

ISSN 2635-2176 (DIGITAL)



# WITCH

[www.witchzine.co.uk](http://www.witchzine.co.uk)



Crows Feet Press

FREE  
ISSUE 15





**THAT SELLS EVERYTHING...**

MUSIC \* GUITARS \* DRUMS \* BREAKABLES \* STRINGS \* CABLES \* VINYL  
 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS \* PERCUSSION \* BAND MERCH \* TSHIRTS \* CDS  
 THIS & THAT \* PATCHES \* BADGES \* DVDs \* MEMORABILIA \* AUGOGRAPHS  
 ACTION FIGURES \* PLUSHIES \* WEIRD DOLLS \* SKULLS & BONES \* RETRO  
 PARAPHENALIA \* WITCHCRAFT \* BOOKS \* JUNK SHOP BARGAINS \* TAROT  
 VINTAGE \* DOLLS \* KITCH \* CLOTHING \* JEWELLERY \* CURIOSITIES  
 ARTWORK \* BOARDGAMES \* PYROGRAPHY \* HORROR \* GREETING CARDS  
 PAGAN GOODS \* EGYPTIAN \* FURNITURE \* FANCY DRESS \* RETRO  
 COLLECTABLES \* HAND MADE CRAFTS \* LOCAL ARTISANS \* PRE-LOVED

Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 6pm  
 Sunday 11am - 4pm  
 Monday CLOSED

**BANDS... WE WANT YOUR MERCH!**

Are you a local unsigned/independent band or musician?

**Do you have CDs, tshirts and merch? BRING IT TO US!**

Drop off your merch bundles and we'll promote and sell it for you (at a small commission, of course). @ThatWeirdShop we support original music! With no live gigs to get your music out there we want to build community around our diverse and vibrant music scene here in the Midlands... and give you a place to promote **YOUR MUSIC!** Get in touch via email or facebook for more info.

#MUSIC #MERCH #MEMORABILIA /thatweirdshopnottingham



6 SOUTHWELL ROAD  
**NOTTINGHAM**  
 NG1 1DL

**07311 330 500**

thatweirdshop@gmail.com  
 www.thatweirdshop.co.uk



TAILOR-MADE JEWELLERY  
 ETSY.COM/SHOP/CICADASEED  
 USE DISCOUNT CODE:  
 AUTUMNWITH10



Enchanting Printables

Download today!

www.FlutterbyFox.com

Coupon Code for 20% off: WITCH20



# WITCH Magazine

## FEATURING

### WITCH WRITERS

Portland Jones

Michelle Boxley

Fairy Bec

AJ Worthington

Jessica O Shea

Full Moon Ritual

Artist Features

Black Moon Cove Tarotscopes

Poetry and Fiction

Welcome to the Issue #15 of Witch!

This month we welcome our new group Residency Writers. This means applications are now closed, however you can still submit your articles to us on a non-residency basis.



If you turn to the Grimoire page at the end of this issue, you will find the words to a Full Moon Ritual which will be performed LIVE via youtube by members of The Dolmen on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm. We've included the rite here for you to join in at home.

Find them at [www.facebook.com/thedolmen](http://www.facebook.com/thedolmen) and join us in celebrating the magic of the Full Moon!

As always, if you have something you would like to share with us, visit us at [www.witchzine.co.uk](http://www.witchzine.co.uk) or email [submissions@witchzine.co.uk](mailto:submissions@witchzine.co.uk)

-Bekki,

Editor of WITCH magazine

Contact us

[editor@witchzine.co.uk](mailto:editor@witchzine.co.uk)

ISSN 2635-2176

[www.witchzine.co.uk](http://www.witchzine.co.uk)

Printed in the UK by Continuum Digital

Published online by



Crows Feet Press



# WITCH

## RELEASE DATES 2021

WANT TO KNOW WHEN YOU CAN CATCH THE LATEST ISSUE OF WITCH? CHECK OUT OUR RELEASE DATES FOR THE YEAR BELOW, ALONG WITH THE SABBATS CELEBRATED FOR THAT ISSUE.

HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU'D LIKE TO SUBMIT?

VISIT [WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK](http://WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK) FOR OUR GUIDELINES AND HOW TO SUBMIT.

RELEASE DATE	PRINT/DIGITAL	SABBAT/TOPIC
21 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH –	DIGITAL EDITION -	OSTARA
27 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL –	PRINT EDITION -	BELTANE
26 <sup>TH</sup> MAY –	DIGITAL EDITION -	OPEN ISSUE
22 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE –	PRINT EDITION -	MIDSUMMER
24 <sup>TH</sup> JULY –	DIGITAL EDITION -	LUGHNASA
22 <sup>ND</sup> AUGUST -	DIGITAL EDITION -	OPEN ISSUE
21 <sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER –	DIGITAL EDITION -	MABON
20 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER –	PRINT EDITION -	SAMHAIN
19 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER –	DIGITAL EDITION -	OPEN ISSUE
19 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER –	PRINT EDITION -	YULE



# WITCH

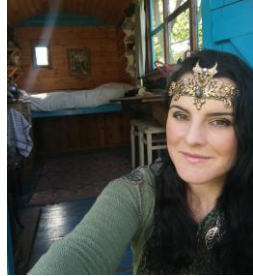
## RESIDENCY WRITERS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW RESIDENCY WRITERS!

K.D. PHILLIPS

### HELEN J R BRUCE

Helen JR Bruce is an author and illustrator based in Somerset. She draws inspiration from a deep calling to bring the myths of the land back into everyday experience. Alongside writing for a number of magazines, including Indie Shaman, Touchstone and Gramarye, she is currently working on the second book in her folkloric fantasy trilogy. Blending myth and reality, she collides she apparent world and the realm of story in order to breathe fresh life into folktales and provide ancient perspectives on our lives. [www.facebook.com/heatofthehunt](http://www.facebook.com/heatofthehunt) Facebook Group: Dark Fae, Black Dogs & Wild Hunters



### NYA HOUSE



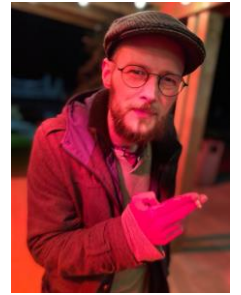
Nya is an artist and a writer living in Knoxville, TN with her wife, teenage son and two boxer girls. Her writing passion comes from the bliss of getting lost in creating worlds and characters in her head. Her art and writing leans towards

expression of powerful and strong women as she is always traveling on the journey of bringing that version of herself out. Her background comes from ten years of teaching yoga and mediation with trauma informed practices and reiki. She is an empath that always forgets to shield herself, An eclectic witch that lives by the turn of the wheel and a creator that just can't stop the waterfall of ideas from spilling all over her studio. Last year she launched an oracle deck that features all her previous paintings on kickstarter and it was funded in three hours. This year she launched a Lenormand deck and her Tarot deck launches on 13<sup>th</sup> March. You can follow her work on instagram: @the\_ritual\_muse or on her website, [www.theritualmuse.com](http://www.theritualmuse.com)

K. D. Phillips is more of a modern conjurer of spirits, describing himself as a modern Cunning Folk type.

He has read and practiced multiple summoning books, The Lesser Key of Solomon, The Sacred Book of Abramelin the Mage, and such.

He has recently begun a journey to decipher what works and what doesn't. And actively invites you all along on this journey.



His fiction is relatively unconnected to his magical practices, and is working his way to being traditionally published. He was shortlisted by New Writing North for BBC's Radio 3 show The Verb (Verb New Voices), and mentored by Leeds Playhouse for two years.

He has a new YouTube channel following his search for the paranormal, the strange, and the magical...

Haunting

Lands... [https://youtube.com/channel/UC65-KK177\\_ruYgFGOeFw9xQ](https://youtube.com/channel/UC65-KK177_ruYgFGOeFw9xQ)

### STEPHANIE ULPH



Stephanie Ulph is a Reiki and Sound Healing Practitioner who feels blessed to live near and work within the magical town of Glastonbury, Somerset. She follows her own path, but enjoys making sense of and finding interconnection between all paths, spiritual practice, myth and religion, though her path is most closely aligned with Shamanism and Paganism in her knowledge and practice. She loves nature, travelling, music and dancing, and assisting people along their spiritual journeys.

## ANYA LUKOVER



Hi, I'm Anya and have a passion for helping people to bring balance to their mental and physical wellbeing so that they can enjoy the experiences that life presents as they awaken to their true self.

I have trained in various energy therapies that I now blend together to create unique and tailored 1:1 & group sessions for people who are ready to shift out of the programs that they feel stuck in and connect to their power.

I enjoy talking and learning about energy & frequencies, alchemising shadows, wellbeing rituals, essential oils, connecting with plant majick and any other gifts & wisdom that Mother Earth has to offer us. I teach online Qigong classes and hold bi-monthly moon circles.

I absolutely love writing and excited to be joining Witch Magazine.

Find me on IG @awaken\_with\_anya - I'd love to hear what my transmissions awaken within you

## KELLY BUCHAN

Kelly Buchan is an eclectic witch and professional tarot reader from the North East of Scotland.

With passions for philosophy, ancient divination systems and both low and high magick, her writing seeks to uncover the structures upon which spiritual concepts are built, while introducing witchcraft to those yet to be initiated into their divinity.



## F.R. MAHER



F.R. Maher graduated with a first in Creative Writing a couple of years back. Prior to that, she published her first novel, a fae fantasy called The Last Changeling, plus a horror series. Whilst still at Uni, a trip to a library in Leeds saw her uncover some startling new evidence in a 100 year old case which led to her non-fiction book 'The Secret of the Cottingley Fairies.'

A regular contributor to The Fortean Times, she also co-presents The Fairy Podcast with Dan Baines and now has six books to her name. As 'Tink' she organises festivals in non-Covid times, including The Legendary Llangollen Faery Festival. With over 250 stallholders plus bands, walkabout acts and set-piece shows plus 12,000 visitors, it's easily the largest fairy gathering in the UK. She lives in Wales with three opinionated cats.

[The Last Changeling \(The Enigma Wars Book 1\) eBook: Maher, F R: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](#)

[The Secret of the Cottingley Fairies: Hidden for 100 Years: The New Evidence eBook: Maher, F.R.: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](#)

[The Cuckoo and The Mistletoe eBook: Maher, F R: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](#)

## MIKE SPROUSE



Mike is a dad, a veteran, a voice actor, and podcast host.

He has been practicing almost 30 years as an eclectic solitary witch, and currently a 1st degree

Cabot Witch with plans to eventually become a High Priest in the tradition.

Since last august he has created and hosted the podcast "Son Of A Witch", delving into topics concerning the witchcraft and pagan community...with a healthy smattering of pop culture, comic references, and guest interviews. Mike currently resides in New England with his fiance and their 2 fur babies.

  
WITCH  
RESIDENCY WRITERS





# WITCH Coven

## JOIN THE COVEN

ACCESS EXCLUSIVE CONTENT, BLOGS AND VIDEOS.

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES EVERY DIGITAL ISSUE DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX

INCLUDING SPECIAL EDITIONS (USUALLY £2.50)

VISIT

[WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK](http://WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK)

FOR MORE INFO!

# A FULL MOON RITUAL

TALOCH JAMESON – THE DOLMEN

*Join us at 5pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> February*

*A live ritual will be performed by members of The Dolmen*

*Find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thedolmen](http://www.facebook.com/thedolmen)*

*the live link will be posted shortly before 5pm.*

*The following includes the instructions and words for you to join in with the ritual at home.*

*We look forward to celebrating the magick of the Full Moon with you!*

The surreality of present times may create a distance in the realm, but thankfully not in the spiritual realm.

For the open and imaginative mind, we really are one and all when focusing our thoughts to connect, join, or unite energies.

So when we become focused, we are able to conjure, as a collective of eclectic individuals, energy that can be directed to meaningful purpose.

To join, unite, and conjure is exactly what we do as Wytches and Cunningfolk, for today's pagans really are the Evolution of a Sacred Breed.

## FULL MOON CONJURATION OF NATURAL ENERGIES

This is a Ritual verse compatible to all whose path is of gentle and peaceful persuasion.

Prepare oneself by calming the mind and body. With each breath, meditate on these words:

Peace

Calm

Gentle

Soft

Content

Satisfied

Open

Freedom

Love



# RITES OF THE MOON

TALOCH  
JAMESON

Light a candle as a focus point to draw the Lunar energy, so that you can absorb it in to the channels of your physical and spiritual body.

Recite the words:

From the Endless Seas

The heavens Breathe

Whilst clouds exhale

Into Earth, Lake and Spring

Sacred Coracle of Luna travel forth

Bringing renewal

That we may drink from the sacred Waters

Blessed by the silver spirit Levanah

In fullness of being

We shall be invigorated by

The pureness of your energy

Enthused in your magical essence

With every breath we draw you in

Rise high, glorious queen

For We Adore thee in thy splendour

Glowing radiance of your crown

Bring vision to the shadows of the bowing Sun

We shall bathe within the glory of your Light

All heed to the fullness

Of your Beauty, O Sacred Daughter, Mother, Greatmother,

Passion            Love            Wisdom

May your Peaceful and Gentle way be ours

That through Magick Conjured

We can Together Create Positive Change

So be it

# THE NOURISHING MOON - FULL MOON IN VIRGO

MICHELLE BOXLEY – SISTERS OF THE MOON

This Saturday, February 27th, we will be welcoming in the Full Moon in the beautiful grounded earth sign of Virgo. February's Full Moon is also called the Snow Moon, the Ice Moon and the Storm Moon.

Even though Mercury has now stationed direct we are still in the post retrograde shadow until March 13th. Virgo is actually ruled by Mercury, the planet of elevated thought, communication and travel.

Virgo's symbol is the maiden goddess carrying a sheaf of wheat (representing the harvest season but also the gathering of wisdom) - so again, we can turn our attention to thinking about the wisdom we have gathered

over the winter and how to integrate that into the fresh energy of Spring. We can also use this gathering of wisdom in relation to our experiences during Mercury Retrograde, it's likely that over the last few weeks we have had difficult emotions and baggage churned up and old karmic patterns resurfacing. We could just breathe a sigh of relief that it's all over in a few days or we could spend some time sitting with the pain and discomfort of what's been illuminated.

This is really what full moons are about, we use the light of each full moon to shine awareness on our inner darkness. We ask, what is hurting that needs to be healed? What do I need to let go of in order to move forward? What wisdom lies in my suffering? The Virgo energy invites us to see our pain as a teacher. As Buddha said 'Suffering has many good qualities' - it shows us what we have left to master.

For this full moon, we will have the sun in the water sign of Pisces (the sun entered Pisces on Feb 18th) and the moon in the opposite sign of Virgo. Pisces is a deeply spiritual sign and enjoys spending time swimming in the depths of the unconscious - their shadow side can be favouring the spirit world over being grounded in reality and connecting to others, they are sometimes described as being aloof or unable to cope with the realities of day to day life. Virgo is also a spiritual sign but their Earth element gives them the ability to embody their spirituality here on earth whilst being present.





This Virgo full moon can help us to balance these parts of ourselves - the ability to journey to our soul world but also the ability to embody what we've learned from our time in the soul world with our feet firmly on the ground. Virgo full moon asks us how can we balance the Spiritual with the practical? How are we showing up for our spiritual life?

Another key theme associated with Virgo is healthy habits. With Virgo's love of being organised and healthy and winter beginning to recede, now is a great time to check-in with our daily habits and start to make tweaks to honour the change of the seasons. We can ask ourselves if our current daily habits are leading us where we want to go? Are we choosing things that make us feel good, well and balanced or are we relying on quick fixes and instant gratification? What would it feel like to add in new routines to our day now the days are getting brighter and longer? Perhaps a little bit of yoga



first thing in the morning or a few minutes of meditation? Perhaps we could add in a new bedtime ritual of tv and phone free time and a calming practice like Yoga Nidra. How are we supporting our body at the moment? How are we caring for ourselves? Think NOURISH rather punish. How are you nourishing yourself both physically and spiritually?

This could be another powerful time to moodboard - use the intuitive energy of both Pisces and Virgo to get a clear vision of where you're headed and how you're going to get there. Again, balance the ability of Pisces to dream and wonder with the organised and practical energy of Virgo...Virgos and Maidens know how to get shit done :) Make lists, create new pages and spreads in your bullet journal, create a plan of action!

Virgo rules the gut and because of this they have very good instincts and are deeply guided by their intuition, this is also a big part of the Pisces energy. Virgo's archetype of the Virgin and the Maiden is very much to do with the idea of being sovereign - being self assured, self reliant and deeply connected to our wisdom and intuition. Do you trust yourself? Do your trust where you're being guided to go? Or are you resisting?



## THE PRIESTESS

This Full Moon we can also connect to Virgo's other archetype of the Priestess. Virgo is associated with the Priestess due to it's connection to the earth, the cycles of the seasons and also their connection to the divine and need to be of service. How could you use this Full Moon to awaken your inner priestess? Do you celebrate the turning of the seasons? Is there ritual, meditation, and faith in something beyond the ordinary in your life? Do you feel connected to a higher purpose? If so, what is it? These questions will help us to build on the work we did during the Capricorn New Moon and also our enquiries about serving the collective for the New Moon in Aquarius. In your journal write down the word Priestess and create a mind map around this word - what does it mean to you? How does it make you feel? How can you connect to this archetype within yourself?







SISTERS OF THE MOON DIGITAL ZINE  
ISSUE 4 MIDWINTER MAGIC OUT NOW!

BUY FROM ETSY:

[HTTPS://WWW.ETSY.COM/UK/SHOP/MOONPRIESTESSART](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/moonpriestessart)



### Join Sisters of the Moon

We really hope you have enjoyed this article and wish you a blessed full moon and blessed Imbolc.

Don't forget, you can join our Patreon membership site to join in with our New Moon and Full Moon sister circles.

Visit [WWW.PATREON.COM/SISTERSOFTHEMOON](http://WWW.PATREON.COM/SISTERSOFTHEMOON) for more information



# MAGICAL ENCOUNTERS

F.R. MAHER – WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

I believe in fairies. I hear them in the whisper of the leaves in a woodland glade, in the breaths between trilling birdsong, in the lapping of the lake against the shoreline stones and in the tumbling torrents of mountain streams high up in the wild, Welsh hills.

Fairies are everywhere to be heard and occasionally glimpsed, often as a sudden movement in the corner of your eye. They hold the wild places sacred and will defend them.

I had a beautiful, black cat, Magnus Magnificat, who would accompany me on rambles and scrambles in beautiful scenery. One time we traversed a bleak moor and were hiking towards the long valley of The Pinnacles, near Capel Curig. As we entered the narrow gorge, I had an overwhelming sense of... of all things, *disapproval!* It was aimed squarely at Magnus. I apologized, picked him up and put him in my rucksack. We were allowed to continue, although I had the strongest feeling we were being closely watched. When we reached the summit, he didn't wander as he normally did; Magnus knew what was best for him and he stayed hidden. Fairies traditionally dislike cats. It's funny because a lot of people who like cats, *love* fairies.



The Christmas before last, I was lucky enough to visit Pat Noone's farm in County Galway, Ireland. Pat's farm has gained international fame for its Fairy Field. Visitors have been unable to stay the night there as the fairies' activity has scared them off. I am a believer, but I am also a sceptic, so I approached Pat's claims with caution. He's a big bear of a man, hospitable and friendly, but the moment we entered the Fairy Field, the atmosphere of the place changed; it felt as if I had crossed a

boundary and was underwater. Fairy thorn trees dot the field and I placed my hands upon one and got quite a shock. It felt as if some sinuous spirit was writhing within the wood. I walked away and returned to the tree and there it was again, the tree was bucking beneath my hands, but not a breath of wind was stirring its branches.

Another encounter, in the Lake District near Castlerigg stone circle, was with a fairy linked with Scots Pines. He gave off something more nuanced than purely male energy, but leaned towards being more masculine. Also, he was fizzing and frenetic; not at all what I expected from a tree guardian, and nothing like Tolkien's ponderous Ents. He spoke fast and moved even more quickly.

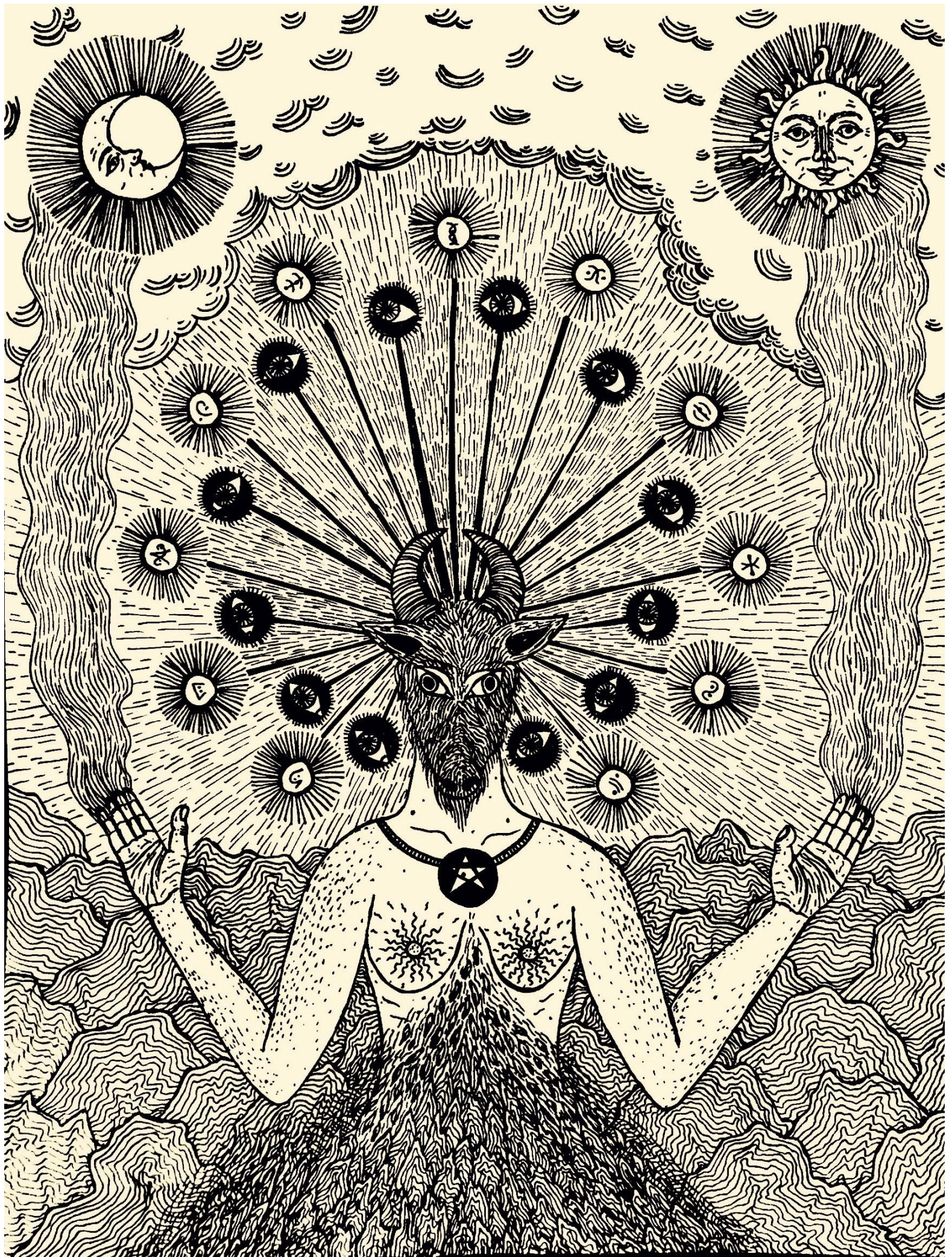
He told me he was all about communication - his trees helped humans connect. I was puzzled, so he told me how telegraph poles are made from Scots Pine, (I did not know this, so once I was home, I looked it up and yes, they are). Then he told me how, in prehistoric times, routes across the wild and inhospitable terrain were marked by a single Scots Pine at a high point and a hammer pool in the dip. Our ancient ancestors tracked their way across the Neolithic landscape by joining the dots of trees and pools.

I took away with me two things from this dazzling encounter; the first being that whilst fairies may not always be humankind's friend, contrary to traditional folklore, they are not always our enemy. The second thing was that even though telegraph poles will soon become a thing of the past - like sentinel pines marking an ancient trackway - somehow, Scots pines will find their way back into our technology again. Trackways and telegraph poles were once cutting-edge, so I can't wait to see how Scots pines contribute in the future. If this seems unlikely, the Chinese have recently been experimenting with ancient bog wood for rocket re-entry shielding. Watch this space ...



Castlerigg Stone Circle









Ayshe-Mira Yashin (she/her) is a lesbian artist and poetess from Istanbul, Turkey and Nicosia, Cyprus. She makes feminist, body-positive and sapphic art revolving around themes of the occult and spirituality. She recently created the Sapphic Enchantress Tarot Deck, and is working on a series of illustrated poetry zines.

# AYSHE-MIRA YASHIN

She also sells original bookmarks, stickers, necklaces and art prints on her independently managed shop at [www.ayshemira.com](http://www.ayshemira.com), and is also open for commissions. Follow her on Instagram @illustrationwitch.



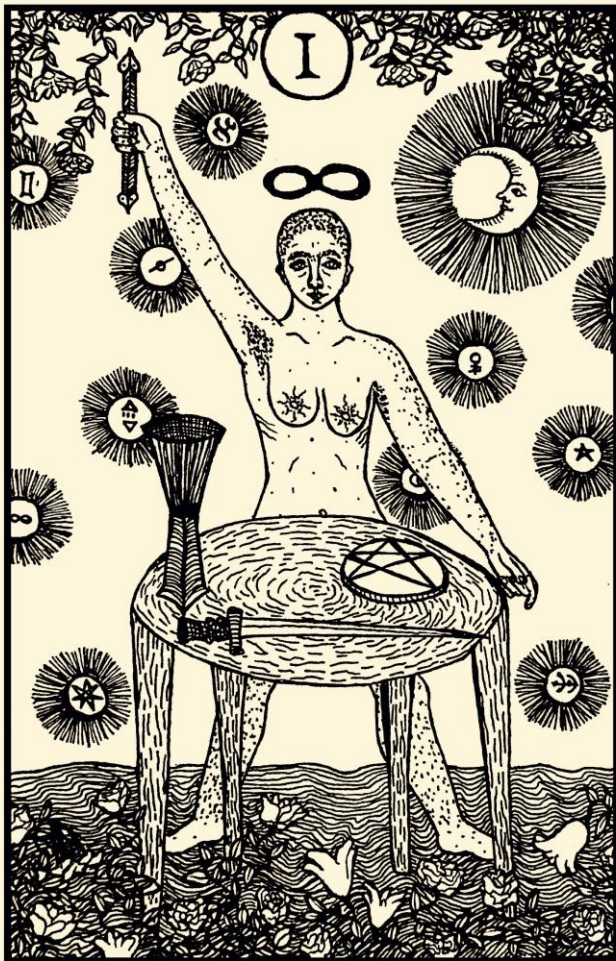




**THE WORLD**



**DEATH**



**THE MAGICIAN**



**THE LOVERS**



# CHRISTIANITY IN WITCHCRAFT

SI CHAPMAN

I HEAR IT SAID A LOT THAT 'THERE IS NO PLACE FOR CHRISTIANITY IN WITCHCRAFT'.

NOW I KNOW SOME OF YOU OUT THERE WILL BE SAYING, 'THAT'S CRAZY, OF COURSE THERE IS!' BUT I ALSO KNOW A LOT OF YOU WILL BE SAYING 'DAMN RIGHT!' SO, LETS LOOK INTO IT A LITTLE DEEPER....THIS MAY BE A LONG ARTICLE!

In a relative timeline, Christianity is the new kid on the block when it comes to religions. When we look at it, it has been an established religion for around 1700 years, since about 313 AD by Constantine 1st when he issued the Edict of Milan which legalised it as a religion.

I mean, in that 1700 years it has prospered enormously for reasons I don't have the time or inclination to go into right now. The loose umbrella term of 'pagan religions' have been around for a long time before Christianity in many different forms, and with many different myths all around the world. Some are still practiced today while others have faded away. Christianity has been tainted with what I would call 'human nature', the need for control, power, and wealth, this is possibly the way for most, if not all organised religions throughout time. It's hard to separate the need for control over others from human society. However in relatively recent times, Christianity has been blamed for war, oppression, murder and of course the recent and still ongoing court cases around the Catholic church.

I feel this leads people who practice Witchcraft today to shun the very idea of Christianity, especially when we read of events such as witch trials in the UK, Europe and the USA. How can we as witches condone using parts of a religion that were responsible for the deaths of our ancestors accused of witchcraft, or even just cunning folk, village herbalists and healers. People just trying to help people and maybe earn a small amount of money to live a basic life. I'm even fairly sure a lot of those burned or hung as a witch were nothing more than neighbours who were locked in dispute with someone, and overzealous witch finders found them an easy mark, especially true in the witch trial boom of England in the 1600s.

The truth of the matter is, that our ancestors would have used Christianity in their workings. There. I said it.

As a practitioner of British Traditional Witchcraft (BTW), I have read grimoires from the 1500s through to the 1800s and I can assure you they nearly all speak of the use of Christianity to invoke healing, curses and a myriad of other workings at all points between.



Somewhere in the last 200 years this has fallen by the wayside and most modern witches barely touch Christianity or use source material from those bygone days. Not only can it be seen in BTW but also in Pow Wow, Hoodoo and Appalachian folk magic.

It is of no surprise to me to find many branches of our craft incorporating it. To me it is a symbiotic relationship. I'm sure we can all think of practices that the church has appropriated from pagan ritual, feast days of the saints being a glaring example of this. A good example would be Christmas day, 25<sup>th</sup> of December. Why did the church use this day to symbolise the birth of Jesus? The winter solstice is the 21<sup>st</sup> of December and the sun appears to 'stand still' at this point for three days, as the days appear to remain the same in length between sunrise and sunset, Only on the 25<sup>th</sup> do the days begin to lengthen, with the church telling us Jesus is the light of the world. What better day than the 25<sup>th</sup> to reinforce this point?

Any of us who practice candle magic will also recognise the Christian church's 'pascal candle' at Easter (another appropriated festival) where sigils are drawn onto a candle (nowadays it tends to be a transfer) and metal studs are pushed into the wax. So many of the churches rituals can be traced back to their pagan roots - yew trees in church yards and the pope's mitre (see Dagon the fish God) are but two examples. On the reverse side of this symbiosis, our ancestors who were witches, healers and cunningfolk used prayer and psalms to heal, hex and work their craft.

So what are we seeing here? Witches, cunningfolk and healers using Christianity to 'blend in' and wanting to abide by societies rules for fear of at best exile and at worst death? Or a genuine belief in the Holy Trinity and using that to draw down magic for their purposes?

Christianity was prevalent in Britain in from around 700 AD to relatively modern times, and around the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries everyone practiced it. We were far from the secular nation we have now become, and therein lies the problem I feel. Now we have choice. The choice to be Christian, Pagan, atheist, Hindu, Shinto or whatever the hell we want to be, just by making a personal decision.

Our ancestors didn't have that luxury, so our ancestors would have believed in Christ and petitioned him, and more likely the divine feminine of Mary to achieve what they needed too.

Alright, so, enough about our ancestors, I don't think anyone is in any doubt that is how they would have worked.





Let's look at modern day practices outside of the church but within the occult community. When I say, is it possible to use Christianity in witchcraft, I'm not necessarily looking at petitioning Jesus to work on our behalf, although that isn't beyond the realms of possibility.

For those of us who are theistic, is there a difference between

petitioning any God or Elder Spirit? Gemma Gary has a book called 'The Charmer's Psalter' (Troy books 2013) in which Psalms are used to enable workings.

A great example of this, and one I have used to great effect in the past is Psalm 140. I have used this in the past to defend against enemies, and it is also really good to return hexes and the evil eye:

#### PSALM 140 (KING JAMES VERSION)

- 1 Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man;*
- 2 Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war.*
- 3 They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah.*
- 4 Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings.*
- 5 The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.*
- 6 I said unto the Lord, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O Lord.*
- 7 O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.*
- 8 Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked: further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves. Selah.*
- 9 As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them.*
- 10 Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again.*
- 11 Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.*
- 12 I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.*
- 13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.*

I mean. Wow. Read that again if you need to.

Those are some powerful words right there. The Psalter of the Bible is effectively just a spell book. A Grimoire. In fact Psalm 140 was supposedly first written in 1060 AD, not in the version written above I expect, but the effect of the words are the same.



To dismiss it in my opinion is folly. I mean, of course it depends on your particular pathway, and I do understand that just the 'C' word automatically turns people away. But try to look beyond the modern issues we see with Christianity such as control, paedophilia and greed, and look at it in its pure form.

In my personal practice I do use Psalms, and I also use my own workings and cherry pick things from all over using what I need to get the job done. I do petition other Elder spirits, or as some would see them, Deities, Gods, Demons and Angels. Even the separation of Demons and Angels relates to Christianity, but that is for another article.

Thanks for reading my musings, I hope you enjoyed my first foray into article writing!

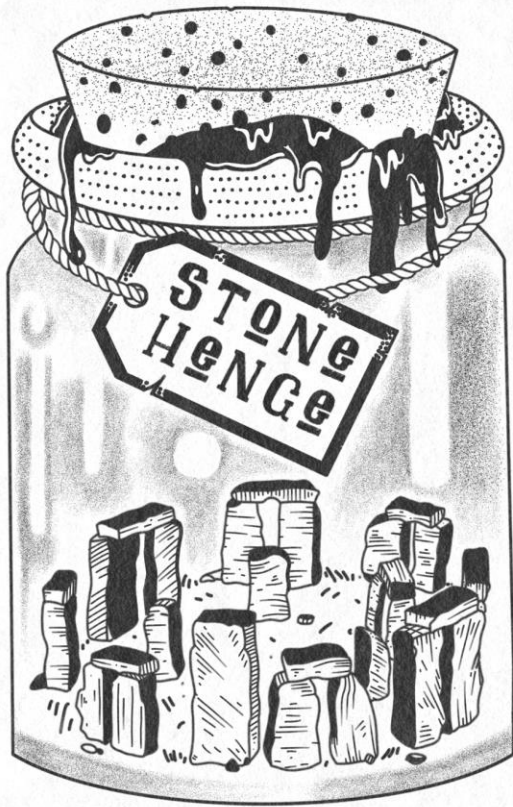
Keep safe and well in these peculiar times.

Si.

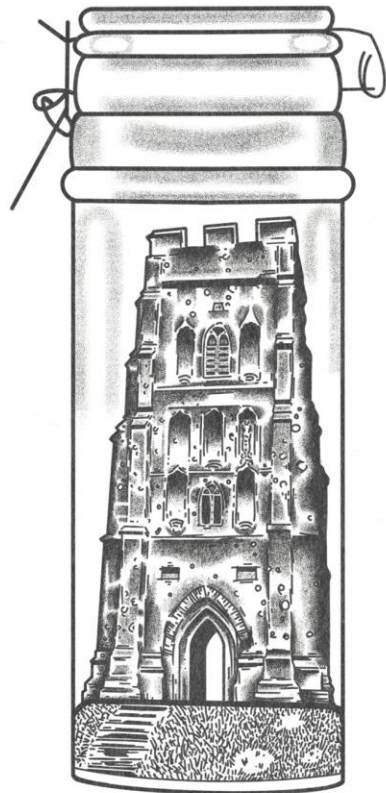
*Si Chapman is a practicing Luciferian cunning man based in Dorset in the UK and can be found on Instagram and Facebook at 'Crooked Cross Crafts'.*







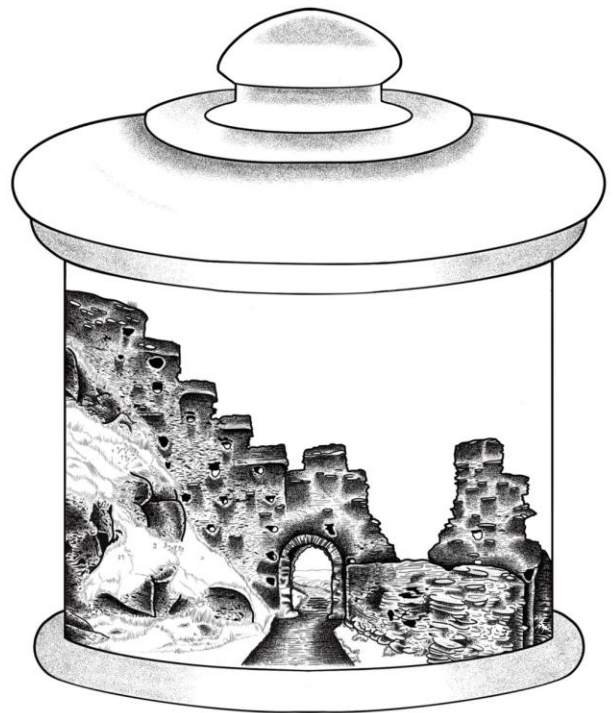
Stonehenge



Glastonbury



Avebury



Tintagel

## ART BY EL HARPER - MAGICAL TRAVEL IN ISOLATION

It would be somewhat of an understatement to say this year has been unusual for us all. I was glad to see those who choose to follow the wheel of the year still coming together to celebrate, via technology or in socially distanced settings.

But the main element absent in these celebrations were the magical locations we love to visit throughout the year.

With this in mind, I decided to create an artwork to capture this feeling, beginning with Stonehenge, then Glastonbury, Avebury and finally Tintagel.

These illustrations were sketched in pencil initially, then photographed and finished digitally.

I also used photo references from my travels.

These spell jars represent the idea of memory and place, imagine if you will, that you had one and could pop open the lid to be transported instantly into that place with all the sights, scents and energies it had to offer. What a feeling that would be!

Although we cannot visit these sites of power at this time, we still have our memories and imaginations.

*El Harper is an Artist, Tattooist and writer from rural Hampshire.*

*His work includes themes from folklore, magick, surrealism and the landscape.*

*Taking a multi-discipline approach including; ritual tattooing, Lino printing, digital illustration, painting and the written word, he is a natural outsider who follows an eclectic path through the wilderness of life.*

Instagram: @elharperartist

Etsy shop: elharperfolklore.store





# THE PATH OF THE HEALER: STARTING WITHIN

KELLY BUCHAN – WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

My own spiritual journey began, as with many other healers, with the destruction of the Tower. My life crumbled and lay in smouldering tatters while my frantic, fragmented mind struggled to piece together a reason why any of this could have happened to me at all. My poor ego was scarred, but it was made stronger and nursed back to life by the victimhood and self pity that I found solace in. Weeks were wasted in a chaotic cloud of misery, as I was catapulted through endless cycles of emotional turmoil. One rainy and lonely afternoon, I picked up my tarot deck and asked why this pain wasn't lessening. It immediately spat out the Five of Cups, which set off a chain of epiphanies which allowed me to heal and become the woman and witch I am today.

Victimhood is a comfortable place to reside in right? Hurt, bruised and battered, we retreat into those cosy wet caverns inside our own heads, where our egos soothe us with notions that everything was everyone else's fault, and we had no part to play in the powerful erosion of the tower. Blame is assigned to our enemies and to those who broke our hearts, with often not an iota of time being spent looking at our own destructive behaviours. This, dear readers, is what is meant when you hear the term 'Shadow Work', and it is the key to unlocking our own individual wisdoms and powers which lay dormant within every single one of us.



I have clients contacting me for personalised spells on a fairly regular basis, but the trouble is, if the client has not dealt with their own internal turmoils and self destructive patterns, no amount of magickal assistance from even the most powerful of witches would help them achieve their goals, as their wants and desires are not coming from an assured and balanced place. Of course, this is a difficult concept to explain to those who have no background knowledge in the occult or, indeed, spirituality itself. So should a client contact me asking for something which sounds out of kilter, I implore them to spend a few weeks learning about the chakra systems (or the Qabbalistic tree of life in magickal terms), and to meditate daily, fostering and nurturing the connection they have to their highest sovereign selves. Funnily enough, after this process is completed, a personalised spell isn't needed, as they have discovered that happiness is self generated and so they already have all they need within.

Shadow work is something which liberates us from any feelings, resentments and fears from the past which keep us chained to thinking we are not enough, and that our past mistakes can somehow darken our futures, By forgiving ourselves for actions and words which have plagued our thoughts

for years, we unload huge amounts of stagnant energies from our auras, allowing us to move freely into our futures without any emotionally triggering tethers anchoring us in the past. After accepting our character flaws and past mistakes for what they were and releasing them, we must also take stock on what makes us shine as individuals. Allow yourself to fully accept who you truly are, and love yourself with the ferocity of a twin flame and as though you truly believe you are connected to the divine source.

Now, I am aware that this may seem like a very 'love and light' concept to many if you powerful occultists. However in ceremonial magick, it is advised that rituals must be performed with a pure heart with no lusts for end results. Balancing out the heart chakra is, in my experience the easiest way to achieve a state of mind where I can totally trust in my own intentions and stay in a state of gratitude for the abundance I have, and the abundance that's surely to come. Daily affirmations before banishing rituals seem to ground me faster within the physical realm, and also help with the visualisation of connecting to the divine source energy above the universe within the meditative state, Attempting to perform external energy manipulations when my internal energies aren't balanced always seems to end up with either sloppy half-hearted witchcraft, or a residual lust for results that dampen the intentions anyway.

We experience reality as an individual focal point of consciousness, a pure kernel of love and understanding which is hard wired to be heavily influenced by the ego and held captive to the lower vibrational realms of existence. Only by shedding the layers of the ego through Shadow Work can we become ethereal or "light" enough to break through the egoic barriers and reach the higher realms of reality which are not normally immediately accessible from the physical plane. An easy way to visualize this, would be to imagine a circle with a meridian line. The meridian line is where we find ourselves in this level of reality, the astral realm makes up the top half of the circle, with the lower realms held in the bottom half. The realms are mirrored within one another, the light feeding into and dark, and the dark consuming, and giving birth to the light. By acknowledging the darkneses that reside within, we can begin to heal ourselves and in turn others.





# WORDS FROM THE WITCH'S JOURNALS

PORTLAND JONES – WITCH WRITER

I HAVE A LARGE WOODEN CUPBOARD IN THE ALCOVE OFF MY LIVING ROOM WHERE I KEEP MY 'WITCHY' STUFF, AN ECLECTIC MIX OF INTERESTING BITS AND PIECES. IT ALSO HOUSES MY JOURNALS, RECORDS OF THINGS I'VE DONE OVER THE YEARS, THINGS I'VE LEARNED. THERE ARE SCRIBBLINGS OF MY PERSONAL FEELINGS, GRIEVING AND JOYS, AND MY COVEN HISTORY, THINGS WE HAVE DONE TOGETHER.

IN LOCKDOWN, WITH PLENTY OF TIME ON MY HANDS, I THOUGHT I WOULD TAKE A LOOK IN THIS CUPBOARD, REMIND MYSELF OF MY JOURNEY. THE MEMORIES IT BROUGHT BACK! THEN I THOUGHT I MIGHT SHARE THEM WITH YOU.

## A COVEN IS BORN

Looking back through my journals, I found the day that our coven came into being. Some of us had been certain in our beliefs for a long time before that. We came together in all sorts of ways. Some were work colleagues, some were family, some of us knew each other through another coven. We had something in common – we all knew where we didn't want to be, and we were prepared to work together to find out where we were going.

### Extract from my journal:

'The thought of establishing our own coven was awesome. Who were we to do this? What rights had we got? Had we the experience? Had we the numbers? Over a couple of months we agreed to take the radical step of establishing our own coven.'

So, on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007, there is a record of our meeting when we chose our name - Ealdor Venefici. The choosing of a name of this importance is wracked with the same difficulties as choosing the name of a new born child. We designed a logo to represent us – it featured the leaves of the alder, a tree which was common in the woods where we held rituals.

We had a list of topics we would look at over the year. It was wide-ranging, from getting back to nature with ecological living to numerology, from making ink to making amulets, from crystals to the meaning of colours, from palmistry and telepathy to aura readings. We learned of gods and goddesses, traditional witchcraft, high magic and Wicca. This helped us shape our shared beliefs. In years to come we would write down what was important to us, our coven lore.

A couple of years down the line, we each wrote about how we came to be part of Ealdor Venefici, how we came to be witches. Looking back it makes interesting and sometimes comical reading. Lives have changed, and people and time have moved on, so I'm giving no names, but the exhilaration of those early years is clear.

## AN INTRODUCTION:

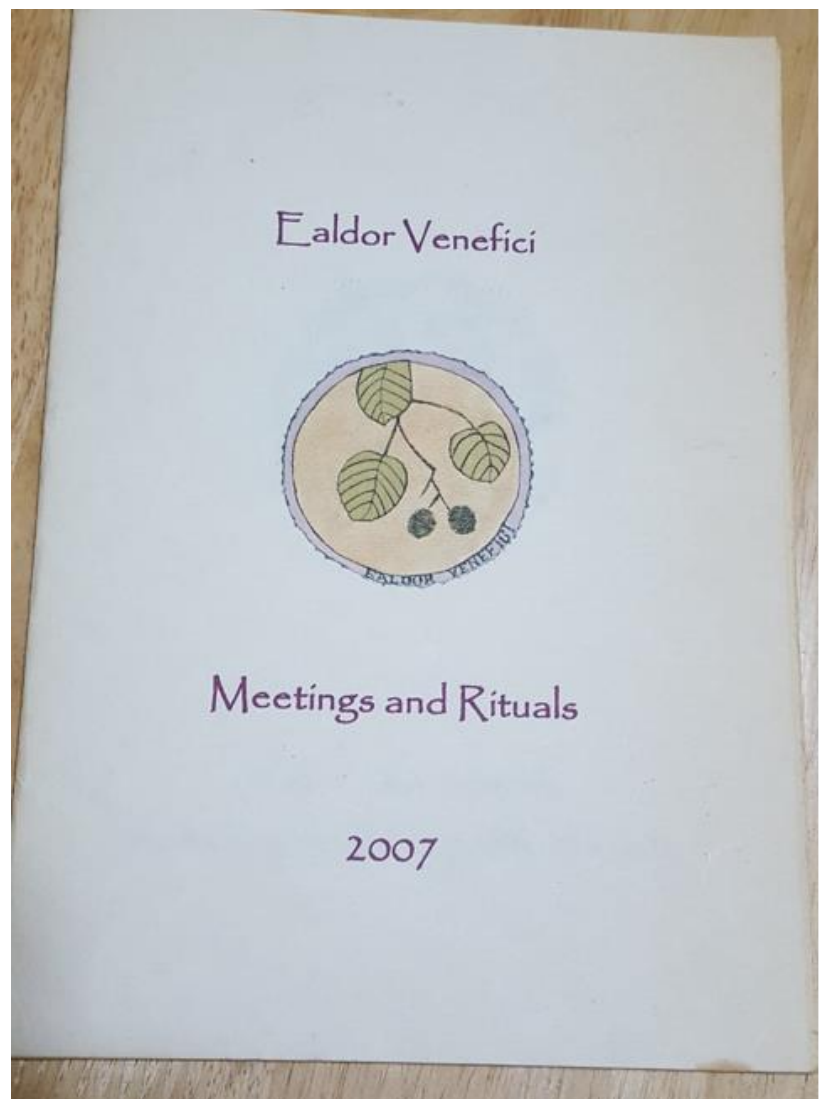
‘When I was first asked to write an introduction to myself – I hadn’t a clue what to say. To write that I am a perfectly normal twenty something immediately gives the impression that I am not!! So instead of trying to convince you of what I am, or am not, I am just going to write about what is. Okay, so firstly – how did I become part of this madness? Well, to be quite honest, I don’t actually know? I kind of slipped into it all, like child into teen: it just became a natural progression as many other things in life often are. When the witches came round to my mom’s house, I would just be in the living room, listening to the things going on – and in all honesty, it all seemed a bit funny to me! Being a very practical person of routine, it all seemed a bit airy fairy. So, yes, it started with the listening.

And then gradually I would input my opinion on the rare occasion a topic was discussed that I had any thoughts to. I started to realise I was interested after all. But I was not willing, nor ready, to be fully part of the group – because that would mean that me, Miss Seeing-is-believing, was a witch. One of those weird people that lived with their head in the clouds and believed in fairies. So I made an effort to make sure I was in on those nights of the meetings and would take part – but only when they were at Moonstoane’s house. Until eventually I didn’t want to miss out when the meetings were held elsewhere. So I started tagging along to the other meetings ... but only for the ride of course – only out of curiosity, not because that was what I wanted.

Rituals were a big thing for me – something I did not want to do – because to me it was all still a bit comical – but again slowly, slowly, being the Taurean that I am, I gradually became part of this, understanding (for the most part) and believing in it to.

And now? I could not imagine a life without our Tuesday meetings. I still do not consider myself entirely a witch. Because that is a scary term to coin – but I do believe in the concepts of what we study and they have become part of me, who I am and what I stand for.

And from the girl who sat in the corner, stifling laughter at the crazy people in my house, I have become these people. And I learned that actually I am not so crazy after all. Merely that I previously lacked knowledge and scorned that which I did not understand. I am proud to announce this to all who care.’





## ANOTHER INTRODUCTION:

‘Evolution, or to be precise, Evolutionary Theory, was the first thing that made me sit up and ask myself ‘what do I really believe?’ My niece handed me a book and suggested I take a look. There was my answer! It held a truth for me that, without really knowing it, I think I have always felt. My book collection continued to grow and, after about eight or nine years of solitary practice, a chance comment to a colleague at work led to an introduction to a group of like minded people and an opportunity to learn and celebrate with others. This is our evolution...’

## AND ANOTHER:

‘With every meeting, with every ritual and with every outing this group of eight people have become very much my long lost family growing stronger together each day. There is nothing I wouldn’t do for any one of my new family, (well maybe a few things, but let’s not go into that lol).

## AND THE FINAL ONE FROM OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER AT THE TIME:

‘Well I can’t actually remember how it started for me, so I’ll tell you what I do know. As you have already met Moonstoane and Leedle Bogbean, I’ll just introduce them to you as Mom and big Sis. They kept going out on Thursdays, so I got curious. I wanted to know where they were going. Eventually they told me. I was like ...WOW! Can I come? And well I’ve come ever since I was 10 when I first came and now I’m 12. So it must mean something to me to have stuck to it for so long. That’s the longest I’ve ever stuck to something. ‘Why do you keep going?’ you ask. My answer to that is, it’s fascinating because we learn about something different each week. Everyone takes turns leading sessions, including me! That is actually weird for me but I enjoyed it. OK, sure I’m surrounded by adults but they treat me like I’m one of them. We treat each other with respect.’

\*\*\*\*\*

Those early days were exciting, heady, full of energy as we forged our way. I am writing this with a smile on my face. We have travelled a long way since then, through heartbreak and sorrow, through wonderful times full of joy and exploration but always in the company of good friends.

# WISE WORDS FROM THE OLD CRONE

## RITUALS

### THE OLD CRONE

What is a ritual and how can it help your mental state?

According to the dictionary definition a ritual is an established form of ceremony, a system of rites, a ceremonial act or observance. It is something done repeatedly with a purpose. A meaningful practice.

We all partake of certain rituals usually passed down in the family, they could be singing carols at Christmas, pumpkin carving at Samhain, celebrating a birthday and so on. They are more often than not a celebratory ritual, a happy occurrence which lifts the mood and brings your state of mind to a higher level. A personal and frequent ritual can bring you to that higher state of awareness and peace.

You can turn anything into a ritual and at the moment a daily or at least a regular ritual is an excellent idea. A personal ritual is a powerful asset in helping us all to cope with life when things become a little negative.

One of my regular personal rituals which always lifts my spirit is to have a bath. I light a few candles, light some incense and sometimes take a glass of wine with me. I take my time preparing the bathroom and making sure I have all I need to hand. It is like a meditation and as I lie in warm water and allow my thoughts to come as they will, it always gives me a sense of wellbeing.



When my mother was diagnosed with a heart condition she was told that she must cut down dramatically on coffee, to one cup a day and chocolate to a very small amount a day. Oh dear! Two of her favourite things.

She turned these into her personal rituals. She allowed herself one cup of coffee per day. She bought coffee beans from a well-known Yorkshire café company and ground only the exact amount required each day. She brewed her coffee every morning with great care with filter paper and a drip



mug, taking her time over it and making sure that the drinking of it coincided with a favourite radio programme.

I had bought her two small coffee cups and saucers, slightly larger than an espresso cup, from her favourite coffee shop and she always used these. She placed both cups on a tray and poured her coffee into a thermal flask to keep it warm, then carried it all to sit in the sunshine if it was nice weather or by the fire if it was chilly. She poured one amount into the first cup and savoured each sip and then repeated the exercise with the second cup taking her time to really enjoy it. As the cups were very small she managed to con her brain into thinking she had two cups of coffee.



Each evening, she allowed herself one Black Magic (of course) chocolate which she kept in the fridge so it was hard and cold and took longer to melt in her mouth.

These two rituals helped her to cope with not only the lesser amount of the two things she loved to consume but also with her heart condition.

She was performing her own rituals but she was also doing something else. She was consuming mindfully.

Mindful eating and drinking can give you the same ritualistic feel. If you are like me and I choose to consume a bag of crisps, some cashew nuts or a chocolate bar, ai usually eat them quite swiftly and then when almost all are consumed slow down and savour the last few. For this to become mindful eating, I do try to turn this on its head and start by savouring the flavours and tangs right from the first bite. Turning the consuming of your favourite things into a ritual and taking your time, will not only become more enjoyable but being mindful will boost your spiritual wellbeing.

Give it a go, find your own personal ritual and look after yourself

Blessed Be

The Old Crone

[theoldcrone5@gmail.com](mailto:theoldcrone5@gmail.com)

# THE MAGICK OF DREAMS

INTERPRETING DREAMS FOR PERSONAL INSIGHT

STEPHANIE ULPH – WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

Dreams are an incredibly interesting part of human psychology – I'm sure the same is true of animal psychology - however this article is concerned with how dreams can assist us on our karmic paths and our ultimate quests for self-understanding and realisation.

Evidence of dream interpretation can be found as far back as at least 3000BC. It was not until the middle ages that such practices fell from the norm into the realms of fear – perhaps in line with the growing fear and stigmatization of witches and the, then, newly formed imagery of 'The Devil' as a demon! As it became feared that dream images were temptations of 'The Devil'. It then wasn't until the 19th Century, that Sigmund Freud conducted in-depth studies of dreams and the human mind that began a major shift in perspective and brought dream interpretation back from the dark unholy fringes of society and once again into somewhat more mainstream or at least acceptable circles. Freud's work greatly inspired Swiss psychologist Carl Jung, who in turn has given us extensive research on the subconscious mind including how it can be greatly understood through our dream imagery.

When we sleep, our conscious minds switch off – through electric activity measurement experiments we know that overall, our minds are more active when asleep (the same is true for trance or meditative states). This is when the subconscious mind takes precedence and subconscious imagery becomes the brains primary language – a language which seems to be universal, with exceptions laying within cultural reference to particular imagery. Without the interference of daytime thought processing, our subconscious minds are free to output information, which is essentially a response to input information and how we internally perceive this information, as well as our overall present state of mind. Put another way, our brains transfer our subconscious feelings into imagery that can be used as a means of symbolic self-communication, which can be used to aid our understanding of and ways of approaching a particular issue and of understanding ourselves in general.

Some examples of common subconscious imagery are; Teeth – the condition of which reflects how we view ourselves within the world – Water - reflects our present emotional state – Is the water calm or turbulent? Is it clear or murky? Cars - indicate how we move through life – Are we in the driver seat? Is the car out of control, not moving at all, or Perhaps moving steadily and enjoyably?

Similar are path/road dreams, though these are more closely associated with how our choices affect where we go in life, especially where crossroads (decisions) come about. Any emotions that we feel whilst dreaming and/or upon waking are of great importance in understanding our dreams, as is



each individual aspect that can be remembered - especially anything which really 'stands out'. I don't believe it's true to say that all dreams are what we call 'prophetic' in the sense some are profound and offer very important guidance but all do stem from our unconscious minds and so carry information which we may keep hidden from ourselves on a conscious level - usually due to social conditioning where we may have pushed aside aspects of ourselves or social expectancies where we may feel inadequate if we do not meet these often unmeetable societal demands.



Our dreams can be a profound link to our inner most hopes and dreams and fears and foibles and so can aid immensely in self-awareness, which in turn fosters a self-positive attitude then allowing us to move forward freely through life, less hindered and so in ways genuinely most positive for us.

Understanding and/or 'looking up' dream imagery is the absolute most important and only required part of interpreting our dreams, though we can gain further insight through use of tarot cards, pendulums and other forms of divination which we may already be accustomed to. It is also very possible to induce helpful or 'prophetic' dreams with the use of certain herbs, fragrances, sounds, meditations and simple intention setting prior to sleep.


There is so much more than can be said on the interesting and intriguing world of dreaming that simply cannot be covered within an article. I would encourage anyone who walks any form of spiritual path, or has interest in psychology or the mysterious to dip their toes a little into the dream pool.

Three sprigs of fresh rosemary are arranged horizontally across the top of the page. The central sprig is slightly larger and more prominent than the two flanking it.

# IN CONVERSATION WITH ROSEMARY

ANYA LUKOVER – WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

“The very moment of existence is the only moment we are required to remain in” – Rosemary

Three sprigs of fresh rosemary are arranged horizontally across the middle of the page, mirroring the arrangement at the top.

Connecting with and creating a deeper relationship with Rosemary has helped me to experience Her wisdom around focusing in the now moment, dissolving the illusion of time from my programming, and connecting to myself in a much deeper way.

As we step through this journey of awakening and remembering, the wisdom of Rosemary helps us to re-learn how to focus. These days we are so stimulated by information in our energy fields that we have become beings that are very easily distracted. TV dinners or scrolling and working whilst eating and not really paying much attention to either because you have 100+ other ‘tabs’ open about work, finances, looking after a family, eating the right foods, keeping in touch with friends, or the endless to-do lists that run in the background of your human computer system.

But why is this a problem? Have we not evolved to be able to cope with multi multi multi tasking in our energy fields yet? Yes perhaps we have, but it comes with a dose of mental health issues and disease of the physical body. When the body is in dis-ease it is not in ease. It is out of ease. Out of harmony. Out of FOCUS. Which is when it presents a host of symptoms & diseases that now seem to be accepted as ‘normal’ in our lives (whatever normal is)!

And all these ‘tabs’ create a distraction from what us humans have become gold medallists in doing - holding on to the past, adding another layer to the dis-ease the physical and mental body experiences too.

When we call in on the support of Rosemary, when we consciously create a companionship with Her magick, She helps us to focus on one thing at a time. To focus and focus and focus some more so we become so present to each and every moment that we are living in.



One of the ways Rosemary's beautiful frequency helps us to become so fiercely present is that She reminds us that time is an illusion. And that this man made perception has our energies tied to the past and future, and not just this life but to that of our ancestors and all the other lives too, keeping us attached like a big spaghetti junction of reigns. And what runs through those reigns of attachments is the old conditioning and programs and traumas and stories that unless we learn how to release, are still running and having a massive impact on our current life and our ability to enjoy it.

Rosemary assists our energy in unwinding the illusions of time, dissolving that very program from our being that there ever is or was a past or there ever is or will be a future, because everything is actually happening right now.

“My still and focussed energy whirls through each of the human body systems, diffusing those stories it is still running. Like a time dissolver detox my energy nurtures yours and helps you to find that stop button that you crave each day”



And what will actually change for us when this programming of time is released from our lives?

- Always being late
- Being governed by the clock
- Always feelings like you're rushing around
- Focussing on one thing at a time
- Overwhelm disappears
- Leaving everything to the last minute
- That panic you feel in your stomach about getting your to do list done
- The restless feeling you have when you're trying your hardest to rest

... to name just a few.

As we spend more of our existence living each moment in the present and in connection with ourselves we experience those magickal synchronicities that sends excitement through our body...

...when a song randomly pops into your head and then you hear it on the radio moments later... or when you think of a friend you haven't spoken to for a while and then you receive a message from them the same day.

Rosemary shifts our focus to deep within ourselves where we re-discover that disconnection is yet another illusion and that we have the ability to connect in to anyone, anywhere and anywhen because everything that is, has been and will be in existence is right here and now.

So celebrate this beautiful plant spirit with me and find that stop button for yourself. Buy a plant and connect to Her wisdom. Invite Her into your home like you would a friend and treat her like one too, because when you show Her your love you will feel the magick of the energy exchange and receive the gift of presence.

“The very moment of existence is the only moment we are required to remain in” - Rosemary

Please do contact me with your Rosemary experiences, i'd love to hear from you x





# SPOONS, SWEETS AND SPIRIT MESSAGES

## FAIRY BEC – WITCH WRITER

Ever lost something for a while then it randomly turns up?  
Do you look in your cutlery drawer at home after washing up but you still seem to be missing items?  
Do you look at the digital clock and keep seeing double numbers? E.g. 11:11.  
You could be experiencing messages from spirit.

### Spoons

All my life I have always lost and found spoons – in my home, at work and been gifted them. Mainly teaspoons. My Grandmother used to collect tea spoons and she passed away when I was a baby so I have always associated this with her letting me know she was there.

There seems to be something quite special about cutlery for me. I inherited a pure silver set from my Grandmother on the other side. They were her wedding present in 1947. After long discussions with my Mother, we decided they were best used and loved than stored in the loft so, when we moved to our current house in 2011, we started to use them as our main set. Often, I will have cleaned all the items yet still be missing one or two. I imagine my Nana enjoying a nice scone with jam and cream using her own cutlery.

Knives also do odd things with me. If I drop a knife, I let it drop and spin and take a note of the direction it is pointing when it rests. This is because wherever it is pointing always shows the direction from which my next guest or visitor will be arriving.



### Sweets

The first time I saw a cola bottle sweet in an odd place, it was by my cat's bed upstairs. I thought nothing much of it as she likes to transport small objects into her various beds and hoard them there. However, I did notice when I picked it up that the sugar was intact suggesting that she did not lick it or carry it in her mouth. The second one was the most bizarre. I have some glass corner shelves in my living room. The top one has upside down pieces of amethyst so when you look up, you see the detail of the crystals through the glass. I looked up one day and saw a cola bottle there. My husband was away and I can only just reach the shelf so it was not my son who is shorter than

me. Neither was it the cat who does not climb those shelves. A few months passed then I saw another three in one morning! One on my yin yang dish by my buddhas, one on the Hoover which I had only just used the afternoon before and one by the bottom of my stairs next to a box. All of these were located in my hallway. Strangely, the evening before, I had seen the energy of spirit very active in my hallway.

That night, I was on Facebook and a friend popped up with a free live mediumship. I typed in the question "Please can you ask spirit what the cola bottle sweets are about?" immediately, my phone rang. It was another friend of mine. I told her about the cola bottles and said that I was going to post a message on my Fairy Bec page asking if anyone could relate and if so, please contact me. The friend I was speaking to had lost her Dad just under a year ago and immediately told me "Well my Dad used to pick the cola bottles out of the Starmix!" Boom! By asking spirit, they answered me immediately with her ringing. We discussed all the details of the placements of the sweets and we were able to relate each one to something her Dad might be telling her. Things I had no idea about. As we discussed further, she felt a stroking of the back of her head – something her Dad used to do to her. She had been afraid to have any spiritual contact with him since he passed but felt that he had chosen to communicate with her through me. She felt that he was telling her that she need not be scared of this contact and that he was with her, always.

It was so beautiful to be able to help one of my best friends with such a special connection.

### Spirit Messages

There are some schools of thought that believe that spirit messages only come through mediums and that those messages are deeply profound. In my experience, spirit messages are often seemingly mundane, received by anybody and very simple but repetitive.

I receive messages from spirit daily and I also ask them for guidance and re-assurance. Never be afraid to ask (aloud or in your head). If you are feeling humble then start small.

I have been through a really tough few months and asked for messages of re-assurance a lot recently. I have had to make decisions that affect other people and it can be tough understanding what the right thing to do is. One example was when I was out walking, I asked spirit to show me a white feather to re-assure me that I was doing the right thing by everyone in the long run. Lo and behold, less than ten steps and there it was – a perfect white feather on a leaf.

I also regularly see double numbers on my oven clock. They are what I refer to as the 'kick up the butt' messages. Here are some examples and what I believe they could mean:-

- 11:11 or 23:23 is a reminder to go with your gut instinct and use your intuition. It reminds you that your guides and angels are there for you, you just need to ask.
- 12:12 is a reminder to look after those around you.
- 22:22 is a reminder to look after yourself.
- 13:13 is either lucky or unlucky depending on how you see it. I see it as lucky and auspicious.
- 18:18 tells you to take action as the power is yours.
- 12:34 tells you to make some positive changes in order to move forwards.

See what repeats for you, take note of your gut feelings and have a look into angel numbers to see what message is being brought to you. It can be different for each individual.



Numerology will help you if you want to break it down to the single number within the repeated number. 11:11 could actually be  $1+1+1+1 = 4$ . See what works for you, this is your journey.

Other spirit messages could be sounds, even thinking you heard someone calling your name or songs with deep meaning that suddenly appear on the radio. Additionally, thinking about someone then bumping into them in the shops or they contact you when they are in your head are signs of connection beyond the physical.

So why am I writing this article? Because you were meant to read this article at this specific time. This article will remind you to open your mind to the endless possibilities that the universe holds. You are valued and important. You are a being of energy in a world of energy. You belong here at this time receiving this message.

Much love to you all x x x





# 5 STUNNING POEMS ABOUT SPRING



HELLO! YES, I AM BACK WITH ANOTHER COUNTDOWN LIST ABOUT WRITING THAT I AM YET AGAIN, OBSESSED WITH! I HOPE THESE BEAUTIFUL POEMS BY THESE GREAT POETS CAN HELP INSPIRE YOUR OWN WRITING, GIVE PERSPECTIVE ON THE BEAUTY AROUND US AND MOST OF ALL, BRING SOME PEACE TO THESE STRANGE TIMES. ENJOY

## 1. TODAY BY BILLY COLLINS

Quipped as “the most popular American poet” Collins is known for his witty and insightful writing that delves into the quirky and tender side of poetry. This uplifting, subtle poem offers such solace with the normality and the often “mundane” side of lovely spring days.

### MY FAVOURITE BIT:

*so they could walk out,  
holding hands and squinting  
into this larger dome of blue and white,  
well, today is just that kind of day.*

## 2. SWIFTS BY ANNE STEVENSON

One of my favourite poets, Anne Stevenson was born in England and moved between America and the UK through most of her life. She got her degree in music, though it was famous American poet Donald Hall that encouraged Ms Stevenson to pursue her poetry.

### MY FAVOURITE BIT:

*'Well,' said the Raven, after years of this,  
'I will give you the sky. You can have the whole sky  
On condition that you give up rest.'*

*'Yes, yes,' screamed the swifts, 'We abhor rest.  
We detest the filth of growth, the sweat of sleep,  
Soft nests in the wet fields, slimehold of worms.  
Let us be free, be air!'*

## 3. SPRING BY EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

Probably one of the most famous poets in the world, this Pulitzer winning poet is particularly



known for her dramatic and ambitious poetry – but it is this subtle, sombre piece of poetry that makes me swoon.

**MY FAVOURITE BIT:**

*Not only under ground are the brains of men  
Eaten by maggots.  
Life in itself  
Is nothing,  
An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs.  
It is not enough that yearly, down this hill,  
April  
Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.*

4. IN PERPETUAL SPRING – AMY GERSTLER

Known for her witty and intelligent writing, Amy Gerstler has won many, many awards in her writing career. From writing about redemption, survival and hope, Ms Gerstler is a well-known pioneer for female writers everywhere.

**MY FAVOURITE BIT:**

*Even the prick of the thistle,  
queen of the weeds, revives  
your secret belief  
in perpetual spring,  
your faith that for every hurt  
there is a leaf to cure it.*

5. LILACS – AMY LOWELL

“God made me a business woman, and I made myself a poet.” One of the worlds most famous and flamboyant poets, Amy Lowell was born in America in 1874, Ms Lowell is known for her humour and her incredible way with words and imagery. She is known to be one of the first creators of “imagism” a new form of writing and creating art that “honed poetic expression down to its purest, most direct form,” We do love a pioneer of art!

**MY FAVOURITE BIT:**

*May is white clouds behind pine-trees  
Puffed out and marching upon a blue sky.  
May is a green as no other,  
May is much sun through small leaves,  
May is soft earth,...*



I hope you enjoyed these little snippets of Spring. Remember, as Spring rolls around, so do new beginnings, new discoveries, light and rebirth and the bloom of Earth once again. Anything can happen. Be gentle and loving to yourself! Happy blessings...

## WITCHING WAYS (BOTH UNFAMILIAR AND FAMILIAR)

K.D. PHILLIPS - WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

*Disclaimer:*

*- An autopsy of beliefs is about to happen in the coming text. The intention is not to 'dump' on anyone for being incorrect, but to highlight where facts meet, and rub up against, adaption, invention, and elaboration. -*

In my last article 'Witchery made simple' in the January issue, I made a passing comment about Wicca being a reinvention. I also made mention of using spirits to locate lost items, backing this up with a historical find. (To put my money where my mouth is)

Reinvention was not how I achieved this. It was by differentiating between what was original magical teachings, and what was added for whatever reason it was added. (The reasoning is the important part because some things have been added by individuals to cut a straight-line path to magical knowledge... while other times things are added for the desires and manipulation of others who follow the path)

Let's jump into that now.

### UNFAMILIAR:

Gerald Gardner was an avid nudist for many years before he invented Wicca.

It's important to use the word invented rather than reinvention regarding Wicca because Gardner's claim was that after looking into Esoteric writings, a group of witches known as The New Forest Coven initiated him and gave him magical knowledge of Old English Magical Practices.

No such Coven exists. They are mentioned only by Gardner.

So maybe they are very secretive?

Then why tell a stranger (Gardener) these ancient secrets and let him openly tell the world? And after being confirmed as a mainstream religion why remain hidden?

Because they were made up.

When you read Esoteric writings such as The Book of the Sacred Magic of Abramelin the Mage, The Lesser Key of Solomon, The Sworn Book of Honorius, and such, you can see where much of what we see in Wicca comes from.



The additions are very clearly Gardener's attempt at blending his own ideologies and needs into these original practices.

For instance, Gardener's insistence that you cannot perform magic unless you are naked. Here is where we see his personal titillation at wanting to see nude bodies stemming from his nudist past. Only now there was a reason for the nudity. Nudists were called Naturists or Naturalists back in those days. It was a way to feel more primal and in-touch with nature.

This is New Age, not Magic.

While we view Wicca these days as a form of empowering women, adopted by a great number of Feminists, it actually stems from a man who desired to view naked bodies. Ironic.

We see this also with Alister Crowley. He definitely was practicing magic, but again, blending it with his own needs.

Thelema and its insistence on sex magic.

It's no secret that Crowley was bisexual, and in turn, no surprise that Thelema sex magic is mostly about anal sex. Thelema followers, wether straight or not, had to submit to such sex acts... allegedly to break down their personal and emotional constraints. Do you see the manipulation?

Crowley was clever, but sadistic. He made a way where it was okay if you didn't want to take part, yet still forced himself upon you. In essence, Crowley was saying, "You don't have to like it, but if you want to better yourself and be free then you must do it regardless."

Both Gardener and Crowley, as well as many other Occultists, would regularly meet to exchange ideas. This also included, at times, people such as L. Ron. Hubbard the founder of Scientology. (Yes, Scientology is a cult... now think about Wicca. It's recognised as a religion, but began as a cult. And if being a recognised religion means anything, then we should have a serious look at Jediism)

Absolute power corrupts. These men started down an alternative path... and, unfortunately, quickly became lost.

I'm not saying if you are Wicca, or Neopagan that you are wrong. But it is evident that issues persist stemming from these wrongful additions.

How many of you practice magic?

I'm wagering that most of you will wholeheartedly raise your hand. But certainly from what I understand from reading Esoteric writings is that most perform rituals. Ritual magic is not the same thing. It is a Ritual. A symbolic reference to a deity/spirit of magical belief and magical enforcement. But not the actual magic desired by the witch. No more than a Christian taking Eucharist is magically letting Christ into their bodies. It is a symbolic ritual.



Much like those Christians who go to church every Sunday, but don't action Christianity any other day of the week, we have also seen a massive influx of people who have the aesthetics of what they believe a witch or pagan should look like... but little else except the want and need to be alternative. To be different.

How many of you have seen a social media post about how sad someone is because their dear, beloved Familiar has died? #PicklesYouWillBeMissed

So your cat died, not a spirit that you bound to animal form and magically compelled the spirit to do your bidding.

I've also noticed the amount of YouTube Magic Spell and Summoning videos out there that are laughable, yet a great many people are passing around as actual magical practice.

And those ridiculous social media groups where threats of Cursing and Hexes are thrown around just because someone has a differing opinion.

These aren't just moody teens, they are grown adults claiming to have superior power... but obviously demonstrating their lack of power and control over simple emotional outbursts.

(Whenever these threats are made, there's a celestial clap heard as *every* Sacred Guardian Angel/Spirit facepalms)

I recently met someone who excitedly told me how *cool* and *amazing* it was for them when they visited Pendle Hill last Halloween.

My veins filled with shadows immediately.

Pendle Hill is not a Sacred site for witchcraft, it is a place where twelve alleged witches lost their lives. For any witch or pagan to visit here without sombre reverence is a mockery as shocking as a Jewish person visiting Auschwitz because it's spooky and cool.

Pendle Hill has a Witches Walk...Are you kidding me?

Nothing like spurring tourism at the expense of lives lost.



Same goes for Salem, Massachusetts. They have a witch flying on a broom within police logos, and thousands of tourists flock there each year.

And this is the problem with people 'finding their own path', they think it means you can dress a certain way, and get all your information via YouTube, and say you are a witch. (This doesn't include those who are new to their path. We all must start somewhere, but you must keep taking steps forward... otherwise you are just roleplaying)

If any of my diatribe here has touched a nerve, it is only because you are playing witch rather than actually being one. If you are a practicing witch my words will resound... though you may disagree with elements of what I'm saying. Like my accusation that few are truly practicing real magic.

But if you haven't contacted The Spirits, then can you demonstrate how your magic has worked?

I won't bang on about that 18th century epitaph that I found. Instead, my intention is to do what shouldn't be done... I'm going to openly talk about summoning. (I'm not promising to actually summon a spirit for this particular article... but you should watch out for coming YouTube videos where I intend on doing so)

And before I move on, my comments about Crowley and sex magic are not in reference to sex magic being made up by him, just that he used/abused this ancient practice to get what he wanted. I'm not as familiar with sex magic, but I'm sure it's not mostly anal based.

If you made it this far, thank you. Now let's begin for real.

## FAMILIAR:

I was once Christian, and after personal tragedy I turned away from faith and favoured nonbelief. I actively attacked anyone of any faith.

*"If Jesus says to love your enemies, and the Bible says that Satan is the enemy of mankind, then isn't Jesus saying we should love Satan?"*

This was one of many logic bumps I used to beat Christians over the head with.

Another favourite was...

*"If God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent... then God can be anything, do anything, know everything, and be anywhere all at the same time.*

*So this means that God is limitless.*

*And so, if God is limitless, what does he lack?*

*If he is limitless, then he lacks limitation itself.*

*And if he lacks something then he cannot be omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. You cannot have a limitless entity because it will always lack something. Logically, God cannot exist."*

I quickly fell into Satanism. The idea of using Satan as a metaphor for rebellion and freedom, rather than actually worshipping an evil entity.

But this put me in touch with people who were actually worshipping Satan. I played along because it was kind of cool. But I quickly realised that these people knew nothing of summoning demons. The lack of demons turning up was my first clue.

Much like any religion, when I began to ask questions I was berated and condemned... mostly because they had no answers, and partly because I can be an A-hole. (See this article earlier for confirmation)

Obviously, being an unbeliever meant I hadn't really expected demons. I just got bored and started poking fun at these Satanists much as I did with Christians.

On my journey to belittle people, I realised that I was actually looking for answers.

*"Real magic doesn't exist, not how people imagine it. It's more in your mind than it is about bringing down lightning strikes. It's about the internal being that you are. That's why we say, The magic is in you."*

We've all heard this New Age, Hippy dippy stuff a million times, and because of blending ideologies like in the first half of this article, the largest part of witchcraft is also understood this way.

That or the stark contrast of Hexes and Protection Spells passed around social media like a game of Dungeons and Dragons.

I have no room for roleplay, and pretenders. I'd rather deal with those who just haven't looked deep into magical practice than those claiming immense power from behind the comfort of a computer screen.

I'm ranting again, sorry.

*"Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law."* Crowley using ancient knowledge to justify doing anything you want. We now add, *"but harm none."*

Do what you will... this is not the same as 'Do what you want'. Will in generations past speaks of the sheer will of humans. Our drive.

*"Follow your calling."* This is closer to what the term really means.

Not follow your heart, your desires, your dreams, your hopes... but to follow your will, your drive.

And this leads back to 'intention'.

*"Your heart must be pure."* This doesn't mean you have to be a perfect human with no flaws. It means the reason behind your motivation must be selfless.

If you want power, treasure, and such... magic will not work. The Spirits know you. For real magic is not produced by people, but by the spirit summoned by the person.

Whatever my bio says about what I am, it is wrong. I don't really know what I am.

I stated earlier that I was once Christian. I have returned to Christianity. But not like before. After reading the Abramelin book, it suggests that a person should not change religions from what they were born into... because unshaken faith is a prerequisite for magic.



I'm not sure it truly matters so much in modern society because many in England and the western world are not practicing any religion. They get baptized, married, and buried... but rarely step in a church for any other occasion.

But I had to test this stuff as close as I could get.

The Abramelin book has Spells for finding treasure, and finding love. These can easily fit the idea of 'internal magic' in terms of metaphor.

But the book also has Spells for causing an army to appear on command, turning humans into animals, invisibility, to see the past and future, to solve thefts, and to not need breath while underwater. These don't fit the idea of 'internal magic'.

The Abramelin operation takes 18 months to complete. Some say it can be condensed to 6 months... show me your magic if it's true. Crowley attempted this and gave up. He abandoned the operation.

The operation is the ritual, not the magic. Once you are cleansed, and such, you begin to summon your guardian angel. The spirit that watches you (arguably this spirit is actually part of you, and is again probably where the misconception of magic being internal comes from).

From this point the spirit is asked to bring you all the bad spirits that oppress you, or will oppress you. You bind them one by one. Now via simple incantation by way of word squares, you command a particular power of the spirits. The Sator Square is more commonly known.

SATOR AREPO TENET OPERA ROTAS. It is a palindrome. It reads backwards the same.

In the Square it looks like this...

SATOR  
AREPO  
TENET  
OPERA  
ROTAS

It doesn't just read backwards, but left to right, up and down.

As above, so below.

I shouldn't speak too much. Harpocrates is always hushing me. And there's a handful of initiated that will already be unhappy with my candidness.

Back before I returned to Christianity, I had studied Goetic Demonolatry. I was venerating the spirits. I felt it showed respect. Especially since I'm asking them to perform magic for me. I felt, despite not believing in any of it, that if magic was real... then I had better try the best I can to achieve it in order to truly know if it was real. Demonolatry led to some strange, and often terrifying things happening. But never produced what I would call magic. I became, what I would consider, haunted by spirits.

Since performing certain operations, I no longer have those issues. But it left me with a desire to search for ghosts as much as magic... hence my YouTube channel is mostly focused on me Scooby-Doo-ing my way through abandoned locations.

"Ah, but if you've convened with *The Spirits*, why do you ghost hunt? You can summon them, can't you?"... I can hear the cynics say.

Well, 'The Spirits' are not the same thing as ghosts. Spirits have always been these entities. Ghosts are potentially the souls of humans who died.

I say *potentially* because I haven't had any concrete experience with ghosts... nothing that cannot be explained as psychological.

Interestingly, I believe there's a link between psychology and magic. If 'The Spirits' that we summon are within us, then they are parts of our subconscious soul. Like that 'Two Wolves' within us proverb... a good wolf and a bad wolf do battle within you, the one that wins is the one you feed.

But that certainly doesn't limit magic to being only internal.

(If so, then my subconscious led me directly to a long lost 18th century epitaph. *Really?! How can subconsciousness produce physical, real world results that are separate/outside of my own body?*)

I do not possess the answers you seek. The texts mentioned do. I'm still on my journey. But results are beginning to happen for me. Like that epitaph that I promise not to mention in another article.

It seems that if my intention is pure, I can ask The Spirits and get what I asked for.

My next step is to try some of the other spells such as transformation into animal form, invisibility, and not needing to breathe underwater.

I do not know if any of this will work, but I've come this far with moderate success.

A long trail of failure in my wake, but some breakthroughs. That's also why you shouldn't follow someone else's path... because you're trailing in their failures. You stand by my side and we head in the same direction.

My aim here is to encourage people to learn to practice magic by studying the original texts that history has left us, to encourage people to join Covens and communities... but to question all of it. To test it for themselves.

Do magic. It is in you.

If it weren't, then how can you explain the earthly miracle that you exist?

Oh, and if you don't believe me, I'll jump on social media and Curse you.

I'm joking.

I send demons because I practice magic, not roleplay.

My coming articles will step closer and closer to lifting the veil... I hope.



# WITCHY PICK-ME-UPS

ALEX WORTHINGTON – WITCH WRITER

LITTLE THINGS TO DO TO HELP KEEP WITCHCRAFT AS PART OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE AND  
HELP YOUR MENTAL HEALTH.

It comes as no surprise that the state of the world has had many of us feeling a little bit (or a lot) down, and I am no exception to that. But one of the things that keeps me at the very least trying to remain positive is a few witchy daily practises. Connecting with my faith and actively practising it over the last year has really helped me maintain a semblance of a routine in these exceptional times and given a boost to my mental health when needed. I'm going to discuss a few Witchy Pick-Me-Ups, as I call them, that have helped me both remain in touch with my craft and brighten these long days.

## LIGHTING CANDLES AND/OR INCENSE OR BURNING WAX MELTS

There's something about fire that has always drawn me in. Whether it's part of a spell or ritual or if you just find peace staring into a flickering flame, like me, lighting candles creates its own kind of magic. There's a metamorphosis that is so satisfying to watch as a candle burns down its wick, or smoke from an incense stick rises or wax melts into a glittering pool of liquid. It's incredibly soothing.



## COOKING AND BAKING WITH INTENT

I fancy myself a bit of a kitchen witch. I'm also often exhausted and cooking starts to feel like a chore, but I'm the type of person that finds joy in cooking or baking for others. If I'm particularly down I cook for others, and as I do I manifest all the good intentions and feelings I can and stir that goodness in. Of course, sometimes you won't have anyone to cook for so it goes without saying there's a power in cooking for yourself, imbuing your food with energy to help you too. After all, you need to look after yourself first.

## HOME CLEANSING

When I really need to take my mind off things, the best medicine is doing a complete home cleanse. The best way to start is to tackle room by room. I open all the windows I can to air the place out and then work on tidying and cleaning. Once that's done I like to smoke cleanse with thyme, my favourite herb. I walk through my home and verbalise my intentions for the cleansing and any protections I want to apply. With the open windows the smoke then pours out taking any negativity with it, leaving behind a fresh, clean home. My partner likes to tell me, 'tidy house, tidy mind' and she's right.

## READING TAROT AND ORACLE



This year I've been trying to do a personal reading for myself to start each day and so far the effect has been really positive. You may have seen my review of the *Literary Witches Oracle* deck in the last issue and it's this deck I've been using since the start of this year. I find doing a reading to start each day really helps to frame it and make me



more mindful, and I've found it helps me incorporate general goals into my day. For instance if I pick a card in the morning that signifies creativity or productivity, it makes me aim to be more creative and productive in my tasks for that day.

## MEDITATION

I often struggle to quiet my thoughts down. As I suffer with quite bad anxiety, everything can start to feel a bit much at times, but I've found that setting aside a few minutes to just breathe and try to stop thinking really helps. You can meditate in many different ways. I like to lie down in a dark room if I can and listen to thunderstorm sounds. I struggle meditating without something to focus my mind on so this works really well for me. You could also incorporate flame watching or even a meditation exercise to commune with your ancestors, spirit guide or deity.

These are just some of the things I do to make myself feel better, and obviously may not work for everyone, but if by sharing these tips, I've helped anyone with ideas on how to improve their mental health through the connection to their craft, then that's all that matters.







# HEALING AND WICCA

PETER NASH

Healing work has always and will always be a very important aspect of the work of the witch, moreso if he/she is a member of a coven. Years ago when I was HP of a coven at least 50% of the petitions put to us for help were for healing. We know that many of the ancient magical traditions employed healer priests e.g. Osiris in Ancient Egypt; the druids were also gifted healers (even allegedly discovering an early form of aspirin from tree bark) Let us not forget that Jesus was credited with many acts of healing. Centuries later in Britain and Europe virtually every village had a wisewoman or cunning man; ie the forerunners of the modern "hedgewitch".

In my own tradition of the Craft, the ability to heal was therefore of vital importance; indeed two proofs or testimonies had to be produced from patients confirming successful healings before applying to be upgraded to the second-degree. The actual mode didn't matter ie whether a complaint was effectively treated by herbalism, hands on healing or by auric healing. In other words it was of no importance whether the candidate used practical knowledge such as a herbal remedy or whether they used spiritual forces such as the "power" as we refer to that cosmic energy raised by the working coven. This energy is known by many other names around the world e.g. Chi in China, Ki in Japan, Mana in Hawaii and Prana in India. There are many ways of applying the energy - whatever you wish to call it - and we will discuss some of these in the course of this article.

The correct channelling and focus and focus of this universal energy is therefore of great importance in some forms of spiritual healing e.g. Reiki In this and in other forms of physical contact healing,, the healer is the channel or medium between the energy and the patient , he or she is simply the bridge or point of contact between the two. From the hands of the healer the energy will then go to the affected part of the body. Some healers believe that it is necessary to physically place the hands on the afflicted area. The obvious difficulty here would be instances of for example breast or testicular cancer; many healers probably wisely believe that the healing force will automatically go where it is needed, all that is needed is for the healer to gently place the hands on the patient's shoulder. This will usually make them feel comfortable and reassured.

With the previously described method, there is no physical or psychic depletion to the healer because as stated he/she is simply the conduit for the energy channelled ; in fact the healer should also feel the benefit of the healing force. Healing can however be transferred to another person physically using ones own energy. This is known as magnetic healing. Because this mode can



definitely cause depletion to the healer I rarely use it , although occasionally I will use it to "kick start" a healing session so to speak especially if it is a difficult case, but even then only for a few seconds.

It is not however completely necessary to have physical contact with the patient , many healers indeed work "hands off" - this is called auric healing , and as its name implies here the energy is transferred to the patient's aura rather than to the physical

body. The aura is a natural magnetic field around the body of all living things , whether human ,plant or animal , even buildings accumulate them over the years , and it can be viewed either psychically or physically by the process known as Kirlian Photography named after the Russian inventor Semyon Kirlian. The nature of the aura



would be a separate article , however briefly there are said to be three main zones. The first is a narrow band next to the skin, about 1/4 of an inch wide which is called the "Ethereic double". The second zone he called the "Inner aura" between 1-3 inches wide and which follows the outline of the physical body and is the easiest to see. The third zone he called the "Outer aura" - this extends beyond the Inner aura and has a finer outline , it is said to be more highly concentrated around the head area. Gifted psychics may be able to diagnose ailments in the physical body by seeing gaps or unusual colours within the aura, others say that that the aura of a sick person may be completely grey or brown or other dull colour.

The process for auric healing is similar to the method described earlier ; the difference being that the healer's hands do not make contact with the patient (some people in any case do not like physical contact) . Here the channelled energy goes straight into the aura and from there to the afflicted part of the patient's body. This form of non contact healing can be just as effective as the traditional hands on approach. Some healers may also pass their hands over the chakras ; ie natural energy centres of the body namely the crown of the head, the forehead or so-called "third eye" , the throat, the heart, the solar plexus, the abdomen and the sexual organs. Chakra like Prana is also a Sanskrit word.

I am sometimes asked about so-called "absent healing" or distant healing as it is usually known these days. This is where the patient is not actually physically present but where healing energy is sent out to him or her. Every coven member will know that distant healing is not only possible (as stated earlier in my experience at least the majority of appeals for help to the coven were for healing) but

works as well if not better than the regular hands on healing approach even if the patient is many miles away.

For best results it is helpful if you have a photograph of the patient or if you know them you may at least visualise them. Some healers simply visualise a beautiful light descending from the universe and onto the photograph until they feel that enough energy has been transmitted (although just like regular healing distant healing works better and is more effective if the sessions are regular).

For myself i begin the session by sitting quietly for a few moments, breathing deeply and I say a quick prayer to a god or goddess associated with healing, e.g. Brighid. I then visualise their aura as "flooded" with healing colours , usually blue or green, although I may use for example red to revitalise if the patient is suffering from exhaustion. I conclude the session with a prayer to the same god or goddess giving thanks for the healing energy sent.

Another method I have witnessed in the past was where I was a guest at a coven not far from where I lived at the time. During the working part of the evening , the coven danced and chanted to raise the power whilst the High priestess stood in the middle of the circle pointing her wand upwards as if acting as a sort of "lightning conductor". When the power raising was completed the High Priest knelt in front of her ; she then touched his palms with the wand and "transmitted" the power into his hands which he then held over a photograph of the patient and in turn "willed" the power into the photograph.

This in my opinion showed good initiative and helps to illustrate the many ways in which healing may be tapped and transmitted. It could even be used if the patient were physically present.

One problem with distant healing however that can arise is when the healer has no photograph of the patient and does not know him/her. A High Priestess I used to know used to get round this by obtaining as much information as possible about the physical appearance of the patient ; she would then select a Tarot court card ie a page, knight , queen or king to represent them rather like the practice of some Tarot readers who use a signficator" card to represent the questioner or subject of the reading. This card was then placed on the pentacle on the altar and used as a "substitute" for the patient ie the raised energy of the coven would then be directed to and focused on the Tarot card.



Once again this showed good initiative and makes a good alternative to perhaps using poppets (ie dolls constructed to look like the patient and usually made of wax or plasticine., perhaps



incorporating nail or hair clippings, or even engrave the patient's astrological sign symbol on the forehead or chest of the poppet). Their use certainly helps to create a psychic link with the patient and may help to create a more powerful image.

However even if the spell using them fails the poppet **MUST** be destroyed by being broken up and thrown into running water one full lunar cycle after the spell has been performed. Personally I find them slightly sinister and do not feel comfortable with them so I avoid their use.

Self-healing is of course also possible and is very useful in combatting the stress of everyday living especially if in a demanding or high pressure job. Of course if one is skilled in Reiki or any other form of spiritual healing, this is very easy to administer, I give myself a Reiki session before rising in the morning to start off and help me prepare for the day. Meditation can also be another useful tool, indeed it has been scientifically proved to reduce stress, induce a greater sense of wellbeing and some studies suggest that it can be highly beneficial in reducing high blood pressure.

A method I sometimes use is to receive healing from trees. The method is very simple - I select a tree that seems to be giving positive energy (nearly all do!) I then silently ask the tree's permission to receive healing from it (the answer is rarely no - however if you get a refusal respect the tree's wishes, and leave it to find another one). I then sit beneath it with my back against the trunk. Eventually you will feel a connection with the tree's natural energy field, I have even experienced a very pleasant sensation of my back sort of merging with the trunk, you may even hear or perceive a tiny "heart beat" or pulse from the tree's trunk - however - when you achieve this union with the tree's energy - then ask the tree to share its energy with you. You will know intuitively when the session is complete. Before you leave be sure to thank the tree for its healing, if you can, leave a coin or other small gift as a way of saying thanks.

This article has examined just a few methods of healing which may be used solely or in conjunction with modern day wiccan practice. It is fair to say that there are many others including herbalism described earlier, crystal healing and colour therapy; these however require a great deal of training to be practised properly and lie outside the scope of this article, however I mention them only to point the way for those that may wish to study them in greater depth.

Whichever method of healing you employ **ALWAYS** keep a positive attitude - don't just believe that what you are doing will be effective, **KNOW** that it will.

And never forget that also that at this time in the Earth's history - when war is raging all over the planet, where there is pollution, exploitation of the Earth's resources, famine, uncertainty, child abuse, cruelty to animals to name a few - that Earth healing too is all important.

Good Healing.

# MANIFESTATION: THE POWER OF OUR WORDS AND THOUGHTS

MIKE SPROUSE – WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

Currently in today's society, words are used freely, and seemingly with disregard for their true meaning. It isn't anyone's culture's fault per se, it is something that has just happened over the course of many years. However, this is something that witches, pagans, even just those that simply practice majick should strive to avoid. Let's discuss why.

Words and thoughts are power, real and true power. Manifestation, affirmations, the law of attraction...even books like "The Secret" revolve around this very principle. When we put words, or even have thoughts...even more so in my opinion for witches who have honed their psychic ability. You may have heard before that daily affirmations can help your self esteem and to achieve goals you have set for yourself. In regard to affirmations, the simple act of standing in front of a mirror and telling yourself "I love you", "You deserve the very best", etc will begin to take root over time, changing your view of yourself and more importantly sending that energy out into the universe to begin its work. Now don't get me wrong, standing alone in front of a mirror telling yourself things like that will likely feel quite odd at first...you may be self conscious about others hearing you and thinking you're nuts. I get it, I felt the same years ago when I began this daily practice. But eventually I began to see changes in myself. The things I projected through those very same affirmations began to manifest...and it was at that point I decided I had zero you know what's to give. It worked, I had proof it did, so what others thought mattered little at that point. Much like the first time you do a spell that works as intended, you see the work manifesting your intent and for most it gives the confidence needed to do more.

This also works for mere thoughts and spoken words. I am a firm believer, for myself anyway, that speaking words during spellwork lends more power to the work. Sure, visualizing them would be effective as well, but speaking them in my opinion lets the universe, and subsequently your higher self/guides/deities etc that this is important. There is a common saying here in New England that we love to complain about the weather. I used to do the same. But in doing this, when large numbers of people all over the area do the same, it can become a "mass thought", much akin to the universal mind, and can begin to become reality, and in some cases worsen. I personally do my best to refrain from saying things like "that person is a pain in my neck" or if I see a tragedy "I wonder what happened?" as I do not want literal neck pain, or to be shown visually or physically how a tragedy came to be. You may laugh, but these things have happened to me before.

Other ways of utilizing this power is to change the way you speak. No, I don't mean your voice etc, instead the words you use in daily conversation. Instead of should, try "I'd love to". Instead of saying something or someone is positive or negative, remember that those words are interchangeable. Something positive can be bad, something negative can be good. The terms have drifted from what their actual meanings are over time.



In majick, thoughts and words have always held power, and likely always will. The power they convey is not limited to only within a circle, also not just when doing spellwork and more. If this is something that you may have never thought of before, I challenge you to try it for a couple of weeks to prove it to yourself. Stand in front of the mirror every day and tell yourself you love you. Tell yourself you deserve the best, or that your inner power grows daily, or even that money easily finds its way to you. Don't think in your mind about how you "want" these things to unfold, simply state them and allow the universe, deities, guides and more to determine the best way that is correct and for the good of all.



If we collectively begin being mindful of not just our majick, but also our thoughts and words...great things can be achieved. I have tested this in a group before where all but one person began thinking a singular thought related to the other person and how they interacted with others. This person, who more often than not could be very curt and at times seem rude or irritable...suddenly started engaging us all in delightful conversation. Later that day they mentioned that where they were in a grumpy mood earlier, suddenly they just had the desire to interact with us all in a very pleasant way, and had no idea why. It is real, and it does work. The reason is that as we likely all know, our minds are incredibly powerful. The more it hears us saying things in a correct way, or projecting what we want...the subconscious mind begins to see that as fact. If we speak badly about ourselves or others, or complain that things never go your way etc...it will begin to believe and manifest that as well.

So it is my wish that we all become more conscious of what we say and think, and how it can affect things around us. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.



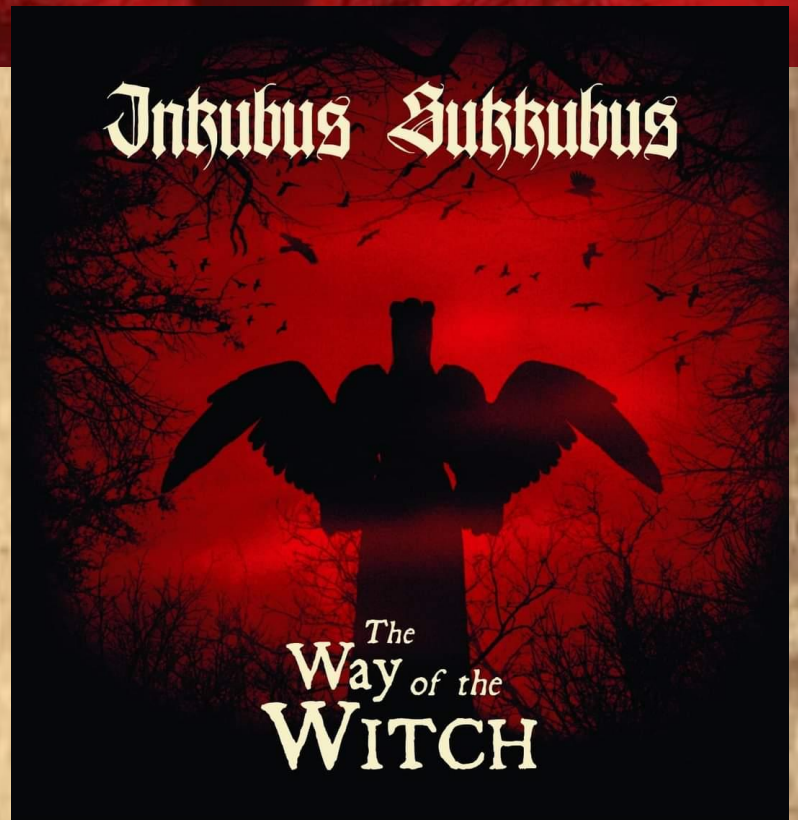
# THE WAY OF THE WITCH

THE NEW ALBUM FROM INKUBUS SUKKUBUS

REVIEW BY BEKKI MILNER

## TRACK LISTING:

The Girl in the Grey Rags  
Angelus Bellum  
Beneath the Moon and the Trees  
Santa Meurte  
The Morning Star  
And the Sea Shall Consume You  
High on the Hill  
In the Shire that Made Us  
Where Have You Gone, My Daughter?  
The Way of the Witch



I was honoured to review the latest album from British Pagan Goth Rock band, Inkubus Sukkubus.

The Way of the Witch is the bands 26<sup>th</sup> album, and brings us more stories of witchcraft, myth and folklore. I say stories, because that's what they are – Inkubus Sukkubus bring these tales to life with their atmospheric music and powerful lyrics.

The album opens with instrumental track The Girl in the Grey Rags. Visions of graveyards, ghosts and the girl herself, are invoked with every toll of the bell. You can almost feel her presence as she leads you towards the dark dance of war – Angelus Bellum – this upbeat track carries the Inkubus Sukkubus stamp of dark gothic beats and bass, ghostly guitars and vocals that paint the air with pictures.

Beneath The Moon and Trees is a lilting lament, perhaps not for the departed, but instead for those of us who still live with the changes that have taken place in the world, which brings us neatly on to the arrival of Santa Meurte. With Mexican musical influence, pasa doble rhythms and castanets lead a merry dance with the Lady of Holy Death.



The Morning Star is an ode to Lucifer and his fall from Heaven, a song that conjures hopefulness and light in darkness in a way that only Inkubus Sukkubus can portray. From the Rising Star we are taken to the shore, to be lost to the waves.

And The Sea Shall Consume You returns to boot-stomping rhythms and guitars, ominous strings and tide-like choirs, a wild and untamed sea to dance and drown in.

High on the Hill brings you softly back to Earth to rest a while, before the rousing In the Shire that Made Us brings the joy of wild witchcraft, pagan fire, freedom and folklore.

Where Have you Gone, My Daughter? is so far my favourite track, a dark tale of the Changeling. A dirge of drones and death march drums, this song depicts the despair of a mother whose child has been stolen away by the Fae.

Title track The Way of the Witch speaks of what all we witches know – it speaks of how our lives are different, how we live liminally, forever other, and how we know this to be the only way. Powerful words to end a powerful album – one that is full of magic and witchcraft.

# THE WAY OF THE WITCH

is available to preorder now from [www.inkubussukkubus.com](http://www.inkubussukkubus.com)





# WITCH Magazine

ADVERTISE WITH US!

¼ page ad – 1 issue – FREE

¼ page ad – 3 issues £15

½ page ad – 1 issue £12

½ page ad – 3 issues £30

Full page ad (A4) – 1 issue - £24

Full page (A4) ad – 3 issues - £60

All paid ads include Social Media shares!

EMAIL

ADVERTISE@WITCHZINE.CO.UK



**Gothic, Steampunk and Alternative jewellery  
, journals and hair accessories**

[www.facebook.com/alternativefinch](http://www.facebook.com/alternativefinch)

[www.etsy.com/shop/alternativefinch](http://www.etsy.com/shop/alternativefinch)

[www.numonday.com/shop/alternative-finch](http://www.numonday.com/shop/alternative-finch)

PayPal  
Contactless  
Payments accepted

**ROWAN'S CLOSET**  
Witchy & Elven Inspired  
Custom Designed Clothing

**Kelly Archer**  
Tel: +44 7546007564  
kelly@rowanscloset.co.uk

**f Rowans Closet**  
**@ thepurplerowanscloset**

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

## Bardware of Frog Lane

Handmade wands, drumbeaters,  
aura sprays and more.

All handcrafted with love and  
good intentions

Pagan witchy family run stall  
with a touch of native american  
Indian flare.



carlybatten@gmail.com

[www.facebook.com/grandadoffroglane](http://www.facebook.com/grandadoffroglane)



# RAVEN & LUNA'S TAROTSCOPES

Raven and Luna are High Priest and Priestess for Black Moon Coven. Black Moon Cove Intuitive Tarot, Spiritual Healing and Spells



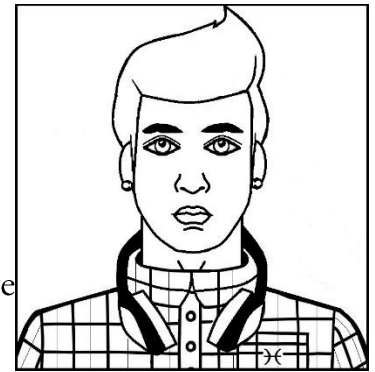
Find out more about their services at

[www.blackmooncove.com](http://www.blackmooncove.com)

## PISCES

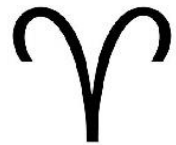
*The Tower, King of Wands, 2 of Wands*

What could you have done differently? Something big may have happened and you're reflective of all the chaos that has ensued. What have you learnt and what can you pass onto others? A big birthday may be coming up and it's making you think about all the choices that you've made. Something is going to happen out of the blue and people are going to turn to you to make a decision. This has to come from a place of experience and inner wisdom, not from your emotions. They respect your opinion and perspective when things go wrong. You could gain from confiding in someone you trust before going any further forward.



## ARIES *The Moon, 9 of Swords*

Unfortunately this could be a challenging month. If you have any mental health needs make sure that you have coping mechanisms and a support system in place. You may have unhealthy sleeping patterns because of fears or worries. You could have a health issue or spiritual gift that is keeping you up at night.



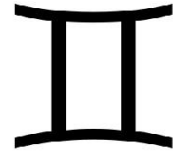
## TAURUS *The Fool, 9 of Cups*



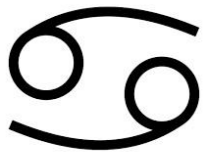
What you start now will lead to something amazing. You may be holding back because you're not sure what will happen but you're being urged to take that leap. Something you've been working on or towards will start to show results. Do whatever makes you happy!

GEMINI *King of Pentacles, Page of Cups*

You're being emotionally manipulated. Someone may be trying to con you or pull on your heart strings. You want to see the best in them but they know exactly what to do to get what they want. This could be someone younger than you trying to take advantage.



CANCER *The Empress, Knight of Wands*



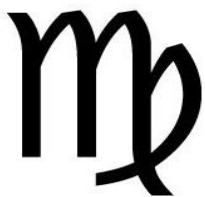
You're learning more about yourself or a subject you've been interested in for some time. A journey or course you've started will really open your eyes to what's possible and it will lead to something more. Develop or address what ever has been bothering you or something you feel you need to work on.

LEO *4 of Wands, The Hanged Man*

Recommit to something that's become stagnant. Your wedding may be put off or you're engaged but you're yet to set a date. There are two sides to every story. Any issues in a relationship can be resolved with honesty and understanding. Find a different way to celebrate, it will still be a lot of fun!



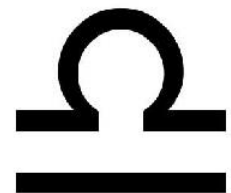
VIRGO *The Lovers, Page of Wands*



You may learn something about your partner which will make you look at them differently or something about yourself with a recent or new union. If you're in a long term connection you may feel like you did at the beginning of your relationship with enthusiasm being rekindled. Enjoy feeling nostalgic.

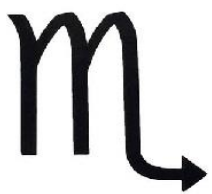
LIBRA *Queen of Pentacles, 7 of Pentacles*

You may be feeling frustrated if something isn't happening quickly or in a way you want. You could want something to be over or are struggling with your current circumstances. Things are looking up, with improvements in mood and energy coming around March 21<sup>st</sup>





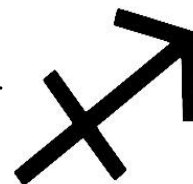
SCORPIO *The Chariot, 8 of Swords*



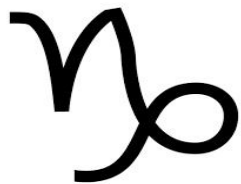
There's something you really want or need to do but feel held back from an outside force or your fears are stopping you from moving forward. Don't allow worries to stop you from taking your driving test or you may have had a car accident and you're reluctant to get back behind the wheel.

SAGITTARIUS *Ace of Pentacles, Knight of Swords*

You'll be tempted to charge into a new business, venture or opportunity with enthusiasm and may be asked to invest your time or money into it. What ever new journey you are presented with ensure that you think before you act, checking every aspect before making any commitments.



CAPRICORN *4 of Swords, The Fool*



There's a need for you to rest or hold back. You don't have to be busy all the time. Try to do something spontaneous. Constantly sticking with the same old, boring routine may be making you feel fed up and thirsty for adventure. You don't have to take everything so seriously.

AQUARIUS *Page of Cups, 9 of Wands*

You could feel sensitive, attacked and that everyone is against you. Things may seem worse than they really are and this suggests a build up of difficult times and setbacks. You may feel let down and that people aren't being supportive or attentive. If you feel used, boundaries may need to be put in place or reinforced.



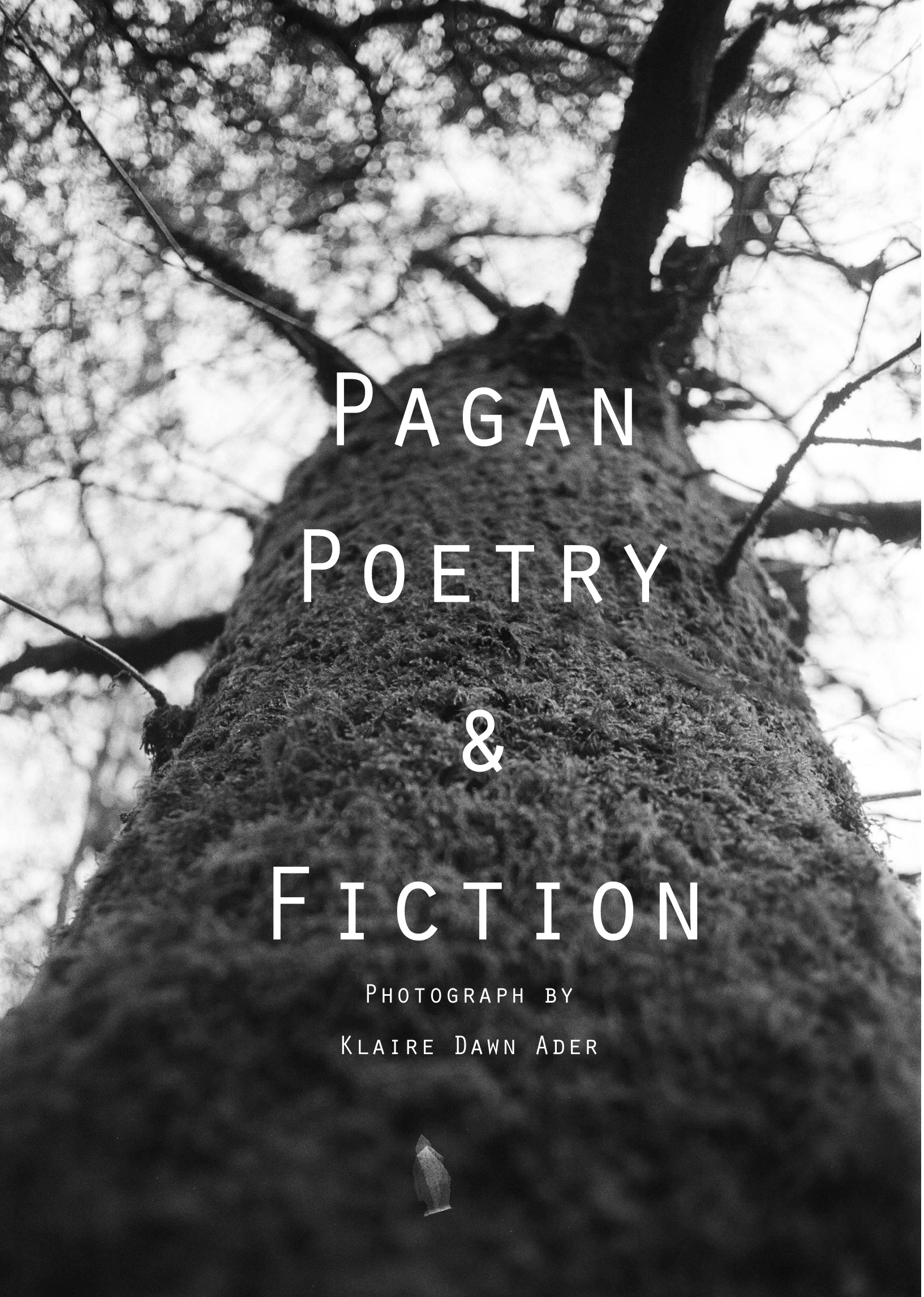
[www.allthegirlspearls.co.uk](http://www.allthegirlspearls.co.uk)



Crystal Balls  
Tumble Stones  
Wands Skulls Geodes  
Minerals Free Forms Carvings

Follow us for Events and Special Offers

Tracey.Allthegirlspearls /allthegirlspearls



PAGAN  
POETRY  
&  
FICTION

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
KLAIRE DAWN ADER



# ELYSIAN

NYA HOUSE – WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

A soft but sharp gust of wind came from the East. The fragrance of the rose field just outside of town whispered across the pensive look on Lily's face. She had been sitting on that rock for hours now, clenching her hands on her lap and memorizing words over and over in her head. She watched as the night's black sky had begun to churn into cerulean with the distant rise of morning. Now a dark grey was settling in with the promise of a storm.

Lily closed her eyes just as the wind came again. At the face of the mountain, the sound of the rain beginning elsewhere was easy to hear.

"I'm here." She said in barely a whisper.

The wind rushed at her side, throwing her black hair over her shoulders. As she moved to her feet, her blue dress caught the breeze and whipped all around her long and slender legs.

She lifted her cupped hands into the sky.

"I'm here." She said softly.

Thunder rumbled and rain drops began to land on her arms and shoulders. Her skin shivered from the cold.

"I'm Here!" She said.

Rain fell harder and she opened her hands to expose what she had been holding. A six sided black shiny stone began to pulse as the rain pooled around it in her palm. The wind was whistling in the rain now, sending it towards her in sheets of icy cold redemption. She inhaled deeply and felt her heartbeat sync with the pulse in the stone. Lightning crackled across the clouds before her now.

"I AM HERE!" She shouted into the sky, clutching the stone in her right hand and bracing herself as the wind and the rain drove harder into her. It wouldn't take long now. Her pulse pounded in her ears, syncing not only with the stone but with the rolling thunder and the lightning and the sound of the rain all around her. It seemed that they all came together to create one beat, one rhythm inviting her to surrender to it. The earth pounded beneath her bare feet joining in and letting her know it was almost time.

Another rhythm interrupted from the woods to her back. Another pounding, another tremble. Footsteps. Someone was running at her as fast as they could. She knew who it was and she knew what he'd say. Her pulse faltered slightly and panic rushed over her body. Worry that if he got there first, she would lose this chance, forever.

She took another step forward until her toes hung off the sharp edge of the cliff. She didn't bother to look down at the angry waters far beneath her, only closed her eyes and lifted her arms higher into the air.

“I. AM. HERE!” She shouted from the pit of her stomach. Lightning bolts began to move overhead, racing towards each other and lighting up the sky. The crackle in the air was numbing and beautiful. Lily opened her eyes and began to laugh at the sight before her.

The pounding in the woods grew closer, he was almost to the clearing now.

Her body began to tremble and the energy of the lightning reached down through the sky and rushed through her veins.

She turned her head to look over her shoulder, just as the lights above all hit in one spot, turning the sky a bright white. She watched him burst out of the tree line with hope and quickly gasp in defeat. He could see her now, but she was still much too far away. He'd never make it in time. She reached toward him, twining her fingers around his sight and pulling it towards her. It's as if he stood just before her, seeing her smile, watching as her face began to light up as the bolt of lightning crawled through the sky towards her.

“Stay!” He begged.

She smiled to let him know that staying was no longer an option.

“Goodbye” She whispered into the rain and it tickled across his mind. She released him and curled her fingers back down around the stone and turned her gaze back up towards the sky. The lightning shot down upon her and filled the air with a great and sudden explosion of sound.

He fell backwards and quickly jumped back up to his feet, bursting into a sprint before even taking in a breath. Light kept bursting through the sky. Then a flash of black startled him and he tripped, collapsing onto the ground. His body heaved for air and shook with sorrow. Unwillingly to accept it, he pushed himself up to look out across the clearing towards the cliff.

She was gone. He hadn't needed to open his eyes to see it, he felt her leave. He felt the void shatter him from deep inside. The rain stopped as he slowly returned to his feet and walked towards the edge of the cliff where she had last stood. The wind died down and a cold emptiness rushed through his body. He feared that she didn't make it all the way through. Repeating her name over and over in his head, he reached the edge. The water crashed and laughed beneath him and the clouds were rolling away to reveal a peaceful morning. Tears began to fill his eyes. She said he'd know. She said he would feel her presence still, but he didn't. He dropped to his knees and screamed out into the open sky.

The call of a bird screeched through his ears. He looked up just as the large bird shot upward over the cliff. Something slammed into his chest and knocked the wind out of him. He gasped and convulsed a few times until his lungs opened up and allowed him to take air. Far above he saw it again, black tattered wings reaching outward from the largest Raven he'd ever seen. It flew in a figure eight pattern, calling down to him over and over again. He laid on his back, watching for only a moment before he felt the emptiness within him dissipate and a smile sneak across his lips as her voice whispered into his mind.

“I am here!”



# FENLAND

HELEN J.R. BRUCE – RESIDENCY WRITER

Shall I tell you then, of that dusk on the fens? Where the gloaming came rolling, syrup thick, slow as tar and creeping along, just one step behind me. I was walking back from Dedham, following the path beside the River Stour. As it was getting late, the usual flow of walkers had slowed, and I only passed a solitary couple, holding hands. But they were soon out of sight, wandering back the way I had come, while my own feet carried me forward to Flatford Mill.

The Stour is still fast here. It flows, fed with rainfall down towards the sea at Harwich, but there is no salt in the air at this stage. The river is freshwater, filled with fish, and prone to spilling out onto flat floodplains when the weather is bad. Locks allow for navigation by canal boat, and on a summer day the water is crowded with craft. But for now it flows without burden, slick swells moving like oil, and whispering of faster, deeper currents. Beneath the banks shadows cling, snagged in the brambles and dripping blackthorn. Twilight is losing the battle to night. I quicken my pace, thinking of my car waiting in that neat and tidy, tarmac space.

As my legs work harder, I feel the small hairs on the back of my neck begin to prickle. I'm not afraid of a wandering fox, or a badger out on patrol. Even a sharp antlered buck, challenging my intrusion on his territory, doesn't inspire a thrill of fear. But there is something now, keeping pace with my steps. Something that moves with a gait I don't recognise; slipping from shadow to shadow, not making a sound, but always matching my steps. I burst into a run. The shape easily adapts, showing no sign of hurry. I slow again, catching my breath, which feels now too heavy in my lungs. I'm not fit enough to run the whole way.

The river flows past, indifferent to my predicament. I stand still, my drumming heart rattling a battle rhythm against my ribs. Silence. Just the soft slap slap of water against the banks. Then the air crackles. A low growl tears through the gloaming and blossoms into a hellish howl. My knees begin to shake. I would kneel and cover my eyes, but my limbs seem to be frozen. From the hollow of a half ruptured willow a huge shape emerges. Blacker than midnight, the dark curls back before it. Red coals are lodged in the sockets where eyes should have been, and twin plumes of smoke rise up to the stars. Huge paws fall soundlessly on the grass. I imagine how the claws must pierce the skin of the earth and slide into the soft, rootfilled flesh.

Of course I have heard the stories: Black Shuck of the fens, Black Shuck of Bungay, Black Shuck the hellhound whose howl foretells death. He is night incarnate, the dark side of the moon, a myth filled with marrow and bone. How long did he prowl these paths, before we took hold of the land, drained dry the fens and forgot how it felt to be counted as prey? I match his gaze. Hot tears sting the corners of my eyes as I stare into those flames; fires the size of a saucer, forgehot and hungry. It wasn't that I never believed. I suppose I just thought I was of too little consequence to attract this kind of madness.

The eyes swim closer. Muscles bulge beneath shaggy black fur. Sharp teeth glint in the last shreds of light. I commend my soul to whatever god might be watching, remembering all my lazy Sundays and the times I have cursed. Is there a god for this? Is there mercy for the hunted, when the jaws of death are so close that you smell the stale meat on their breath? Black Shuck, hound of the fens. Black Shuck, folklore made flesh. Marshlight and murder on the banks of the Stour. I brace for the strike.

But nothing comes. There are no teeth. No claws tear my skin. The hound lowers his head, and his gaze flows past me, on down the track to follow the river. His pace is easy He doesn't look back. I scramble to my feet, hands held, shaking, in useless fists. What of the death? What of the omen? I wonder, and the thought comes to me softly. It swirls, soft as the river, deep as the current, and settles into the dark cracks of my mind. *Of course you are dying. I never told you how fast.*





## PAN'S FOREST

YASMIN TUBRITT

And wander where thou wilt  
Down leafy dappled glade,  
Whilst joyful, hornèd Pan  
Plays pipes amongst the shade.  
And merry little breezes  
Swirl and eddy round thy feet  
Throwing leaves, acorns and berries  
Earthen fruits of colours sweet.  
And if thou pause to ponder  
The beauty of that forest floor  
The dun and rust and russet  
Tell tales of seasons gone before.  
Autumn's sun hast grown weary  
Winter's breath now coats the tree  
Still, soft echoes of Pan's music  
Abide a while with thee.

# CONNACH

A NEW GOTH BAND STEEPED IN  
THE MAGICAL ATMOSPHERE OF WYCHDOM.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF THE PANDEMIC, CONNACH FORMED WITH A NEW ENERGY  
STEPPING OUTSIDE NORMALITY.

BY FUSING THEIR OWN MUSICAL STYLE, INSPIRED BY VINTAGE FILM NOIR INTO THE  
SOUND OF CLASSIC UK GOTH, THE BAND IS BREATHING NEW LIFE  
INTO A FORGOTTEN ART OF MUSIC.

CONNACH ARE PRODUCING THEIR FIRST ALBUM FULL OF ORIGINAL SONGS  
NEW SINGLE "PROPHECY" OUT NOW



CONNACH ARE  
CONNACH JAMESON, SINGER  
SONGWRITER, GUITARIST  
LENA M PAAK, BASSIST AND VOCALS.

WITH THEIR MUSIC,  
CONNACH TAKES US ON A  
MAGICAL JOURNEY  
THROUGH MYSTERIOUS  
REALMS TO ESCAPE OUR  
EVERYDAY LIVES AND SEE  
BEYOND

VISIT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/CONNACHOFFICIAL](https://www.facebook.com/connachofficial)





**Black Magick Dirah:  
Authentic Luciferian  
Witchcraft**

**- Tarot readings**

**- Love Spells**

**- Black Magick**

**- Occult Education & Training**

**+ more!**

**Get in touch!**

**[blackmagickdirah.com](http://blackmagickdirah.com)**





★  
WITCH  
Magazine

FULL MOON DATES 2021

28 JANUARY 2021

27 FEBRUARY 2021

28 MARCH 2021

27 APRIL 2021

26 MAY 2021

24 JUNE 2021

24 JULY 2021

22 AUGUST 2021

21 SEPTEMBER 2021

20 OCTOBER 2021

19 NOVEMBER 2021

19 DECEMBER 2021

FOR PREVIOUS ISSUES & INFORMATION ON SUBMISSIONS VISIT  
[WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK](http://WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK)