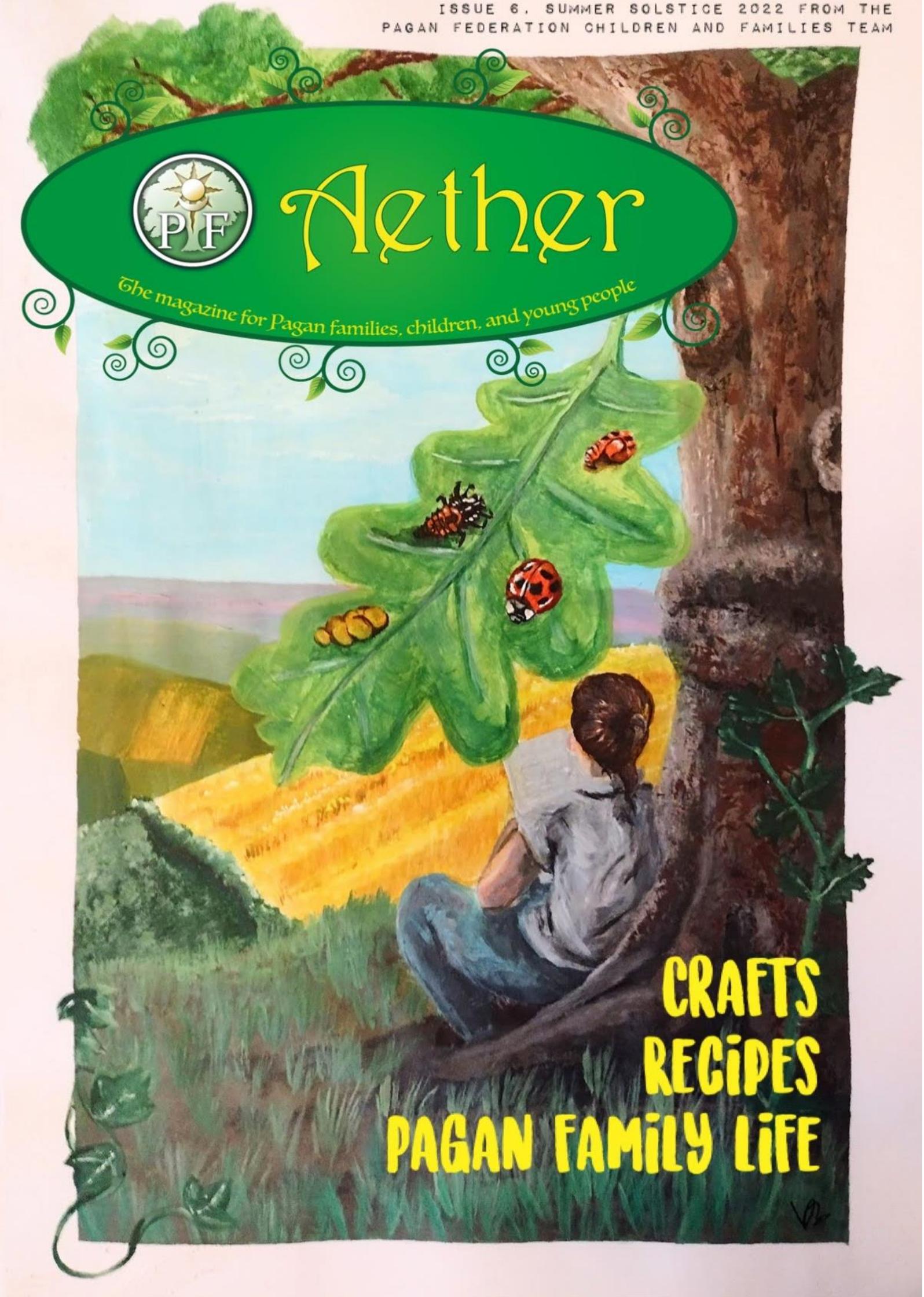




# Aether

*The magazine for Pagan families, children, and young people*



**CRAFTS  
RECIPES  
PAGAN FAMILY LIFE**

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## Key

-  Intended for readers 16+
-  Intended for independent readers under 15
-  Intended for young readers or pre-readers
-  Intended for all readers

You may notice throughout these pages that there is limited use of font, text size and background colour.

This was a conscious decision made to try to be as accessible as possible for those with visual stress, processing issues, dyslexia, sight limitation and other additional needs.

If you're still having trouble with any aspect of our formatting, please let our team know so we can remedy it to the best of our ability.

Cover design by Mabh Savage, copyright 2022. Cover art by Kay Savage, copyright 2022. Kay is a multi-media artist from Leeds. They make art and music that explores different emotions and states of mind, often with a strange or macabre twist. When they're not busy being creative, they're usually busy studying or looking after their small daughter.

<https://www.okaysavage.com/>





## Letter from the Editor



Dear Readers,

The wheel has turned once again and here we are back at summer! It's a mixed bag, weather-wise isn't it? We had April showers in May, plus a healthy helping of gales and sunshine -something for everyone! If the unpredictable weather keeps you inside this season, we've got plenty of content to keep you and your family occupied. This issue runs from the Summer Solstice right through to Samhain, and we've got summer recipes, herbal information, wild-life articles, a wind spell, plus stories for all ages including the next instalment *The Royal Messenger*, from S.D. Stevens' magical world of Alhanassa.

The theme for this issue of Aether Magazine is transformation. This seems apt with the last few years bringing many kinds of change to so many people's lives. Plenty of folks who ended up working from home realised they could continue to do so, perhaps to spend more time with families or simply because it worked better for them in other ways. Others have changed career completely, or expanded upon interests they took up during lockdown. I think many people have developed more empathy for those regularly stuck at home, due to personal circumstances, and I hope that continues to transform our communities, Pagan and otherwise, into even kinder and more inclusive groups to be a part of.

Running with the theme of transformation, we've got a guest article from the fabulous Bard of Ely, Steve Andrews, all about the Magic of Butterflies. We've also got recipes from our favourite Kitchen Witch, Rachel Patterson, sections on tarot and other forms of divination, and a look at elemental transformation with Hannah Semple. The cover art this issue comes from Kay Savage and shows the mesmerising life cycle of the ladybird!

Massive thanks goes out to our community contributors. This is your magazine and we love to include your art, poetry, crafts, or reviews. Just pop an email over to [aether@pagangeneration.co.uk](mailto:aether@pagangeneration.co.uk) and we'll get back in touch with you about including your submission.

With best wishes for you all this Summer Solstice,

Mabh Savage, Aether Editor

*Image shows Mabh, Nathan (12) and Ember (4), shared with permission.*

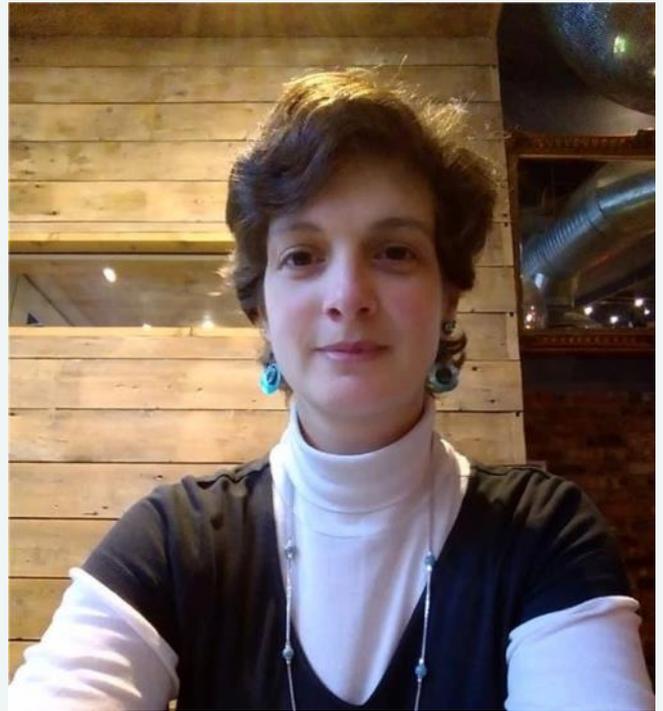




# Letter from the Families Manager

As I'm writing this the Summer Solstice is fast approaching. The days are getting warmer and longer (to the point that my 4-year-old insists it's not night-time yet as the sun is still up!).

It only seems like yesterday I was finally back in a field to celebrate the turning of the wheel after the pandemic closed all the festivals down for so long. I was overcome with emotion as we entered Thornborough Henge for Beltane. How wonderful it was to be back amongst the community in person to share our celebrations together. I had a Pagan Federation stall selling the Aether Patches and sharing my enthusiasm for them with other families. I loved getting to meet so many families that were just as excited about them and hearing all about their patchwork adventures!



Don't forget you can share your patchwork adventures with us here in Aether Magazine, in our [Facebook group](#), and other social media using the hashtag #AetherPatches. We have two more patches still to come in 2022: The Autumn Equinox quest pack completes our wheel of the year series and there's also a Sun quest pack to complement the existing Moon quests.

As well as the [patches](#), the Children and Families team have been continuing with their regular [blogs](#). Our A-Z of family friendly deities has almost reached the end of the alphabet, though we may go round again as there are plenty more deities to discover! We have also almost completed a whole year cycle following the full moons and how we celebrate them with our families. Do check them out and keep your eyes peeled for future blogs too.

Until the next time. Have a blessed solstice,

Krys

Children and Families Team Manager





## Please join us

Pagans fighting poverty  
and protecting  
Mother Earth

[www.paganaid.org/join](http://www.paganaid.org/join)



# Greenmantle

A Pagan Journal

<http://www.greenmantle.org.uk/>



Greenmantle is a magazine for Pagans and occultists of all beliefs, paths and denominations. Founded in 1993, it has a unique voice combining thought-provoking and intelligent articles with news, humour, and a light-hearted personal touch. Avoiding the how-to and basic, Greenmantle concentrates more on living and reflecting as a Pagan, than on practice, and perhaps resonates more with the mature Pagan than the novice – though all are most welcome. One of the few surviving hardcopy magazines, Greenmantle has enjoyed over 25 years of serving the Pagan community.



# Make Your Own Pet Rock

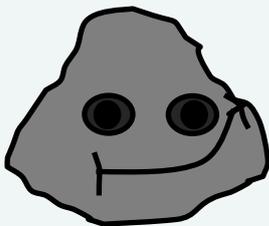
Making a pet rock is a fun craft for all ages. Even toddlers can have a go at this with supervision – just make sure paints or pens are non-toxic and small items are kept away from mouths. Paint or draw a happy little rock friend who will keep you company all year round!

You will need:

- ◆ A rock of any size – we use ones that are easy to hold while painting or drawing on
- ◆ Child-safe marker pens or paints

First, find a good rock. Try and avoid boulders or tiny pebbles. You ideally want a rock or stone that fits in your hand so you can paint it easily.

To make your black and colours show up better, paint the whole rock in white first. For this one, we just painted the visible part in white to save time. The underside of the rock is flat and still grey.



Allow the white paint to dry. Once dry, you can start to add details. We always start with the eyes. You can use black paint or a black marker pen. We used black pen for ours and we like how it turned out.





Give your pet rock a face you love. This could be a smiley face, like ours. It could be a surprised face, or even a grumpy face to remind you that everyone feels grumpy sometimes.



Once you've got the face done, you can add more details with colours, if you like. We've used a gold marker pen here to create the impression of fuzzy fur.



Optional: Go all out and glue accessories onto your rock with child-safe glue. You could use fabric or fake fur, googly eyes, or biodegradable glitter to make your rock fabulous.

For older children and adults: If you want to add a little bit of magic into your pet rock, you could add a symbol that has magical connotations or that simply means something to you. This could be as simple as a love heart, or even a name or a wish. When we made this, my four-year-old wasn't feeling well. I added the rune Berkanan (sometimes called Berkana or Berkano), which is associated with healing, among other things. If it's not for yourself, always ask the permission of the recipient before you do magic things for them!



You can paint anything on your rocks. One rainy day, we got all the colours out and painted this tiger and this blue whale.



What type of rock pet will you paint? Show us your creations in our [Facebook Group](#).



# A Spell For a Windy Day



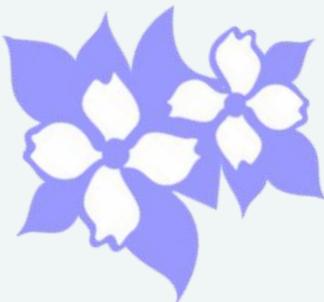
Air is such a transformative element—it can strip trees of leaves or send pollen flying, it lifts birds and can even become a hurricane! Using the power of the air through wind, here is a simple spell to get rid of any frustration.

You will need:

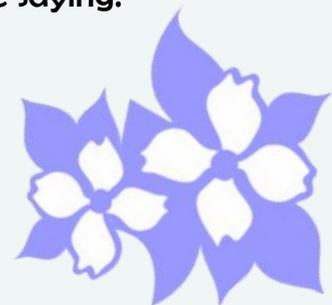
- ◆ a scrap of biodegradable paper
- ◆ Something non-toxic to write with

On a very windy day, take a walk to a high place taking your paper and chosen writing implement with you. While there think about your frustration and write it down on the piece of paper.

Rip the paper into tiny pieces and release to the wind while saying:



“I release my frustrations,  
wind, take them from me,  
Blow them far away,  
So I can be free.



It harm none and may it be.”

Afterwards sit and feel the power of the wind for a while.

*By Hannah Semple*



# Sensational Seasonal Dishes

## With Rachel Patterson

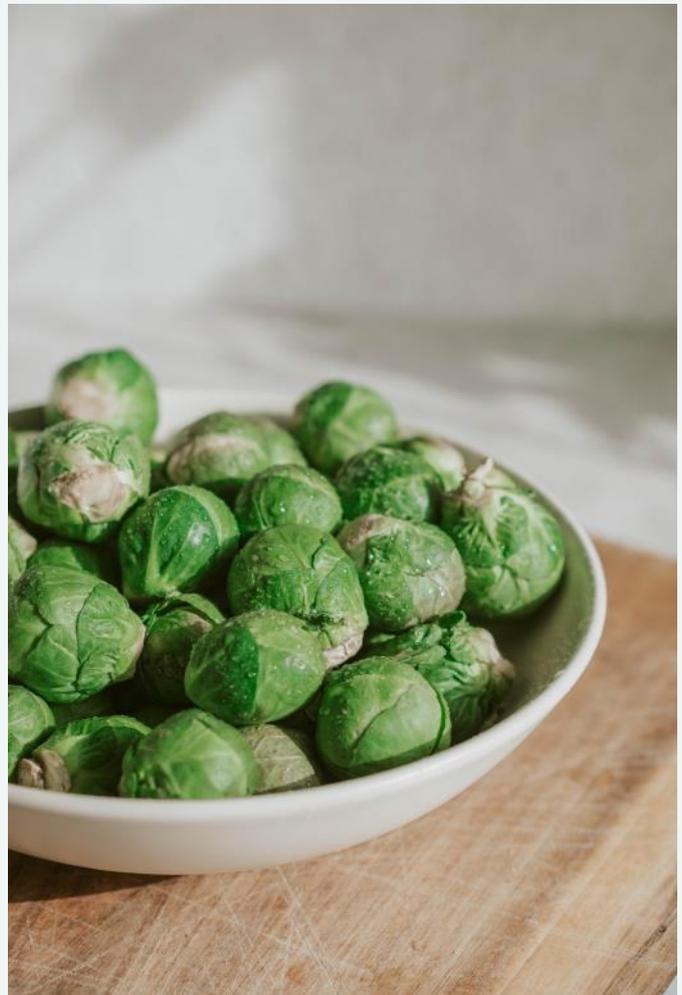
Summer carrying through into autumn brings an abundance of produce. I like to create what I call 'throw it all in' type meals such as the Hash It recipe here, it really makes use of the vegetables that are in season. And then the Queen of all fruits for this time of year is the apple, so I have included two of my favourite apple recipes.

### Hash It!

2 large potatoes, diced  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 large onion or 2 leeks, sliced  
200g/7 oz cabbage or Brussel sprouts, sliced  
Salt and pepper  
6 cooked sausages or a tin of corned beef, cut into chunks

Boil the potatoes in a pan of water until just cooked, drain. Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook the leeks or onion for five minutes. Add the potatoes, fry for a further five minutes, stir frequently.

Add the sliced cabbage or sprouts and the sausages or corned beef and cook for another five minutes. Season with salt and pepper.



## **Options**

Add in sliced bell peppers.

Throw in a sliced chilli or pinch of chilli flakes.

Stir in two teaspoons of mustard before serving.

To make this hash vegetarian, leave out the sausages or corned beef, or use meat-free sausages. To make it vegan, don't top with the eggs. Add in some extra vegetables such as peppers or a tin of butter beans to make it more filling.



## **Goddess Pudding**

In the UK we have a traditional English dessert called Eve's Pudding which is made with apples, I often twist it to use peaches instead, but you could use any kind of fruit. I have renamed it Goddess Pudding.

3 or 4 peaches, apricots or apples

100g/3 ½ oz butter

100g/3 ½ oz caster sugar

100g/3 ½ oz self-raising flour, sifted

2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Chop the fruit into chunks and lay them on the bottom of a greased ovenproof dish (I used a flan dish).

Cream the butter and caster sugar together. Work in the eggs, sifted flour and vanilla and mix to a soft batter. Spread over the peaches.

Bake at 350F/180 C/gas mark 4 for 40 minutes. Serve warm with custard or cream.

## ● Fat Apple Rascals (With Vegan Option)

With a name like that I had to make these, and they are delicious. Traditionally just 'fat rascals' which date back to Elizabethan times, they are also called Yorkshire tea biscuits. This recipe adds in apple to make them extra wonderful.

225g/8 oz self-raising flour  
¼ teaspoon salt  
110g/4 oz butter or vegan alternative, cold and diced  
75g/2 ½ oz soft light brown sugar  
100g/3 ½ oz cooking apple, diced  
50g/1 ¾ oz sultanas  
3 tablespoons milk or non-dairy alternative  
2 tablespoons demerara sugar  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Pop the flour and salt into a bowl and rub in the butter until it resembles breadcrumbs.

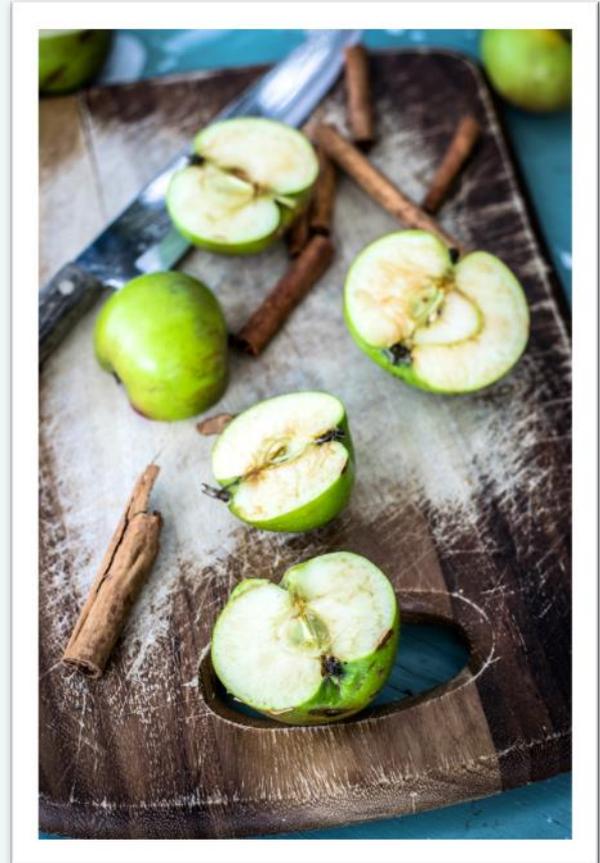
Add in the soft light brown sugar, apples, sultanas and milk and bring together to form a dough. Using two sheets of greased paper or cling wrap place the dough between and squash it into a flat disc. Wrap and chill for half an hour. Preheat the oven to 350F/180C/Gas 4 and line two baking trays with baking parchment.

Flour a work surface and roll out the chilled dough as thinly as the chopped apples will allow. Cut into squares using a sharp knife and lift them carefully onto the prepared trays, spacing them slightly apart. Mix the demerara sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle over the squares.

Bake for about 20 minutes, until golden.

### Options

Replace the apples with pears or dried apricots.



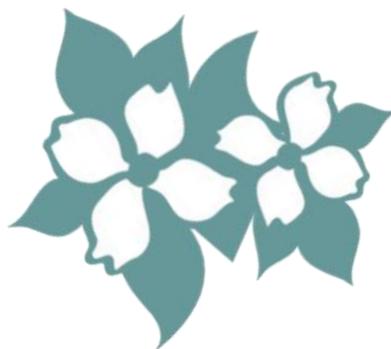
Did you know? In Norse mythology, the Goddess Iðunn's golden apples keep the Gods young and healthy.



Many thanks to Rachel for sharing her seasonal recipes with us! Plenty to keep budding cooks busy in the kitchen between Summer Solstice and Samhain.

Rachel Patterson is High Priestess of the Kitchen Witch Coven and an Elder at the online [Kitchen Witch School of Natural Witchcraft](#). A regular columnist with [Fate & Fortune magazine](#), she also contributes articles to several popular magazines such as our very own [Pagan Dawn](#), plus [The Magical Times](#) and [Witchcraft & Wicca](#).

You can find more at [Moon Books](#), [Witches & Pagans](#), and her [own personal](#) blogs.



# The Wildlife Corner



Welcome to regular feature, The Wildlife Corner, where we look at wildlife you might see on your doorstep and perhaps some creatures you might need to keep a closer eye out for. This issue, Hannah Semple brings us her column on What Nature Teaches Us, examining the lessons of grasshoppers and their cousins. We also have some bird magic and folklore from Mabh Savage.

Would you like to get involved with wildlife corner? Send your wildlife photos, poems, artwork, or articles to [aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk).

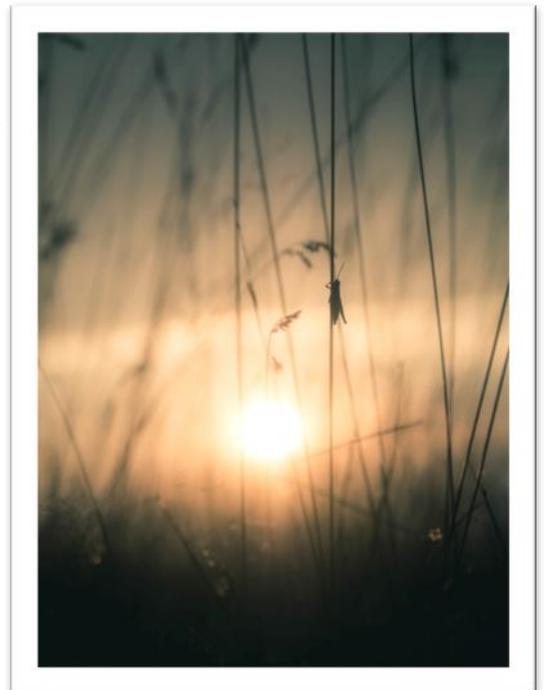


## What Nature Teaches Us – Chirping Cousins

Cricket, Grasshoppers and Locusts are cousins, so they are similar in many ways and different in others. Lets look at each of them starting with crickets.

Cricket are very resourceful, and they will make all sorts of places their home from rotting wood, treetops, grassland, caves and beaches. They are mostly nocturnal and are best known for the loud chirping song of the males who are trying to impress a female. Their defences aren't very good, so they tend to hide in the day as they have many predators including humans who use crickets for food.

Grasshoppers also chirp, but during the day as they are diurnal. They have better defences than crickets and use camouflage and jumping. Grasshoppers are herbivores while crickets are omnivores and grasshoppers have shorter antenna than crickets.



Ⓟ Both grasshoppers and crickets are seen as harmless creatures who do not damage environments unlike their cousin the locust.

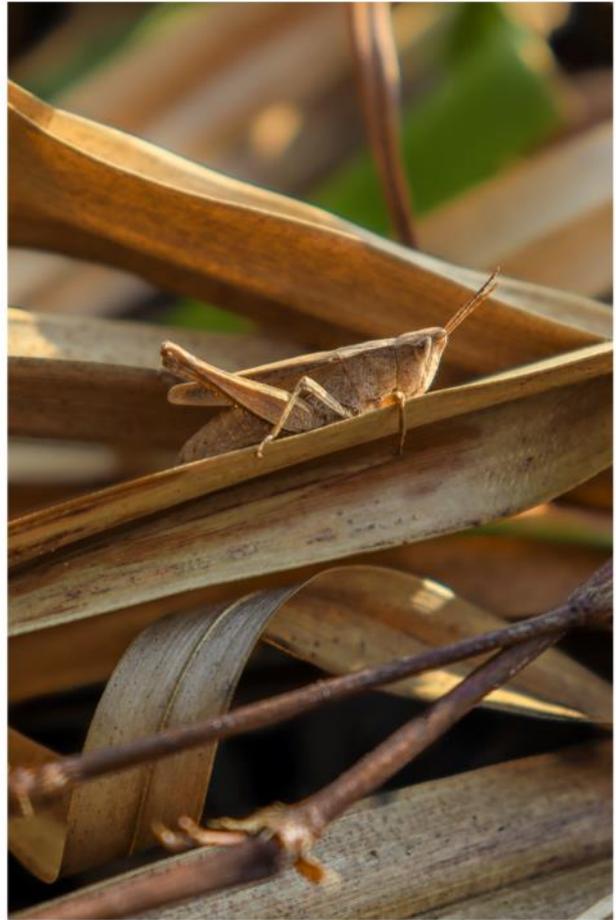
People often think of locusts as bad because of their tendency to swarm and destroy crops but not all locusts live in a group. They have been known to live alone. It is only when a certain part of their body is stimulated that they will go into a swarm mentality and get caught up in the crowd.

So what can we learn from these chirping cousins?

Home is where we are comfortable whether it's a caravan, a castle, a barge or a bedsit. Like crickets who will make a home in all kinds of places, so do we. It doesn't matter where, what matters is that it speaks to you and that it feels welcoming and safe.

Everyone is unique, even members of the same family. You may share many similarities with people close to you, just like crickets and grasshoppers are similar to each other, but ultimately you are a special individual.

Another lesson could be: don't adopt "crowd thinking" like the locusts when they are swarming. Think for yourself, don't find yourself caught up in it all and simply go along with the crowd.



## ● Magical Birds

Birds are all around us, above in the sky and treetops, around our feet grubbing for worms and other snacks, and in the hedgerows we walk past. There are so many types of birds you can see between Summer Solstice and Samhain, and many of them have some fascinating folklore and even magical correspondences.

### Thrush

Another name for a thrush is the Stormcock, as it will sing even when it's raining, usually from the highest possible point in a tree to mark out a huge territory. There are two types of bird we call thrush in Britain and Ireland: the song thrush and the mistle thrush. Blackbirds, fieldfares and redwings are also types of thrush. Mistle thrushes are larger than song thrushes, but both have a distinctive song and may be seen and heard in your garden



### *Folklore Snippets*

- ◆ One superstition is that a thrush singing at sunset means good weather the next day
- ◆ There is also a belief that thrushes can speak seven languages
- ◆ Other names include Jeremy Joy and Throstle

### *Magical Correspondences*

- ◆ Protectiveness – Thrushes will defend a bush with berries on fiercely!
- ◆ Resilience – Thrushes carry on singing whatever the weather
- ◆ Resourcefulness – Thrushes use stones as tools to break snail shells open

## Goldfinch

Goldfinches look exotic with their bold yellow and red plumage, but they're quite common in gardens, especially if you put out their favourite food, seeds – particularly the black niger or nyjer seeds that you can find at many garden centres.



### *Folklore Snippets*

- ♦ An Anglo-Saxon name for goldfinches is Thisteltuige, which means thistle tweaker, as they love thistle seeds
- ♦ Goldfinch was sometimes called Flame of the Wood because of its red and yellow plumage

### *Magical Correspondences*

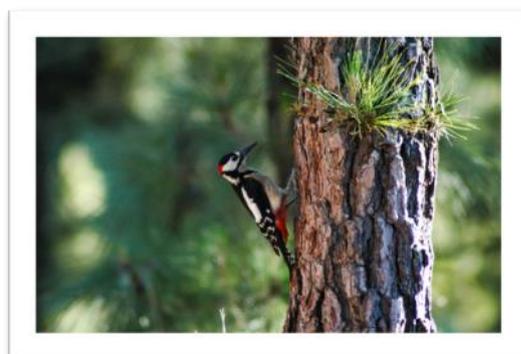
- ♦ Safety in numbers – Goldfinches roost in groups
- ♦ Intelligence – Goldfinches can open bird food containers and mimic music
- ♦ Freedom – Goldfinches used to be kept caged (never recommended for wild birds) but thankfully, that practice has ended

*Did you know? A group of finches is also called "A Charm".*

## Great Spotted Woodpecker

In the UK there are two woodpeckers you might see in your garden if you're lucky: green woodpeckers and great spotted woodpeckers. The lesser spotted woodpecker is much smaller and rarer.

Great spotted woodpeckers are about the size of a blackbird or a little larger, often found hanging off the side of tree trunks or bird feeders, using their long, powerful beaks to pick out their favourite bits of food. Adults with a red patch on their head are male, while a smaller bird with a full red cap is a juvenile.



## Folklore Snippets

There are at least two Christian legends about the woodpecker being punished for ignoring God – in one, the woodpecker started life as a woman named Gertrude who wouldn't bake bread for God and St Peter, and is cursed to live out life as a bird. In another, the woodpecker wouldn't make holes that would become lakes and seas during Creation, so was cursed to make holes in trees and drink only rainwater.

## Magical Correspondences

The woodpecker is associated with the Roman God of war, Mars

Woodpeckers are associated with rain and the end of droughts

## Swift

Swifts are classed as migratory, which means they only live here some of the time. They appear in our skies around April or May, and the first swifts wheeling joyfully in the sky is a sure sign, for me, that summer is on the way. Listen out for their shrill, high calls and watch as they catch insects on the wing. They are one of nature's acrobats.



## Folklore Snippets

- ♦ Because swifts are so often seen in flight, it was believed that they had no feet, leading to the Latin name *Apus apus*, where “apus” means footless
- ♦ Swifts or house martins (sometimes referred to as martlets) in heraldry may mean a fourth son

## Magical Correspondences

- ♦ Air – while most birds connect with the air in some way, swifts may stay on the wing for the first four years of their lives
- ♦ Loyalty or monogamy – swifts mate for life
- ♦ Speed – swifts fly up to 70 miles per hour making them the fastest UK bird in level flight (not aided by gravity)

## Wood Pigeons

Wood pigeons are easily recognizable – huge, plump, grey and purple-ish birds who always seem to be on the hunt for their next meal! They're usually seen in pairs or small groups in gardens, but much larger groups around fields, which they can cause farmers problems by eating cabbages, rapeseed, and many other crops.



### *Folklore Snippets*

As well as being affectionately called woodies, woodpigeons are also called cushats, ringdows, and quists.

### *Magical Correspondences*

- ◆ Peace and good luck in some cultures, bad luck or a sign of malicious magic in others
- ◆ The ending of one cycle or the beginning of another – transitions
- ◆ Equality – both parents produce crop milk for babies; they have no gender roles!
- ◆ Communication and focus – pigeons were used for years for delivering messages as they are so good at “homing” or always returning to the same place

What birds can you see in your garden between the Summer Solstice and Samhain? Can you look out for when the swifts start to migrate back towards Africa, or listen out for the sound of a woodpecker using its beak to drill a hole in a tree? Being aware of the birds around you is a fantastic way to connect to nature every day, and gain a deeper understanding of the world around you.

*Look out for new book The Magic of Birds by Mabh Savage due out in 2023.*

MABH SAVAGE

# A MODERN CELT

## SEEKING THE ANCESTORS



“It would be a particularly good read for teenage Pagans...” Nimue Brown, author of *Spirituality without Structure*

Available from all good book retailers



## Reviews from the Community

Welcome to the reviews section of Aether Magazine! This issue, we've got a review of a meditation app, Lucya Starza's scrying book, a fabulous new book translating the Hávamál into the Yorkshire dialect, and a wonderful community contribution from 9 year old Leonie Smith about the Festival for Pagans and Witches

As always, we would **love** to hear from you about the Pagan products and services you interact with. Please send us family-appropriate reviews for things like:

- ◆ Celebrants or other Pagan officials
- ◆ Organisations or websites
- ◆ Books, magazines, or ezines
- ◆ Groups and moots
- ◆ Spiritual or Pagan gatherings
- ◆ Festivals and music



And anything else you can think of! This is your magazine, and we'd love to share the things that you enjoy with the community. Send any reviews to [aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk).

In fond and respectful memory of Lora Craig-Gaddis, creator of Pooka Pages Magazine, the last issue of which was published at Imbolg this year. Travel well, Lora. Much of Lora's work remains available online for all to access.

the Pooka Pages for Pagan Kids

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coloring pages, herbal lore, recipes  
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## 🟡 Book Review – Pagan Portal: Scrying by Lucia Starza

Scrying is one of those ancient arts that everyone knows a little bit about but perhaps very few people understand completely. Lucia really connects with how much scrying is a part of our culture, examining how it pops up in so many famous stories, like the appearance of Galadriel's mirror in Lord of the Rings.

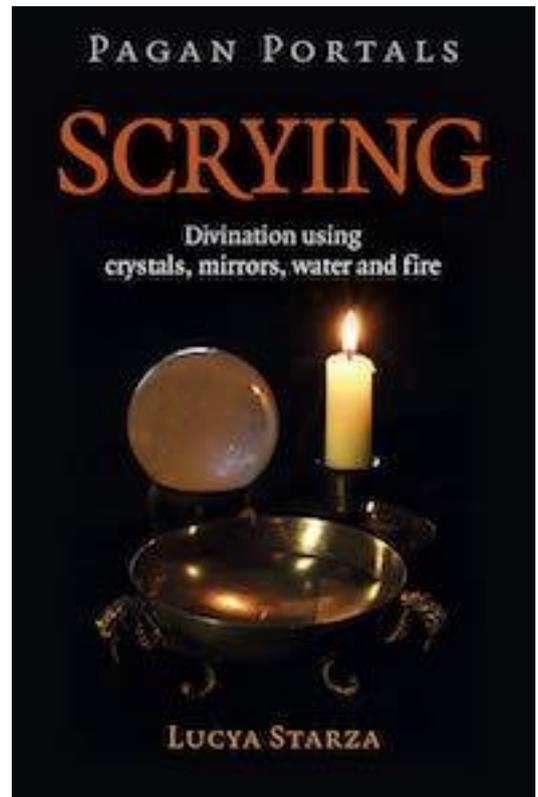
Lucia takes what you already know about scrying and expands upon that, then deftly weaves in so much more information, but in a fluid style that's easy to read and absorb. It's fun to read Lucia's books – there's nothing dry about them, and you can pop in and out of them for reference as needed.

One of the main aspects of this book of interest to me was learning how to develop your psychic skills. Lucia reassures readers that they can build on these skills, and talks through how to achieve a trance state, the different types of psychic perception, and just getting the confidence to have a go.

Lucia is delightfully practical, talking through the mundane but necessary chores like running a vacuum cleaner around a space and making sure any chair you use is at a comfortable height. She doesn't dwell on these points but includes them in such an organic way, and it's a wonderful reminder that much of magic is practical, and it's not all about the snap, crackle and pop of psychic energy.

I also love that she always says to do what you can and what you are able to do. We all have different physical abilities and I think some esoteric books forget that. Lucia's book is, I find, effortlessly accessible and inclusive.

Highly recommended and a must-have addition to any esoteric collection.





## Technomage: Aura App Review

*The technomage is a reference to 1990s sci-fi series Babylon 5, in which there occasionally appeared mages who used various forms of technology indistinguishable from magic. As we use more and more ways to digitally connect for moots, rituals, and more, it seems an apt phrase for those of us increasingly using technology to meet our magical and spiritual needs.*

Aura is one of many mobile phone meditation apps on the market. Of course, meditation is hardly a solely Pagan practice. It's recommended by many health professionals to ease stress or anxiety, and is a part of many cultures and practices all over the world. However, many Pagans *do* use meditation in their practice, for everything from connecting with deities to improving their sleep.



I had Aura advertised to me via another app, and was a little surprised and disappointed to find there was no free option – only a paid version with a free trial. It wasn't overly expensive (check your app store for current prices) so I took the free trial, thinking I'd decide later whether I'd keep the paid version or not.

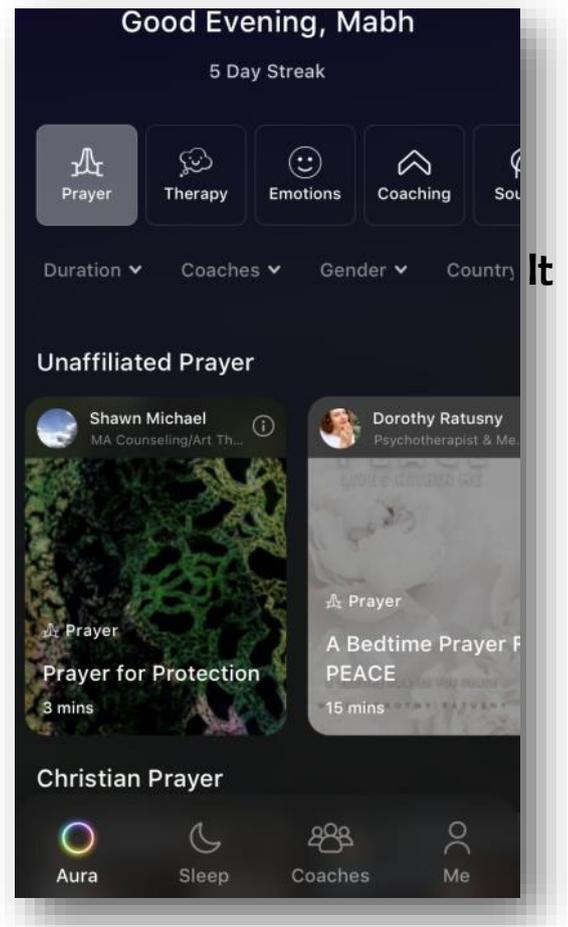
I occasionally do indulge in paid apps if they help me sleep, as my insomnia is pretty dreadful, and sleep meditations can really make a difference. However, my ADHD craves novelty and I can quickly get bored of a particular app and need something new!

The meditation tracks are really good and very soothing. There seems to be a lot of time and attention taken over voice pitch and tone, which is important to me as if a meditation is rushed or too energetic, I won't relax into it.



The app itself could do with a slightly better design. Sometimes it won't load immediately and has to be restarted, suggesting instability. Another issue was that I started a series of sleep tracks, then the next time I came back to the app, there was no obvious record of what I'd been listening to. In fact, in my history it said "no played meditations", which was frustrating. I eventually found the playlist, and it did remember how many days I was into it, which was good.

Aura also gives you the ability to download tracks and make playlists of your own, which is a feature that's very useful for anyone who likes to personalize their listening. It also has a feature called "Coaches" which connects you to real-life coaches who personalize content for you, but this costs extra. There's even a section on prayer, which includes Buddhist prayers, Christian prayers, but also unaffiliated prayers, which some Pagans may find useful. Topics include manifestation, evoking love, protection and healing.



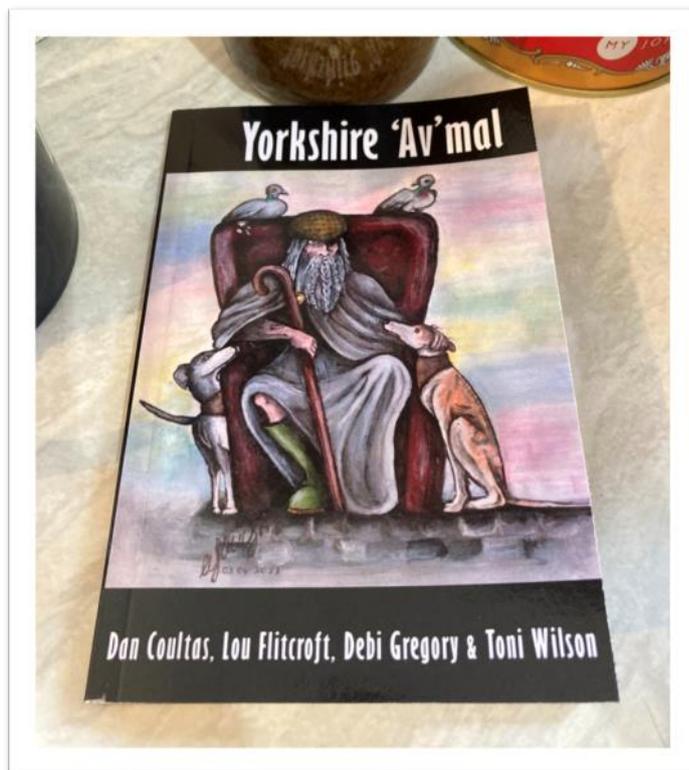
All in all I really enjoyed using this app. The sleep tracks certainly worked for me, helping me drift off, and the other features all add up to a good value app.

*Sign up at <https://www.aurahealth.io/signup> or via your app store and always remember to check when any free trial ends to make sure you don't pay for an app you don't want inadvertently.*



## Book Review – Yorkshire ‘Av’mal – Wurds o’ ‘All Fatha

Lissen yuh daft apeth, let mi tell thi... about a new book which combines one of the most well-known parts of the Poetic Edda with a language that may be unfamiliar to many . No, not Old Norse, or even its close descendant Icelandic, but the Yorkshire dialect. If you’re familiar with how Yorkshire folk speak, you may have understood my opening sentence, which is simply, “Listen you daft apeth [daft apeth meaning a generally silly person], let me tell you...”. Whether this makes you feel right at home, nostalgic for the north, or completely confused, the Yorkshire ‘Av’mal (Hávamál, Words of the All Father) has something for you.



The culmination of translation work by Heathens of Yorkshire members and authors Dan Coultas ([\*The Gods' Own County: Heathenry and the Sea\*](#)), Lou Flitcroft, Debi Gregory ([\*The Elemenpals: Meet the Pals\*](#)) and Toni Wilson has created a fluid translation that rattles along in a dialect that will be recognizable to anyone who has ever even visited Yorkshire, and perhaps eye-opening to those that only see the Yorkshire accent and dialect represented in films and TV. The translation is from English to Yorkshire, and the authors are keen to point out that none of them are students of Old Norse, so they’ve made use of the existing, respected English translations available. The result is both fun and inherently practical, taking previously complex, wordy messages and making them accessible for a modern audience.

The popular Bellows’ translation of stanza 38 reads as follows:

*Away from his arms/in the open field/A man should fare not a foot/For never he knows/when the need for a spear/Shall arise on the distant road.*

In the Yorkshire ‘Av’mal this becomes:

*Let nun tek wun step/on Ilkley Moor baht’at/else tha’s bahn’ to catch thy death o’cowd/n’ us’ll ha’ t’ bury thee.*

This brings local knowledge (and a rather famous song) to hand rather than some nameless “distant road” and focuses on the general concept of being unprepared rather than specifically needing one’s weapons. Don’t go up on Ilkley Moor without your hat. You’ll catch your death of cold, and it’s us that will have to bury you. In other words, not looking after yourself can cause grief for the people who love you – a pertinent lesson, direct from Norse culture, translated into the language that still exists within the boundaries of Yorkshire and wherever Tykes (Yorkshire folx) travel.

As a Yorkshire lass mesen (myself), I followed along with ease. However, I think this should be essential reading for anyone interested in Norse Paganism, especially if not familiar with the Yorkshire dialect. Too often Northerners are dismissed as, as the authors state, “impoverished bumpkins”, a little less intelligent, perhaps a bit rough and ready. This book proves that Yorkshire can weave critical spiritual and practical messages together, and from an academic point of view, that local dialects are still very much alive and well, and a vital part of our diverse nation – to be accepted and respected rather than ridiculed or dismissed.

The verses are completed beautifully with artwork from Lou Flitcroft, who illustrates some of the key points such as “Daft lad never gets any kip ona neet,” pictured here. Lou’s style is slightly comic, tongue-in-cheek while reinforcing the important messages within the ‘Av’mal.

This is such a fun and entertaining read, and quite possibly once of the most accessible translations of the Hávamál available right now. I believe everyone can gain some wisdom from this book, and the fact that it is completely inclusive and firmly stands against some of the nastier, right-wing aspects tragically currently associated with Heathenry and Norse Paganism makes me very happy indeed.

The Yorkshire ‘Av’mal is available via [Amazon](#) and other book retailers and you can find out more about [Heathens of Yorkshire here](#).





## The Festival for Pagans and Witches

By Leonie Smith, aged 9

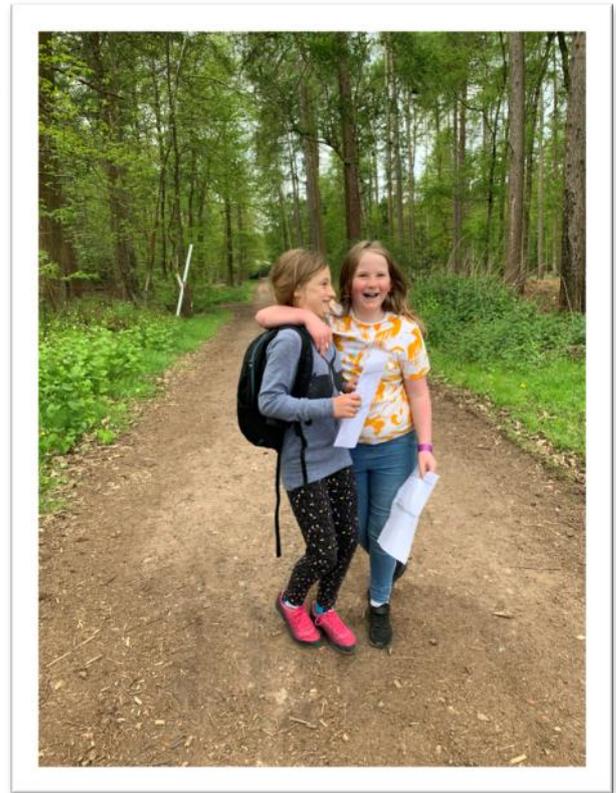
*Massive thanks to Leonie for submitting this detailed account of her trip to The Festival for Pagans and Witches. Leonie is one of our youngest article contributors and we love that she took the time to share her experiences for other young Pagans and their families. If you would like to join Leonie as an Aether contributor, please send your family-friendly submissions to*

*[aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk)*

I went to a local event called [A Festival for Pagans & Witches](#) with my mum, my friend Darcy and my friend's mum Jess. It was held at the Heart of England conference centre in Meriden. It was the first time I have ever attended an event like this.

After setting up camp, the first thing we did was go shopping. There were lots of shops to choose from. We started at the very top and worked our way down. We went to half of the shops on Saturday.

All the shops were very interesting as they had lots of different items to browse. Some of them had clothes; others had crystals (I bought lots of crystals!). Some were doing demonstrations of fortune telling items, such as tarot and rune stones. I had some very interesting chats with the stall owners and often with their dogs. My favourite stall holders dog was a spaniel named Dexter, we passed him three times and each time I couldn't resist saying hello!



● We had gone round ¼ of the shops when I came to a very interesting caravan. It belonged to a gypsy witch called Danny, who gave me a reading. He got me to hold a candle and shuffle some cards (not at the same time) so he could see my past, present and future. He told me that I was his youngest customer ever.

After that, we went to get an ice before sitting down to watch a Morris dance by the Ragged Oak group.

After the dance, a woman called Charmaine came onto stage and took us on a journey to find our power animal. My power animal is a jaguar as that was the animal that I saw on the journey. My mum's power animal is the butterfly and my mum has known that for a long time. Although my mum had done this before I hadn't so I found it very relaxing and mind-focusing. I researched the jaguar power-animal and it meant that I am individual and not afraid to follow my own path. It is also a symbol of confidence and power.

In the evening it was warm and the waxing crescent moon was shining down on the festival as bright as ever. We sat around a fire by the lake and made some witch bottles for happiness.

These are the ingredients:

- ◆ Moon water - water blessed by the full moon
- ◆ Two crystals – carnelian and citrine
- ◆ Dandelion petals
- ◆ Camomile petals
- ◆ Yellow wax - To seal



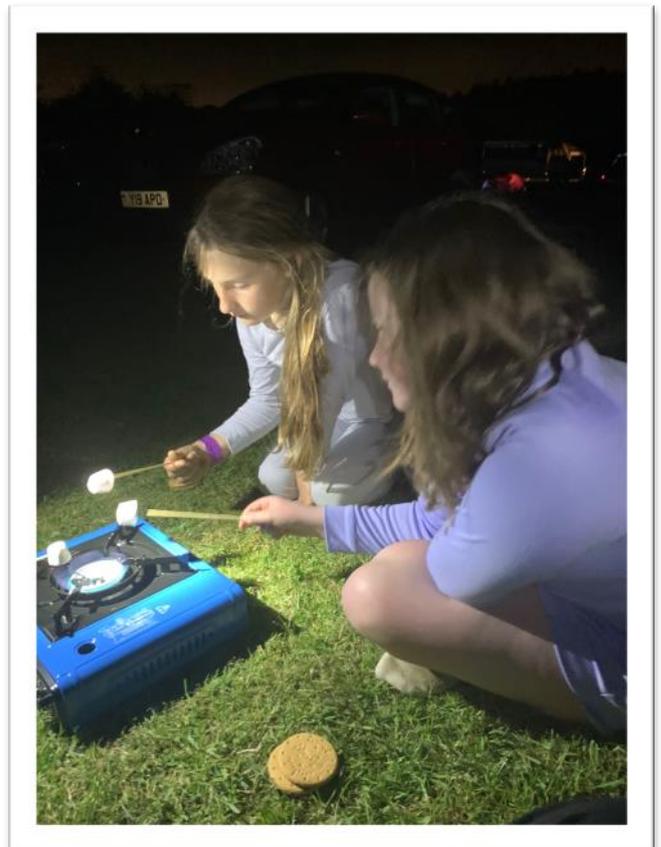
● We all said a magical chant together to call the quarters and the coven leaders (from Coven of Gaia) cast their protective circle around us. It felt incredibly enchanting and I could feel the energy charging me up.

After this ritual, I felt a burst of joy and excitement (the spell must have worked!). I am keeping my happiness bottle on my window sill because my bedroom points east. So every morning I see the sun rising and the rays of sunlight charge my witch bottle.

After an exciting and enlightening day, we all went back to the tent that evening, to roast marshmallows and make smores. The marshmallows in the smores were light and fluffy like the smores but with a bit less crunch to them. I only got to eat two as by the time I got that far, mummy had nearly scooped down all of them.

The next day we did more rituals and shopping, we also watched the Viking re-enactments which were awesome and my friend Darcy even went into the arena to kill some Vikings!

Before I went to the festival I thought I didn't really know that much about paganism but now I have been, I finally have a deeper understanding and feel like my connection has become stronger. I can't wait to go again and would really recommend it to all pagan families.



*Permission granted to share photos by all concerned.*



# The Family Herbal—Parsley

Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) is a species of flowering plant that is cultivated as a herb and widely used in European, Middle Eastern and American cuisine. There are three types of parsley which are curly leaf, flat leaf and root parsley, it is believed to have been grown originally in the Mediterranean area of the world and was revered by the Ancient Greeks as a sacred plant that was important in funeral rites.

It is mostly used as a culinary (food and cooking) herb and is high in Vitamins A, C, and K the last of which is particularly good for healthy bones. Parsley is also used medicinally and as a fragrance. Apparently chewing on raw parsley combats bad breath!

Magically, parsley is often referred to as a masculine plant associated with the element of air and ruled by the planet Mercury. It is used magically for love, fertility, protection, and purification.

Superstitions surrounding parsley include it being bad luck to transplant, and it should originally be planted on a holy day, especially Good Friday if you wanted it to be successful; this was due to the fact that it was only witches who could grow parsley well and planting on a holy day was the remedy to this.

## Recipe – Parsley Vinaigrette

This is a great recipe for helping children learn to measure ingredients out plus they can pick the parsley themselves if you have some growing in the garden.

- ◆ ½ pint olive oil
- ◆ 1 tbsp lemon
- ◆ 2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- ◆ 2 tsp caster sugar
- ◆ 1 tsp French mustard
- ◆ 2 peeled garlic cloves
- ◆ 8oz fresh parsley leaves



Blitz ingredients in a food processor and use as a salad dressing or dip!

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## The Pagan Federation

**"a collective and positive voice  
to a diverse community"**

# Join Today

**£20 per year**

(payable by cheque, PayPal or Direct Debit)

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4 issues of Pagan Dawn



The Pagan Federation, founded in 1971, works to make Paganism accessible to people who are genuinely seeking a nature-based spiritual path. It is headed by an elected committee and administrative officers and has over 60 regional coordinators who act as its mainstay of activity. Coordinators stay in contact with members, provide information on events and are available to answer queries.

It works for the religious rights of Pagans, that they may worship and live free from defamation. The PF has helped supply expert witnesses in court cases and has effectively assisted in cases of religious discrimination in employment and child custody. It has also succeeded in having Paganism accepted as a valid religion in Scotland and obtained recognition from the Home Office in England and Wales.

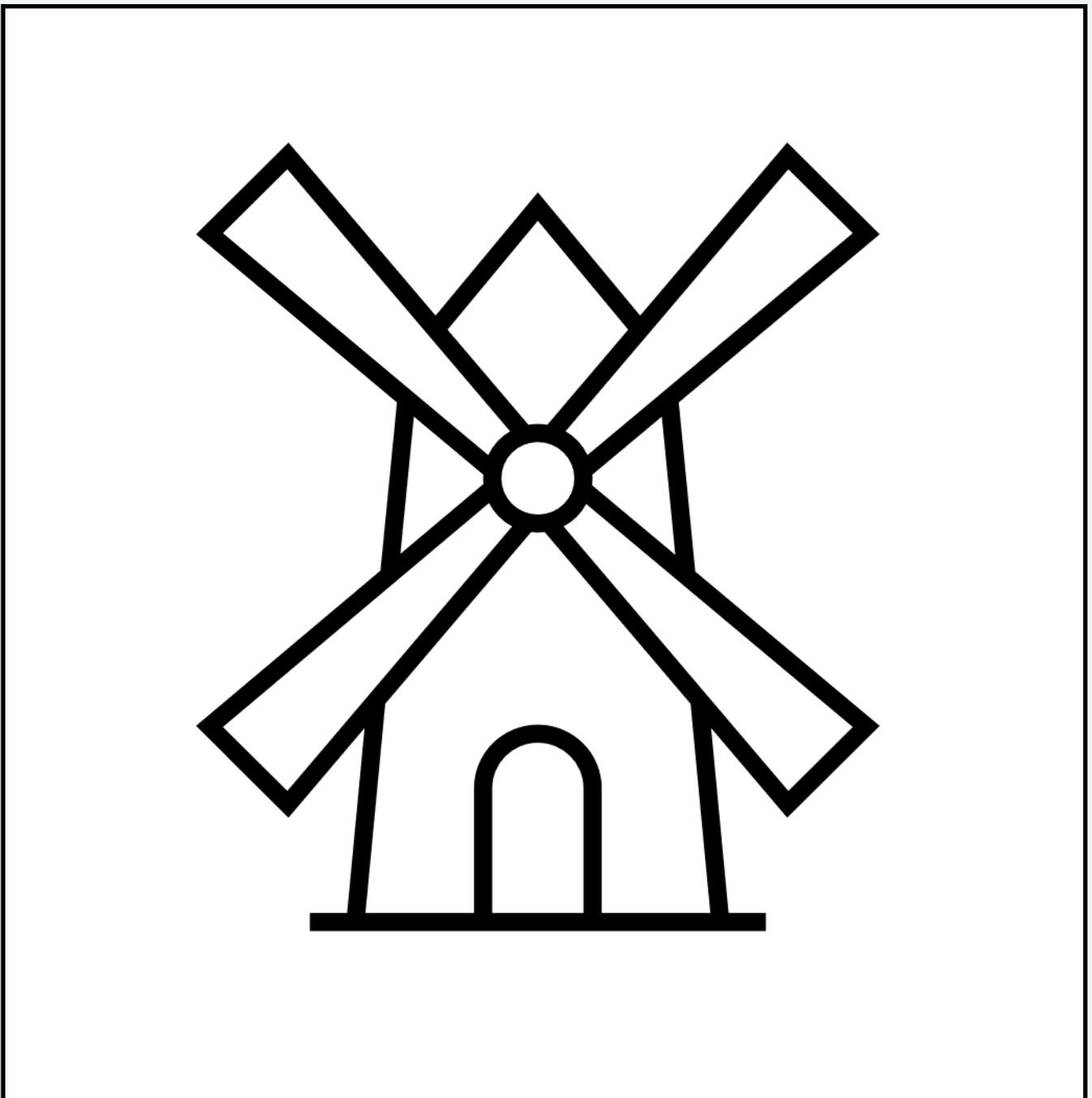
The PF promotes factual accuracy, mutual tolerance among faiths and assistance to those who wish to explore Pagan spirituality.

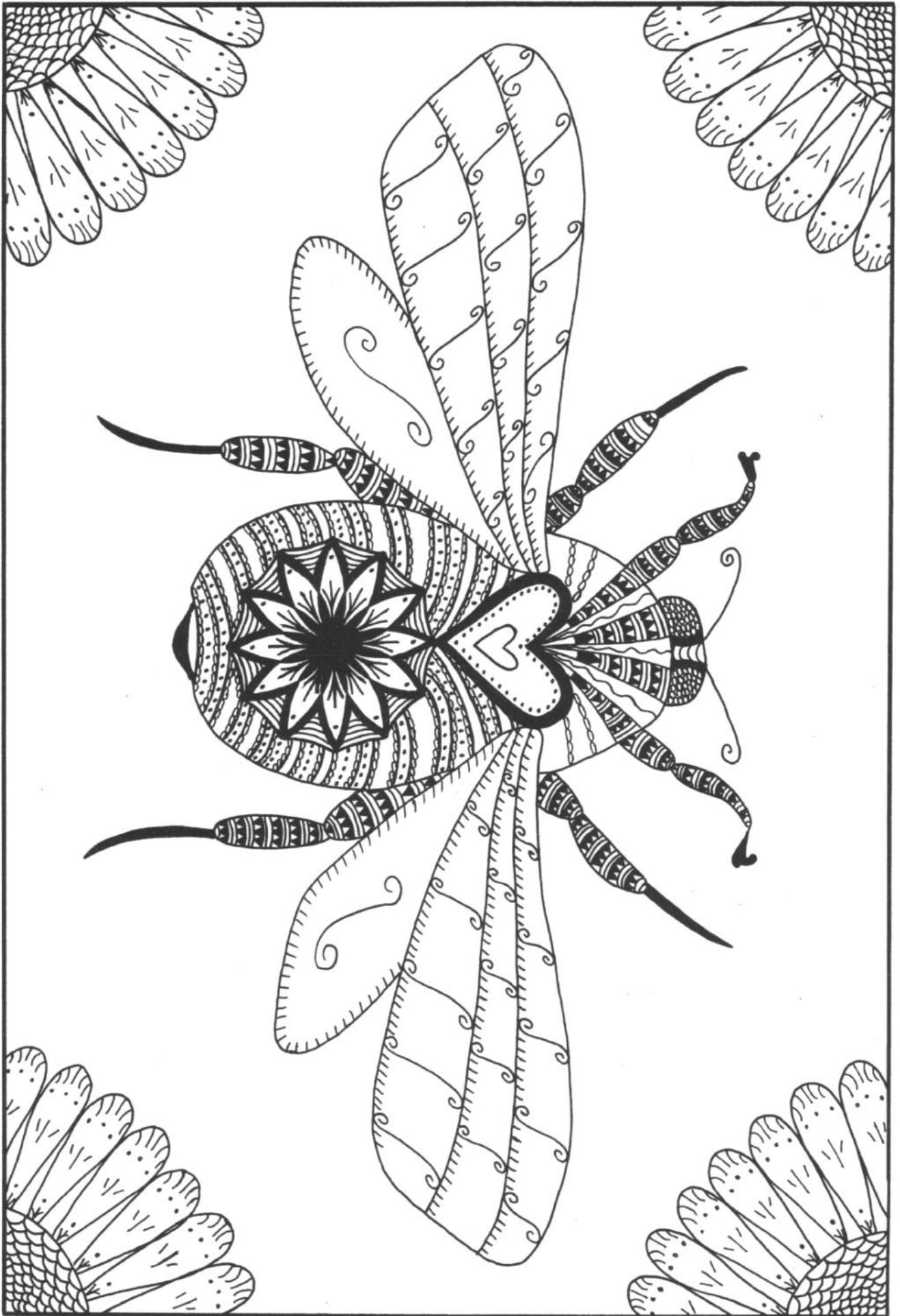
Join online at  
[www.paganfed.org](http://www.paganfed.org)

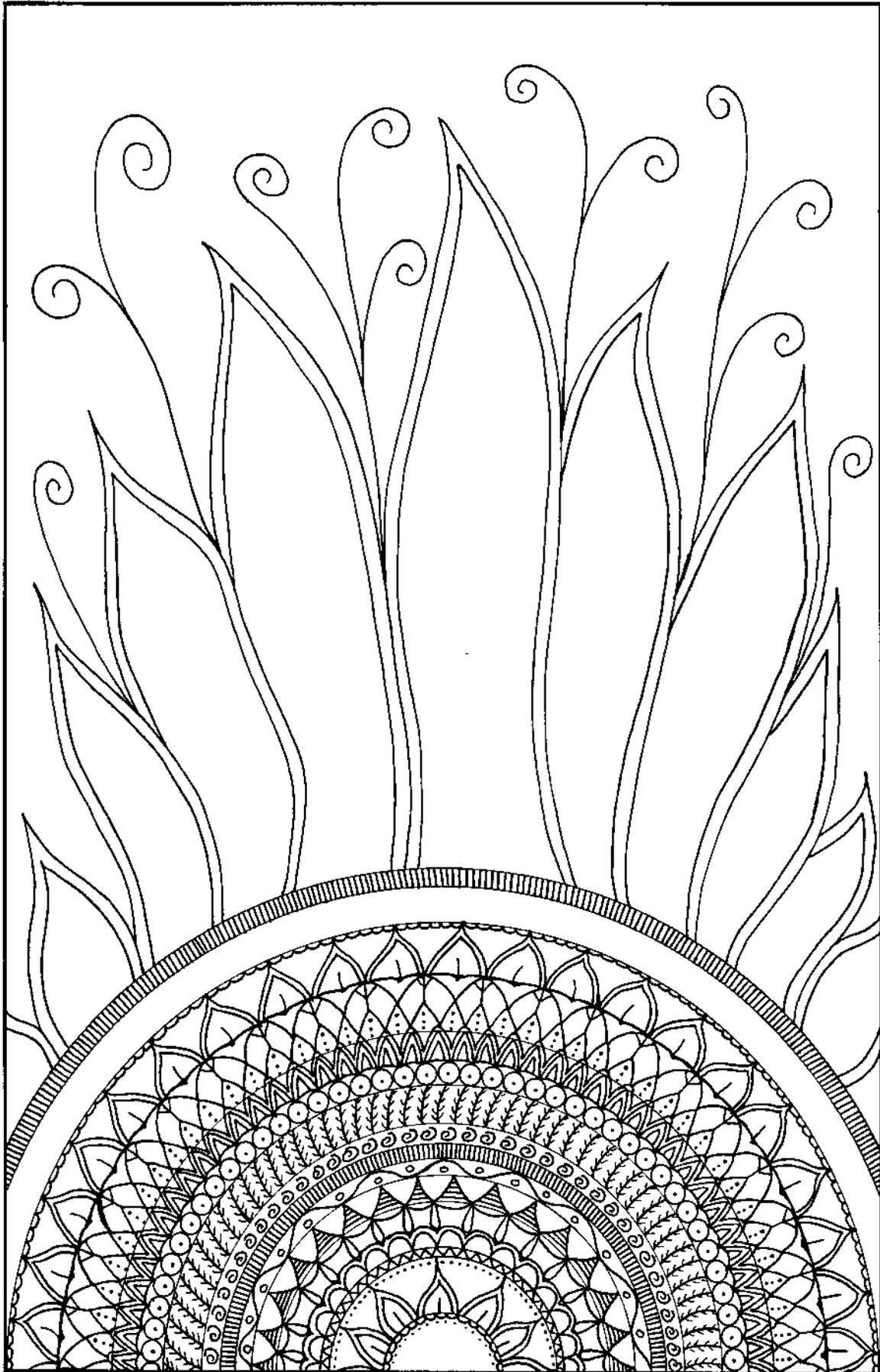


## Printable Colouring Pages

Indulge your artistic side with our printable colouring sheets! Many thanks to artist and Pagan Federation president Sarah Kerr for her images of the sun and a beautiful bee. Hannah Semple brings us an easy-to-colour windmill, and wonders if you could draw a little mouse family to live there? .Simply right click the image you want to colour and select print. Share your colouring fun with us at our Facebook Group.









# News: Aether Patches



We're so thrilled to see so many of you and your families enjoying the Aether Quests. Have you seen our [new intro video](#) yet? Go and [take a look](#) and tell us what you think at our Facebook Group!

We'd love to see photos, videos, or even blogs about what you've been up to whilst working towards your next patch. With that in mind, please share your adventures using the hashtag #AetherPatches. As well as showing us what you've been up to, it's a great way to connect with other Pagan families who are also completing their Quests!

If you've never heard of Aether Patches, it's a fun scheme that introduces kids to aspects of Paganism through exciting quests based around different themes such as the elements or the seasons.



In 2022 we have launched a new Spring Equinox Patch with a supplemental activity pack, and our latest offering is the Summer Solstice Patch, All our quest packs are free to download from the website: [www.pfcommunity.org.uk/aether-patches](http://www.pfcommunity.org.uk/aether-patches). There are free certificates too. Just choose a gem level you want to work towards and complete the corresponding number of challenges to earn your patch. Physical patches are available to purchase from our store [www.pfcommunity.org.uk/store](http://www.pfcommunity.org.uk/store) and they really are stunning!



Please share your “patchwork” with us on any of your socials using the hashtag #AetherPatches, on our [Facebook group](#) and here in our community magazine by emailing [aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk)

If you let us know the name and age of the person completing the quest, we’ll give them a shout out in the next issue!

An advertisement for Aether Patches. It features two circular patches. The left patch is for Imbolc, with a yellow candle, a green leaf, and a blue snowflake. The right patch is for Earth, with a green leaf and a white flower. In the center, the text reads "Buy your Aether Patches here!". The entire advertisement is enclosed in a green border.

**IMBOLC**

**Buy your  
Aether Patches  
here!**

**EARTH**



Is your child a budding poet? Get them to submit their creations to the below email address.



## Children's Poetry Book

Pagan Federation are after submissions for an anthology of poetry by the children in our community.

The themes are:

Moon and Stars

Animals

Weather

Woodland

Myth and Magic

Send your poems along with name and age of the child who wrote it, to [aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk)

Illustrations to accompany the poems are also welcome



# Poetry: Young Voices

We're still delighted to be compiling poems from children in the Pagan community, with the aim of eventually publishing a whole volume of poetry from young pagan voices. The Pagan Federation already published a [volume of poetry from adults](#), so we thought it was time to give the kids a voice! As well as our regular Wordy Wednesday on our [Facebook group](#), we've been encouraging families to get in touch with their young people's poetic offerings.

Send poems to

[aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk)

The only proviso is that the author is under 18, and that the poems match one of our topics of Moon and Stars, Animals, Weather, Woodland, or Myth and Magic. We can't wait to read them!

Thanks to Rhion and Ginny for submitting their amazing poems for this issue of Aether Magazine.

The air blew away the clouds  
They were full of hail and snow  
It was a very cold day

There was ice on the lakes  
The sky was grey  
It was very wet

There was lots of smoke from the boilers  
Being blown by the wind and air

And it's getting hotter now.

The air that's blown  
away the clouds



Written by Rhion, age 5,  
as part of his Air Aether  
Patch Quest



# The Night Sky

The moon is glinting in the sky tonight  
The sun is beginning to fade  
All of the stars are burning bright  
Darkness falls upon the glade  
The shining beauty of the moon  
The vibrancy of each star  
Each star and moon will vanish soon  
Daylight isn't far.



Written by Ginny  
Penman, age 11. Check  
out Ginny's awesome art  
below!





# Story Time



Made with PosterMyWall.com

We're really grateful to our contributors for some fun adventures for various reading abilities. Hannah Semple brings us a tale about the Squirrel and the Wind ideal for young readers or for parents/guardians to read with pre-readers. Slightly older readers will enjoy "Mae's Grandad", exploring handling death and grief and the meaning of Samhain. And, we have another exclusive from author S. D. Stevens, from The Tales of Alhanassa, ideal for young adults or confident readers.



# The Squirrel and the Wind

By Hannah Semple

Little squirrel was tucked up in his nice cosy nest with Mummy squirrel. Outside the sky was dark with black clouds, the rain was falling, and the wind was blowing.

“Mummy,” said little squirrel,  
“Is the wind alive?”

“Yes, the wind is very much  
alive,” answered mummy.

“Then does the wind have  
feelings?” asked little squirrel.

“Of course,” said mummy  
squirrel.



Little squirrel thought for a  
moment then asked, “But how do you know the wind has feelings?”

“Well,” explained mummy squirrel “when the wind howls, that means she  
is upset and angry, then when the wind howls it is because she is in pain.”

“Is she ever happy?”

“Yes, when sings her sweet melodies through the meadows she is happy.  
When she whispers through the leaves, she is happy and when she touches  
your cheek with her gentle breeze, that is the wind showing that she loves  
you.”

“The wind loves?” exclaimed little squirrel

“Yes,” said mummy squirrel “And that is how we know the wind is alive.”

Little squirrel thought about this for a while and felt happy that the wind  
was alive and that she loved. “Goodnight wind,” he said as he snuggled up  
in his cosy bed and fell asleep to the wind’s song.





# Mae's Granddad

## By Lyn O'Callaghan

Mae had always lived just down the road from Granddad and Grandma's house. She hadn't ever met Grandma, and Mum talked about her often and clearly missed her. The family lived at number 12 Rodin Drive and Granddad lived at number 26. This was an arrangement that suited Mae as she had been free to wander between the houses and Granddad had always been pleased to see her.

Whenever she was excited or troubled, Granddad had time to listen; he made the right noises, "oohhed" and "aahhed" or "there thered" in the right places or just sat quietly when she had to work things through herself. He was her best friend and, suddenly, he wasn't there anymore.

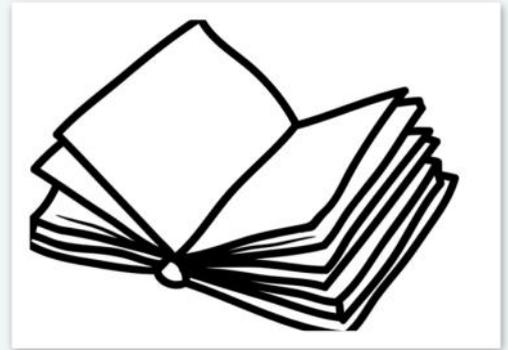
Mum explained Granddad's heart had been poorly and, despite everything Granddad and the Doctors tried to do, it had stopped working. Mae knew about death. Her rabbit had died the year before, and she was a little concerned they would not find a shoebox big enough to bury Granddad in, but Mum explained Granddad's body would be put in a special people-sized box and then burned in a special fire. Mae did not like the sound of that.

Mum reminded her Granddad's spirit, his essence, had returned to the Otherworld to wait until he came back to Earth for another lifetime. This all helped, but Mae missed Granddad and she cried when she thought about not seeing him for the rest of her life. She missed his smile, his smell. She missed 'stealing' an extra biscuit from the tin with the cottage on it. She knew he knew what she was up to. She missed him so much her tummy hurt.





Mum put together a book about Granddad; it had photos of him doing all the things he enjoyed. Day by day it got easier; Mae could think about Granddad without crying. She could remember all the things they had done together and enjoy those memories. She started talking to him again and it helped to think he was somewhere listening and not gone completely.



Circle was strange without Granddad, but Sabbats were the worst. Litha and Lughnasadh had not been as much fun this year and Mae had decided not to join in Autumn Equinox celebrations, it was too hard. Mum said she understood but Mae would be expected to take some part at Samhain, life goes on.

Mae thought this was harsh and wondered if Mum and Dad missed Granddad at all, but she heard them talking and had seen them cry, she knew they did. She just felt angry.

The year rolled on and in no time, Samhain was just around the corner. Mum, Dad, and Mae gathered their bits and pieces for the Sabbat Altar. Mum asked Mae to choose her favourite photograph of Granddad to be displayed, too. Mum put up a picture of Granddad and Grandma together and Dad put up a photo of Granny. Pop lived quite far away, and they visited once a month, but he didn't share their beliefs or join in their Circles. He knew when their special dates were and did his best to remember to wish them well, as they did for him on his special dates.

When Samhain finally arrived, Mae was surprised to feel excited. Dad had explained Samhain was also called Ancestor's Night because all those who had gone before were remembered and, because the veils between this world and the next are thin, sometimes those who have gone before can come back to see us. When she heard this, Mae decided to do everything she could to seeing Granddad again. She was so determined to see him she did not go trick or treating with her friends, she did not read her books; she just wanted to join her family at dinner and in Circle so she could see him.



Unfortunately, Granddad didn't come when they ate their Sabbath meal even though there was a place set for him at the table. Nor when the family were in Circle, even though Mum told all the ancestors they could come if they wished. Mae went to bed sad and disappointed, she felt let down by Mum, Dad and Granddad and cried as she fell asleep...

...and woke up in a beautiful wood. She felt the sun, warm on her face, heard the breeze blow through the trees, smelt the flowers that grew in the glade and heard the birds singing in the trees; she could taste her salty tears as they ran down her face and into her mouth.

Then she felt arms giving her a familiar hug, smelt a familiar smell, heard a familiar voice telling her to cry until she felt better and saw Granddad.

"Better now?" asked Granddad.

Mae nodded.

"I've missed you," he said, and they sat in silence for a while.

"How come I can see you? You didn't come to Circle. Where have you been? I've missed you."

Mae felt angry and confused, Granddad was always supposed to be there.

"I have gone to the Otherworld. I know your Mum and Dad have explained what happened. My time was ended. You can see me now because you are dreaming. If I had come to dinner or Circle, you'd have wanted me to stay, wouldn't you?"

Again, Mae nodded.

"Even though you can't see me, I'll watch over you and I'll always listen when you need to talk, and you will know my advice in your heart."

"I love you Granddad, I wanted to say goodbye, but you were gone."

Granddad and Mae chatted for a while; then just Granddad was talking and as Mae listened to him, she began to feel better, she realised he hadn't abandoned her, and he did love her.

She began to feel sleepy, drifted off, and slept until morning. When she awoke, she felt better, she told Mum and Dad about her dream. They were glad she had the chance to say goodbye to Granddad and could see a difference in her.

The following day, Mae went to the Sabbath altar and looked at the picture of Granddad. She smiled and decided next year to go trick or treating with her friends, confident that she could see Granddad in her dreams.





## Biscuit

Continues The Royal Messenger from the Tales of Alhanassa.

Exclusively Written for Aether

©[S. D Stevens](#)

Ambha loved spending time with the horses at the garrison paddock. She sat on the fence watching them play.

“Are you Ambha?” A royal guard approached, her ponytail swishing from side to side. A stern look on her face.

“I’m not doing anything wrong, only watching,” Ambha defended herself as she slid down from the fence.

“I never said you were.” The woman pinned her with a hard stare that sent a shiver down her spine.

Ambha stood up tall and stuck out her chin, “Yes, that’s me, why do you ask?” “I’m Nyxxa,” she held out her hand to Shake hers, “I’m an Elite Guard to princess Kohinora.”

“Why are you looking for me?” Ambha scratched her head.

“The princess’s head messenger always rides with her.”

“Oh!” Excitement and fear rolled around her stomach.” Yes, that’s right.”

“There’s a fair bit of riding involved.”

“I’m not very good...”

“We know,” she gave a lopsided grin, “that’s why I’ve been tasked with preparing you.”

“Really?” Ambha wasn’t too sure she liked that.

“But first we need to assign you a horse, follow me.” Nyxxa took off at a quick pace past the stables. Ambha was confused and looked behind her as they rushed out of the palace gates and over the bridge that spanned the carnal. Without question, Ambha followed.

It took them an hour to reach the large farm that loomed before them. Stables flanked a paddock that was twice the size of the garrison enclosure. The barn at the far end was bigger than any Ambha had ever seen.

“This is where the Leian army’s horses are trained.” Nyxxa informed her.

“Welcome.” A tall dark-skinned man greeted them, “Is this the messenger Princess Kohinora spoke of?” His voice was deep but soft and melodic.

“This is Ambha, she’ll be joining the Astra Rise tour.”

“It’s a pleasure, m’dear.” His hand dwarfed hers as he took it in his. Ambha looked up at him and tried to stand taller as she fervently returned the handshake. Everything was so much bigger than her.

Clapping his hands, he turned and opened a small door into the barn. Ambha’s eyes widened as she beheld an indoor arena. Several horses trotted in a tight circle. They moved fluidly, graceful. She’d seen her share of good, solid mounts. Ambha didn’t care much for the horse breeding part of her family. No, she came from a line of Royal messengers. Why would she ever think of doing anything else?.

● “It surprises me that your riding skills are poor, considering.” He clapped his hands; the riders made their way closer and stood in a line. His remark gave her a moment of heat in her cheeks. There was no accusation in his soft expression. He looked older than her parents but lacked the wrinkled skin of an old man. Ambha decided she liked him.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t get your name.” The blush returned.

“Oh, my dear, I’m viscount Cabette but you can call me Cab.”

“Hello Cab.” She couldn’t help smiling at him.

“Pleased to meet you Ambha.” He flourished his hand towards the horses, “So look these fine mares over and tell me which one you fancy.”

Ambha looked up at the first horse’s eyes. They reminded her of Cab’s brown eyes. The horse blinked and snorted, nodding its head. Cab and Nyxxa were deep in conversation about the horses. She didn’t care, as long as it was kind and gentle. She moved down the row and stopped in front of a dapple grey.

“Gentle now, Biscuit.” The girl patted the mare’s neck and nodded. “She’s a good horse, fast if you have to push her but good in a crowd or possession.”

Ambha touched Biscuit’s nose. The familiar velvety warmth gave Ambha a pang of homesickness. Warm breath fluttered over her palm. She looked into the horse’s eyes, feeling a connection deep inside her heart. Ambha knew Biscuit was the horse for her.

The rider dismounted and passed Ambha the reins, “Walk her around for a bit. Let her follow at your shoulder.”

Ambha took the reins with shaking hands. She looked up into Biscuit’s eyes and swallowed hard. She’d walked horses before but this was different, this was for a real purpose. A nudge from the mare on her shoulder flipped her stomach. She smiled widely and began to walk around the arena.

“I take it you want this horse?” Cab asked when she made her way back to the gate.

“Her name’s Biscuit. When can I ride her?” She hopped from foot to foot.

“Jump up now, she how she feels.” Cab adjusted the girth and stirrup leathers, “You know, she won’t belong to you but I can see you two are going to be great friends.” He helped Ambha into the saddle

The horse moved backwards a step. Ambha gripped with her thighs, her stomach flipping, she blew out a breath as Biscuit settled. In no time at all she was trotting around the arena. She was indeed gentle and no effort to ride at all. The tension fell from Ambha’s shoulders and she relaxed into the saddle.

Mm, she will need lessons.” Cab patted Nyxxa on the back, “I’ll have Biscuit sent to the garrison first thing in the morning.” He gestured for Ambha to dismount.

Reluctantly she slid from the saddle and stroked Biscuit’s nose. “We’ll see each other again, very soon.”

On the way back to the palace, Amba bombarded Nyxxa with questions on her riding lessons. She bounced along at the side of her keeping pace. Nyxxa stopped and huffed, giving Ambha a lopsided smile.

“Why don’t you flame back to the stalls? Be at the garrison for the 14th hour for your first riding lesson.”

“Thank you,” Ambha hugged Nyxxa tightly before flaming home to finish her chores. There would be no sleeping tonight, she was far too excited for that!

~~~



From the author S.D Stevens: My stories are about the magical world of Alhanassa. A world governed by Queens, Priestesses and Governesses. Where women rule and magic is a part of everyday life. I would like to thank Bethany Larman for her help with this issue story. To find out more, please visit my website:

[sdstevens.com](http://sdstevens.com)

or checkout my Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Alhanassa>

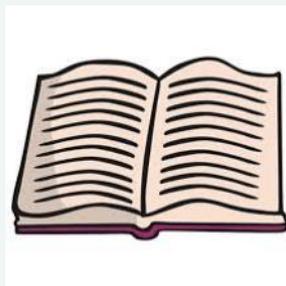
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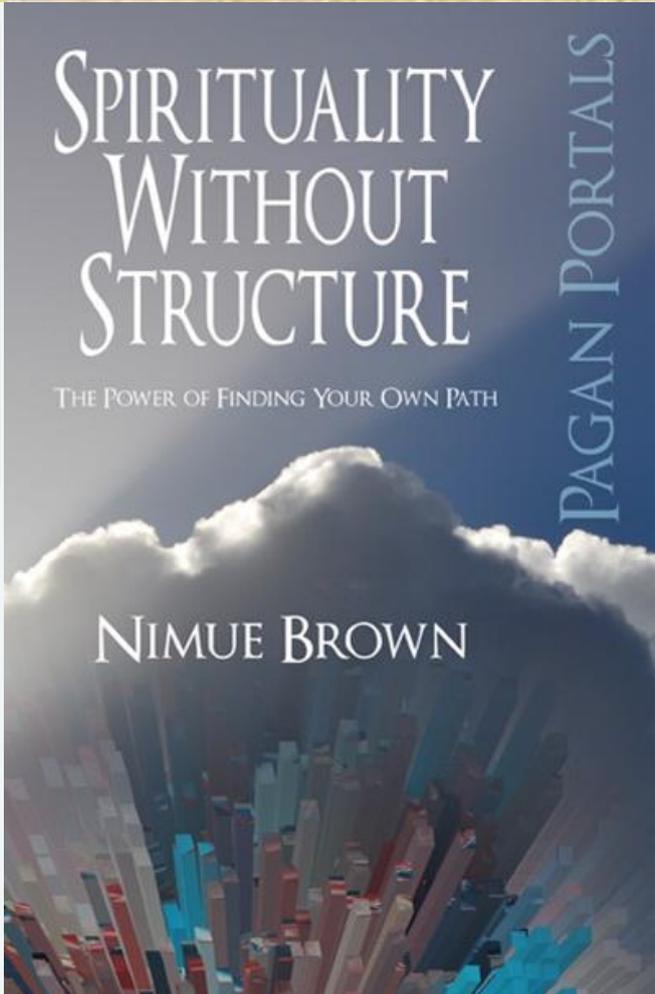
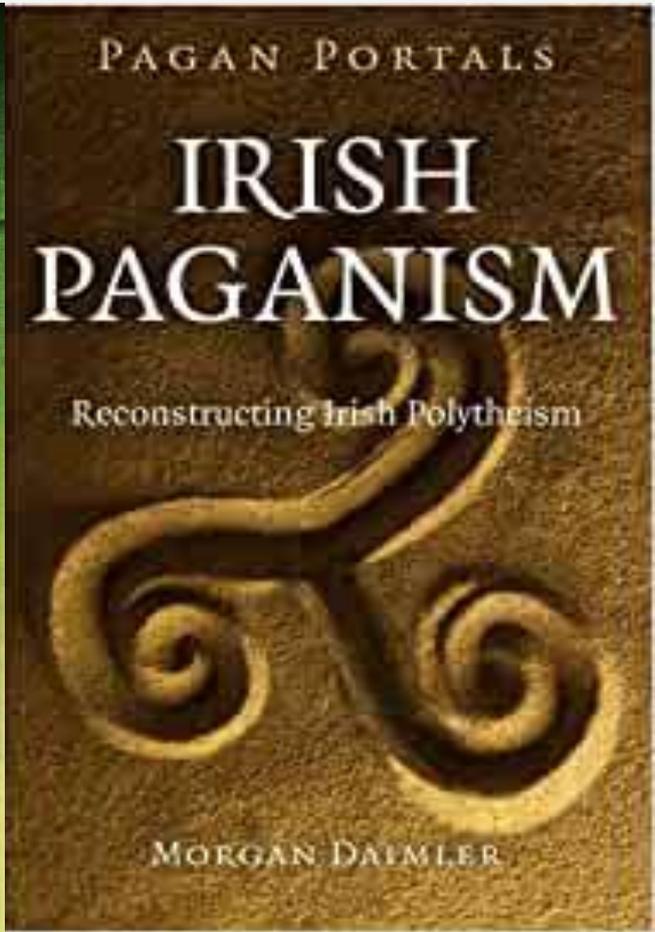
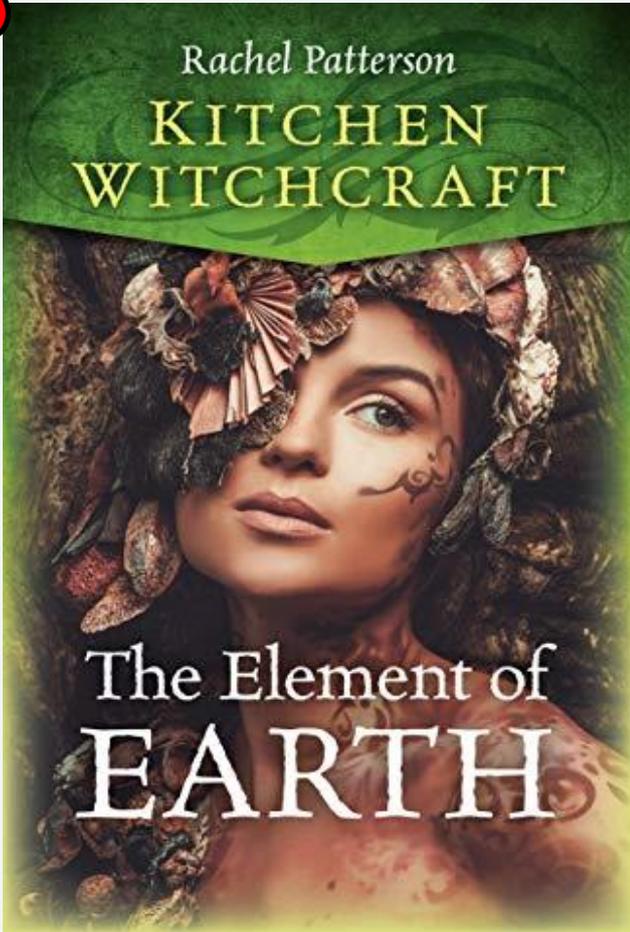
*We hope you enjoyed these stories! Which was your favourite? Come and tell us which ones you loved and why over at our [Children and Families Facebook Group](#). We'd love to hear from you!*

*If you're a budding writer or established author and you'd like to contribute towards this voluntary community magazine, we're always on the lookout for short fiction for children or young people.*

*If you'd like to contribute any fiction, poetry, or art for our magazine, please send it to [aether@paganeferation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganeferation.co.uk)*

*Thanks again to all our amazing contributors this issue!*





Moon Books is a publisher exploring Paganism and spirituality, with books covering a diverse range of topics and paths. Find out more at their website:

<https://www.johnhuntpublishing.com/moon-books/>.

# PRACTICALLY PAGAN AN ALTERNATIVE GUIDE TO...

Practically Pagan is a new series of books from Moon Books, designed to give a spiritual twist to everyday things like gardening and cooking. The series focuses on simple ways to introduce magic into your lives, and makes you realise you may already be living a more spiritual life than you realise! Current titles available right now include:

- ◆ Practically Pagan: An Alternative Guide to Cooking by Rachel Patterson
- ◆ Practically Pagan: An Alternative Guide to Gardening by Elen Sentier
- ◆ Practically Pagan: An Alternative Guide to Health and Wellbeing by Irisanya Moon
- ◆ Practically Pagan: An Alternative Guide to Magical Living by Maria DeBlassie
- ◆ Practically Pagan: An Alternative Guide to Planet Friendly Living by Mabh Savage

Plus a short introduction to the volumes titled Practically Pagan: An Introduction to Alternative Guides to Living. More coming soon!

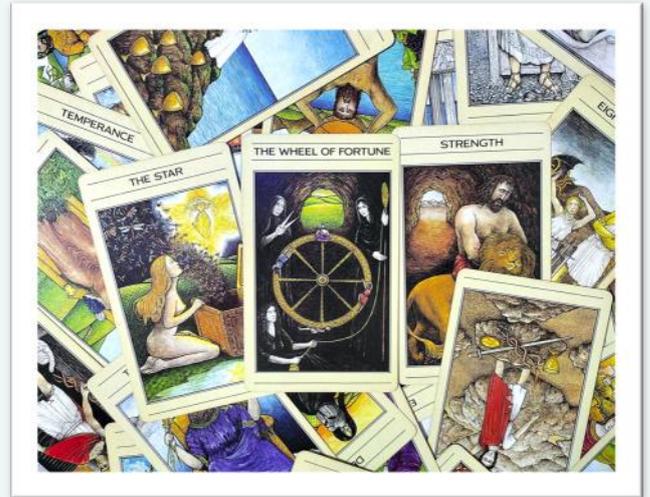




# Young Pagans' Introduction to the Tarot

*By Lisa Stockley*

The tarot is a deck of 78 cards which is used for divination. The cards give us messages and help us to understand ourselves better. For some people this means thinking about what the future holds, for others it means understanding themselves and their situation better. The pictures on tarot cards act as symbols of what we might be experiencing and also give us guidance on the best approach to take.



There are all kinds of different tarot decks, with themes like nature, fairies or mythology. Each of the 78 cards has a different picture and a different message.

The tarot deck is divided into two sections: the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana.

The Major Arcana cards show our journey through life, the way we grow and learn about ourselves.

Within the Minor Arcana, there are Court cards and number cards. They are divided into four suits, Wands, Swords, Cups and Pentacles. They show different situations in our lives and ways of expressing ourselves.

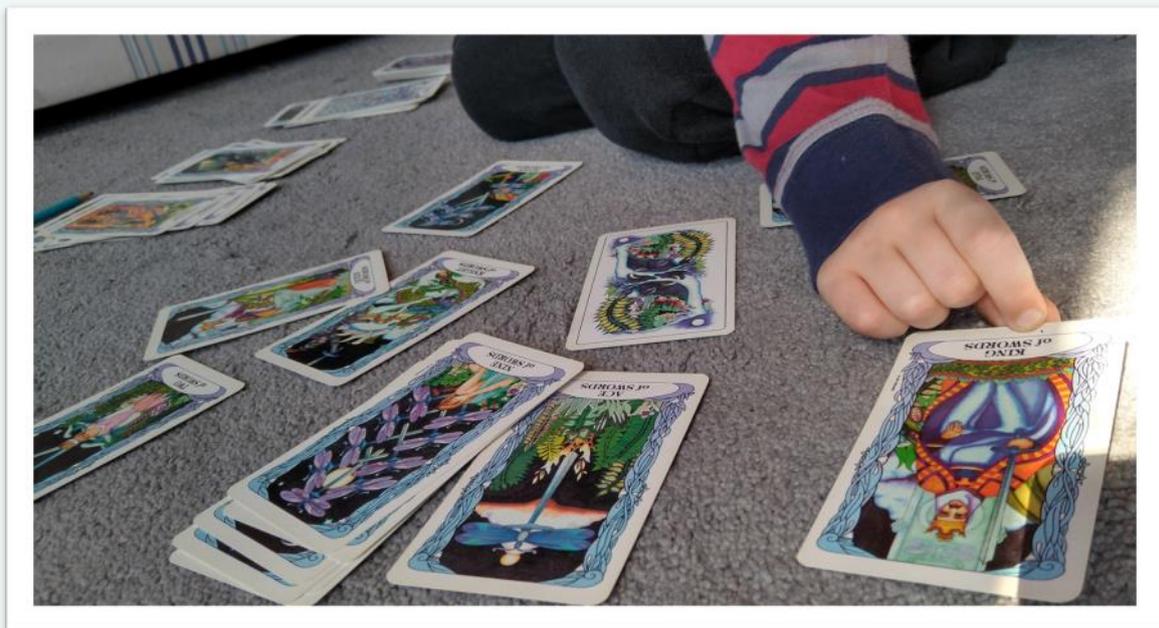
We can read the tarot cards for ourselves or for other people, to help when we need some guidance or simply to understand the energies around us. Working with tarot cards is a great way to learn to trust our intuition, that magical inner knowing which guides us.

*Continues on next page...*

● The cards can help us when we want to learn something new, offer creative solutions when we have a problem and show us what we can do to reach a goal or dream. They can help us when we have tricky decisions to make or a question we need answered. The cards tell stories and are also lots of fun.



To read the cards, we start by shuffling the deck. You can start with just one card or lay them out in a pattern, called a spread. When you've picked your card, spend a few minutes looking at it. What can you see in the picture? What do you notice first – and then what can you see when you look a little closer? Are there people or animals? What are they doing and how might they be feeling? Does the picture make you feel happy or sad?



### Some tarot games to get you started

#### *Which card am I?*

Place a number of cards face down in front of you. Try to guess whether a particular card is from the Major or the Minor arcana, then turn it over to see if you are right. You could make the game harder by guessing what number is on the card or which suit it is from (Wands, Swords, Cups or Coins).

*Continues on next page...*



### *Tell a story*

Pull a card and tell or write a story based on what you see. Are there characters in the card? What are they doing? What kind of setting does it show?

When you run out of ideas for that card, pull another one to see what happens next. You can play this on your own or in a group, going round in a circle pulling one card each to create a collective story.

### *Ask a question*

Think of something in your life you'd like an answer for or some guidance. Shuffle the deck, pull a card and think about how it might apply to your question. The answer might not be obvious so use some creative thinking!

*Many thanks to Lisa Stockley for sharing her knowledge and experience about Tarot! Look out for more information about divination later in the issue, when the team introduces the first part of Divination 101 on page 67.*





# Transformation and the Elements

*By Hannah Semple*

What is transformation?

It is a marked change in form, nature or appearance and it happens in nature all the time. Spring transforms into Summer, then changes to Autumn, then to Winter and the cycle starts again. The seasons are not the only thing in nature that transforms. The elements of nature we call Fire, Earth, Air, and Water also do.

Let's look at water.

Rain transforms into puddles, streams, rivers, lakes, streams and waterfalls. In its solid form water becomes the frozen arctic, sleet, hail, and falling snow. Water is also the steam hissing from geysers and vapour evaporating into the skies. It's pretty amazing how many ways water can transform.



Water also helps with the transformation of living things in nature. Would the seed that was planted sprout and grow without water? Would the baby animals grow into adulthood without water, or would the land be green and vibrant if it wasn't for the transformative power of the rain? Nature needs this transformative element to be what it is.

The other elements also have their own ways of transforming themselves, and powers of transformation for nature. What ways can you think of for Earth, Fire and Air?

Where else in nature can you see transformation happening?



# Butterfly Magic

*By Steve Andrews*

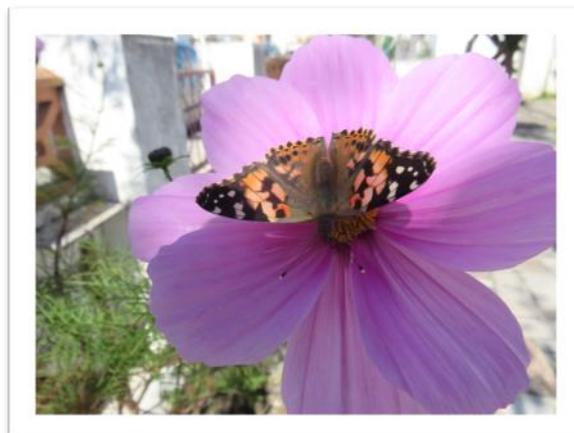
Who can fail to be amazed by the seemingly magical transformation of a caterpillar into a chrysalis and finally a beautiful butterfly? I became fascinated by this natural magic when I was a little boy, who discovered butterfly and moth larvae in the garden. These insects gave me an early connection with the wonders of the world of nature, and it has remained with me.



*Image shows red admiral pupae and caterpillar*

Sadly though, butterflies are declining fast all over the world today. Pesticides, habitat destruction, changes in agriculture, and climate change have taken a heavy toll. But if we have access to a garden we can help reverse this. Butterfly gardening is a wonderful method of conservation, and other pollinators will benefit too. Butterflies need flowers to feed from, so we can attract these winged wonders by growing plants with blooms they particularly like. Buddleia, the Butterfly Bush, is so aptly named, but there are so many other garden flowers that will help attract butterflies. Zinnias, Cosmos, Purple-top Vervain, Wallflowers, Lavender and Marjoram, are some favourites. Clumps of Michaelmas Daisies and the succulent-leaved pink-flowered Orpine will attract butterflies in late summer and early autumn.

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● It is not just flowers to attract and feed adult butterflies that are needed though, because we need to think about the specific plants the female insects have to find to lay their eggs on. If we have the right plants growing we just might end up with caterpillars on them and being able to watch them go through their life cycle due to the help we have provided. A mated female butterfly's role in life is to find the right leaves for her eggs. Sometimes this is not easy. For example, the Brimstone Butterfly's caterpillars will only feed on either of the two Buckthorn shrubs. Hull in England was featured in the news as "Butterfly City " the other year, because an effort was made there to plant Buckthorn around the city, specifically to attract this species of butterfly. I realise that Stinging Nettles are regarded as a weed by many people, but this is a plant that is ideal for a butterfly garden. The Peacock, Red Admiral (pictured), Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady (pictured on previous page) and Comma butterflies are species with caterpillars that will feed on nettles. When I lived in Ely in Cardiff, I often had Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars on the nettle patch. I had Red Admiral larvae too. Painted Lady caterpillars were on my Hollyhocks one summer. This butterfly is lucky because it has a wide range of food-plants, also including thistle species and Burdock.

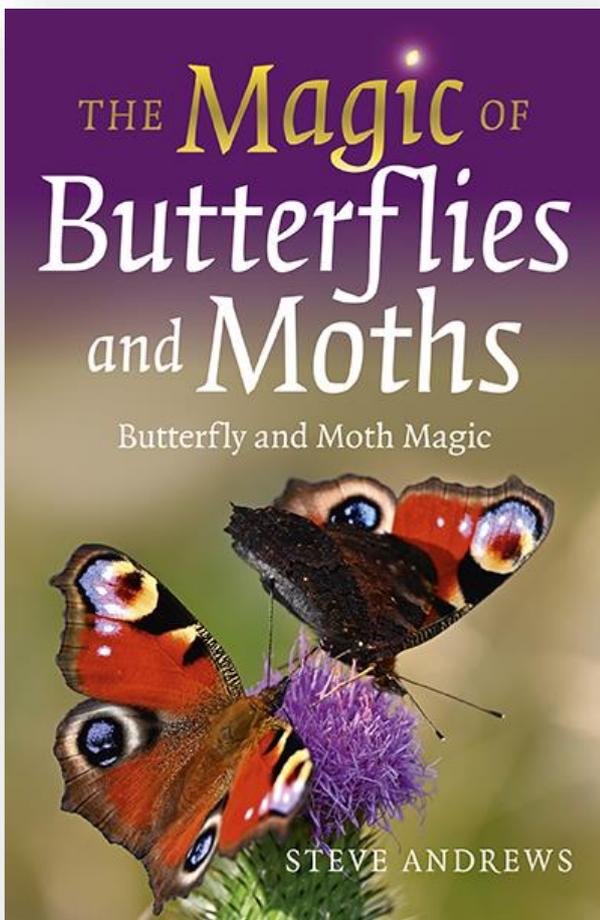


Even a patch of long grass can be just what a female butterfly is looking for. In the UK, the Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Wall Brown, Grayling and Marbled White are some of the species with caterpillars that feed on grass. The last three are butterflies more likely to be encountered in grassy places in the countryside, and the Gatekeeper tends to like hedgerows, but the Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood can often be found in urban areas, as long as there are places with plenty of grass. The pretty little Holly Blue, is aptly named because its caterpillar eats Holly in the yearly first generation in spring, and for the second, in autumn, it switches to Ivy.

*Continues on next page...*

● Growing either of these plants, or both, could help attract this butterfly. The Common Blue will use Bird's-foot Trefoil and White Clover, and these plants will happily grow in lawns. Many gardeners get annoyed by the Large and Small White butterflies laying their eggs on Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brussel Sprouts and Broccoli in their vegetable plot, but these species will also happily deposit their eggs on the pretty Nasturtium flowers rounded leaves.

The examples I have included here are just some of the plants we can grow in our gardens if we fancy helping the butterflies and seeing some butterfly magic. I have a forthcoming book from Moon Books with the title *The Magic of Butterflies and Moths* but it's not out until next February. Time flies though, and so does a butterfly!



*Steve Andrews was born in Cardiff, Wales but is now based in Portugal, after living in Tenerife for nine years. He is known as the Bard of Ely, a name dubbed by Big Issue Cymru back in the late '90s, when he was a columnist for the publication, and it refers not only to where he had been living but also to his work as a singer-songwriter, performer and poet.. Look out for [The Magic of Butterflies and Moths](#), out next February, and Steve's other books including [Pagan Portals: Herbs of the Sun, Moon and Planets](#) and [Earth Spirit: Saving Mother Ocean](#).*



## Art by Andrea Redmond

This issue we're honoured to once again share some beautiful artistic submissions by the very talented Andrea Redmond. Find more of her work at [Cailleach Moon Cottage on Facebook](#).



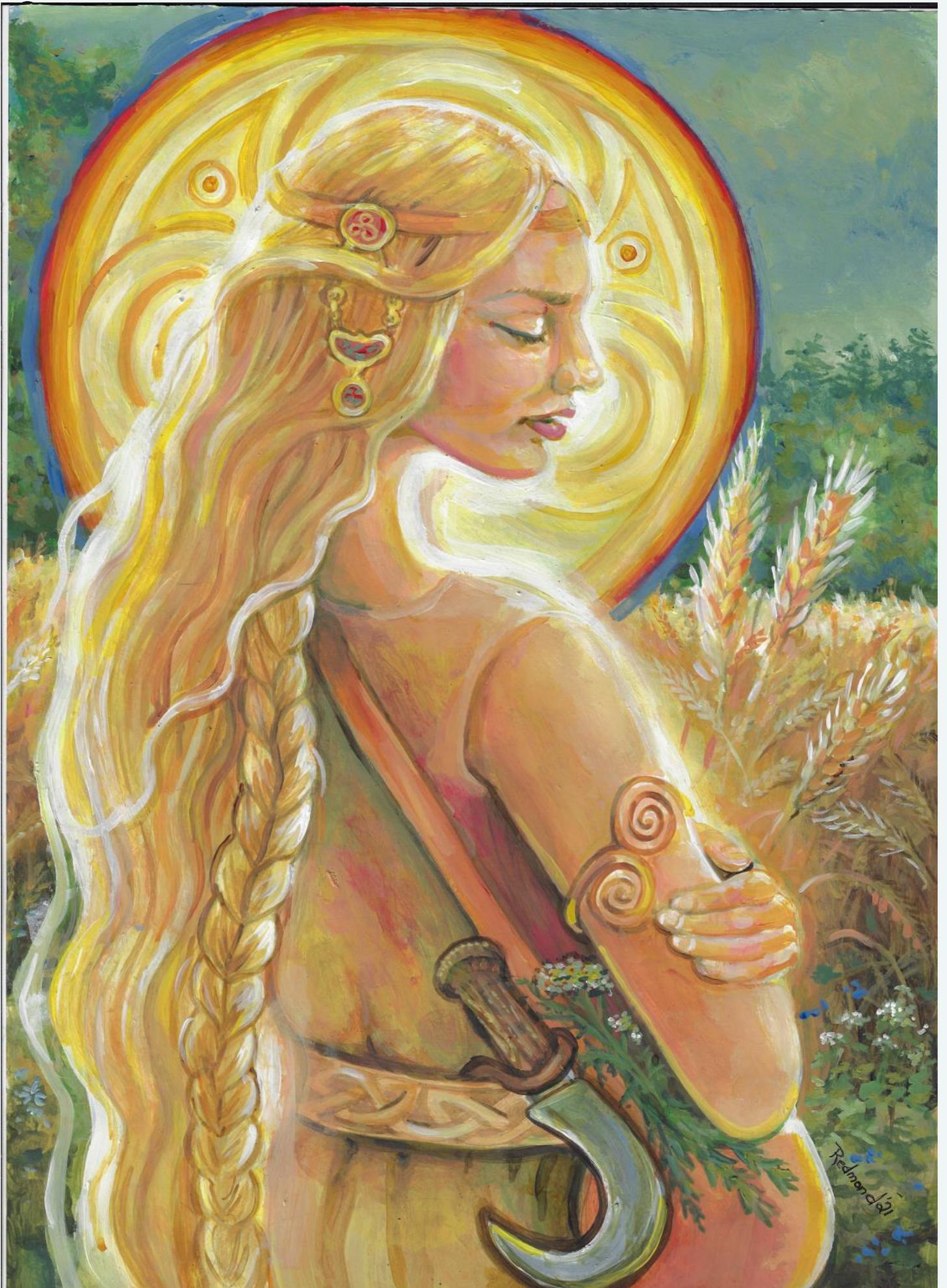
*Greenwoman*



*Hedgerow*



*Hare Protector*



Gráinne



*Pine Marten*



*Mother Goddess*



Have you met The Elemenpals by Debi Gregory yet?

The Elemenpals are a “family of elemental imps who are learning all about Mother Earth and her children so that one day they can be grown up Elements and take care of the Earth. They're helped by woodland creatures, older elements and Mother Earth as they discover, play, watch and learn about the world around them.” (From the [Witch Path Forward website](#), home of The Elemenpals).

The Elemenpals: Meet the Pals! is a wonderful book for young readers, encouraging them to find ways to connect to the Earth. Cleverly, the author has left out descriptions of colour, gender, or ability, so there is nothing stopping a child from relating to whichever Elemenpal they feel closest to.

Have you introduced your family to the 'Pals yet? Here's what readers are saying about Meet the 'Pals:

“Visually beautiful”

“Lovely book for both pagan and non pagan children. The story is so sweet, and. I imagine could become a firm bedtime favourite. Any child will enjoy colouring the pictures in. I love the tips for nurturing your child into a love of literature at the back too. Lovely little book.”

“This is an amazing book.

I bought this for my grandchildren ... but want to hang on to it for a while!”

“A lovely interactive book that everyone will enjoy “

Get your copy now!

<https://bit.ly/2WcyxPe>



# Pagan Puzzler

R	O	B	I	N	W	C	R	O	W
A	W	B	T	H	R	U	S	H	G
C	A	D	H	E	E	F	P	G	O
T	G	F	C	E	N	J	A	Y	L
I	T	I	T	I	S	R	R	T	D
T	A	N	A	P	W	A	R	E	C
E	I	C	H	G	I	V	O	N	R
U	L	H	T	A	F	E	W	N	E
L	H	I	U	M	T	N	J	I	S
B	D	U	N	N	O	C	K	L	T

- ◆ THRUSH
- ◆ RAVEN
- ◆ SPARROW
- ◆ FINCH
- ◆ BLUETIT
- ◆ DUNNOCK
- ◆ MAGPIE
- ◆ CROW
- ◆ ROBIN
- ◆ JAY
- ◆ WREN
- ◆ NUTHATCH
- ◆ WAGTAIL
- ◆ SWIFT
- ◆ GOLDCREST
- ◆ LINNET

Can you remember which of these birds turned up in our Magical Birds feature?



# Pagan Puzzler

Mix Up! Solve These Airy Anagrams

ORDONTA

REEZEB

DWIN

AGLE

IRENCARHU

PYTONHO

DRILWHIWN



## Transformative Riddles

- ♦ What animal has no wings, yet will fly?
- ♦ I am the type of insect, you may see flutter by, my wings are bright and cheerful, I am a \_\_\_\_\_
- ♦ The colder I get, the harder I get. What am I?
- ♦ I have a mouth but never speak, a bed but never sleep. What am I?
- ♦ I'm very wet and salty but it isn't with emotion, I cover most of the planet, because I am the \_\_\_\_\_
- ♦ I am the pause before the days get shorter, the brightest time of year, celebrated by faiths all over the Northern Hemisphere now and the Southern Hemisphere in December. What festival am I?



## Outdoor Paganism – A Short Guide to Respectful Outdoor Practice

*The following is an abridged excerpt from **Practically Pagan: An Alternative Guide to Planet Friendly Living**, out now from Moon Books at all good book shops and online.*

Nature seems to be calling folks back to it in droves, so it's more important than ever that we learn how to be respectful towards it. Here are some quick tips to help you connect with nature peacefully and gently, and hopefully, more deeply.

### *Stick to the Paths*

I can't hear this phrase without immediately returning to the movie *An American Werewolf in London*. The hapless backpackers are warned, "Stay on the road; keep clear of the moors." Of course, they follow neither of these pieces of advice and, well, I won't spoil the film for you should you not have seen it, but things take a bad turn from that point onward!



Thankfully, in most easily accessible countryside areas, paths tend to be clearly marked; no ominous warnings required. And there are various reasons why sticking to these paths is good for both you and the nature you're travelling through.

It's worth remembering that we don't automatically have a right to wander the woods, the mountains, the plains, the deserts, or the seashore, especially not disrespectfully. Other things live there, and were there first in many cases. Sticking to a few paths rather than making multiple trails all over these natural habitats helps nature thrive in its natural environment.

**Action:** If you get the chance to go outdoors, next time you're on a path, stop, and examine both edges of the path. Can you see where human interaction ends? What's the first sign of plant life? Can you see any animal life?

Appreciating the minutia of your journey into nature helps you understand just what a massive impact simply moving off a path could have. You might see delicate wildflowers, ants, or a sac of spider eggs. Take some photos or draw some pictures, or make a journal entry, as a way to stay connected to this moment.

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## 🟡 *Keep Dogs or Other Pets Under Control*

It's important to be mindful that dogs dashing off through woodlands or on mountain paths, unsupervised, can cause damage or get hurt themselves. Small animals and nesting birds are particularly at risk.



Many coastal areas will have guidelines about when you can and can't take your dog on particular parts of the beach or shoreline. This is normally in line with nesting seasons, but there may be areas where cliffs or paths are not safe, too. Be aware of local signage and report inadequate or unclear signage, to support the rest of your community.

### *Fire Safety*

Pagans practicing outdoors might often want a fire, either for warmth or for sacred purposes. In the countryside, a fire can have devastating consequences, as evidenced by the shocking Californian wildfire started in September 2019. This fire was at a popular camping area, and all it took was a badly designed firework to start a spark which destroyed over 7,000 acres of forest.

If you have to have a fire in the woods, be sure it's permitted. If you don't know what you're doing with fire, please don't just have a go and hope for the best. It really isn't worth the potential destruction that can come from a badly built or tended fire.

There are, of course, safe ways to have a fire outdoors, the primary one being to have an expert on hand who understands the technicalities and risks of fire building.

- ◆ Use a dedicated fire pit to avoid fire spreading.
- ◆ Ensure you are not starting the fire under overhanging branches or other flammable material.
- ◆ Have something on hand to smother the fire with.
- ◆ Stay alert—intoxication and fire don't go together!
- ◆ through fire safety tips with everyone present.



Make sure folks know what can and can't go on the fire. This is especially important for sacred fires for which it may be disrespectful to burn certain substances, but also protects the environment by avoiding toxic fumes if people try to burn plastic wrappers.

*Continues on next page...*



A fire can be a wonderful, communal centre to any group gathering. You can tell stories around it, toast marshmallows, and enjoy the outdoors at night. That's why it's such a good idea to ensure that someone within your group knows how to build and look after one properly.

### *Be Mindful of the Season*

Wherever you live and whatever the climate is like, it's worth finding out how seasonal change affects the local flora and fauna in your favourite outdoor haunts. During springtime, we love to go down to some local woods to see the bluebells. But we wouldn't recommend going there with dogs off the leash, as they can trample on the delicate flowers and damage them.

Likewise, areas that have birds nesting may be off limits if you're planning a big, noisy ritual or gathering. You might want to find out if there are any ground nesting birds in the areas you practice, as these are particularly vulnerable to hikers, dog walkers, and nature lovers of all kinds. One of my favourite birds is the curlew, instantly



recognisable by its long, curved beak and the whooping calls it makes that give the bird its name. The curlew is currently a bird of global conservation concern, partly to do with dwindling nesting sites. Their nests are often partially hidden in tall grasses, making it easy for them to get trampled by curious explorers. Yet another great reason to stick to the paths unless you have intimate knowledge of the area and its inhabitants.

It's tempting to look for the most remote and off-the-grid place possible to practice, away from prying eyes and judgmental passers-by. However, it's almost guaranteed that some other living being has got there first, so please respect that this is their space before it is ours, and enjoy practicing in harmony with nature, rather than at its expense.





## A to Z of Divination: Part 1 (A-F)

*By Aaron Garner*

Divination, in its broadest sense is any method of gaining information, often, but not exclusively, about the future, using magical, ritual, or supernatural means. The word itself is rooted in the Latin verb “*divinare*”, meaning ‘to foresee’.

In this first part of our A-Z of divination we will look at some methods from A-F. However, there are so many methods that can be discussed in this fascinating area that its been hard to choose only a few. We’ve tried to list some methods that are less commonly discussed, but if the topic interests you then we hope it spurs you on to look deeper at the many methods from history.

### A

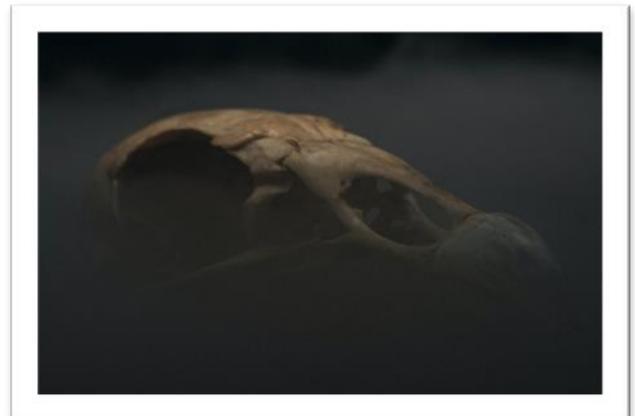
A is for Aeromancy... This has many variations as, and in its broadest sense, it is the art of divination by observing atmospheric conditions and not just air as the name may seem to suggest. Indeed, the sub form of this method using Wind is another beginning with A, that is, Austromancy. One form of Aeromantic divining that many of us find fun as children, and one you might head outside to try, is Nephomancy, or ‘cloud divination’.



Look to the clouds with a question held in mind. What shapes do you notice? How do they shift and change? How might those connect to your question? This can be a very relaxing way to pass time whilst taking in the splendour of amazing cloud formations.

### B

B is for Bones... This one is not for everyone and if you have any values that prevents the use of animal bones in your pagan practice then this is one you may avoid. However, divining by bones or osteomancy, it is one of the oldest forms of divination that has been, and still is,

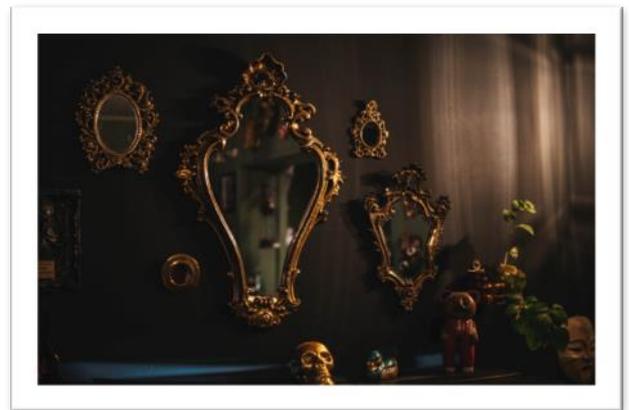


● practiced around the world within many cultural practices. Sometimes the bones are burned as the diviner observes the sign and symbols they produce, known as pyro-osteomancy, but often the bones are thrown (or cast) and the patterns or shapes they make are interpreted. In many variations, bones might be marked with symbols that add more to the interpretation of the casting.

Bones can be collected and cleaned after eating if you do eat meat, though the attentive nature wanderer will easily find bones of wild animals if you're interested in exploring this slightly macabre method. Bones **MUST** be well cleaned and sterilised before handling them though so use gloves. There are suppliers online that sell bones for craft and divination purposes but please check that they are obtained through ethical means.

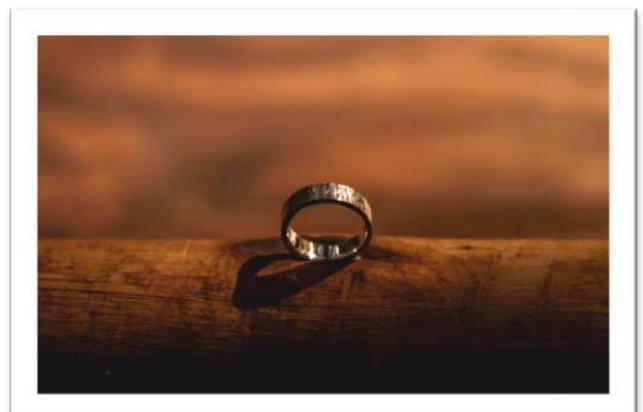
## C

C is for Catoptromancy... A method of receiving information from a focus on reflective surfaces and mirrors. There are various forms of this method too. Some practitioners of this method use a black mirror and strict ritual elements, considering the black mirror surface to be a portal between the mundane world and that of spirit through which information is passed. However, using the reflective surfaces of water in a black bowl is another related method though technically a combination of hydromancy (water divination) and catoptromancy. Another related method for our letter C is Crystallomancy, again providing the diviner with information through the focus on crystals or a specialist 'gazing-ball' often used in stereotypical images of a 'fortune teller'.



## D

D is for Dactylomancy... Divination with a ring has been a popular method of asking questions through history, with variations recorded as far back as the Middle Ages. A common method is to suspend a ring on a piece of thread to act as a pendulum and hang the ring over a circle with letters or yes/no responses on the edge. The directions that the ring



● swings may indicate a yes or no respond or spell out responses if you're using letters.

## E

E is for Encromancy... This one can get messy, as encromancy is divination by ink stains. Take a piece of paper, write your name and a question on it. Then turn it over, drip ink onto the paper 13 times, fold the paper press it together gently then unfold the paper to reveal what shapes the ink has taken during the folding stage. You may have seen the Roschach ink-blot



test, still used in psychiatry to explore the perceptions of those being tested, and these test use images similar to those created through encromancy. Keep in mind though, that ink (Indian Ink is available at most craft stores) can stain clothes, flooring, and furniture very easily, so be careful!

## F

F is for Favomancy. This is another divination method through which we can cast lots (lot casting is known more widely as cleromancy) on the floor or onto a divining cloth and interpret the patterns that result. This time though, we are using 'beans'. Again, this method is common around the world throughout history with Russian seers known as pxažayš or "bean throwers", and 'fortune-tellers' that use this bean throwing method, or bacanje graha, found in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Assuming you have permission, you might experiment with a handful of dry beans (do NOT use baked beans in sauce! That would be messy!), think of a question and cast them onto a plain cloth or other surface. Do the beans create a pattern of some sort? Did they fall in line or did they cluster together? Did they look to be scattered and disorganised? What might the pattern say about your question?

Look out for the next issue of Aether Magazine, in which we'll explore some more interesting methods of divination from letters G to L.

## Pagan Parenting: Maintaining Your Sense of Self

*The following is an excerpt from the upcoming book *Practically Pagan: An Alternative Guide to Parenting* by “Elementals” author Debi Gregory and “An Alternative Guide to Planet Friendly Living” author Mabh Savage.*

Being a parent is an awesome responsibility. Whether you think of it as your job, role, calling; it can become all-encompassing and take over aspects of your life without you even realising it. It's important to remember that although you are a parent, you are not just a parent. You are a whole person with your own dreams and ambitions, your own hobbies and interests, and your own passions.

That doesn't mean that you shouldn't throw yourself wholeheartedly into parenting. What it means is you shouldn't sacrifice yourself on the altar of parenthood! Believe us when we say your kids will be better off if you are more fulfilled, happier with yourself, and spiritually connected. Cutting everything out of your life that's not directly related to your kids can lead to depression and anxiety, and can cause resentment to build up within your family unit- whatever that unit looks like for you. How much time you can devote to your own interests, of course, depends very much on how busy your kids keep you and what their needs are.

Think of your family like a tree. You are the trunk of that tree and your partner and other adults in your support network are the branches. Your children are the leaves, the blooms, the seeds and the tiny bugs that all depend upon the tree for the eco system that sustains their lives. You have your bark, the tough exterior that you show to the world and use as the front facing expression of who you are. Your roots are your foundations within yourself, your needs, wants and dreams.



When you don't feed those roots and nurture all that they need in order to remain healthy and in good working order, cracks begin to show in the bark. It withers and dries, allowing for infestations and disease. After the bark starts to crack, the branches are no longer safe, the relationships between the trunk and the branches begins to break down. This then spreads to all the other things that the tree sustains, leaving them mal-nourished and unsafe.

Maintaining your sense of self, empowering yourself in your right to have dreams, harness skills, practice talents and hobbies, strengthen important social and familial relationships; all this is vital to your remaining strong enough to truly care for your family in a sustainable way.

It also means that you're modelling good self-care and autonomy for your children, who will see everything you are, regardless of how you try to hide it. Children are small but they're very perceptive. Feed your roots and maintain your bark in order to keep your eco-system healthy, empowering and sustaining for all that family life can throw at you.

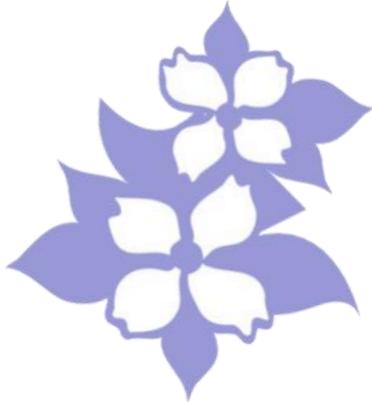
*Visit [Ponderings of a Pagan Parent on Facebook](#), find the [Elemenpals at all good bookstores](#) and on [Witch Path Forward](#), or for Mabh's solo works, simply search "Mabh Savage" at your favourite online (or solid!) book shop or [Spotify](#).*



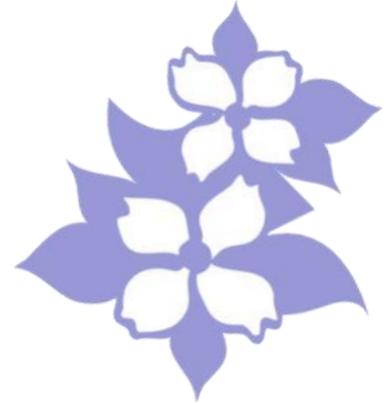


## Your Poems

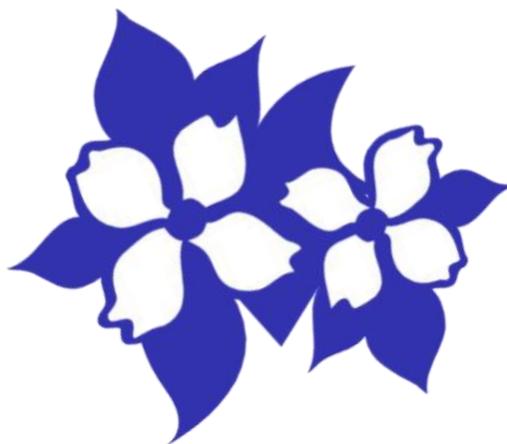
*The Wind Speaks*  
*By Hannah Semple*



Gentle breezes breathe,  
Calm breezes sigh,  
Angry winds shriek  
And tormented winds cry.  
When the winds frustrated  
It howls and bawls,  
It whistles for attention  
Through cracks in doors.  
It whispers in the graveyard,  
It squawks by stormy seas,  
Its sings across the meadows  
Its sweet melodies.  
It calls to us in every language  
From valley to mountain peak,  
Even deep in the forests  
You will hear the wind speak.



*Send your poems to [aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk)*



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Original Aether design and concept by Debi Gregory. Legacy content including glossary and useful links by Debi Gregory.

Corrections and suggestions to [aether@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:aether@paganfederation.co.uk)

We try to be as inclusive as possible in our magazine. All articles are written by individuals with their own paths and beliefs, and those may be very different to yours, and we always try to be respectful of that. If you found anything within our magazine that was problematic or offensive, please let us know at the above email address. After all, it's only when we know better, that we can do better.

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Did you know we currently have LOTS of special promotions happening in the PF products shop online?

Grab yourself a super value goody bag for just £12, containing items worth over £30. Or perhaps indulge yourself with a huge bumper box of 120 mixed scents incense sticks for only £2.

Pagan Federation Products – the perfect way to show your support for the work of the PF with a lovely gift for all seasonal celebrations. Badges, patches, calendars, T-shirts, mugs and more. Visit <https://paganfed.org/shop/paganfederation-products>

Check the shop or social media for announcements to keep updated with offers and discounts. For queries please contact Jo on [products@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:products@paganfederation.co.uk)

£5 Pagan Dawn Book of Shadows Ben Timmons

£3.50

£6

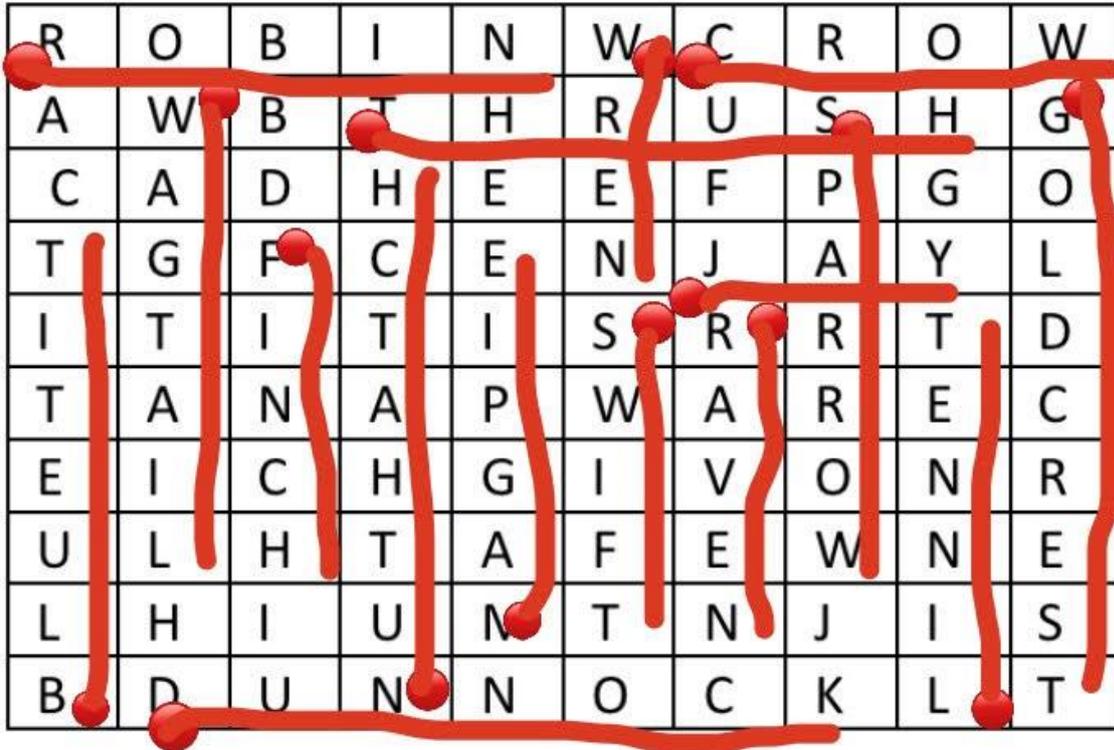
£2

[www.paganfed.org/shop](http://www.paganfed.org/shop)



# Puzzle Answers

## Wordsearch



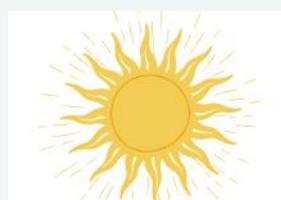
The birds Thrush and Swift were in both the wordsearch and the Magical Birds feature. Well done if you remembered!

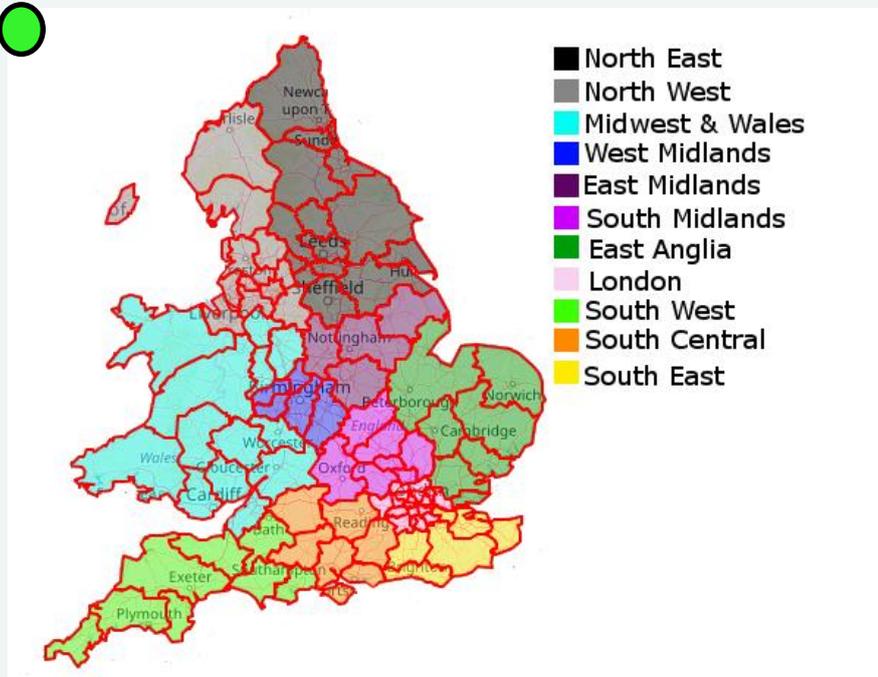
### Airy Anagrams

- TORNADO
- BREEZE
- WIND
- GALE
- HURRICANE
- TYPHOON
- WHIRLWIND

### Riddle Answers

- ◆ Caterpillar
- ◆ Butterfly
- ◆ Water or ice
- ◆ A river
- ◆ Ocean
- ◆ Summer Solstice





If you're unsure which PF district you're in, this handy map by Jason Slowe can help!

## **Aether Glossary**

*Here are some definitions and links that may be useful for those new to the community, youths, and children.*

**Pantheon** – A group of deities associated with a specific group.

**Aether** – The upper sky or breath of the divine.

**Resonates** – To trigger positive feelings or an emotional response.

**Faith** – A system of spiritual belief.

**Horus** – A sun god of Egyptian origin.

**Juno** – Roman queen of heaven.

**Triglav** – Slavic deity.

**Magec** – Deity of light.

**Oracle** – A divine form of communication.

**Oracle cards** – Cards used to communicate with the divine.

**Divine** – Comes from the Latin word for “godly” and is associated with anything deemed “more than” or “super” natural.

**Revelation** – A profound understanding or communication.

**Symbolic/symbolism** – When one thing represents or stands in for something else.

**Angels** – Divine messengers.

**Zen** – A state of meditation.

- Divination** – To communicate with “other” or to interpret signs.
- Sabbats** – Seasonal festivals that celebrate the changing wheel of the year.
- Deities** – Personification of the divine.
- Moot** – A meeting of Pagans.
- Moon phase** – The cycle of the moon from waxing to waning.
- Mindful** – To take more conscious notice.
- Hail** – A form of recognising the divine or the congregation.
- Sidhe** (pronounced shee) – Magical creatures in Celtic and Gaelic mythology. Often compared to fairies.
- Wicca** – Pagan path often associated with witchcraft.
- Faerie/fae** – Mythical beings associated with many beliefs systems.
- Celebrant** – A person who performs ceremonies such as birth blessings, funerals and Pagan unions.
- Altar** – A sacred space, often displaying tools of an individual’s path.
- Rite/rites** – A ritual or ceremony of divine or spiritual significance.
- Druid** – Celtic Earth based path.
- Runes** – Ancient Germanic alphabet now often used in divination.
- Atheist** – An individual who doesn’t subscribe to conventional constructs of spiritual beliefs.
- PF** – The Pagan Federation – An organisation who aims to support the Pagan community and educate those outside the community on Pagan practices.
- Meditate** – To either look inward or look to the divine in an attempt to find answers or calm.
- Solstice** – Points of the year when the Earth is tilting either closest too or farthest away from the Sun, either at Summer or Winter, causing the longest and shortest days of the year.
- Equinox** – Points precisely halfway between the Solstices.
- Samhain** – Often confused with or associated with Halloween, this is the festival halfway between the Autumnal Equinox and Winter Solstice and is often associated with death or new beginnings.
- Ostara** – Associated with the Spring Equinox.
- Yule** – A Northern European celebration of the Winter Solstice.
- Guru** – A spiritual guide or mentor.



**Doreen Valiente** (pronounced valient-ey) – Often called the Mother of Modern Witchcraft. Important figure for anyone in the Pagan community, a pioneer of our modern practices.

**Pagan/Paganism** – A term for those who identify as falling under the umbrella term for many, mostly Earth based, practices.

**Tradition** – A series of practices or beliefs that are handed down through generations or practiced regularly and consistently.

**Ritual** – A ceremony repeated at significant times or for significant reasons.

**Spell/spell work** – A ritual with a specific purpose. A working of intent.

**Karma** – The ideology that your actions have further consequences that will manifest.

**Wyrd** – Similar to fate or karma.

**Havamal** – An ancient text of Nordic origin.

**Ancestors** – The generations that came before, your deceased family.

**Reincarnation** – The ideology that a being can be reborn into another life after death.

**Tribe** – A group of people who are connected by ancestors, beliefs or customs.

**Religious practice** – The beliefs and traditions of a particular faith or faith group.

**Theology** – The study of the divine and spiritual.

**Occult/Occultist** – Relating to magic or supernatural practices.

**Denominations** – Particular faith groups.

**Magic** – Some call this the supernatural ability to harness and control and others call it other things. It's best to read a lot and decide for yourself.

**Magick** – A word used to distinguish the magic of faith beliefs from the stereotype of magic and magicians tricks.

**Celestial** – Heavenly or divine.

Relevant links -

Dorset Wildlife Trust - <https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

National trust - <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>

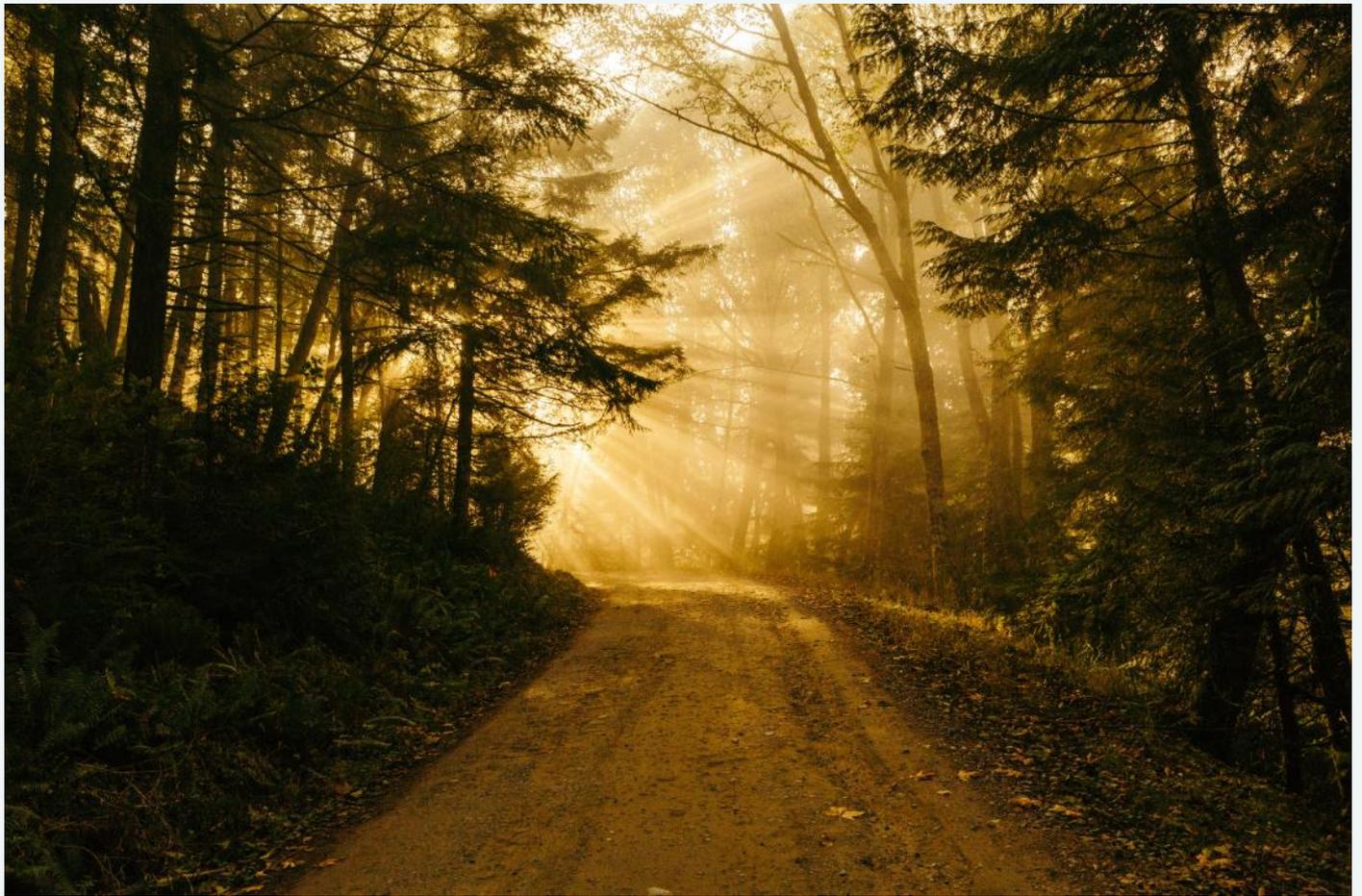
Pagan Federation – <https://paganfed.org/>

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Wildlife Trust - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>

Witchy clip art credit - <http://www.joellessacredgrove.com/Clipart/index.html>

Pagan Aid Environmental and anti-poverty charity: <https://www.paganaid.org/>



Thank you for taking the time to read this publication, which has featured work from people all over the Pagan community!

We at the Pagan Federation thank our contributors and we wish you, our whole community, a very happy, safe, and blessed Summer and Autumn!

