



# The Pagan Federation South Midlands District Newsletter

Autumn Equinox 2016

Welcome to the latest edition of the PF South Midlands District Newsletter. Any news, events, articles etc for inclusion should be emailed to Jackie at:  
[southmidlands.webmaster@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:southmidlands.webmaster@paganfederation.co.uk)

## District Managers Report

I'm very pleased to welcome Jean Merrilees to the Team as our District Disability Liaison. Jean introduces herself below, and I'm sure she'll be a great asset to the district, particularly as I know we have a number of members locally who have disabilities.

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September the PF Council meeting took place, following which there are a number of changes to the PF Committee. Mike Stygal stood down as President and has been replaced by Robin Taylor. Mike will continue to serve the PF as Community Support Officer and Vice President. Andrew Troszok replaces Robin Taylor as Treasurer, having previously served as Assistant Treasurer. Jay Anderson replaces Adam Pamment as Advocacy Officer and Andrea Merry takes on the previously vacant role of General Secretary. David Spofforth replaces Hazel MacMillan as Media Officer, although Hazel will continue to serve as Social Media Manager.

I am still covering the District Manager role in a caretaker capacity until we can find someone to take it on longer term. If you are interested in taking on this role, please email me on [southmidlands.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:southmidlands.dm@paganfederation.co.uk). You must be a member of the PF and like all PF roles it is an unpaid voluntary position.

**Jackie Palman**  
**Acting District Manager**  
**Pagan Federation - South Midlands**

## District Updates

### District Disability Liaison

Merry Meet! My name is Jean Merrilees, I live in Deanshanger, Northants and I have recently volunteered to be the Pagan Federation District Disability Liaison (DL) for the South Midlands.

I am hoping that as a DL I can be a point of contact and support for pagan people in the District that identify as being disabled. Also, I hope to raise the profile of disability issues to encourage our community to becoming even more accessible and welcoming to people that might face barriers to inclusion.



Disability matters to me personally, professionally and politically.

Personally, because for many years I have been challenged various health conditions, some chronic others acute. This limits me physically and I have to pace myself carefully to avoid burning out. As bits of me have been bolted back together by orthopaedic surgeons I experience daily pain and some mobility impairment. In the past I needed a wheelchair to get around.

Disability matters to me professionally, because for many years I have worked for a national disability organisation; primarily in the area of information and advice provision. Also, if everything goes to plan I will soon be a qualified Occupational Therapist.

Politically, I'm committed to building inclusive sustainable communities, a veteran of many campaigns including the peace movement, environmental protection and LGBT issues. I view disability issues through the social model of disability, which focuses on the environmental and social barriers people face not their physical or mental impairments. To illustrate this with a personal example, when I used a wheelchair it wasn't my medical diagnosis that prevented me from attending my (then) local moot, it was the stairs at the venue. Thinking beyond the obvious example of someone using a wheelchair it is also often possible to accommodate the needs of people with less visible impairments, (such as social anxiety, mental health, sensory impairments and learning difficulties), if as a community we are mindful and creative of how we plan our events. I'm very happy to talk to anyone about how events can be made more inclusive, I'll soon have an official PF email address but in the meantime you can contact me via Jackie Palman at: [southmidlands.dm@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:southmidlands.dm@paganfederation.co.uk).

### **District IT and Communications Officer**

I maintain our district website: [www.pfsouthmidlands.org](http://www.pfsouthmidlands.org). If you have a moot, event, group, shop or service which you'd like featured on the website, or if you have an update to an existing entry please get in touch - [southmidlands.webmaster@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:southmidlands.webmaster@paganfederation.co.uk).

I also edit and send out this newsletter. While I'm happy to continue doing this, I would find it really helpful if there is anyone who would be interested in writing content and / or gathering news and details of upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter, to help make it more interesting and useful for members. If you'd like to do this, please contact me – [southmidlands.webmaster@paganfederation.co.uk](mailto:southmidlands.webmaster@paganfederation.co.uk).

The District also has a Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/392184074188925/> which often has announcements about Pagan events in the District and surrounding areas.

**Jackie Palman**  
**District IT & Communications Officer**  
**Pagan Federation South Midlands**

## Events

### Samhain Shenanigans

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October Pagan Pride UK: Anglia are putting on an evening of live entertainment to raise funds for the Pagan Pride Anglia Festival. Acts include Belly Dancers, Dark Morris and fantastic singers!

This cabaret style show is taking place in Potterspury, Northants from 8.00 - 11.00 p.m. with tickets available from Ticketsource: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/EHLLID>

For more information see the Event page on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/152123498569281/>

### Moots, Meetings and Groups

#### Oxford Talking Stick Moot

Every Thursday

The Talking Stick is a discussion group meeting at an Oxford pub each Thursday from about 8.30. We pass the stick around the circle and each person speaks or passes. We decide the week's topic at the end of the previous week's meeting. Prior knowledge of the subject is not necessary: we aim to learn from each other. The Talking Stick is an independent group open to all Pagans, witches, Wiccans, Druids, Thelemites, Shamanics, Magickians and anyone else who comes in good fellowship.

Address: the Angel and Greyhound pub, 30 St Clements Street, Oxford, OX4 1AB

Contact [katy@kjennison.com](mailto:katy@kjennison.com) for more information and venue details.

#### White Crow Coffee Morning, Aylesbury

Fourth Sunday of each month

This Coffee Morning is run by the people behind the Aylesbury Moot and is designed for those who are not able to come to evening moots. It starts at 10.30 am on the fourth Sunday of each month. Children welcome.

Venue is the White Hart, Exchange Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UR, which is almost opposite the Waterside Theatre. Parking next door and stations nearby.  
Accessibility: Disabled toilet.

Please contact Dianne via [kowethasbrangwyn@googlemail.com](mailto:kowethasbrangwyn@googlemail.com) for further information

## Pagan Pride UK- Anglia

Based in Milton Keynes, Pagan Pride UK- Anglia will be bringing The Pagan Pride UK Festival experience to Milton Keynes. There will be fundraising activities throughout the year and we are always looking for volunteers to get involved. To find out more, get involved or to just keep an eye on upcoming events pop over to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/paganprideukanglia>

## Grove of the White Goddess

Monthly on a Monday (please check for dates), grove ceremony and socialising for druids, witches and seekers of every path. Particularly solitary witches - come and meet others who've changed their minds about practising the craft alone!

Address: Wellingborough Museum, 12 Castle Way, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 1XB

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: £6

PLUS, weekly on a Thursday, informal learning and social events, on everything from reflexology to chaos magic! Plus cake of course. Address: Varies, but normally somewhere around Wellingborough

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: Free

For further information, contact Wayne Freeman on [groveofthewhitegoddess@gmail.com](mailto:groveofthewhitegoddess@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/thegroveofthewhitegoddess](https://www.facebook.com/thegroveofthewhitegoddess)

## Hertford Pagan Moot

Last Wednesday of the month. We are an informal social moot that meets on the last Wednesday of every month in the upstairs room of the White Horse Pub, Hertford. All paths welcome, as are newcomers and older hands alike.

For more information, find us on Facebook or email Geraldine, Darren and Kate at [hertfordmoot@gmail.com](mailto:hertfordmoot@gmail.com)

Price: Free

Address: White Horse Pub, 33 Castle Street, Hertford

Time: 8pm

Accessibility: As this is a historic building sadly there is no wheelchair access or disabled toilet.



## **Motley Moot Northants ( the pagans wot picnic)**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/353108811393187/>

The Motley Moot is a small group of pagans from all paths who are based in and around Corby and Kettering. We meet on the last Friday of every month and at other times and are very much a fun group of spiritual friends.

We hold regular outdoor ritual and often meet adhoc for midnight picnics and spiritual practice.

New members are always welcome and we are open to anyone who seeks to explore their spiritual self. For further information please message Suzanne or Jim on the Facebook page above.

## **Aylesbury Pub Moot**

Moot in Aylesbury for those in the Vale and beyond!

The moot is being held at the Hop Pole pub, 83 Bicester Road, Aylesbury. HP19 9AZ at 8pm every second Monday of the month. This is a real ale pub, with beer brewed locally and it does coffee too, and you will be sure of a warm welcome. For further information, please contact Dianne via [kowethasbrangwyn@googlemail.com](mailto:kowethasbrangwyn@googlemail.com).

## **Strong Oak Moot – Stevenage**

Third Tuesday of the month. The first moot of this social pub moot was held on the 19th February 2013 at 19.30. It is hoped that this seedling acorn will grow into a Strong Oak. All paths and levels of experience are welcome. Meet in the Saloon Bar and look out for the copy of Pagan Dawn on the table. For further information please contact Jacqui and Chris via [jackiebabolcsai@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jackiebabolcsai@hotmail.co.uk).

Address: The Crooked Billet, Symonds Green Lane, SG12HP  
Time: 19.30

## **Paranormal Meet up – High Wycombe**

Fourth Wednesday of the month. A Paranormal meet up group in High Wycombe on the last Wednesday of every month. (may vary according to holidays!) It is a small group at present, but hope numbers will grow and we all have varying interests from Ghosts, Angels, Orbs, UFOS, Crop Circles, Life After Death, Astral travel, etc etc. As the group develops we hope from time to time have speakers talk on specific subjects and a small charge typically of £5.00 would be made to cover their expenses on those occasions. We have a Facebook group called High Wycombe Paranormal Meet up at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/415462125205125/>.

Contact : [neil@geddesward.co.uk](mailto:neil@geddesward.co.uk) or contact Neil via his FB page at Neil Pagan Artist.

Address: Bricklayers Arms, High St, Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks  
Time: 7.30 for 8pm

## **Cernunnos MCC Club**

[www.cernunnos-mcc.org](http://www.cernunnos-mcc.org)

A pagan orientated motorbike club that meets on Thursday evenings from 8pm onwards at The Coffee Pot Tavern, High Street, Yardley Gobion NN12 7TN. We hold a number of events during the year, the main one being a three-day biker rally called the Mabon Rally, held on the weekend closest to the Autumn Equinox. The club celebrates at other times of the year to include Samhain with an evening event, Yule with an evening event, Beltane with a bike show and the summer solstice with a camping weekend. The club's website has a comprehensive biker party and rally guide for UK events; there are links to other bike clubs and bike organisations in the UK, Europe and elsewhere in the world.

## **Bishops Stortford Moot**

Our moot takes place on the third Monday of every month from 8pm at The Castle pub, Castle Street. Just off of new town hill/road. We are a friendly open group who welcomes new comers with open arms. We have a different fascinating subject every month, previous ones including past lives, familiars, crystals, local ghost stories and legends.

For more information contact: [willow\\_dragonkat@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:willow_dragonkat@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Order of the Oath Full Moon Moot**

Held on the night of the full moon each month. Circles are held at the stone circle at Willen, Milton Keynes from approximately 9pm each month.

For more information please contact the group via their Facebook Page

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

Address: Stone Circle, Willen, Milton Keynes, Bucks Time: 9pm

## **Chiltern Nemeton Druid Grove coffee mornings**



First Sunday of the month at Tiki Cafe (Organic and Fair Trade Cafe) in the Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead  
Time: 10am-12noon

The Grove almost always has open and informal Coffee mornings as listed above, please contact Reverend Paul Sandford to check on [paulsandford28@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulsandford28@yahoo.co.uk)

The Chiltern Nemeton Grove is a friendly and welcoming druidic inspired community that shares an Animistic and Deeply Ecological vision that draws primarily from our Celtic but also from our Germanic Pagan roots.

Accessibility: Disabled toilet.

## **Bedford Pagan Moot**

Meets on the first Thursday of the Month from 8pm at the Bedford Arms, 2 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2QA.

For further information, find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Bedford-Pagan-Moot-840066526077875>.

## Shamanic Sharing & Learning Circle – The Meeting of Kind Minds

The Shamanic Sharing Circle was birthed in November 2013 by shamanic practitioner, 4th level paqo, and life long earth lover and learner of the Celtic, Druid and Pagan traditions, Elizabeth Calderara. Whether you are already following your own spiritual path, seeking inner peace or wanting to add to your spirituality, we warmly welcome you to our Sharing and Learning Circle.

Run by Elizabeth and Karen Puttick, initiated Wiccan High Priestess who works with nature, and faeries. These two women open the circle for teachings, sharing experiences, guidance and joyous fun for all who seek to follow a spiritual path. No previous knowledge or practice is needed, all are welcome.



Meetings: £12.00 per person.

Thoughts from some of the circle.

'It's fun and welcoming' - Jess

'Really enjoyed this evening, thank you' Jenny

'Thank you so much for the circle yesterday evening, I felt energised and yet calm when I got home.' Dee

For meeting dates and venue, to book your cushion space, call us, Elizabeth Calderara on 0779 1659 554.

## Shamanic Drummers MK, Milton Keynes

Shamanic Drummers MK is a ladies frame drum healing group. We meet every Tuesday morning 10-1 in Milton Keynes, venue to be confirmed each week. The cost is £4 which includes refreshments. We have a few spare drums, please pre book one.

Our sister group Great Oak drummers has been recently formed. Sessions are mixed sex and held on a Wednesday evening 6.30-9.30pm at Wyrdos, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes. The cost is £5 which includes refreshments. No experience necessary, all welcome. Please pre book a drum if required.

Please check our page for updates <https://www.facebook.com/shamanicdrummersmk>

## The Small Print

The opinions expressed by writers are not necessarily those of The Pagan Federation or its Officers. © Copyright remains with individual contributors. No part, written or visual, of this newsletter may be reproduced without written permission from the publishers.

Inclusion within this newsletter should not be seen as an endorsement of events, products or services and readers must rely on their own judgement, although complaints will be noted.

## Deadlines for Submissions:

Spring Equinox – 1<sup>st</sup> March

Autumn Equinox – 1<sup>st</sup> September

Summer Solstice – 1<sup>st</sup> June

Winter Solstice – 1<sup>st</sup> December