



## Summer Solstice Issue Y.R. XLVIII

June 21, 2011 c.e.

Volume 27 Issue 4

### Editor's Note:

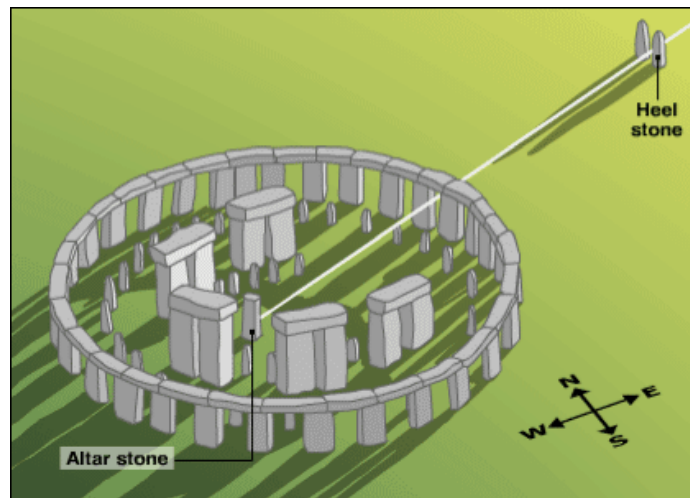


Woo Hoo! Three is the magic number? It is the third anniversary issue already of this incarnation of Reformed Druid journalism! While I'm still hoping the Missal-Any may return and I'm still reading the Druid's Egg, I think this Inquirer will continue on for years to come, if nothing else, as a periodic incentive for me to keep my hand in on Druidic matters. Sorry about the slim pickings for the last four issues.

The Lughnsasadh issue submission deadline is July 20<sup>th</sup> to [mikerdna@hotmail.com](mailto:mikerdna@hotmail.com)

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Hell



# News of the Grove

## Three Stone Protogrove: News from AZ

Greetings!

The members of the Three Stones protogrove are on the 'spring/summer' hike at the Red Rock trails picking up a lot of loose trash tourists just throw around. We collect, bag and properly dump...as well we are performing the Summer rites on location at 'first trail' we will also be leading a guided meditation of the Earth Mother and keep Her 'healthy'. We are also going along, on a Nature hike to teach the local, native plant and tree lore, and working with the natural streams in the Mohave deserts!

We wish all the best unto this season and all seasons.  
In the service of the Mother.

## Koad Grove: News from Ohio (temporarily in NY)

Greetings, Michael...

....From the Fleeting Grove of Sherman, New York. On 27 May, at a dawn ritual, 2 new members were welcomed into the 1st Order and shared the Waters of Life at dawn, with Belenos rising. Welcome to Missy and Barbara!

Yours in the Mother,  
Phagos  
Arch Druid of the Fleeting Grove of Sherman, New York

## News from Acorn Protogrove: News from Minnesota/Ontario

Last week I posted something on [RDNAtalk@yahoo.com](mailto:RDNAtalk@yahoo.com) to ask if there was any other way to explain death other than it was part of the life cycle of Mother Nature. As a whole the responses were similar, saying that it was a good way to explain it. Not too long after this short discussion Mike asked me to write out some of my thoughts regarding some of the big issues.

I will tell the story again as it brought about this article on my opinions on how to explain the big issues to children. My main job these days is taking care of my 9 year old niece Tara and 4 year old niece Caitlin. As I was getting lunch ready for them I mentioned that there was a rabbit in the back yard. I picked up Caitlin and told them to look out the window in the back door to look at the rabbit. At that same moment a rather large crow came out of the tree in the yard behind my sister's and raided the rabbit hole and over the next minute or so it killed and flew off with 3 of the baby rabbits in the hole. At this point Caitlin is crying because it was something she had never seen before. At that age death isn't something you see very often, but I had to say something. I realized that my two nieces have had little exposure to it and I have tried to avoid the issue as I felt they were too young. Alas I couldn't avoid the issue any longer. I explained to her that it was part of the life cycle of Mother Nature and it happens all the time and after a few minutes she finally calmed down. After I got the responses online I asked Caitlin if the death of the rabbits scared her and she said yes but what she said next startled me. She asked if rabbits went to heaven and the only thing that came to mind was to ask her what she thought and she said "Rabbits are god's children too, he will protect them." At this point I realized that as a

general rule kids are smarter than we give them credit for. When it comes to explaining the big issues; whether it's death, sex, major illness of a family member or anything that you might consider a big issue the only answer I have is to ask what they think and the answer may surprise you. And above all don't lie to them, it may eventually come back and bite you in the ass. I'm sorry if this isn't exactly what Mike was looking for but I can only say this, use your best judgment and hope it works out. If nothing else you will learn from any mistake you might make and so will the children. Fear of making a mistake will only hurt you in the long run.

I am not a psychologist or a wise man but death is a part of what we are and to deny it lessens the life we are living and when push comes to shove never forget that children are our future and we will learn as much from them as they will from us. Do not forget to enjoy their company for they are only young for a short time and once it's gone you can't get it back.

Peace be with you all. Walk softly and carry big stick.  
Ross [dracos4999@yahoo.com](mailto:dracos4999@yahoo.com)

### **Blackthorn Protogrove: News from Kentucky (formerly Indiana)**

Hi Mike, thanks for updating our change of address, but you have us listed in the "lost, missing, gone" section. We are still operational, and holding regular meetings, just in Louisville, KY (we sold the Georgetown, IN house). When you can, please re-list us in the active groups section.

Mike

Beltane celebration.

Here is a link to an article I wrote which was published in our Local Paper.

<http://www.aerotechnews.com/ntcfortirwin/communitynews/Maypole-Dance-celebrates-light-and-life->

You are welcome to use it within the Inquirer if you choose.

You can see the language used was targeted for those of the military community and did a great deal to bolster our stand with the Installation Commanders and others who had been somewhat concerned over the growing popularity of our group.

The Protogrove is expending most of its energies in assisting these soldiers at Fort Irwin and with the post chaplain, sponsor Earth Spirit NTC. The Earth Spirit Group is very much inclusive like the RDNA and I insist that the only stipulation to participate is an acknowledgement that "Nature Is Good". Many of our group have deployed family members and the weekly gathers offer a great deal of support. We have a Facebook page (Earth Spirit NTC) and find our weekly attendance fluctuates from 10 to 30 any given week.

We'll be having a campout / celebration of the Solstice over the weekend of June 24-26.

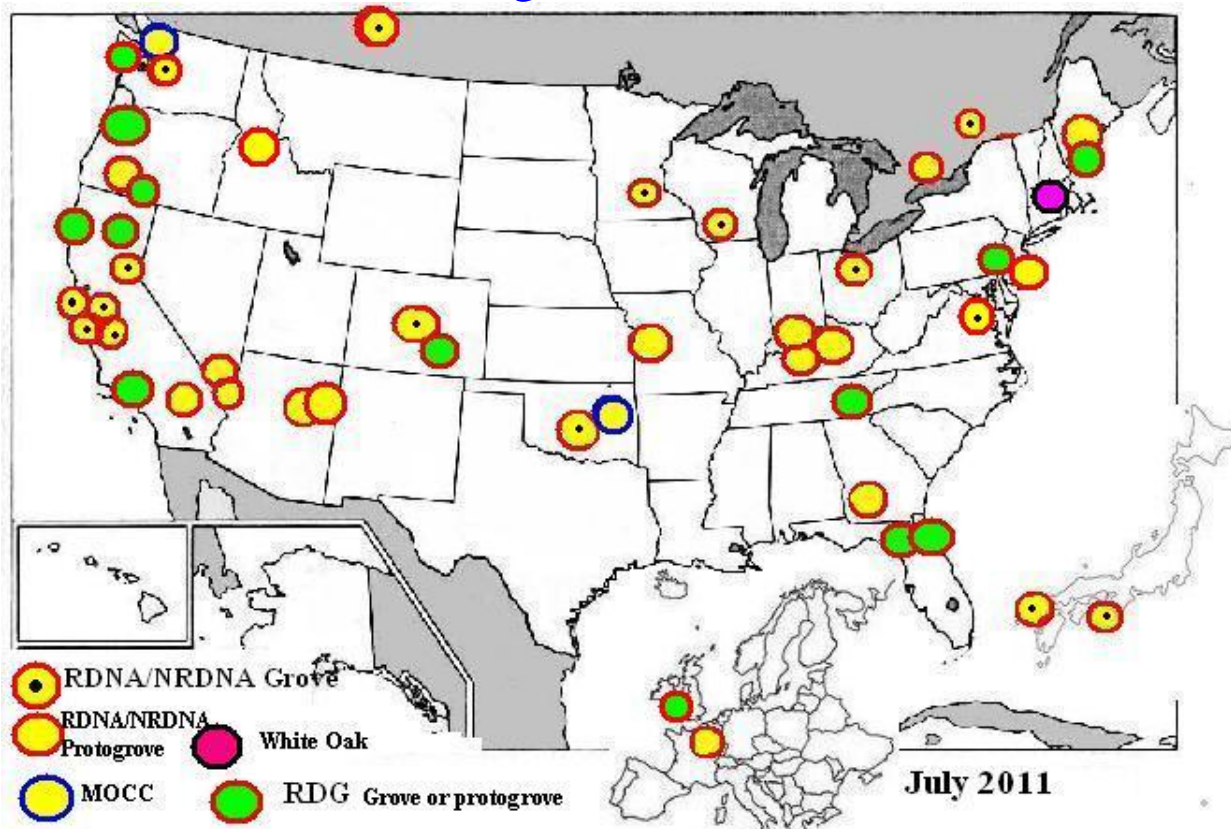
I'll send some notes from that.

In Service

Bruce O'Dell , Saher de Wahull

<http://www.aerotechnews.com/ntcfortirwin/communitynews/Maypole-Dance-celebrates-light-and-life->

**Where are the Druids? With the best available data....**



## News from Rua and EHOAH Druids

This past week May 14-21st (Anura 25 - Pullus 1st, Pandion Ehoah Calendar) I was fortunate to be a helper for a friend on a four day fast they were having in the Algoma Highlands of Ontario, Canada. This fast was conducted by an Anishnabe medicine man (Ojibway Native) and each faster needed a helper to eat and pray for them at base camp as well as help them up and down the Mountain. They would be in solitude without food or water for four whole days, with daily check ups by the Medicine Man (only observing with no verbal contact). Meanwhile the helpers at base camp would partake in daily sunrise ceremonies and sweat lodges to support the fasters and to work on their personal spiritual needs as well. This was my first time experiencing the culture of the Native side of my bloodline (being Metis), so I was ecstatic. I was the North Door in my first sweat, and was greeter for four other sweats (the first one was with the fasters, four with helpers, and a last one with the fasters, before a feast). I had learned that to be a Door for a Direction was to bring in that essence of that direction, to embody it as best as your ability, and being from the North made me an automatic candidate. As a result I would sometimes introduce myself as coming from, "The Land of The Yellow Autumn". My 3 yr. old had insisted to go in that first sweat, and since I was told that Isaac (The Medicine Man) is very okay with, and in fact encourages people to leave whenever they need to (He is a very understanding and respectful person) and that his sweats are mild compared to most since the lodges are large (there is plenty of room to stretch out and lay down), I was comfortable bring her in too. I was also informed that this sort of thing is uncommon with other medicine people, as most expect you to stay for the whole round (each round is when the ceremony starts and finishes and then the door opens to let people out if they need to, the amount of rounds and type of ceremonies within the sweat lodge varies from medicine person to medicine person). As it went on, she was uncomfortable with the dark, and then when the hissing sound from the water thrown on the rocks she said she wanted out and then I put her to bed for the evening and re entered when that round was done. She hadn't wanted to go in until the second last sweat, and when she did she ended up staying for the whole thing, having slept through three quarters of it. Everyone one there was so proud of her being able to do that. It being dark in the sweat lodge really allowed for everyone to experience without visual distraction and when talking occurs, it allows for more openness without staring eyes to make you feel wary or self-conscious. But, I had forgotten about my one drum I've painted, it had the Ehoah constellations painted with the stars in glow-in-the-dark paint. During the first round they really pop out, in the

subsequent rounds the light is much faded. It certainly made a conversation piece, and the lighting was only bright enough to see the stars, and nothing else. Much like the real stars. So it didn't take away from the whole experience as the stones themselves give off a reddish glow. Which was a relief as I really love my drum and drumming (I volunteer leading drum circles in my community, so I am really attached).

During the week there happened to be a full moon, so I was also fortunate to partake in making moon water that night, which is done only by women. No men are to be present, unless it is the fire keeper for the sacred fire lit for the fast. The moon water is medicine water used for healing. When the night began, we were waiting for another lady to join us, but by the time she came around there ended up being three of us left, as everyone else went to bed as it was well past one in the morning. And I had pointed out that it wasn't really a bad thing, since three is a really sacred number, which all in attendance agreed with (I was tempted but didn't mention the maiden, mother and... the other one. I am sure we were all thinking it though). As we started, a juvenile eastern newt (which was completely red in colour) crawled onto the alter. At the end of the ceremony one of the ladies had said (in translation), "Not bad for three white women". That is when it donned on me, as she continued saying that we may have just done something historical, a native ceremony, done solely by three white women. Part of me hopes this isn't something prophesied, the other part of me is thinks it would be cool.

It is definitely an experience based practice that strongly appeals to me. Over time we gotten to know each other more and more personally and by the end of the week we all considered each other family, no hesitation. I've never experienced so much love, even when I had went to church as a child. You felt so secure in yourself that you felt fine just to speak on anything that would normally be personal subject matter, and on anything else, so long as you were sincere. I will definitely be going again.

Rua Lupa

## **News of the Groves, Summer Solstice 2011 Missionary Order of the Celtic Cross (MOCC)**

There has been a lot of activity in the MOCC over the last couple of months, and rather than try to put it into it's separate groves, I'm putting it into one lump. This is especially true since we've had our Beltane Convocation, our semi-annual business meeting, and this time not only did we have our local convocations, we also had an online convocation to address a few issues for more or less the whole MOCC, inasmuch as we were able to do. Usually, because the MOCC like our grandparent, the RDNA, is fairly localized, we don't do large scale meetings, but since a few things dealt with the group in general, it seemed only fair to do it like this. **In so doing, people as far flung as Tulsa, OK, Fallon, NV, Muskogee, OK, the state of New York and so forth were all able to put in their two cents.**

One of the biggest--and most controversial--votes at this Convocation was on a topic that had been brewing for a good number of years within the MOCC. Since 1997, in fact. The Christian, NeoChristian and Culdee members of the MOCC had suggested all those years ago that we might want to include some Christian holidays in our liturgical calendar in addition to Pagan holy days. It was also suggested, with tongue-in-cheek style, that the saints who were excluded by the *moto proprio* called *Mysterii Paschalis* published by Pope Paul VI on February 14, 1969 be adopted as 'Pagans' and 'Druids' since no one else seemed to want them. Interestingly enough, that included the Saints Valentine (yep, upon doing research, there turned out to be three of them) on whose day the *moto proprio* came into being. There were also other things to consider. We had begun including, some years ago, the Navigation of Isis in our liturgical calendar, and to honor the GLBT members of the group, as well as our relatively amicable relations with the *Sodalitum Romanum* since the mid-1990's, we added in Hilaria and Megalensia. Not exactly Celtic holidays, but what the heck. There were other locally recognized Celtic saints that also got added into the mix, too, so that no one should feel left out.

With the optional use of the Celtic Tree Calendar, which we'd been using for some years already, it was observed that there was another, even more valid Celtic Calendar in the discovery of the Coligny Calendar, so we tried re-figuring the dates on that calendar as best we could compared with modern festivals as our frame of reference, and added it to the same vote. This theoretically would give us a two-year liturgical calendar instead of a one-year set to follow, with the switchover taking place around Samhain for those wanting to use both sets of months.....but we weren't done yet.

Ours being one of the few traditions that have had a pirate flag used as an altar cloth once in a while, we figured it might be appropriate to honor a privateer on our liturgical calendar, since we were bringing up all these other dates. The privateer that drew the short straw was Edward Teach. That's right, Blackbeard, whom in our suggestion of adding him to the liturgical calendar we modified his unseemly reputation by calling him a privateer and philanthropist. Teach, I'm sure,

would've appreciated the wry humor therein.

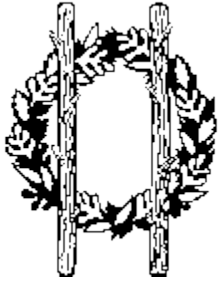
And so, with due respect to the other questions being put forth, the suggested optional days for the calendar were brought up in our semi-annual business meeting....and passed. That's right, now we have a rather ecumenical liturgical calendar for those who want to bother with it..

The first saints to have been honored were actually Saints Bearchan and Nevin in a peace vigil following the first days of the US involvment in the bombing of Libya.

There are new groves developing in Seminole, OK and in Fallon, NV, both tentatively named the Grove of Holy Wisdom, mainly because the last attempt to form a grove in the Seminole/Bowlegs and Wewoka area of Oklahoma was called that. I'm sure that the actual name will wind up being something else in Seminole, but it's all cool. The Seminole group is mostly comprised of fairly young people, while the group in Fallon seems to have a broader age range.

There have been a number of MOCC rites that have taken place online in the Facebook group entitled Missionary Order of the Celtic Cross, and they've been fairly successful. Especially enjoyed have been the healing rituals, one of which seems to have taken hours. We found out afterward that it actually began three days before, and was simply still going on when we had the online version of it, extending through a Buddhist rite, a Cherokee stomp dance and our Druidic rite... it was quite memorable.. The MOCC tends to keep a Prayer tree going on in the Yahoo! group at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/moccgroveofthethreerays\\_2010](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/moccgroveofthethreerays_2010) and there are currently over forty prayer requests on it. Anyone may add a prayer request to it, simply by going to the group and looking in the database section for the entry entitled Prayer Tree.

As always, this declare above all: Healing and Light and Peace.



# I Spy a Sigil....

-Mike the Fool

If you start looking for Druid symbols like the sigil or awen, you'll start to see them everywhere, and I use them as an omen of good luck, that a place I'm visiting has special future significance for me.

## Religious emblems programs (Boy Scouts of America)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A variety of **religious emblems programs** are used by the **Boy Scouts of America** (BSA) to encourage youth to learn about their faith and to recognize adults who provide significant service to youth in a religious environment. These religious programs are created, administered and awarded by the various religious groups, not the BSA, but each program must be recognized by the BSA.

Contents <span>[hide]</span>	
1	Award
2	Origins
3	Program approval
3.1	Programs of Religious Activities with Youth
3.2	Other youth agencies
3.3	Smaller programs
4	Approved programs and awards
5	Other awards
6	Unitarian Universalist Association
7	See also
8	Footnotes

### Award

[\[edit\]](#)

The award given by the religious organization consists of a unique medal for each program— usually only worn on formal occasions. The award is also recognized by the wear of an embroidered square knot emblem— silver on purple for youth and purple on silver for adults. The knot emblem is universal in that it does not represent any specific religion or religious award program. Each medal is designed and produced by the religious institution, while the knot emblems are produced by

**Religious emblem**





Knot for Adult Religious Emblem  
 Knot for Youth Religious Emblem  
 Devices for Youth Religious Emblem

<b>Owner</b>	Boy Scouts of America
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Created</b>	1926
<b>Awarded for</b>	To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith
<b>Recipients</b>	44,430 youth 1,476 adult awarded in 2007 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Website</b>	
<a href="http://www.scouting.org/Applications/religiousawards.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/Applications/religiousawards.aspx</a>	

 Scouting portal

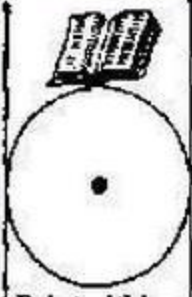

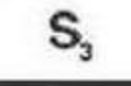
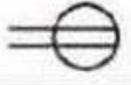







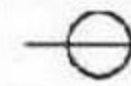

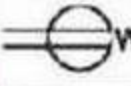
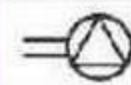
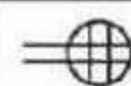

Note: currently the Boy Scouts are not accepting new religion specific designs since 1993 when the Covenant of the Goddess asked to do a pentagram, unless the asking religious group has sponsored about 2 dozen units... However, the square knot does resemble the Druid Sigil, so we're covered! There is a pagan run group like the Boy Scouts called "Spiral Scouts" but not very highly organized.



PicBadges.com



Facebook has "**picbadges**" that you can affix to your facebook pictures, including the ADF, Keltria, OBOD, RDNA and RDG symbols. Makes it easy for friend searchers to spot the Druids. See the one to the left in the corner. Free.

			Three-Way Switch
Point within a circle symbol	Druid Sigil 1963		Duplex Receptacle
			GFCI Duplex Receptacle
	Green Lantern 1940s.		Switched Receptacle
	Binary Code		240-Volt Receptacle
	alchemical for Nitre_oil		SinglePlex Receptacle
	Greek Phi		Duplex Receptacle WP= Waterpro
			Isolated Ground Receptacle
			FourPlex Four Gang Receptacle
			Ceiling Mounted Light Fixture PC= Pullchain
A circle and two lines. Makes you think. Two of the basic building blocks of drawing.			

Where did the Druid Sigil come from? Lots of places, but mostly it comes from a mystery.

Note that “Laughing out loud” looks like one, “lol” ☺

Stacey notes; // works as awen via a keyboard.





Dr. Who and Torchwood. British Scifi series since 2005 masterminded by a Welshman and made by BBC Wales. Druid symbols have been popping up quite a bit. Something's going

on...

All the timelords in EndofTime ep. 2 are in Druid Sigil chairs as above.



The floor

here looks like a Druid sigil in the underground base of Torchwood.



At a math science quiz in Torchwood, a school is sporting a variant of the seven pointed star of the RDG.



A friend of mine was wearing a gold brooch from Bolivia at my office:



My Paper towel roll holder from Thailand:





# Druids in the Media

By Mike the Fool

**Story 1:** Deborah Lipp (I believe one the SDNA Druids and a charter member of the ADF, married to Isaac) had a fall out with ADF over the selling of a DVD at \$10/each of Isaac's memorial service by the ADF regalia board. Long argument short, she didn't

like it, and resigned from ADF. Others chimed in, lots of negative vibes. I wish all involved some healing.

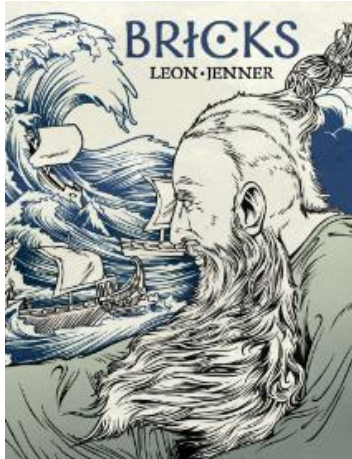
**Story 2:** Another books is coming out by the multi-talented Druid writer, Ellen Hopman:

SCOTTISH HERBS AND FAIRY LORE: The release date is set. June 21!!! We are really looking forward to introducing Ellen's latest books at her Booksigning Event and at SPARKS. We will review it as soon as we can get a copy.

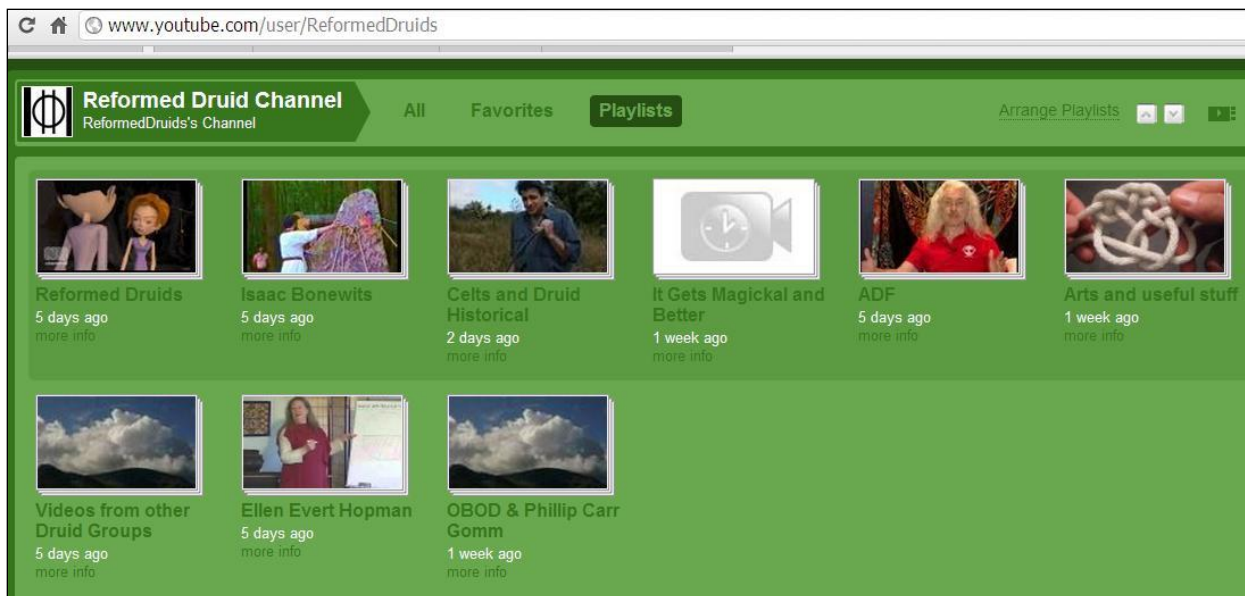
**Story 3:** Apparently the three newly discovered deities of RDG have decided to channel their works into Facebook. While this is quite unprecedented in any modern Druid group, and some wonder at its appropriateness, you may wish to examine them for yourself. Dalon Ap Landu, Gyllian Silvermoon and Cywarch Merch Dalon have their own pages. The channeling writer is still unknown at present, but assumed to be a member of the RDG.

**Story 4:** Leon Jenner has a book coming out called "Bricks".

Youtube promotional video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hf2fH7b8038&feature=youtu.be>



This is the story of a bricklayer. A master of his craft, he keeps its sacred teachings secret. For him a house is the dwelling place of a soul, and a house must be built in the right spirit or the soul inside it will suffer. The building of an arch is a ritual to obtain a right relation with the earth and a connection with the truth. The bricklayer recalls his previous life as a Druid priest. He talks about the creation of the sacred landscape of these islands; how even a simple stick lying on the ground would tell people the direction they needed to go in; how when people stared at the stars, they were staring at their own mind. The reader sees the world through the eyes of this great, magical being at the time of the Roman invasion, and learns how he tricked Julius Caesar and set in train the series of events that would lead to Caesar's assassination on the Ides of March. But as the bricklayer continues, he worries he is losing his ancient, sacred powers. The vision begins to fray at the edges as we learn how he has recently taken violent revenge on yobs who have mocked him. Is he really connected to a once living Druid priest, or is he gradually losing himself in his own fantasies? ([read less](#))



## Youtube: Reformed Druid Channel

[www.youtube.com/user/ReformedDruids](http://www.youtube.com/user/ReformedDruids)

I might be behind the times a bit, but I still seem to be ahead of some Druids. ☺ Youtube has the largest collection of videos. It's hard to find stuff. So you want to find cool videos that help Reformed Druidism? I've made a site to store them. If you find others that you recommend, send the link and I'll collect them. My e-mail is [ReformedDruid@gmail.com](mailto:ReformedDruid@gmail.com) or [mikerdna@hotmail.com](mailto:mikerdna@hotmail.com) Only about 20% of the total content has been uploaded, SUBSCRIBE and keep in touch with new videos I locate or people recommend to me.

The main playlists will be:

Reformed Druids: clips that are by or about Reformed Druids, included an animated series (see below).

Isaac Bonewits: A man who was prodigious, and more and more is expected to come here.

Ellen Hopman: I hope to help her set up more videos to talk about her ideas and publications.

OBOD & Phillip Carr Gomm: This guy is all over the internet.

ADF: Mostly liturgical snippets, but we might like to do some also.

Celts & Druids: Ancient and modern Druids, from an academic bent.

Arts and Useful Stuff: A grab-bag of helpful videos on tips that aid druids, like building a fire, making celtic knots, easy irish phrases, etc.

Videos from Other Druids: As the title states

Fairytales and Myths: Videoclips to share with your kids at bedtime.

Many more playlists are in the devising, and I'd like some suggestions.



# “Desperate Druids” Animated Series Begins

By Mike the Fool

The series is really called “What is Reformed Druidism?”, but I like to call it “Desperate Druids”, after “Desperate Housewives”, but with a touch of “Torchwood” and “X-Files”. Perhaps it will be revolutionary?

Using the amazingly easy “Xtranormal” online software, I have begun cranking out weekly 10 minute animated videos that explain Reformed Druidism, but it will slowly evolve into a drama series that explores the dysfunctional chaos that is real-life groves, set in the fictional RDNA Jackpine Grove of Ypsalantu University in Michigan. There will be a cast of about 30 people over a projected story arc of 50 episodes.

If you have **weird stories** from your grove, strange members you’ve encountered, or have a hand at writing/editing scripts, tell me. Don’t use real names, and stories will be genericized to avoid specific reference to an actual grove in the RDNA or any Druid organization.

The Lughnasadh issue of this magazine will come with a character list, grove map and cheat sheet, as the story line rapidly convolutes and more characters get thrown in once the initial background stories are done (the first 5). I like to call it “edutertainment”. Making Druidism more fun to learn and giving the RDNA, NRDNA and RDG a bit more of a presence, and perhaps even use it as a teaching tool for discussion groups?



## What is **Reformed** Druidism? Part 1 - An Overview

The first episode in a multi-character animated series on **Reformed** Druidism. Peter hears that Sarah is a **Reformed** Druid and is curious about the ...

by ReformedDruids | 6 days ago | 57 views



## What is **Reformed** Druidism?: Part 2 - The Two Basic Tenets

Another episode in the series. Sarah explains the only two statements that all **Reformed** Druids believe in. She also mentions the three orders of ...

by ReformedDruids | 5 days ago | 36 views



## What is **Reformed** Druidism? Part 3 - Less is More

The setting of Jackpine Grove deepens in this animated edu-drama about **Reformed** Druidism. Peter meets Andrea, a 2nd order **Druid**, who explains the ...

by ReformedDruids | 5 days ago | 31 views



The series will remain PG rated, but may have the same type of plot lines as a soap opera and will address organizational issues that any grove might encounter.

If you have difficulty understanding the computer generated voices, click “CC” for subtitles.



# Druid Apps for your iPhone

## (Part 1 of 3)

By Mike the Fool

You love little programs, “Apps”, for the Apple devices, but you wonder what would be helpful to your Druidical pursuits? I’ve included some that might interest you (can’t remember which are free). Of course, the more popular ones will have three or four imitators, such as the star-mapping photography app. Shop around for what is good for you. If you learn of others without an example here,

send me an e-mail at [mikerdna@hotmail.com](mailto:mikerdna@hotmail.com) You can see that I have grouped them according to general categories.

The iTunes store is incredibly difficult to search by Boolean keywords like; Druid, wicca, witch, pagan, neopagan, neo-pagan, god, goddess, etc. Here’s what I found that was usable after about 8 hours of clicking and searching. ☺ They should keep you busy for a while. Note that “lite” or “free” versions often have less features than the fully paid program. Sometimes a free variant is better than a knock-off and some people just slap a large price tag onto information that is easily obtained on the internet.

Things to consider before using an iPhone at a ritual or for Druidical purposes:

1. Many pagans and Druids have a distaste for the presence of digital or mechanical items at services. You might want to the waters before whipping it out.
2. Turn over alarms and phone ringers if inappropriate, before they ring!
3. Coverage is often spotty far from town, a test run is important you are going to rely on it.
4. Batteries die. Don’t go on a week hike and expect the phone to work all the way through.
5. Paper still works better in many situations. Memory is great too.
6. Some computer devices and apps “track” your location from wireless towers. Do you want people to know where you are?
7. I envision many of these apps as great time-spenders for commuters or lunch breaks. They would supplement a much better collection of books or hobby practice when you are away from your study-library at home.
8. Don’t get carried away. Set a budget limit for apps!



test

if

Next season I’ll show you the story-time apps for kids, and I’ll wrap up with some others to consider in the Fall Equinox; including your suggestions.

### GENERIC

Compass: Need to call the 4 directions and its cloudy or night-time? Lost in the woods, again? Also links to map.

Calendar: Never miss a meeting or festival again. Program in an alarm to remind you. Plan a year in advance. Remember birthdays and ordinations of your grove members.

Weather: Thinking of going out for a vigil, or trying to decide if the winter service will be inside or outside tonight? When does the sun rise, will it be too hot for long robes?

Maps: The directions to the site are crap? Did I miss a turn? Where am I? Is it walkable or drivable from here? Another person fell in the bonfire this year, where's the nearest hospital?

GoSkyWatch: Hold up the iPhone take a picture of the stars, and it will tell you their names, constellations and information. Want to know when Pleides will be visible this evening?

Flashlite: can't find something in your druid-bag use the white-light, or can't read a script, use the red or blue filter on this program and retain your night vision.

Tree Hugger: Ecological and environment newsfeed. Be the Druid in the know at the campfire of green trends.

DIVINATION (Oh, there are so many...!)

Rune Draw – For Nordic folks. Shake and get a rune and a recommendation. Very basic.

Ogham – For Celtic Folks. Has a nice energy charging before giving you three runes.

iPredict – crystal ball. Bit of a wise ass. Random predictions.

Stonehenge – what the weather and sun are doing in Avebury today. Walk around a 3-D set.

9,999,999 Crazy Fortune Cookies (Fortune) – pithy fortune cookies

Fortunes – I ching fortune shakes. Shake and read one.

Fortune Ball – The magic 8 ball knows all. Answer unclear.

Spellbooklite – Most books of shadow aren't that great, this one too.

Wraithboard – Kind of like a Ouija, the tilty function not good, rolls off board too much.

Witchboard – Ouija. A little better. Not as good as the real thing.



## NATURE IN YOUR POCKET

Fall Foliage – 54 lovely autumn vistas.

Forest – 60 lovely forest pictures (Calgone take me away!)

Fuji Leaves – Light muzak formed by falling pebbles bouncing on a leaf and into a lake.

Falls-lite – gurgle, splash, burble with nice visuals. Good for white noise or relaxing.

Autumn Free – Flick the leaves with your finger to make a breeze.

Composure – Design a rock-sand garden, rake it, soft music. Ommm.

Aqueous Lite – Flowing river water and sounds of gurgle, wind, birds.

Waterfall (Napuru) – Choose various waterfalls, set a timer. Relax.

## FAIRIES AND CELTS

Now there are plenty of free copy-right books from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century available online. These just make it easier to bring along, although you could probably get them in iBooks.

Fairy Tales (volume) – Broken App (Sorry)

(Scottish) Fair and Folk (Tales) – by Sir George Douglas, 22 stories about a page or two, often is Broad Scots dialogue. No spacing, squashed together. Difficult to parse.

Celtic (Fairy) Tales –By Joseph Jacob about 50. Well broken and readable, some as long as 6 pages.

Celtic Fairy Tales – By Joseph Jacob, less stories 18, poorly presented.

Celtic God of the Day - A new name, a translation, and a sentence or two. Broaden your contacts!

Celtic Fairy (Tales) – By Joseph Jacob. 27 stories. Readable.

Druid Path - by Marah Ryan. A collection of short stories set in ancient and modern Ireland by an American author.

Wonder Tales (From Scottish Myth and Legend) - - By Donald Mackenzie, 19<sup>th</sup> century, 16 tales, readable.

Irish Fairy Tales – by James Stephens Tuan MacCairill, Fionn, Bran, Oisín, Becfolá, Alean. 661 small pages of scanned text. 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Dubliners – James Joyce’s masterpiece of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish life with a series of vignettes.

Popular Tales (of the West Highlands Vol II) – J. F. Cambell’s classic collection in the field of Scottish folktales. 43 stories. Gaidhlig first, English second. Very readable. Invaluable study tool.

Mabinogian – By Lady Charlotte Guest (key folklorist of 19<sup>th</sup> century, bit prude). Very readable. Considered one of the classic translations, but sexuality and paganism a bit dampened.

MAGIC TRICKS (okay, just to spice up a liturgy, entertain folks at campfire, impress doubters)

BarTricksLite – Little videos of how to do it, how it should look to others.

(Campfire) Magic Lite – A demonstration video and how to do it. Designed for campfire fun with kids and friends.

Magic! - Card, coin, memory, math tricks. A video and various levels to each trick.

Free Magic – Videos, tricks, news, and magic store locator. Some uploaded every day. Not great.



GAMES (not much here, some Witchy stuff is really in the horror genre)

Druid Quest – An intriguing but not stressful game. Get from starting point, the Druid travels without stopping until he hits a stone, fence or teleport. Goal is to choose directions and figure out a path to the final altar stone, without veering off screen into the forest. Each level gets more difficult.

Druid Stones – Take a handful of scattered stones, take 3, 4, or 5 stones in a row, highlight and flick off screen without leaving any left on the screen. Not thrilling. But maybe you like it?

MUSIC (you’d probably like Guitar Hero and other apps, the instruments of other apps bit primitive)

Touchxylo – nice little xylophone

Bagpipes – Blow into microphone and play on the chanter. A bit fun. Annoy people everywhere!

Ocarina – Same thing, but sounds better, very doodle-friendly.

DrumPad – Play various percussions. Not too bad.

Vuvuworld. – You know you love Vuvuzulas! Map of great soccer stadiums too.

iPod – If you ain’t got a bard and need some music accompaniment, or would like a song to accompany a ritual, bring the iPod feature to the rescue. Might need portable speakers.

WISDOM (always can use more of that)

(Interesting stories to learn) Proverbs – 41 stories (about 5 pages each) by an Indian author taking a short proverb and making a story out of them.

ToiletWisdom - Not sure, 34 proverbs in Hebrew. Might be an English version too. Very short.



Kotowaza - A few hundred Japanese one line phrases – in both English and Japanese. It will also speak them outloud or you can just read.



Proverbs (Quiz) - A quiz. Quiz the second half of a proverb from four choices.

Proverbs & Sayings- On happiness, marriage, tenderness, married couple and Affection or choose by origin. About 100 in total.

Proverbs – 15 countries, about 30+ proverbs each.

Proverbs - 358 chinese proverbs. But you have to scroll through them, no order, but you can note favorites.

JFK - Quotes from Pres. Kennedy.

(old) West (Wisdom) - A few hundred western quotes and phrases. You can add a few if you like.

(Ancient) Wisdom – Pick three folks and hear some notable lines from Lao Tzu, Sun Tzu and Musashi. About 40 each.

Buddha (Buddy)- Lines from the Dhammapada, one at a time.

Atheist Wisdom (Cookie) – Quotes about Atheism or by atheists

Daily (Zen Reflections) – Soft and gentle background with a random phrase of Zen.

Free (Zen Wisdom) Proverbs – Like the above. You can mail to friends.

Irish Proverbs Free – Shake the phone and another one pops up. So so.

Inspired (Natural Wisdom)- Three categories Teach Me, Inspire Me, Guide Me. Each has many 20 areas of life concern, with a proverb, photo, and a story. Quite good.

Four Seasons – Some eco stories for kids.

CALENDAR – SEASONS (Get in touch with festivals and natural rhythms of the world)

Seasons- Tells you the growing season of all fruits, grains and vegetables. Useful for also figuring out what's in season NOW, and you can assume anything else you see at the store has been trucked in from afar. Very useful also for broadening awareness of foods, and their accompanied chart and its history and usage.

Herbs – common and latin names and functions (no picture)

The Seasons – Really simple. Like a clock, the arrow points to one of four seasons, and tells you a line or two about each of the four seasons. (boring)

Irish Seasons – Same boring program above, but in Irish.

365 Holidays – Delightful for inter-faith type people. You can custom devise a calendar and include/exclude festivals of secular or religious occasions from US, Canada, Christianity, Hindu, Jewish,

Spiritual Calendar – Like the above, a few more religions, a page on each religion, not as easy to use.

Moon Phases, Muslim, Pagan for 2008-2012. Little bit about each holiday too.

Luna - If the phase, fullness, brightness of the moon now (or in the last 2000 years) is of interest to you. Lots of astrological usage.

## LANGUAGE

Ireland (Endless Quiz) – All kinds of trivial pursuit questions, mostly about MODERN Ireland.

IrishSG – About 100 flashcards of Scottish Gaidlig words, with a quiz function. Very basic.

(Learn) Scottish – Crap program. 26 words that you can click and they'll be spoken. No explanation or elaboration.... Crap program.

ScGaelic - 59 flash cards and a quiz function. Very very basic.



# Cauldron Burial

## By Sebastien Beaudoin

(See News Articles on Cauldrons at end of this issue  
<http://blog.britishmuseum.org/category/archaeology/chiseldon-cauldrons/>.)

Inspired by many ancient cauldrons that have been found buried, I have decided to exhume mine in a similar way. Here is a related article that truly inspired me.

### Beloved Sacred cauldron

You have served me well

You have been to me a very important part of my craft

You have also served others

You have taken our offerings

You have burnt our herbs and sacred incense

You have concealed our requests

You have sent out our prayers

You have provided me and the grove with your enchantment

Sadly you have been broken

Broken by my inattention

You can not served me anymore as a Cauldron

But you will still be part of me and your work will never end



Now I lay you to rest in the earth from where you have been created

In rest and in care of Mother Earth herself.

I lay you at the feet by the altar that you have sat

I lay you in the sacred circle where you have also served

I will set you where you deserve and belong.

I bid you not goodbye

Cause you still be here part of me and this circle

Blessing to you and may you always bring forth our requests, prayers and blessings.



## TV SERIES

“Torchwood” is a BBC (Wales) version of X-files, and while a spin-off of Dr. Who, it really operates well on its own and is quite a bit more violent and filled with passion and adult themes pushing close to an R rating.

Basic story. The Welsh city of Cardiff is built over a rift in time and space, bringing all kinds of historical and sci-fi problems to 21<sup>st</sup> century U.K. A special team called “Torchwood” live under the central plaza of Cardiff and investigate events, sequester alien technology and fight monsters. The goal is to get Earth (and the U.K. ) ready for first contact with the rest of the universe.

There is a very complicated diagram of who loves who, who hates who, etc. Good fun.

Available for rental on iTunes, seasons 1 and 2.

# 3 MOVIE REVIEWS

By Mike the Fool



## THOR

3 out of 5 acorns.

Good fun and a lot better than I feared.

It's from the comic book series, so they don't always stick to the mythological lore. Basic plot; a young brash Thor oversteps his authority and sent down to Earth as a mortal to cool off, while Loki causes trouble (no surprise there). Thor does his best to get used to life in New Mexico, finds a sweetie, learns humility, and does his best to undo Loki's mischief. Some good laughs and lovely Asgard scenes. The best parts are when Natalie Portman is off-screen.

- <http://www.escapistmagazine.com/videos/view/escape-to-the-movies/3170-Thor> Video review
- <http://www.escapistmagazine.com/articles/view/columns/moviebob/8865-MovieBob-What-s-What-in-Thor> Further article about the movie's controversy.
- <http://www.escapistmagazine.com/news/view/109754-Black-Thor-Actor-Talks-About-Racist-Comic-Book-Fans>



## Troll Hunter

3 out of 5 acorns

More low-budget, and perhaps difficult to find, but an interesting pseudo-documentary about a Scandinavian tracking trolls in the backwoods up north. Intriguing indie film.

<http://www.escapistmagazine.com/videos/view/escape-to-the-movies/3204-Troll-Hunter> video review



## Hell Boy 2: Golden Army

3 out of 5 acorns.

Okay, the Irish fairies have a succession problem, and their army of golden soldiers are going to wreak havoc on the earth, unless Hellboy and his team can fix matters. You get to hear a little bit of Irish, see fairies, goblins and some Irish landscapes.

Witty and grim.

# GAME REVIEW

## The Legend of the Golden Tome

By Mike the Fool



I've recently become a fan of Hidden Object genre of computer games, where you search rich screens cluttered with objects for semi-transparent, camouflaged animals, objects, and symbols to unlock keys, dialogues and continue along plot points. A bit low on the animation side, but more dependent on puzzles, story and backdrops. I don't really like Match 3 games, which is too much like Tetris for me.

- Explore a mystical world in search of powerful gems with this Match 3 quest.
- Challenge 90 levels alongside a druid magician.
- Collect magic and other powerful aides to help in your quest.
- Locate items in special Hidden Object scenes.
- Enjoy a wonderful atmosphere with great visuals and enchanting Celtic music.

Save the secrets of the ancient Druids in The Legend of the Golden Tome, a mystical journey through the centuries.

The magical Golden Tome contains powerful knowledge collected over the centuries by the druids. Fearing greed and its misuse by oppressors, six sages hid the Tome in a cave under a sacred circle. The time has come to unlock some of its powers however, but the Tome still needs protection, and you have been chosen to fulfill this task.



Explore this mystic world alongside a druid magician, searching for the crystals to unlock the cave. Challenge 90 addicting levels of Match 3 gameplay, collecting magic and other powerful aids to help in your quest. Locate items in special Hidden Object scenes, enjoy beautifully-created Celtic music, and protect the Golden Tome from falling into the wrong hands.

## Weave Me the Sunshine

Weave, weave, weave me the sunshine  
 Out of the falling rain  
 Weave me the hope of a new tomorrow  
 And fill my cup again  
 F G C Am // / D - G -

Well, I've seen the steel & the concrete crumble  
 Shine on me again  
 The proud & the mighty, all have stumbled  
 Shine on me again

Am - Em - / F G C Am / Am - D - / G - G7 -

They say that the tree of loving / Shine on me again  
 Grows on the banks of the river of suffering / Shine...  
 If only I can heal your sorrow...  
 I'll help you to find a new tomorrow...  
 Only you can climb the mountain...  
 If you want to drink at the golden fountain...

— Peter Yarrow

d. Used by permission. On Peter, old Castle (71-001-1).



## 4 sunny songs From Mike's Song Book for his kids.

## Here Comes the Sun

Here comes the sun (2x) & I say / It's all right  
 G - Cmaj7 A7 / G C G D7

Little darlin', it's been a long cold lonely winter  
 Little darlin', it feels like years since you've been here

G - C D7 / /

Little... the smiles returning to their faces  
 ...it feels like years since it's been here

...I feel the ice is slowly melting  
 ...it feels like years since it's been clear

— George Harrison

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Here Comes the Sun

## You Are My Sunshine

The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping  
 I dreamed I held you in my arms  
 When I awoke, dear, I was mistaken  
 And I hung my head & cried

D - - - / G - D - // DAD -

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine  
 You make me happy when skies are gray  
 You'll never know, dear, how much I love you  
 Please don't take my sunshine away

I'll always love you & make you happy  
 If you will only say the same  
 But if you leave me to love another  
 You'll regret it all someday

You told me once, dear, you really loved me  
 And no one else could come between  
 But now you've left me & love another  
 You have shattered all my dreams

— Jimmie Davis & Charles Mitchell

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 International copyright secured. Made in USA. All rights reserved. Used by  
 permission of CPP Behwin Inc. — On Paul Strassman "Camels Cats & Rain-  
 bows" & J Kueskin "Lives Again". In Readers Dig Fest of Pop S. & 101 Of The  
 Gr Nostalgia 5.



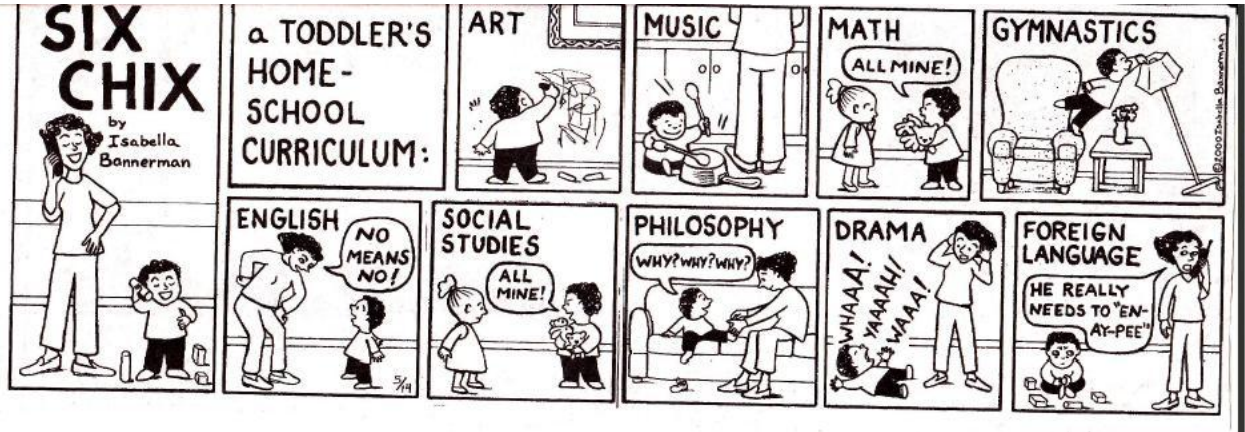
## Mr. Sun

O Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun, please shine down on me  
 O Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun, hiding behind a tree  
 These little children are asking you  
 to please come out so we can play with you  
 O Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun, please shine down on me!

G A D G / - A - D / G D G D / G A D G

Adaptation of "Mr. Moon". On Rajji "Singable S for the V Young" & in his Singable SB.

# Druid Training Starts Early?



# NEWS

## 6 Articles on Cauldrons by the British Museum that Sebastien saw.

### Putting the Chiseldon Cauldrons in context

Jody Joy, British Museum

I am the curator responsible for the European Iron Age collection at the British Museum, and will be working with Alexandra Baldwin and Jamie Hood on the Chiseldon Cauldrons project throughout the next year.

At the moment I am taking a back seat in the project, to support Alex and Jamie as far as I can in their conservation work. But once the conservation and scientific analysis is completed it is up to me to work out why so many cauldrons were placed together in a large pit alongside two cattle skulls sometime between 200-50 BC.

In the meantime I have begun to research cauldrons and other metal vessels.



Cauldrons are a very well-known type of Iron Age artefact but surprisingly little is known about them. We think they were used to boil meat and/or to serve alcoholic beverages such as beer or mead. They are substantial artefacts and quite rare so we think they were used for feasting.

Part of the problem is that many cauldrons were discovered in rivers or bogs during the nineteenth-century so we have very little evidence to work with other than the artefacts themselves. This is why the Chiseldon discovery is so exciting. Because the objects were well-excavated we have a detailed record of how they were deposited. We also have up to 13 vessels to compare and contrast.

The discovery has certainly sparked a lot of interest among fellow archaeologists and I have already given a number of public lectures to various universities and archaeological societies.

Late last year I gave a lecture at Leicester University and there was a fantastic turnout. Usually one of the students bakes a cake or biscuits; however, in honour of the cauldrons we were treated to a steaming vat of punch served in a miniature cauldron!



I am extremely excited by what Alex and Jamie have discovered so far. One of the major questions we have is whether the cauldrons were made especially for deposition.



I think we can already suggest that they weren't. The cauldrons that have been excavated so far are very different and look to have been made by different people using different techniques. Some also show possible evidence of repair and past use.

This is giving us a fantastic insight into Iron Age technology and methods of artefact manufacture. It also opens up further questions.

If cauldrons are rare artefacts and the examples we have were not all made at the same time, can we suggest that different communities brought their own vessels to a large feast at Chiseldon?

If so what was the purpose of the gathering and why were the artefacts placed in a pit at the end of the feast? We may not ultimately be able to answer these questions but I can't wait to see what further discoveries Alex and Jamie make so we can at least try.

MARCH 9, 2011 • 11:10 AM 0

## Piecing together the Chiseldon cauldrons puzzle

Alexandra Baldwin, British Museum



As is often the case, the painstaking process of excavating the **cauldron** I'm working on has been more complex and time consuming than we initially thought.

The majority of the cauldron was lifted from its findspot in a block of soil supported by plaster bandages. Hundreds of smaller fragments were also removed from around the object during excavation. The fragmentary state of this cauldron is partially due to the fact that it was buried upside down, and over time the weight and the pressure of the overlying soil

crushed and distorted it.

I began by carefully cutting away thin strips of plaster to reveal the top of the block and clear soil from the metal. heavy clay soil, which is more solid than the objects, this to be done with great care using scalpels and leaf trowels to remove soil dampened with water and alcohol.

Working down in layers, the sheet metal is uncovered, and true condition of the object revealed. It is highly fragmentary and even undisturbed areas are in pieces.



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Fragments loose in the soil have to be rejoined back onto larger sections immediately otherwise their location will be lost. This is done using thin tabs of nylon gossamer, a thin random weave of synthetic fibres, adhered over the join.

Removing the plaster support and soil from around the object makes it very unstable and because of this you are unable to see the entire object at once; the metal is so thin and fragile that it is unable to support its own weight.

I have now laid out the fragments from the excavation on a large table and have been looking for joins between them, and also between the fragments and metal contained in the soil block. Although I have found a number of joins there have been disappointingly few.



Very quickly it became apparent that there was something strange about this cauldron – there seemed to be too much copper alloy – several folded layers in the block as well as large sheet fragments.

From knowledge of other cauldrons we can tell that they are made in sections riveted together; the iron rim supporting the handles, then below this, two sections of copper alloy bowl. As I began to reveal more it appeared that there were two bases on top of each other – was this two cauldrons one inside another? Or were we looking at areas of a separate cauldron either displaced during burial or placed into the pit in fragments?

As each layer is revealed the position of the fragments is carefully recorded. Stephen Crummy, one of the Museum's illustrators, has been using 3D laser scanning and photogrammetry to map the block.

The next stage will be to try and decipher and interpret the remains. Then, after supporting and stabilising them, we will remove sections of the metal, effectively disassembling the object from around the soil.

*If you would like to leave a comment click on the title*

Filed under: [Archaeology](#), [Chiseldon cauldrons](#), [Conservation](#), [conservation](#), [excavation](#), [Iron Age](#), [metal](#)

FEBRUARY 18, 2011 • 10:34 AM 0



## Out in the cold

Alexandra Baldwin, British Museum

When an email came round from Allison Maruccucci at [Wessex Archaeology](#) calling for volunteers to go field walking at the [Chiseldon cauldrons](#) find spot my colleague Jamie Hood and I volunteered enthusiastically.

Jamie had never been to the site before and knew it only from photographs

and my hazy recollections. It was important for him to put the cauldrons into the context of the surrounding landscape, and we would both represent the **British Museum** and tell everyone what had been happening since 2005.

Clothed in waterproofs, wellington boots and several jumpers we walked out across muddy fields to the find spot. Winter is not the nicest time to be out on an exposed ridge in the Wiltshire countryside, but field walking has to be done at this time of year – after ploughing and before the crop growth obscures the ground.

As we approached I could see a cluster of people standing over the find spot. The original find had produced a lot of interest in the local area and in total 10 people had volunteered to field walk including Peter Hyams, the finder; John Winterburn, who did an initial excavation; and members of the local history society.

A grid of five metre squares was set out over the field and we walked across each square in pairs picking up fragments of pottery, worked stone and metal. The finds were bagged and their location recorded by square.

Further study of the fragments by Wessex Archaeology and their spread throughout the field will give an indication of the periods of activity and also the extent of the archaeological area. When combined with geophysics results it should help to place the cauldrons in context.

By this time it was bitterly cold and the rain had started driving across the field horizontally. Taking what shelter we could by the field boundary we ate a hasty lunch. Although unpleasant, the rain did have the advantage of washing the ground surface and making the potsherds more visible, but with darkness descending and the weather worsening we called it a day.



Despite the freezing rain it was great to be out in the field and talking to other people about the find. The importance of local knowledge to archaeology is vital, and often landowners and users know details of the local landscape that it would take archaeologists a long time to accumulate.

We have to remember that, although the objects have passed over to us in the British Museum to conserve and investigate, their importance is not only academic. The turnout for fieldwalking in less than ideal weather showed how important

the cauldrons are to the people involved, something that can be easily forgotten when working back in the lab.

*If you would like to leave a comment click on the title*

Filed under: **Archaeology**, **Chiseldon cauldrons**, **Conservation**



## A charred seed...

Alexandra Baldwin, British Museum

The two Chiseldon cauldrons we chose to work on first were found next to each other in the pit and had corroded together.

My colleague Jamie Hood has been given the first cauldron to be removed from the ground during excavation to work on.

Although it appeared to be in one piece in the ground, it was heavily corroded with large cracks hidden by the mud and soil. It was impossible to lift whole, so was removed in four large chunks surrounded by soil. The fact that it is in pieces actually makes it better for Jamie to work on as it is easier to move, handle, and support, and also fits under a microscope.

When he first started work within a few minutes I heard: ‘WOW, look at this, a charred seed!’ from the other side of the room.

My cauldron was probably the last one placed in the pit thousands of years ago. This meant that it was resting on top of the others and was therefore the one first discovered by the metal detectorist in 2004.

Of all the cauldrons, it is in the worst condition – a chunk lifted in plaster bandages and a lot of small pieces of corroded metal. But, it might also be the most interesting.

Some small fragments of the copper alloy already cleaned have decorative scalloped edges, or, apparently, as decorative as it gets for cauldrons in the late Iron Age.

As yet we don’t know much more about this cauldron and wont until I excavate it from its soil block. However, due to its highly fragmentary condition it will not be possible to physically reconstruct it.

Instead I will try and concentrate on a virtual, or at least an intellectual reconstruction, trying to gain as much information from the fragments as possible.



The most important areas are the rim, handles and decorative patches, and if we can relocate these and examine how they were constructed then this will tell us a great deal about the cauldron.

To make things more complicated some of Jamie’s cauldron was corroded to and lifted with mine. Trying to decide which fragments of 0.5mm metal belong to which cauldron will be very difficult and the whole process will need very careful excavation and detailed recording.

## Cauldrons on the move

Jamie Hood, British Museum



As I wasn't at the excavation of the Chiseldon cauldrons it was difficult to imagine that the nine or so blocks of soil sitting in plastic crates and wrapped in plaster bandages really contained Iron Age cauldrons. But a few weeks ago when Alex and I visited the Museum's off-site store, I knelt down and looked at the closest crate and spotted the edges of metal sheet and part of an iron handle

sticking out of the soil.



It's at moments like this that you start to think about the step by step process of conserving the object to bring it back to life (and also quickly calculate how many hours it might take... literally hundreds).

But before we could start work we had to move the cauldrons from storage to the Museum itself.

The Museum's off-site store is vast with hundreds of crates and many rows of racking which all hold evidence of

Britain's past. While it was easy for us to jump on the tube to get to the store, transporting the cauldrons was a little bit trickier.

We picked two of them – discovered next to each other in the burial pit, and corroded together – and packed them safely in big boxes. It's always nerve-racking transporting fragile objects, so to protect them we surrounded them with rolled-up tissue paper, and bubble wrap.



move

foam

Once safely at the Museum we moved the crates to the metals conservation lab and carefully unpacked the cauldrons.

The first step is to record the soil blocks and fragments of cauldrons by taking pictures, making detailed drawings and examining the surface through a microscope. In preparation for the next stage, when conservation really begins, you can then begin to start removing some of the soil with small hand tools and brushes.

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## Digging up – and preserving – the Iron Age

Alexandra Baldwin, British Museum



Five years ago I, and my colleague Simon Dove in the department of [Conservation and Scientific Research](#) at the British Museum, joined a team from [Wessex Archaeology](#) in a field in Wiltshire to excavate what we thought were three small bowls. Two weeks later, in baking sun and torrential rain, we had lifted 10 – or 12 – rather large cauldrons.

Brilliant! 10 Cauldrons! Being extremely rare, this was an exciting find.

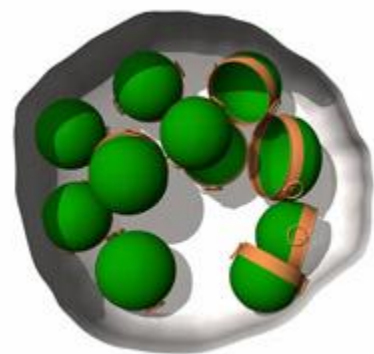
One would have been fantastic. Three would have been amazing. But 10-12, on the other hand, was a huge challenge. First, we had to excavate them. Then we had to store them and finally conserve them so we can learn from them and perhaps even put them on display.

With such a huge find, and with the conservation project alone estimated to take two of us two years, [Jody Joy](#), British Museum curator of Iron Age Britain, and I decided to apply for funding to study the cauldrons properly and conserve them so that we could understand their

wider significance and give them the attention they deserve.

Now we have the funding, work has started and over the next two years myself and a colleague, and Jody, along with scientists and other British Museum staff, will be unravelling the evidence of life in the Iron Age the cauldrons can provide us with.

In the coming months I'll be writing regular posts – as will Jody, and my colleague in the conservation team [Jamie Hood](#) – documenting the journey through the project and describing what goes on behind the scenes at the British Museum, revealing discoveries as we find them... and not to mention the challenges we face.





# Ground-breaking research sheds light on true origin of Celtic languages

<http://www.wales.ac.uk/en/NewsandEvents/News/CWCS/Ground-breakingresearchshedslightontrueoriginofCelticlanguages.aspx> Posted on 13 June 2011

*EDITOR'S Note: Remember the Milesian legend of the Irish coming from Spain? Hmm....*



## Speakers of the 'Ancient Britain and the Atlantic Zone' project

The 'Ancient Britain and the Atlantic Zone' project, based at the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies at Aberystwyth, held its third annual forum at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff on Saturday 4 June.

An audience of over a hundred heard experts presenting cutting-edge research in the fields of archaeology, genetics and linguistics. Project leader Professor John Koch began by setting out the implications of his ground-breaking work on the Tartessian inscriptions of the south-west Iberian Peninsula, dating back as far as the 8th century BC, which he argues to be the earliest attested Celtic language.

This evidence suggests that the Celtic languages evolved, not in central Europe as traditionally thought, but in the west along the Atlantic façade. Connectivity in that region during the Bronze Age and Neolithic was explored by archaeologists Stuart Needham, Catriona Gibson and Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, emphasising the importance of seaways and metalworking technologies in the spread of shared cultural traditions and language(s).

The potential contribution of genetics to the study of historic populations was considered by Professor Sir Walter Bodmer of Oxford University, leader of the People of the British Isles Project, and Professor Mark Jobling of Leicester University. Dating genetic diversity is still problematic, but it is anticipated that developments in the use of ancient DNA will provide evidence of population movements within the region in question.

Interdisciplinary approaches are essential to move research forward in this field, and it was clear from the discussion at the end of the day that the project is drawing together collaborations which are beginning to produce exciting synergies.

Papers from the project's first forum were published in *Celtic from the West*, edited by Barry Cunliffe and John Koch (Oxbow, 2010), and papers from last year's forum held at Oxford are due to be published later this year. For John Koch's work on the Iberian Peninsula inscriptions see his volume *Tartessian 2*, just published by CAWCS.

For more information about the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS): <http://www.wales.ac.uk/en/CentreforAdvancedWelshCelticStudies/IntroductiontotheCentre.aspx>



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