



WITCH



Imbale

ABSTRACT ENTERTAINMENTS

PRESENTS

THE ALL NEW
& EXCITING

CELTIC GIANTS

FRIDAY 8 APRIL

MUSICIANS COLLABORATE FOR A
POWERFUL & ENIGMATIC PERFORMANCE
CELEBRATING THE COLOURS OF CELTIC MUSIC

SATURDAY 9 APRIL

THE DOLMENS + CONNACH

EVENING INCLUDES THE CALLING OF
THE GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

SATURDAY DAYTIME

The Crows Feet
Craft Fayre

11am - 4pm

GLASTONBURY

ASSEMBLY ROOMS

BA6 9DU

APRIL

FRI 8 & SAT 9

To Book A Market Pitch

Contact thecrowsfeet@outlook.com



WITCH



Welcome to issue
26 of Witch!

We hope the Winter has treated you well, and that you have had time to rest and find comfort in the dark months.

We are now at Imbolc, and the first signs of Spring will soon be showing as the Maiden awakes and we move towards the light!

Thank you for joining us once more as we head around the wheel.

Be blessed,

Bekki

Editor

Contact us
editor@witchzine.co.uk
ISSN 2635-2176
www.witchzine.co.uk

Printed in the UK by Continuum Digital
Published online and in print by

Additional art and photos
by:

@magiaziemi
Klaire Dawn Ader

All other images
belong to the writer/
artist or are from the
public domain.



WITCH

FEATURED ARTICLES

FULL MOON LUNAR ECLIPSE IN TAURUS - MICHELLE ROSE BOXLEY

ARTWORK BY AYSHE-MIRA YASHIN

THE RISE OF THE MALE WITCH - ELISA M GREY

NON-MAGICKAL PRACTICE - CHERRY DOYLE

WISE WORDS FROM THE OLD CRONE - NITA SIMPSON

HOW TO HARNESS THE POWER OF AMULETS - JAZZ MEYER

VERA'S VESSELS

MONTHLY CRYSTAL GUIDE - CHERYL BECKWORTH/GROUNDED GODDESS

BUILD YOURSELF A CONFIDENCE ALTAR - FAIRY BEC

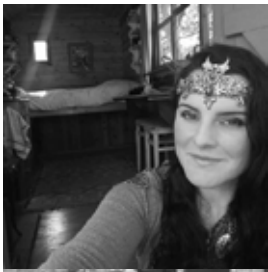
YES/NO PISTACHIO! - FAITH BARNES

TAROTSCOPES BY RAVEN & LUNA

LIE OF THE LAND - AN EXCERPT BY HELEN J.R. BRUCE

POETRY BY CAROL FLYNN

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAGIAZIEMI



HELEN J.R. BRUCE



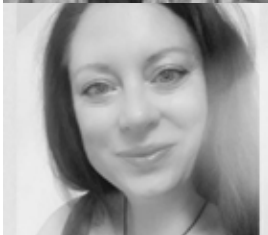
STEPHANIE ULPH



KELLY BUCHAN



THE OLD CRONE



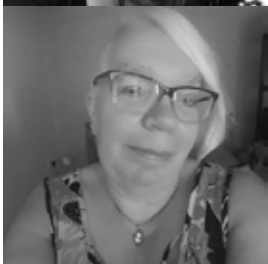
CHERYL BECKWORTH



MAGIAZIEMI



FAIRY BEC



PORTLAND JONES

Read more about our
writers and residencies
WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK

Have something to share?
email your proposal
or submission to
[submissions@witchzine.
co.uk](mailto:submissions@witchzine.co.uk)

The Midlands Witchcraft and Pagan Festival

WITCHFEST

midlands

Staffordshire University

Leek Road,

Stoke-on-Trent, UK

28th May 2022

10am - Midnight

More details at

www.witchfest.net

Speakers

Prof. Ronald Hutton

Kate West

Pete Jennings

Rachel Patterson

Cat Treadwell

Ashley Mortimer

Anna Franklin

Moira Hodgkinson

Jonathan Argento

Plus more to be announced!

Esoteric Market,

Speakers, Mead Bar

Raffle

& Evening

Entertainment

Evening Entertainment

Damh the Bard

Green Fortune

Book tickets online at www.witchfestmidlands.com



WITCH

2022

Imbolc

Ostara

Beltane

Midsummer

Lammas

Autumn Equinox

Samhain (Print Edition)

Yule

1st February

21st March

1st May

21st June

1st August

21st September

21st October

21st December

SIMPLE THINGS TO DO AT IMBOLC

Bekki Jo Milner

It may still feel like we are in the middle of winter - you might have snowdrifts, storms, and cloudy grey days where the sun hides from view until darkness falls - but it's far from the truth.

Beneath the earth, seeds push through the soil to reach the light. Animals prepare for spring, mating, feeding. The daylight lasts for slightly longer each day, the sun growing stronger as it cuts across winter skies. Buds appear on trees and shrubs, ready to burst forth their leaves and blossoms.

The world is awakening. Slowly but surely, the Maiden stirs. Slowly but surely, we feel the coming Spring and prepare to leave the darkness of Winter.

So as we take another step around the wheel, here are some simple, gentle ways to tune in to the Imbolc energy if you don't feel up to full rituals.

Clean your altar or sacred space
Imbolc is the perfect time to clean your winter altar, physically and spiritually.

Strip your altar of it's items, dispose of old offerings and wipe it doesn't with a blend of water and essential oils - try sage or lemon oils.

Spend time deciding if there are items that no longer serve your space - you could donate them to charity if appropriate, or dispose of them.

Buy a new altar cloth, or if you decorate seasonally, find a brightly coloured fabric for the approaching



spring.

Dust and gently clean your altar items, and spiritually cleanse them in a way you see fit - this could be with incense smoke, water, or oils.

Clean your home
Imbolc is associated with Brigid, Goddess of home and hearth - so set about making your home cosy and comfortable!

Spend some time decluttering - make piles of what could be donated, sold or swapped with friends. Keep boxes or bin bags for things that need to be thrown away.

If the weather is warmer, throw open the windows and dust, polish and Hoover your space. Change the bedsheets or rearrange the furniture to make rooms feel fresh.

Cleanse your space spiritually by going room to room with lit incense in your favourite scent.

Take a Witch Walk and find signs of the changing season.



Get outdoors and leave your phone in your pocket. Look around and see what signs of early spring you can see - snowdrops, crocuses, leaf buds on trees.

Stop a while and just listen to nature waking - birds singing, trees creaking, the melting of snow on boughs, if you were lucky enough to get some. Walk slowly, and contemplate the waking life that's all around you.

Set your intentions for the year ahead

Imbolc falls on the super New Moon this year - a moon full of promise and new beginnings. If you feel like January got off to a false start, this is the perfect time to start anew.

At the same time, the New Moon encourages us to take rest and be gentle - allow yourself time and space to connect with yourself - through meditation, a ritual bath or journaling.

Check in with your intentions and see if you have new ones or need to change existing ones. Write them down, start a new journal, or create an image board and place it somewhere you can see it every day.



Join online for monthly live new moon circles, Lunar Living e-book, meditations and more!

Sisters of the Moon Lunar Temple

<http://mysteryschoolofthegoddess.net/2021/08/15/the-lunar-temple-monthly-moon-membership-with-michelle-boxley/>



Sisters of the Moon Online

The
Lunar Temple

MONTHLY MOON MEMBERSHIP

Lunar & Seasonal Living | Monthly New Moon Circles

— Goddess Wisdom | Myths & Magick —

Tarot and Oracle Reading Services

Crooked Cross Crafts

My name is Simon and am based in the West
Country of the UK.

I specialise in Tarot and Oracle card readings.



I can offer the following readings:

Romantic Relationships

Career

Shadow Work

Friends and Family relations

Spiritual Growth

What you need to know right now

I can also offer bespoke readings outside of those offered above

Prices start from £10

Please don't hesitate to contact me at crookedcrosscrafts@gmail.com

Please visit my Crooked Cross Crafts page on Facebook to see reviews from previous clients

Myths of The Tarot

Kelly Buchan

It's been an enlightening experience working as a professional tarot reader over the last few years.

I've learnt plenty about the healing process and the different ways in which we deal with the beauty and trauma of life which ebbs and flows inevitably for each of us.

It's always a privilege to be trusted within another person's energetic field, and I never fail to feel a sense of childlike wonder and awe at how very accurate these Tarot sessions can be.

Especially so, when combined with an astrological birth chart reading. The biggest insight gleaned from my experiences has been just how big the knowledge gap is between those awakened to divinity, and those who have had little to no contact with any type of spiritual practice.

Because of this, I've been asked some very peculiar questions about all things occult over the years, and have found repeating questions coming up time and time again.

So, dear reader, let's throw ourselves into the realm of the Tarot, and have a wee look at the various myths and misinformations which plague this arcane art.



Myth 1: There are no negative cards within the Tarot deck.

To deny the existence of the negative archetypes within the Tarot would be like denying the existence of pain and suffering within the human condition.

The Tarot represents a spectrum of energetic human experiences, reflecting the energies present within the aura of the client. The Tarot, at its core, is a tool for self mastery. How can a person be expected to advance within their spiritual growth should they not be able to identify negative patterns within their own behaviors? It's become a tendency to put too much of the focus on more of the love and light concepts shared within new-age spiritual circles. But the reality is, that no amount of manifesting can change your own thought patterns in the same way as the Tarot achieves.

The Tarot is so much more, and so much deeper than any oracle or intuitive deck of cards currently on the market. And while these cards may well present the client with a much fluffier and light-hearted reading, they disrespect the intrinsic darkness that exists for the light to shine into. As above, so below. As within, so without.

Myth 2: You must be psychically gifted to read Tarot effectively.

This is a myth I hear on an almost daily basis. And it's become one of my favorite things to talk about with clients after their readings.

Absolutely anyone can pick up the Tarot and study it enough to give highly accurate readings. The study is intensive and can be overwhelming. But daily practice is the key when first approaching the Tarot. And the more in tune you become with your own deck, the more the stories within the pic-



tures unfurl themselves to you naturally.

I'd implore anyone to initially buy a variation of the Rider-Smith or Rider-Waite decks, as the symbolism used quite perfectly matches the archetypal frequencies that they represent. And as alluring as Crowley's Thoth system is to Tarot newcomers, having a base knowledge in the traditional system would shorten potentially lengthy learning curves considerably.

Thankfully, there are many different learning methods which all work for a wide spectrum of student types. Tarot can be mastered by any person who has patience, determination and a desire to understand oneself at the very deepest level.

Myth 3: The Thoth system is something to be feared.

Not only is The Thoth Deck an artistic masterpiece, it's an extremely powerful magickal tool which can be used both alongside and apart from the Tarot. Although I don't use these cards during client readings currently, they remain an important part of my daily spiritual practices. They help me stay in tune with my true self while the energies in our environment continue to fluctuate.

The messages conveyed through a Thoth spread can be so powerful that they can actually change the karma of the person receiving the reading. That is to say, they are told things they are not ready to hear or are given premature awakening triggers.

There is so much nonsense in the stories surrounding Alastair Crowley and his infamous deck. And whether you find him repulsive or compelling, it has to be said that his attention to detail in regards to symbolism and occult correspondences is a beautiful thing to explore. Lon Milo Duquette's guide to the Thoth system is also a highly recommended and flawless read. But be warm-heartedly warned. Upon discovery, you may find yourself falling deeply in love with the Thoth system. And you might end up rereading Lon Milo's book countless times, learning more with each adventurous plunge.

Myth 4. You must be gifted a Tarot deck in order to own one.

Absolutely incorrect on every level. If you want a deck, please go and buy yourself one immediately.

Myth 5. Astrology and the Tarot are separate entities.

As a child, I'd watch my mother pull cards for people and blow their minds time and again. But she had no genuine desire to understand the hidden mechanisms of why the cards painted such detailed energetic pictures for her clients. She just knew they worked and that was plenty. This drove me mad for years, and it wasn't until I read Israel Regardie's Golden Dawn System of Ceremonial Magick that I understood why I'd always been so drawn to the stars, and why the planetary transits should play such an important role in the practices of any tarot reader of any description.

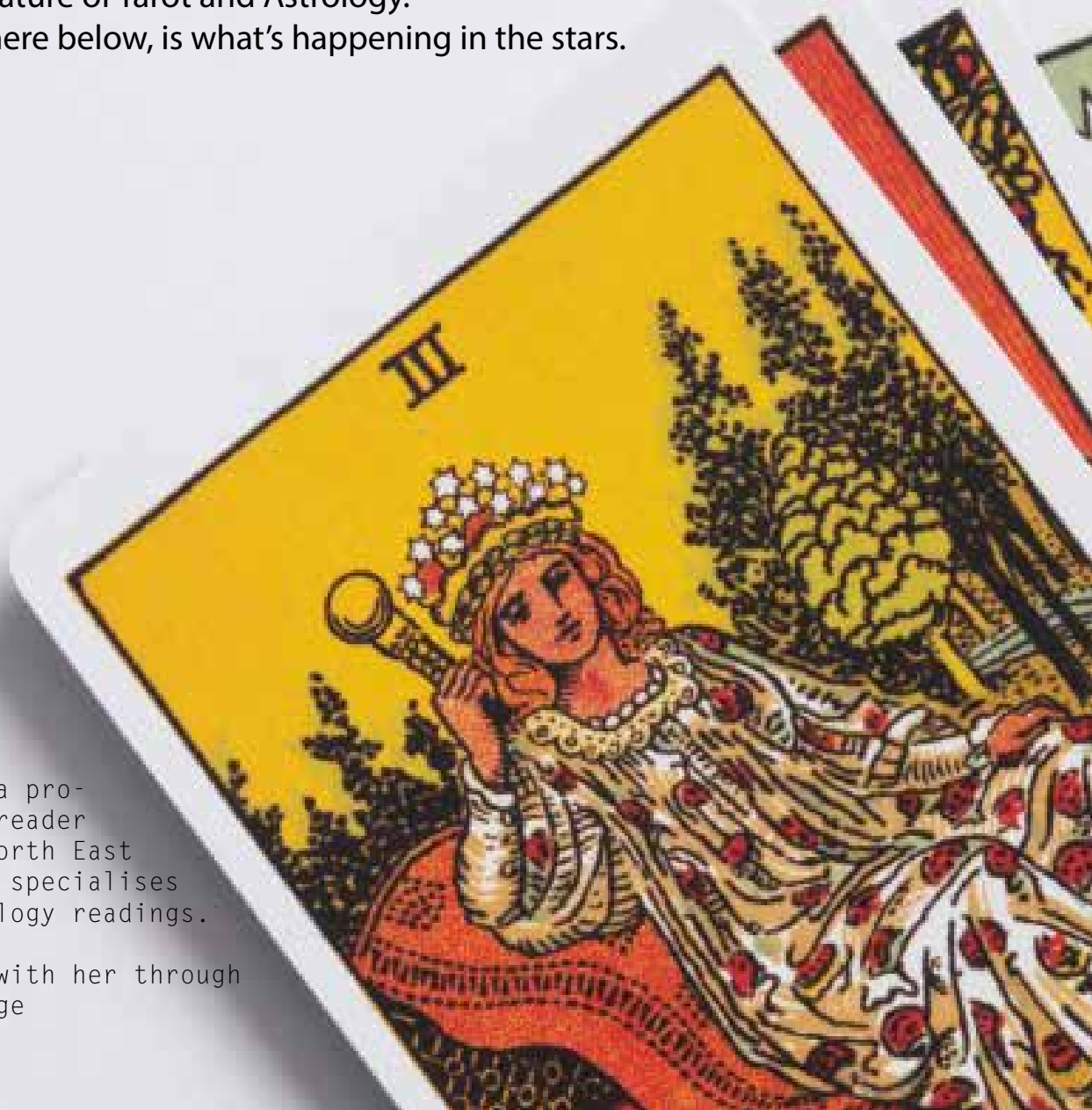
Not only does understanding astrological cycles sharpen your intuitive senses, but knowing where each planet is within the zodiac at any one time can amplify a natural witch's success rate considerably. Aligning yourself with the rhythms of the planets can reveal to you a pathway of energy currents, which are yours to use wisely.

Even the saying *As Above So Below* is a direct acknowledgement of the interconnected nature of Tarot and Astrology. Reflected down here below, is what's happening in the stars.

of the

Kelly Buchan is a professional tarot reader working in the North East of Scotland, and specialises in tarot x astrology readings.

You can book in with her through her Instagram page



Snow Moon Magick Embracing the Gold

Faith Barnes

Instagram: @witchinsmall

Email: witchinsmall_author@protonmail.com

**“ Snow moon, Snow moon, oh how you help me bloom.
On a stary night, you are quite a sight.
Big and full, I feel your pull.
Magick we make, give and take,
for my snow moon is there when it is cool.”**

- The Sea Witch Poet 2022

Why not embrace this colder weather, by creating magick under the Snow Moon this February! Produce some light on these short, dark days by bringing some renewed energy into your life. Don't know where to start? Try these three unique Snow Moon rituals!

☞ **But why is it called the Snow Moon?**

In short, because February is snowy! Each full moon is named after what is happening at that time of year. February is traditionally known for having the most snowfall in winter, than any other month.

☞ **When is the Full Snow Moon?**

The snow moon will make its grand appearance on the 16th February 2022. The peak is 4.57pm GMT, just as it gets dark. The full moon lasts over three days.

☞ **Magickal Energy of the Snow Moon:**

The Snow Moon not only has the full moon's energy, but also the power of the time of the year! This February's snow moon falls under the zodiac sign of Leo. Take advantage of this energy by applying it in the following ways:

Looking to the future, positive outlook, supporting relationships, a time to reset and reevaluate. And to progress forward, take action, make plans, find your purpose and define your yearly goals. Renew your passion and spirit with creativity, under this snow moon!



Still unsure of what magick to do? Make use of this once a year opportunity with these three unique snow moon rituals below:

3 Unique Snow Moon Rituals!

1. Hope is the word for this year's snow moon, use this ritual to bring optimism into your life. To start, move your body to build up positive energy. There is a reason why witches traditionally danced naked under the full moon! If you are unable to dance, try stretching or breathwork instead. Just go for it, get your whirl on!

- ✧ Snowdrops
- ✧ White candle
- ✧ Ceremonial knife (or finger if carving snow)

Let's have a little fun! Because who doesn't enjoy playing in the snow or frost under a snow moon!? Prepare a snow moon circle, by scribing a continuously joined spiral circle into the frosted dirt or snow. Surround this circle with snowdrops to protect your energy. Carve the words 'hope' into your white candle, whilst thinking of your intention. Place in the centre of your circle, and light to represent the light coming into your life. Chant out loud:

*I welcome the light for all to see,
Hope and protection hereby surround me,
By the power of the snow moon,
So shall it be*

With that, blow out the candle to activate your positive energy wish.

2. To move forward you must look back, accept your past, forgive any hurt and release your pain. Sit outside under the snow moon, in a quiet, safe spot alone. You will need:

- ✧ Snow moon water from the previous year or moon water.
- ✧ Portable mirror
- ✧ Cloth

Sprinkle the moon water over the top of the mirror. Repeating the incantation below, whilst looking into the reflection of your own eyes. Wipe away the moon water when needed to release any emotions.

*'I wipe away the pain, I wipe away the hurt,
for acceptance is what I deserve.
I forgive all those before, I forgive those in my past,
with this wipe I forgive myself at last'.*

When you feel ready to finish. Thank the snow moon, the universe and yourself for allowing this self-love practice to take place.

Please note this can be an intense deep ritual, you are about to truly look at yourself and see inside who you are. Be prepared for many emotions to arise and for it to be difficult to do.



3. The Awakening - Use this magickal time to tune in to nature, connect with your intuition and develop trust with your spiritual self.

- ✧ Crystals: Amethyst and sodalite.
- ✧ Herbs: lemon peel, freshly picked lavender and rosemary.
- ✧ Bowl or goblet
- ✧ Anointing oil: coconut oil as the carrier, frankincense, sandalwood, and honey.
- ✧ Athame or wand
- ✧ Snow Moon Water

Collect snow on the first night of the snow moon, and melt overnight in a jar on your windowsill in the moon's light. Once transformed into snow moon water, use in this ritual on the second night and peak of the snow moon. Or you can collect water under the snow moon from a running source such as a stream.

Outside on your ritual surface, create a ring of lavender and rosemary sprigs. Placing the goblet in the centre full of your chosen snow moon water. Pick and sprinkle into the water the rosemary and lavender with lemon peel curls. Stir clockwise with your athame to attract your intuition towards you.

Focus on your reflection, see yourself opening like a flower. Anoint your third eye with oil and then dip the end of your athame into this blend. Continue to focus on your third eye in the water whilst saying:

*“Open intuition, open my eye,
with this water I now see, I can fly.
Gaze upon the reflection absorbed,
on this night awaken with this sword! ”*

Cut the water symbolically in half to open your mind through the water portal, to release and allow you to hear your inner intuition.

So what are you waiting for? Get out there this February on the snow moon and give yourself permission to do some witchy self-care! It may be cold, it may be chilly but a little self-love is worth your time for some tranquillity.

May your Snow Moon be bright and full of delight,

Now is the time to
hold hands with myth.

Reach out for her in the deep pine forest, where the sun
shadows her eyes in presence of the sacred.

Reach out for her on the beach,
where the bones of a billion lives before us
lie buried in the sand.

Reach out for her on the hillside,
where the wild wind whips through the standing stones
and carves rain patterns on their skin.

The Mythic Life

Helen J.R. Bruce

Let her welcome you home,
into the endless cycle of relearning and retelling,
where you can rest in the comfort of stories
your soul already knows.

We have always been mythic creatures.

From the first use of language, we have gathered together and shared stories of the origin of the sun, the moon and the seasons. When fire was harassed, it brought its own set of discovery myths, stating how spirit bestowed this gift on mankind. But myth is not only the preserve of the ancient; current and urban myths still appear and flourish in modern day society. The pervasive validity of storytelling as a tool to make sense of the world around us has endured in a myriad of evolving forms due to the simple fact that we need it. Life is, after all, a story which we tell in our minds, made up of the characters and colours we perceive all around us. It is our internal story, or personal myth, which gives experience and interaction meaning.

The fertile lands of myth are populated with well known characters and archetypes. We can all recognise the princess, the hunter and the wicked step-mother, and we naturally compare these characters to people in our lives. It makes sense to hold up someone we know against a timeless archetype and guess at their motives and desires based on a standardised pattern. It might not always be right, but to do so is human nature. Even if this process is subconscious, the guidebook of myth holds a subtle power over our behaviour and perception.

Our personal myths are made up from a thousand snatches of story, overheard and half remembered from grandparents and fairytales. Alongside this we have ancestral memory, where the strongest mythic manifestations are held in the same organ deep blueprint that animals use to cross the world in migration.

I hear from so many folk who speak up for the first time about an encounter which has stuck with them as important. Perhaps they have dreamed of a black dog, or seen the shadow of one follow them, or even been stopped in their tracks by a flesh and blood animal in the strangest of places. This symbolism registers with them, even before they have read about Black Dog folklore and the many experiences that echo theirs. Similarly, both black and white birds and their feathers register for many as a message before they know of the meanings traditionally attached.

Exercise

This exercise is an invite on an adventure into your own personal story, and a chance to step back and experience your myth from a reader's perspective. It is also a gentle reminder that, while we cannot avoid meeting various mythic archetypes and characters, we can control the plot line that weaves itself around them. We can also consciously choose which archetypes we associate ourselves with

most strongly, and we can call upon these characters like a garment when we have call for their qualities.

Begin by either returning to a storybook you read as a child or refreshing your memory of a tale which had a particular influence on you as an adult. Within the story, identify at least one well known archetype. There are many to choose from, and it may be: the orphan, the king, the sacrifice, the predator, the witch, the wise woman, the innocent or the chosen one. These timeless characters will appear in old and new stories alike. Then identify someone in your life who aligns with this archetype.

Next, pick two more archetypes, with at least one being as contrasting as possible to the first. Further research or discussions with like minded friends may help you to settle on which ones make sense and hold meaning for you. Then identify two further people in your life (they can be celebrities, relatives, friends or even fictional characters which you feel you know well) who correspond with these new archetypes. Now, allow yourself some time to reflect on these three individuals and their mythic counterparts. Make some private notes about your feelings towards them and how you judge their actions.

The final step is potentially the most challenging. Taking your notes, or considering your thoughts, on the three archetypes you have identified, begin to search for them within yourself. Identify the time that you were the sacrifice, the occasion where you were the hunter, that one moment where you were queen of all you surveyed... and so on. Find these characters within you without judgement or shame and embrace them as part of your story. Quietly sit with the fact that a myriad of archetypes exist within you; a perfect mirror to those which populate the outside world and the eternal mythic landscape. You may wish to expand this exercise by writing 'in character' as various archetypes, or even retelling a life experience you have identified as involving one of these characters in more mythic language.

Allow yourself to be a grateful reader of your own story. Every myth is a lesson that we are constantly relearning, in an endless cycle of returning more deeply into the truth of ourselves.

*We are all queens and orphans,
and every experience is sacred.*



Wise Words from the Old Crone

A Protection Spell for House and Home

In these strange times we often feel that we need a little extra something to help our own personal situation. Certainly at the moment when we are all facing the deepest part of winter so a boost of positive energy is welcome.

There are many ways we can boost our own energies at any time of the year. One thing I keep on the go the entire time is a Himalayan Salt Lamp. Mine is bulb lit and plugged in and I am totally convinced that it gives out calm and peaceful vibes and make the room much more tranquil. Salt itself is purifying so the soft orange light of the lamp has a positive effect. Another soothing and energising effect can be attained by certain smells. You can burn your favourite incense or oil or your favourite herbal mixture. Lavender and cinnamon work well but for me and my choice of purifying agent, especially in a room spray, is Palo Santo.

Extra help can arrive in many ways and there is much we can do in magic to support and enhance our lives. Spell casting is one.

I am sometimes asked to perform a spell and I am always very careful who I do it for and how I do this. I will never perform a love spell as it is my belief if someone does not love you, you cannot make them or force them and if you try it can have dire results. I do know others who do this and of course in our wonderful Pagan world, each to their own as ever.



I love to do protection spells and confidence boosters or anything to enhance positivity as each time I do these I am told how well they work. 'Yabba Dabba Do!' We all need a little boost at times and the Universe is there to be asked. I know Chocolate and Prosecco or Gin do help but also hinder the midriff. So, here is a spell you can readily do at home, with simple items easily to hand, to boost the energies in your home and enhance the bubble of protection for you and yours.

A good time to do this is just after a new moon so that the spell will grow under the waxing of the moon. Realistically though, and depending upon needs, you can perform it at any time that is convenient to you rather than wait for a new moon as sometimes the energies and protection are needed in the here and now.

You will need;

1. A clean, dry, glass jar with a lid or similar strong receptacle with a tight lid. It does not have to be too large or too small but enough to hold all your contents. I often save small jars, clean them well and make sure they are bone dry. I usually decorate them with glass paint or small cabochons, ribbon or stickers. An undecorated jar or receptacle works just as well as long as the lid is a tight fit.
2. Herbs of your choice and some rock/sea salt. My own choice of herbs would be rosemary, mint, bay and sage and perhaps a clove of garlic. I always use home grown and well dried herbs so that nothing will go mouldy in a sealed jar.
3. A candle or tea light and some incense.
4. A small piece of paper to write on.
5. A pen to write on the paper.
6. You can have a few small crystals handy as well. My own choice would be amethyst and rose quartz as these are my personal favourites but you can use any crystal which calls to you.

Make sure before you begin that you have all your contents ready. Find a time when you know you are not likely to be disturbed and always have a drink and a small snack to ground you afterwards. You can cast a formal circle of protection first but if I am alone I don't always feel I need to do this.

Light the candle/tea light safely and place the open jar in front.

Light the incense and place to one side.

Place your crystals to the rear of the candle in a horseshoe shape.

Breathe in a few deep breaths and calm your inner self. Concentrate on the flame of the candle and the smell of the incense.

Imagine a bubble of light emanating from the candle and surrounding you and slowly growing large enough to envelope your entire home.

When you are ready, start putting the items in the jar one by one. For Example add a half a teaspoonful of the rock salt and say...

*By Sun, By Moon, By Earth,
By Air, By Fire, By Sea
Goddess of Protection Guard us.*

Add a small amount of each herb and after each addition repeat...

*By Sun, By Moon, By Earth,
By Air, By Fire, By Sea
Goddess of Protection Guard us.*

Take the piece of paper and write the word PROTECTION on it. Fold it neatly or roll it up and add it to the jar.

When you have added all of the items you have chosen, place the lid on the jar and screw it on tightly. You can add a ribbon now if you wish or you can have decorated the jar before-hand.

Think about that bubble of light and protection and take a few moments to consider your spell.

When you feel it the right time to complete your spell, imagine that bubble of light growing smaller and settling on your jar. Thank the Universe for listening to you and then set the jar on a window ledge in sight of the moon and leave for at least one full cycle.

You can leave the jar there as long as you like or set it with care outside on a window ledge or somewhere safe in the garden if you have one, or just leave amongst flowers in the house. The choice, as always, is yours. You can also place it by your main entrance.

Always remember to think carefully about what you are doing beforehand and make sure it is a positive thing. Be careful what you wish for and be careful what you invoke. Be mindful of you own actions and the rule of three, what you give out comes back three fold.

Remember to thank the 'Powers That Be' for their Protection.

Blessed Be

The Old Crone
theoldcrone5@gmail.com

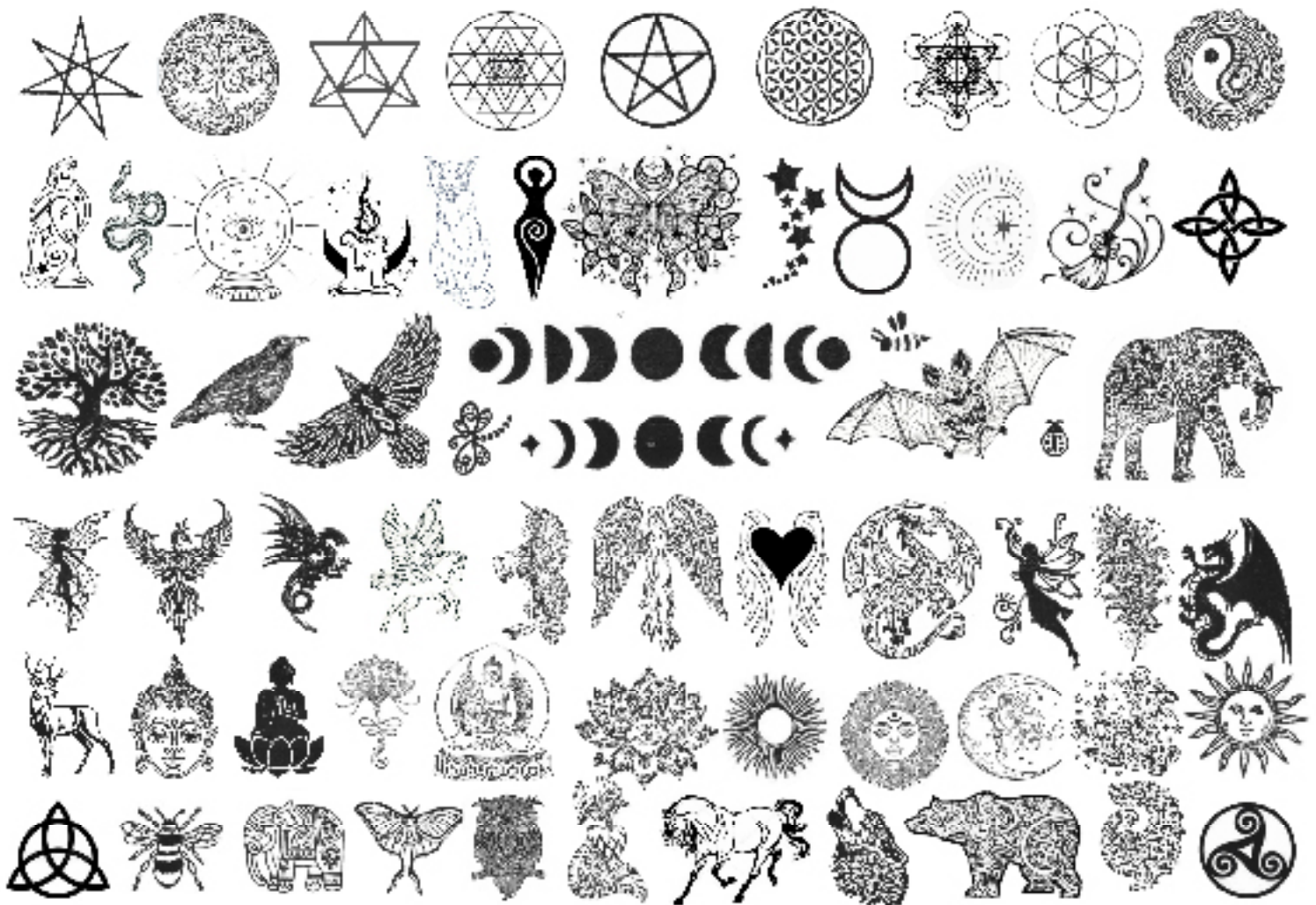


DOTS & BLOCKS



We specialise in hand printing fabrics using wooden printing blocks with fabric paints - everything we print on is natural fibre, washable & comes with a care tag. Created in our rural home, located within Durrington Walls Superhenge - part of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

We have hundreds of designs - just a few are shown here for reference. From sacred geometry to pagan & wiccan, from spirit animals to mythical creatures, plus Buddha's and Chakras - you're bound to find something perfect for you or a loved one.



Our range of artisan fabrics includes shawls, crystal grid cloths, aprons, tea towels, cushion covers, tablecloths, tote bags and throws.

You can view our entire catalogue of designs online via https://linktr.ee/Dots_Blocks

Contact Karen to discuss the possibilities, call 07856 257623 or email hello@dotsandblocks.co.uk

MONTHLY CRYSTAL GUIDE
CHERYL BECKWORTH
GROUNDED GODDESS

WHY ARE
CRYSTALS
DIFFERENT
SHAPES

I get lots of messages asking what crystal shapes are best to use, why they are shaped, polished or carved in a particular way, so I wanted to pop you together a little summary

I hope that this helps you when making your crystal selections, so you can now give your crystal properties an extra boost by choosing a shape that may help to support their powers and your intentions.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or need advice on your Stone selection,

As always much love and light,

Cheryl xxx



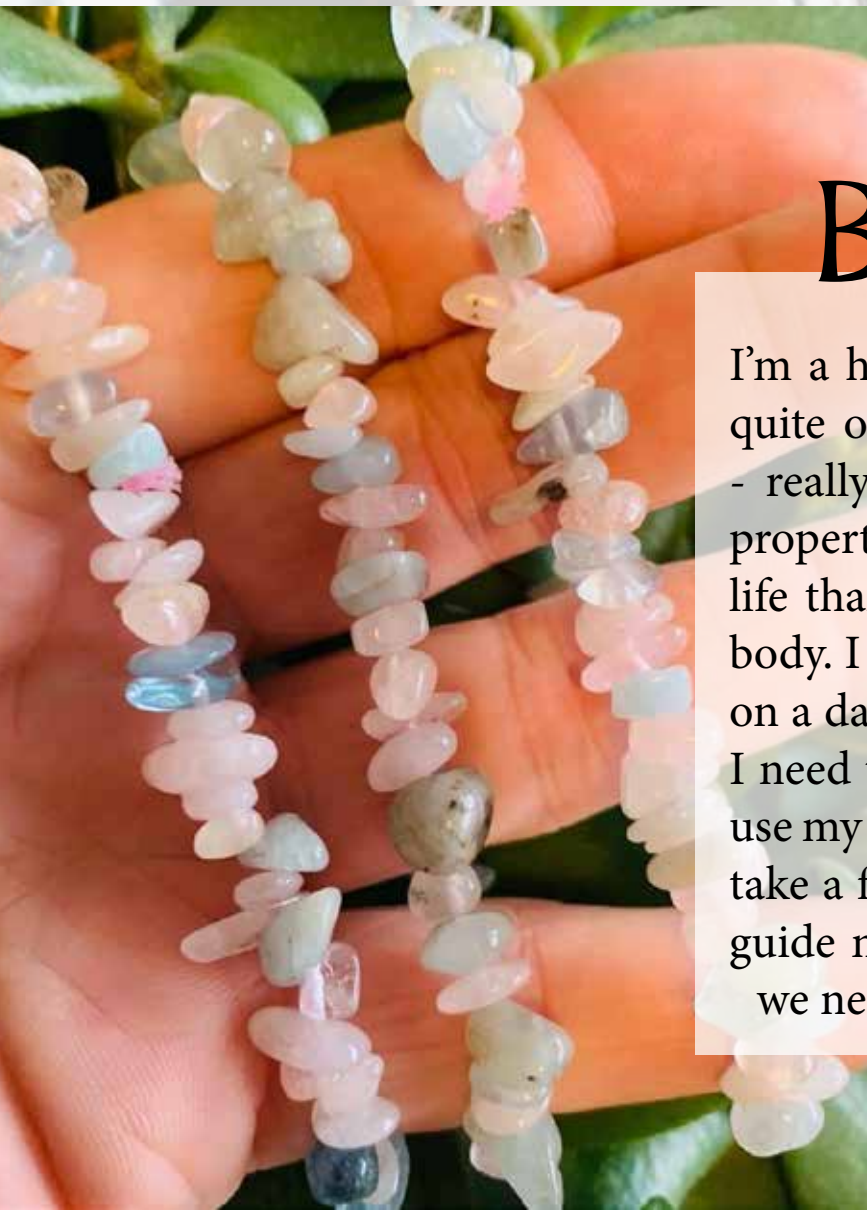
WORRY STONES

These are flat, smooth, polished stones similar to a Palm Stone but tend to be smaller with an indentation in them. When you are feeling anxious or stressed you can rub them with your thumb to help soothe and calm yourself. Ideal size to carry in your pocket or bag so you have with you when needed. Being flat they are also used for healing and can be laid on a body part or chakra point.



BRACELETS

I'm a huge fan of Crystal Bracelets, and quite often have multiple on each wrist - really what better way to harness the properties of crystals in your everyday life than by wearing them close to your body. I tend to mix up which ones I wear on a daily basis depending on what I feel I need to manifest that day. I also like to use my intuition to choose, close my eyes, take a few deep breaths and let my hand guide me - I feel we already know what we need without having to overthink it!



PALM STONES

These are smooth polished crystals designed to fit in the palm of your hand. They are ideal to hold in your hand during meditating and can be extremely soothing to rub. I also think they look gorgeous placed in bowls around the house.



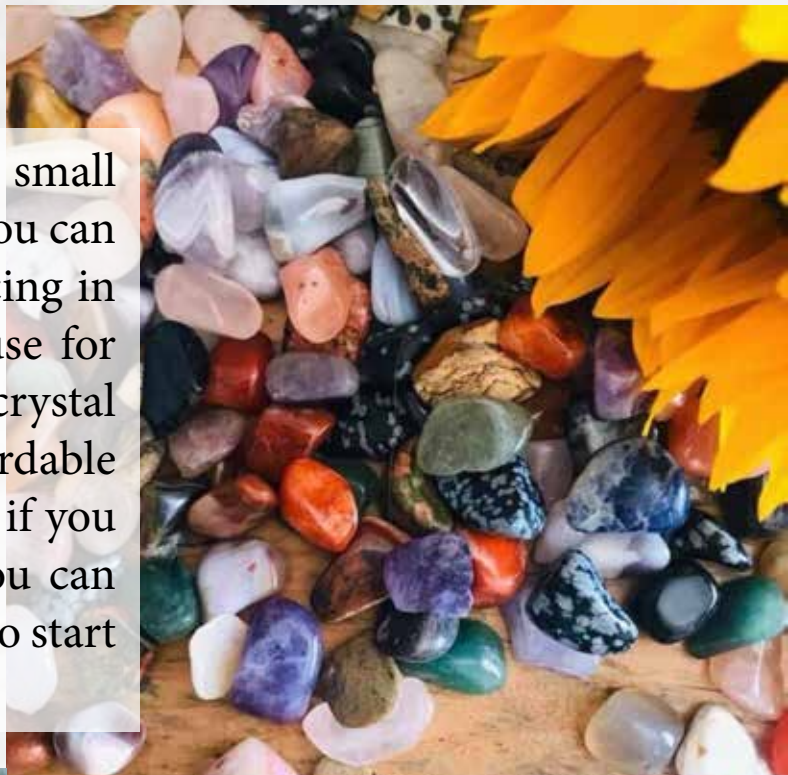
TOWERS AND POINTS

These are fabulous for directing and focusing energies. These can be used to amplify and a type of energy or raise the vibration in your home or altar/meditation space. I love to use towers as a centerpiece in my grids as my main stone help with manifesting those energies or smaller points surrounding the grid to direct the energy inwards to myself or outward to send the energy out to another or the universe. You can also be use them to grid your home by placing one in the corners of your house - I love to do this with protective stones.



TUMBLE STONES

These vary in size but are mainly small which makes them super versatile. You can use them by carrying with you, placing in little bags or bowls around the house for specific intentions, and perfect for crystal grids. As they are usually really affordable starting from just 50p they are great if you are just starting out crystals - as you can easily build a large varied collection to start working with quite quickly!



SPHERES

Spheres are polished to be perfectly round. They radiate energy evenly in all directions, the shape represents oneness and a feeling of being whole. Spheres also are connected to the Moon and planets due to their shape, so perfect to use under a full moon or if wanting to with a particular planets energies. They are also used to promote protection, healing, intuition and psychic development



ROUGH/NATURAL STONES

While polishing doesn't reduce the efficiency of your crystals, using the raw form is best when you need a major emotional or energy. I adore seeing stones in their natural form, so beautiful. It's all about personal preference and shapes are idea to use to add in extra energy/to direct your energy.





HEARTS

Heart shaped crystals remind you that you are always surrounded by love. They are great used to attract new love, love from others, as well as promoting self love. Placing the heart crystal over your heart chakra can help open blockages and remove any fears. It will also help in healing heartache and grief from loss. Display larger sized hearts in your home, this will attract a loving and positive energy into your space.

ANIMALS

Quiet often we see crystals carved into animal shapes, these are perfect to use when meditating and connecting with the animal's spirit. By connecting to your spirit animal or any other animal you feel drawn to, you are able to harness the animal's energies and strengths within your own life. For example the wisdom of an owl, the independence of the cat, the strength of a bear.



EGGS

The shape of eggs often symbolise new beginnings, so the perfect shape to use when manifesting new dreams, hopes or projects and for when working with New Moon energies. The perfect shape to use during Ostara too, displayed on your altar as a beautiful symbol of Spring. Eggs, being naturally nurturing are perfect for helping to channel healing energies. Eggs can be displayed on stands or placed in bowls. They can also be used in grids when you are wanting to manifest healing or attract new beginnings

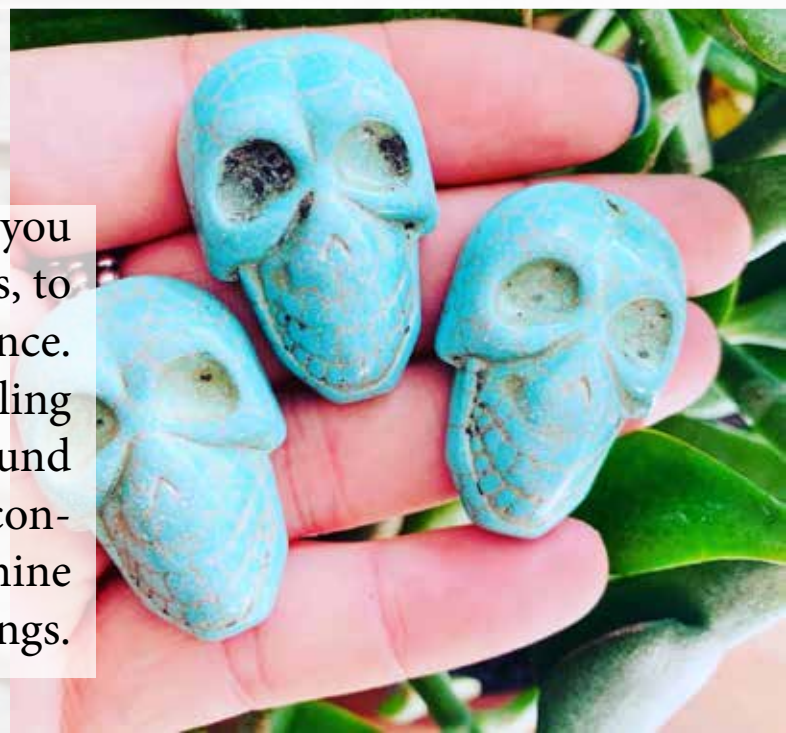


PYRAMIDS

Have long held mystical properties. This shape is known to secure, stabilise, and direct energies. Fabulous to have around you as they help to ground and balance energy. They make perfect centre stones in your crystal grids to amplify your intentions and raise the vibration.

SKULLS

Crystal Skulls are often used to help you connect with your ancestors and guides, to help you to channel answers and guidance. They can also be worked with for healing and protection. Hold them or place around you whilst meditating when trying to connect to your guides, I also like to have mine with me when I do my Oracle card readings.





Stepping Out of the Shadows

Fairy Bec

You can explore Shadow Work at any time of the year and for any length of time but the wintertime with all its crone energy is a fantastic time to do so. With most people having time off for Yule, Thanksgiving, Christmas etc. this time of year lends itself perfectly to the opportunity of sitting quietly and working through a few shadow areas in our subconscious. It is like the butterfly in its cocoon – perfectly still on the outside but inside the caterpillar has turned itself to liquid and is reforming its whole being.

When the butterfly is ready, it cracks through the skin of the cocoon and most people assume it simply flies off. But it doesn't. This moment is actually a point of initial catharsis. It secretes all its excess fluids in a bright red poo and looks like it is bleeding. It then has to methodically pump its wings until they are full and strong. Finally, it has to continually roll the proboscis which at the point of 'birth' is in two pieces. It rolls it in and out until it fuses back together. It is not until this point that it can eat, sunbathe and fully fortify itself before it flies anywhere and/or mates.

Why am I waffling on about the life cycle of a butterfly? Well, if we apply the cycle of shadow work to the cycle of the butterfly then how do we, as humans, transition from winter shadow work to the action that the spring awakening beckons us to embrace? What is our personal version of emptying, pumping/strengthening, rolling, fusing then replenishing?

What exactly is shadow work and why do it?

Shadow work means many things to different people. It is largely about addressing the aspects of yourself/your personality that you initially reject. Things that we may fear for example. Things that we can have a tendency to hide, even from ourselves and bottle up inside.

You might be triggered by something someone else has said or done leading you to behave with anger, resentment, jealousy or even envy. Behaviours that do not reflect who you really feel you are.

Shadow work can be reflecting on these feelings, these uncontrolled moments and working out for ourselves why. It also helps us not repeat these behaviours by becoming aware of their source and dealing with it there.

*“Everything that irritates us about others
can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.”*

Carl Jung

To me, shadow work is mainly about reflecting on times that I felt most upset by others or myself and sitting quietly or walking alone running it all through my head to work out why I felt that way. I will often do more yoga, meditation,

drawing, baking, anything that helps me think within my own bubble. You could say that journaling is a form of shadow work. I have a friend that journals and then burns the journals afterwards as part of her cathartic journey.

I will rarely discuss these thoughts I have with other people until I have settled them in my head. Even then, there are very few I share it with.

Once I have addressed everything I am able to, I then put it all in check with my head and start practicing manifestation and gratitude with a fresh approach. Reflecting on 'now' and 'then' is also very useful. I will also address positive things I want to happen/see happen for those who might have triggered me. You could simply call shadow work self reflection for self improvement.

The benefits of shadow work

- It helps you heal from the inside out.
- If you are looking for meaning in an aspect of your life, you can often find it through this process.
- It can help you feel better connected to yourself as well as others.
- It can help you to avoid triggers in the future or to manage them more positively.
- It can help you deal with grief.
- It helps you maintain your psychological health.
- It helps you improve your intuition.
- It can feel empowering.
- It helps build confidence.
- It helps you be more accountable for your own life and pathway.
- It supports you in becoming the best version of yourself.

I saw a picture recently of two cartoon people. One had a few leaves on its head, the other had a full bloom of flowers. The one with leaves says "You've changed" the one with the full bloom says "We are supposed to". This really resonated with me and my shadow work this year.

It is this that also highlights the challenges of stepping out of the shadow work as other people will feel the change within you. That can trigger them and the cycle can begin again.

Mercury in flippin' retrograde!

For some, stepping into the shadow work can be a challenge, for others, like myself, stepping out is the challenge. Although I am a happily married Wife and Mother, I feel most strengthened by my time alone. When I was in my early twenties, unlike my peers dreaming of finding 'the one' and having kids, my dream vision for myself was to have a little flat all to myself.

I love my shadow work time and if I could afford it financially and emotionally (it can be hard when you are not physically with your offspring regularly), I would probably disappear to the most remote place I could find for several weeks until I was done.

One thing that might make it more difficult to exit your shadow work is when Mercury is in retrograde. If you too are feeling this at the moment, hold on tight to the 4th of February 2022 then you should start to feel things flow. Right now (I write this in January 2022) every time I try to make things flow and shift or even just motivate myself, I feel like I am wading through treacle! If I had planned rather than using my intuition as to when to do this, I would not have planned it with an exit when Mercury is in full retrograde! I was hoping to be out of it by now.

Stepping Forward

Coming out of shadow work to me feels similar to when a particularly magical holiday ends. You have a yearning for returning to your home comforts and familiarity but you don't want the holiday to end.

So how do we prise ourselves out of the comfort of 'hibernating' in order to function as expected in this crazy world?

Here are my golden rules (feel free to adapt them for yourself):

- 1) Don't expect too much of yourself in the 'returning' period of time (Including at work!).
- 2) Attempt to fuel your body healthily avoiding too many toxins where possible.
- 3) Drink plenty of water/herbal tea.
- 4) Rest when your body feels fatigued.
- 5) Be around people you feel a deep connection with and avoid those you don't (where possible).
- 6) Ask for signs of spiritual support e.g. white feathers.
- 7) Set visions of what you want to manifest for yourself and others. Time frames can help you to shift your self motivation.



Imbolc is a fantastic time for that awakening. I have a ritual myself that when I see my first snowdrops of the year, that is when I make my resolutions and start putting action plans together. In the build up to that at the start of each year, I 'hibernate' as much as possible!

So, good luck my friends, I wish you fortitude in your travels into yourselves.

IMPORTANT: If you don't feel equipped to deal with your shadow side but want to, please seek the help of a trained professional such as a trained Counselor, life coach or Cognitive Behavioural Therapist.

Check out my website: www.rubek.co.uk

RUBEK



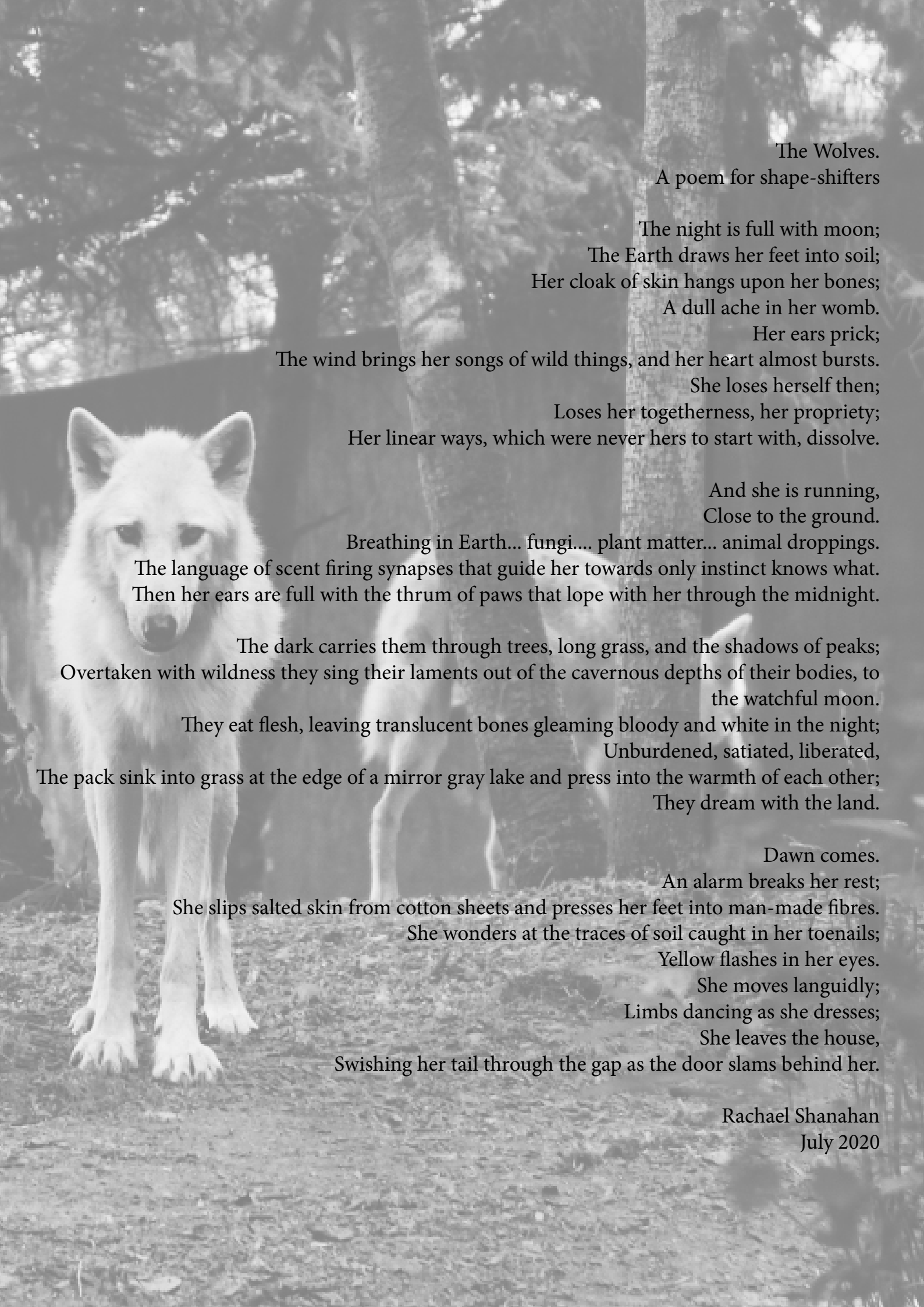
Pagan Poetry
& Fiction

Photo by Klaire Dawn Ader

Moongazing

I'll try not to pick
Apart your heart,
Whilst gazing at your moon.
It's a whispering Soliloquy,
Your brilliant white monsoon.
You bathe us with
The purest light,
Your moonshine,
soft and lilting.
Silvery strands
Of secret songs
Leave my silent
Shadows wilting.
Encased within
Your moonbeams,
I fold straight into the sky.
So I'll try not to pick
Apart your heart,
As I fall into your eyes.

Kelly Buchan
2022



The Wolves.
A poem for shape-shifters

The night is full with moon;
The Earth draws her feet into soil;
Her cloak of skin hangs upon her bones;
A dull ache in her womb.
Her ears prick;
The wind brings her songs of wild things, and her heart almost bursts.
She loses herself then;
Loses her togetherness, her propriety;
Her linear ways, which were never hers to start with, dissolve.

And she is running,
Close to the ground.
Breathing in Earth... fungi.... plant matter... animal droppings.
The language of scent firing synapses that guide her towards only instinct knows what.
Then her ears are full with the thrum of paws that lope with her through the midnight.

The dark carries them through trees, long grass, and the shadows of peaks;
Overtaken with wildness they sing their laments out of the cavernous depths of their bodies, to
the watchful moon.
They eat flesh, leaving translucent bones gleaming bloody and white in the night;
Unburdened, satiated, liberated,
The pack sink into grass at the edge of a mirror gray lake and press into the warmth of each other;
They dream with the land.

Dawn comes.
An alarm breaks her rest;
She slips salted skin from cotton sheets and presses her feet into man-made fibres.
She wonders at the traces of soil caught in her toenails;
Yellow flashes in her eyes.
She moves languidly;
Limbs dancing as she dresses;
She leaves the house,
Swishing her tail through the gap as the door slams behind her.

Rachael Shanahan
July 2020



Spring Featured Artist



'In the Deep Places of the Earth, She Stirs.'

Watercolours and pastel pencils

by artist Zoe Oakley

<https://oakenspiritart.com/>

Facebook: Oakenspirit - Zoe Oakley (@zoe.oakley.oakenspirit)

Twitter: @ZoakenArt



www.connach.com

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING WITH US?

WITCH Magazine

VISIT
WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK

OR EMAIL
ADVERTISE@WITCHZINE.CO.UK

CONTACT US ABOUT
ARTIST SHOWCASES
SMALL BUSINESS FEATURES
PRODUCT REVIEWS
INTERVIEWS
BOOK AND CD REVIEWS

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Sacred Wise Magick

- Sacred Circles
- Oracle Readings
- Reiki Healing
- Meditations
- Plant Spirit Ceremonies
- Womb Healing

www.sacredwisemagick.com



PayPal
Contactless Payments accepted

ROWAN'S CLOSET
Witchy & Elven Inspired
Custom Designed Clothing

Kelly Archer
Tel: +44 7546007564

kelly@rowanscloset.co.uk

 Rowans Closet
 thepurplerowanscloset

Also available from: **CRYSTAL SPIRIT**
 Crystal Spirit Shop Swindon



Witchy Subscription Boxes

Boxes will be a mixture of herbs, oils, candles, magical tools and other items.

A fabulous way to grow your supplies!

Sign up today and each month you will receive a box of hand selected goodies.



Just £17.99

Price includes postage, UK only

 @groundedgoddessx  @grounded_goddessx

www.grounded-goddess.com

©2018 Grounded Goddess. All rights reserved. Grounded Goddess is a registered trademark of Grounded Goddess.



WITCH
Magazine

For previous issues & information on submissions visit

WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK