person with a short headline prefers physical achievements over mental ones. It is a person that likes to do things quickly and might be a creature of habit.
- 2. A person with a long headline may be a driven, rational thinker, but can also may over-think situations. He or she likes to be in control of situations and is suited to a leadership role.
- 3. A person with a <u>curving or sloping headline</u> is both creative and a communicator. He or she has intuition, foresight and seeks self-improvement.
- 4. A person with a broken headline may suffer from inconsistent thinking, mental exhaustion, changes in thinking due to life circumstances or sudden changes in health. But with disappointment comes healing. Feel the spaces with good feelings and reconnect.
- 5. A person with rare double or sister headlines has strong mental ability. He or she is cautious, self-confident, driven, successful and has a strong personality with a desire to go above others.
- 6. A person with a forked headline is able to view both sides of issues fairly and may have extra energy. A forked headline is often found on hands of comedians or in theatrical settings.

In some cases, there is no head and heart line, but one joined line - this is called a simian line. It means that person can look at life in black and white - they have intelligence, sensibility and give 100% devotion in love. However, they are driven, short-tempered, impulsive and stubborn. They can make great achievements, no matter in which industry they work.

Different marks on the headline can tell us what our mental health is like at different points in our lives or if we have suffered from head illness or trauma. This can be useful to know how we deal with life changes and, therefore, we can change our mindsets. If the headline is joined to the lifeline, it signifies an evolved, sensitive person, who may find themselves in uncomfortable situations.

If the headline is not joined, but connected by strands in-between the lines, these marks can tell us what sense of humour you have and about your social life and relationships around us. This line (like all the others) changes, as we are controlled by our emotions. These are basic meanings, but to have a true reading on a line, you have to take in all factors, eg thick or thin marks or bends and other lines that may come from this.

For more details: Spiritualist Sam O'Neil

Medium, Spiritual Palmist and Spiritual Teacher.

FB - spirit.sam.oneil

Spirtualistsamoneil@outlook.com

Using angel boards

By Paula Restall and Zoe at From Angels with Love

Angel boards are great tools to connect with those loved ones in spirit, but the need for protection is so important. Our spirit communicators work very hard as they orchestrate all that goes on in our communication with higher beings, but remember that discipline, respect and awareness of protection are vital. With angel boards and with any form of physical phenomena, they must be treated respectfully so that the energy is controlled. Spirits manipulate our energies when spelling out messages on the boards.



Angel boards can be used too freely in the wrong hands and without protection. Angel boards are amazing tools, with great evidence provided, but again protection is a must at all times. The angel boards are used by many mediums, who (consciously or unconsciously) use their guides or loved ones to protect the boards. So, if you are not in a good place mentally or emotionally, it is not a good idea to use them. Also, permission should be asked to the spirit in advance of any video recording of trance and physical phenomena. Working with spirit is rewarding and amazing and, after all, we are asking for evidence but please do so in a respectful way and still have fun. We all have loved ones in spirit that we would want to be respected - the same applies to all. When aiming to work with the highest levels of vibration, always make sure that you are physically ready; i.e. only use the boards when in a positive mindset and never when under the influence of drink or drugs of any kind.

- Start any spirit communication by saying a prayer first.
- Ego must be left at the door.
- Make it clear the sort of communication you are wanting remember it's all about positive intention with the highest level of loving vibrations to contact with our guardian angels and spiritual guides.
- Positive, loving and uplifting messages are so important.
- The angel board can bring through comfort and love, but can also be confusing with the messages.
- With the help of highly evolved guides, any confusion can soon be sorted out and will be a comforting and uplifting experience for all the sitters.
- After using and finishing the communication, always give thanks to the spirit inspirers and those loved ones.
- Ask that the board be closed, the energies returned to normal and that any conditions (be it mental or emotional) be cleared from your mind, for you to continue with your normal day-to-day activities.
- Remember that we are sensitive souls and can easily pick up on other's conditions even those in spirit. Again, the importance of discipline, protection and having a sound mind if you intend to use the board regularly, then commitment and patience is required to build up the energies so that the communication be consistent.
- Enjoy the angel board, but with love and respect for yourself, other sitters and, of course, spirit so that harmony is maintained.

Preview: The Wyvern Rises 2020

A New Pagan Gathering to Launch in the Heart of Wessex

By Bob Knott

The Wyvern Rises is a new pagan camp & gathering that will hold its inaugural meet over the summer solstice weekend next year ($19^{th} - 22^{nd}$ June 2020), in the village of Martin in Hampshire. We want to invite & welcome all those who follow the old faiths or traditions, as well as those who are curious to learn more. We are developing a range of workshops and talks that will offer both basic introductions to paganism, as well as skill development for those already practising.



We aim to be a diverse gathering, open to all ages, families, couples or those who wander alone. With the weekend being of particular significance, we are planning both dawn and dusk ceremonies to mark the solstice day. I hasten to add that attendance is optional at either or both – so, whether you are an early bird or a night owl, there is something for you. In addition to the workshops, we are also delighted to announce the Wyvern Folk Club will open its doors on both Saturday and Sunday – we invite all of those coming, who have a musical or poetic talent to share, to take a turn on stage at this Open mic event and share their talents with us all. We are fortunate to have local singer and songwriter, Beth Williams, join us for the weekend, who will be our House singer for the club to get the musical juices flowing! After the dusk ritual on Saturday, we will have stories around the fire with Cliff Easterbrook, the Travelling Talesman.

The format for the weekend will be:

FRIDAY: set up & chill with a central fire being lit at dusk to symbolically open the gathering.

SATURDAY: dawn solstice ritual, workshops & the Wyvern Folk Club, traders & sellers of wondrous things, dusk solstice ritual and communal fire with stories from the Travelling Talesman.

SUNDAY: workshops & the Wyvern Folk Club and traders & sellers of wondrous things!

MONDAY: time to depart

(As with all things the gods can intervene & therefore the programme may be subject to change.)

There is, of course, a contribution required to attend & this is £30 adult & £15 child (<16 years) A Day Ticket for £10 is also available for Saturday.

We welcome dogs with well-behaved owners.

We also invite and welcome traders. For a standard gazebo in front of the caravan/tent sized pitch, we do not charge any traders' fees.

Check out our website and keep up to speed on developments with our monthly blog.

www.thewyvernrises.co.uk

Did someone mention the fæ?

By Gylden Fellowship

Færy stories such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Rumpelstiltskin* can be traced back thousands of years to prehistoric times, with one tale originating from the bronze age, academics have revealed (Durham University anthropologist Dr Jamie Tehrani, who worked with folklorist Sara Graça da Silva, from New University of Lisbon). Using techniques normally employed by biologists, they studied common links between 275 Indo-European færy tales from around the world and found some have roots that are far older than previously known, "long before the emergence of the literary record". While stories such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Rumplestiltskin* were first written down in the 17th and 18th centuries, the researchers found they originated "significantly earlier" – "both tales can be securely traced back to the emergence of the major western Indo-European subfamilies as distinct lineages between 2,500 and 6,000 years ago," they write. All good stuff, but here's a færy story that is a little closer to home: *The Angels of Church Woods*.

Church Woods can be found near Oxted, but there is no church located there. This is the tale of how the woods came by their name in the Middle Ages. Some 700 years ago, the woods covered a much greater area, including Oxted, Limpsfield and much of Titsey. There were a few farmsteads and isolated hamlets, such as Westerham and Woldingham. And in the woods was a large open space that was a dancing place for the faery folk – elves, pixies and sylphs. Of course, no humans could see such creatures except for the young daughters of local farmers, but no-one listened to such tales. And on nights, when the skies were clear and the full moon shone down, the space was full of dancing elves.



But some half-stories persisted about winged creatures in the woods and, after a while, the men of Titsey village decided to build a church right there in the open space, because the winged creatures were obviously angels from on high and that area must be a holy place. Some of the young girls protested, but their parents shushed them for making up faery stories.

So, the day dawned when the foundation stones of the new church were laid and the builders started on the walls too. **But** that night was a full moon in a clear sky and, during the night, the woods rang with wailing cries from the place of the new church-to-be. In the morning, the people of Titsey discovered that all the half-built walls of the church had been torn down and the stones scattered.

All through that week, the same thing happened. Each day, the villagers tried to build the church, only to find it in ruins the next day. Finally, the village elders decided that they must have offended the angels and the solution was to build in another place, closer to the village. The foundation stones were removed and the new church was constructed much closer to what we now know as Oxted. And this church remained up, i.e. no destruction from angels or anything else!

So, the woods gained the name of Church Woods and the faery folk may still dance in the large open space. But, 700 years later, something else was built not so very far away and that was Clacket Lane Service Station on the M25.

Autumnal showcase









Magick for Alban Elfed/ Mabon

By Gylden Fellowship

Alban Elfed/ Mabon has always been my favourite season with the changing colours of the leaves, loads of mushrooms and the end of the corn harvest. The autumnal equinox itself falls on <u>23 September 2019</u> (Mabon starts on 21 September and ends on 29 September); this text reviews some of the magickal things that we can do at this time of year.

But first, let's consider what Alban Elfed/ Mabon is all about – more details will be included in the *Gylden Fellowship* sabbat blog, closer to the actual day. At Lughnasadh, we counted and named some of our blessings. At the equinox, it is time to balance our lives, just as the light and dark are in equal balance. And so, we name some of those things that are surplus to our lives and that we choose to cast away.

The second harvest fruits include corn, forest fruits and seeds, fruits of the sea, herbs and flowers, but it is the **apple** that is an ancient symbol of life, death and rebirth. Take an apple and name the chaff to be discarded from your life. The apple tree tells us it is a time of fruition, a time to gather our resources and feel abundant. It also protects us from the more negative states of the mind.

Apples have long been used for divination and love magick. The blossoms were included in love sachets and used to scent candles to attract love. To ensure happiness in your relationship, light a red candle, cut an apple in half and share it with your loved one. Or, you could run this spell, *Apple seed spell to bring love into your life*

<u>Set-up</u>: a piece of rose quartz, a red rose, a red apple and 2 candles (one green and the other pink).

Pick a time when you know you will not be disturbed, preferably close to the full moon. While getting all the things you need, think of the love you would like to invite into your life.

- ♣ Light the candles and place the rose in front of the burning candles.
- Hold the rose quartz in your hand and, as you stare into the candle flames, repeat the incantation below:
- "Loving Goddess, I invoke thee,

To grant me here my desire,

I ask for love eternal and true,

Sealed with candle-fire.

May the fragrance of the rose,

Carry my wish afar,

And bring me only my true love,

To last for evermore. So mote it be."

- All thanks to the Goddess and leave the candles to burn out.
- Eat the apple and save the seeds.
- Place the rose, the apple seeds, and the rose quartz on a window ledge where they will attract the magick of the moon. Next day, as soon as you wake up, plant the apple seeds in a pot of soil.
- Look after your seeds in a caring way and, as the seedlings begin to grow, love will come into your life.
- ♣ Keep the roses and, when they wilt, dry the petals, keeping them in a special place (with your rose quartz) to remind you of the spell.



Baked apples are a traditional bit of kitchen witchery in autumn and here's how to do them – allot one cooking apple per person.

METHOD

- 1) Pre-heat your oven to 180°C.
- 2) Wash the apples, then core and peel them.
- 3) Fill the core with cinnamon, sultanas and butter.
- 4) Put the apples in a shallow dish, standing in about 1 inch of cold water.
- 5) Bake the apples for about 30 minutes in the oven.
- 6) When cooked, place the apples in a serving dish and add either maple or golden syrup to each apple.
- 7) Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Apart from apples, you could also use some of the forest fruits at this time for your health. Here's the **Gylden Fellowship** recipe that we produce for the autumn MBS fayres, the Blackberry syrup for sore throats or tickly coughs.

INGREDIENTS

300g blackberries

Juice of 2-3 limes

300ml water

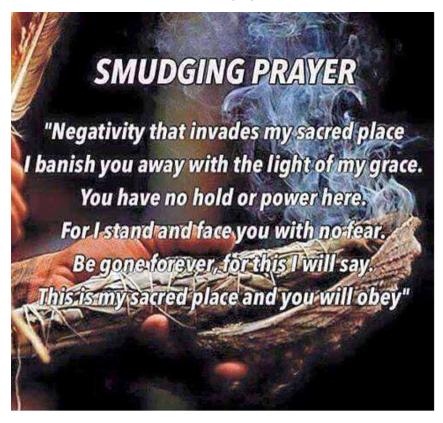
100g (max) caster sugar or maple syrup



METHOD

- 1) Mix the berries, lime juice and water together in a pan.
- 2) Put on a low/medium heat for 25 minutes.
- 3) Sieve mixture into another pan.
- 4) Add sugar/ syrup and heat until dissolved.
- 5) Simmer for 10 minutes.
- 6) Drink a glass & store any excess in a cool, dry place (not fridge)
- 7) Add water as necessary to make it a cordial rather than syrup.

To finish off, we'll include some protection stuff, first on smudging and then an Autumn protection spell for families.



Protection spell set-up: nine autumn leaves, a plate, a small yellow or orange candle and some salt.

- 1) Join with your family members in a circle and light the candle.
- 2) Everyone to focus on the positive feelings to be sent to each other or family members not present or another person/their family during this season.
- 3) Stack the leaves on the plate, one on top of the other, sprinkling salt in between each one.
- 4) All say these words, "Autumn leaves we ask of thee, Full blessings of safe family. With salt to make our wishes pure, Harming none, no less, no more. So mote it be!"

Put the stack of leaves in a place where all can see it. At the end of the spell, bury the leaves in the ground to be recycled by the earth with thanks.

Astrological signs and traits

By Paula Restall/ Zen's Astrology Den

This piece is a swift overview of the different astrological signs and the character traits of their holders. More detailed texts on astrology will feature in future editions of **GYLDEN MAGICK**.

Aries: 21 March-20 April: energetic, passionate, possessive, courageous and impatient.

Taurus: 21 April-21 May: stubborn, possessive, materialistic and confident.

Gemini: 22 May- 21 June: nervous, excitable, communicative and expressive.

Cancer: 22 June-22 July: sensitive, home-loving and needing security.

Leo: 23 July-22 August: proud, strong, brave, happy and attention-seeking.

Virgo: 23 August-23 September: self-critical, analytical, curious and charming.

Libra: 24 September-23 October: balanced, dynamic and has a love of beauty.

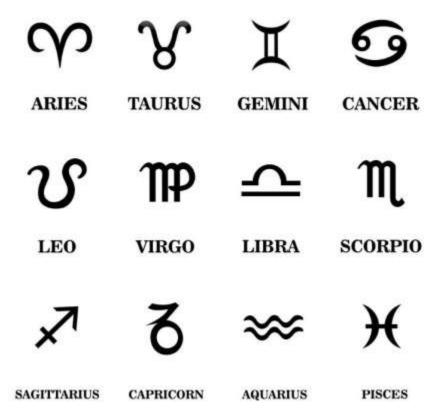
Scorpio: 24 October-22 November: secretive, intense, intuitive, loyal and bold.

Sagittarius: 23 November-21 December: freedom-loving, friendly, lively and fun-loving.

Capricorn: 22 December-20 January: practical, moody, firm, confident and bossy.

Aquarius: 21 January—19 February: eccentric, humanitarian, lazy and curious.

Pisces: 20 February-20 March: sensitive, honest, trustworthy, compassionate and a dreamer.



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