

Goddess Temple News

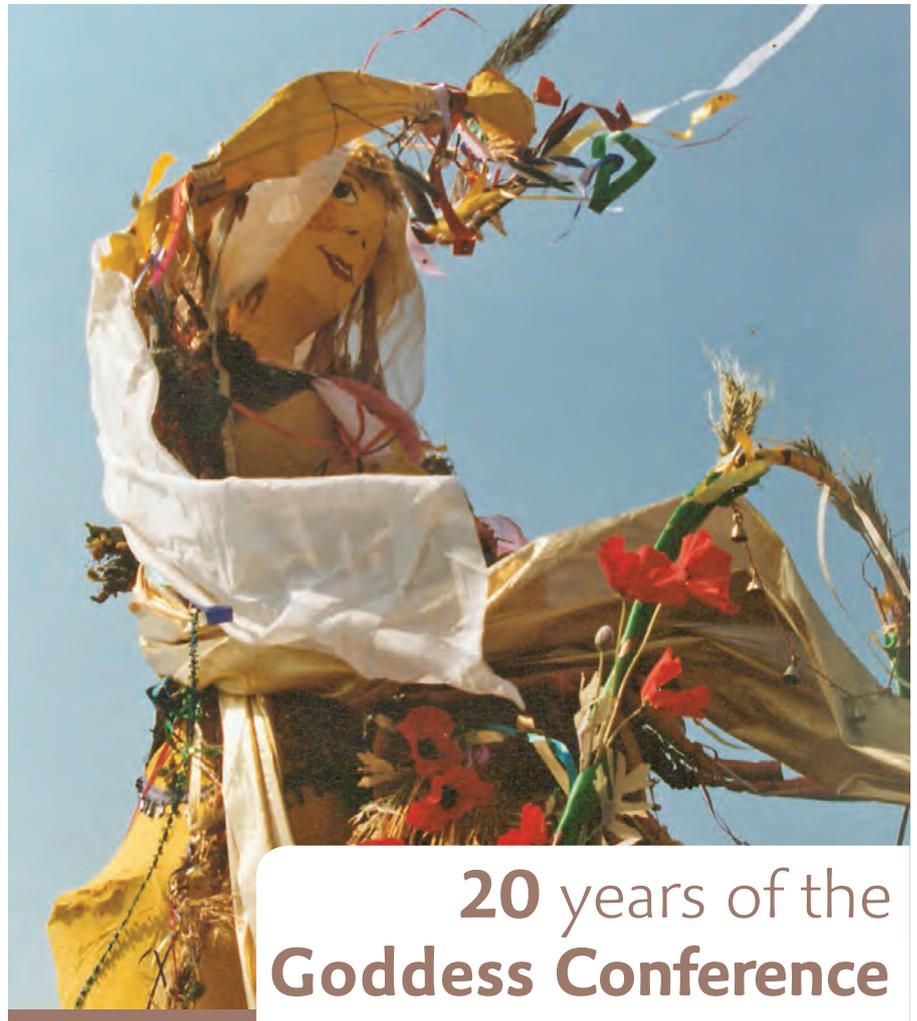
Lammas 2015

Donations Welcome



*The Goddess Temple,
2-4 High Street,
Glastonbury, BA6 9DU*

www.goddess temple.co.uk



20 years of the Goddess Conference

by Kathy Jones

Twenty years ago when I began the Goddess Conference with Tyna Redpath, we did not know that it would run and run every year. I had no idea what a massive transforming effect the Conference would have on my own life and on the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of women and men. At the time our desire was to bring together British Goddess artists, writers, performers, musicians, so that we could share our personal experiences of Goddess. In that first year we had pioneering Goddess presenters, Asphodel Long, Monica Sjoo and Jill Smith, among many others. Our aim was to create a cornucopia of Goddess ideas and imagery, which would feed and inspire us. The idea for a Goddess Conference had come in visions, and the exact timing came when I was walking the great 3-dimensional Labyrinth on Glastonbury Tor in the summer of 1995. As I walked the circuits of the labyrinth I prayed to my beloved

Goddess, the Lady of Avalon, surrendering myself again to Her will, to whatever She wanted for me. After walking four and a half hours into the centre and three and a half hours out, I knew that I needed to create the first Goddess Conference at Lammas the following year. I thought it would take a year to create the kind of BIG Goddess event I envisaged. When I got back into town I went into Tyna's shop, the Goddess and Green Man, and told her of my plans for the following year. She asked if she could help and I gratefully said, "Yes". I was going to need all the help I could get to make this event happen. Together we began to create the first Goddess Conference. We let our imaginations expand with possibilities.

Within a few weeks of making this decision I found that a lump in my breast was a rather dangerous breast cancer. Through the next nine months of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, Tyna and I planned and developed our ideas for the

Goddess Conference. It was an awesome, frightening and deeply healing experience, and also had a wonderfully creative time. By the end of my healing process my straight blond hair had been removed in a transforming Healing Ceremony, and had begun to grow back, dark brown and curly. I decided then to become a redhead. I learned to receive love and to let people go.

The Conference was amazing. There were great presentations, amazing music, the beginnings of good ceremony, many awesome moments. It was wonderful to be surrounded by Goddess artworks which filled the walls of the Assembly Rooms, the amazing portal paintings of Monica Sjoo and other artists. On the Sunday we processed through the town to the Tor, with our first of many wicker Goddesses, in the Cart – a gig, loaned to us by Penny Butterell.

It was not all easy. A group of women camping in a nearby free Spiral Camp,

marched in protest to our Saturday evening Goddess Gala sit-down Dinner, where Goddess-imagined food – individual breast-shaped trifles, et al, had been specially created by Elizabeth from the Isle of Avalon Foundation, (one of our earlier creations). The Spiral women arrived with banners to protest against the fact that we were charging money for our three day Goddess event. They sang, “You can’t buy the Goddess...” (we agreed with that sentiment), as they stormed the steps of the Assembly Rooms. We closed the doors at first as they seemed aggressive and a few fists were raised. Then we decided to let the women in to see what we were doing. They came in and climbed on the dinner tables and the altars, startling participants and presenters. They shouted at us, until they realised they were just frightening other women and then they somewhat sheepishly withdrew. When there was so much to really complain about in the patriarchal world all around us why were they attacking the only Goddess event in the whole of Britain?

But, such is the way with many new Goddess events and ideas. We initiate the new and a first response is nearly always some kind of resistance, which manifests

either from outside our communities, but more often through those who should support us. I have noticed this over many years. It has happened in the Goddess Temple, with our Trainings, in all that we try to do as the conditioned patriarchal energies within women, rise to oppose the new.

However Tyna and I had such a great time creating the Conference, we decided with some trepidation that we would do it all again the following year. Where our first year of planning had been exciting and fun, in the second year we were more afraid that something awful might happen again. We were attacked personally and continuously in women’s media, who failed completely to ever talk to us. But we were made of stubborn stuff and our second Conference was a fabulous success.

After ten creative years Tyna left her role as Conference Melissa Mother and organiser of artists and craftspeople to pursue her own work as an artist. The Conference was also fully developing its Goddess-centred ceremonial heart, enhanced by newly trained and awakening Priestesses of Avalon. I continued to organise the Conference with a growing circle of amazing women and men. My partner and husband Mike has

always been a profound support in the work of the Conference, and in all our Goddess ventures here in Glastonbury.

I am deeply grateful to everyone over the last twenty years, from Britain and abroad, who has come to Glastonbury to share their wonderful Goddess knowledge, inspiration and creativity with us. The Lady of Avalon, Goddess of this sacred land, takes us into a journey of exploration of Her ways that is utterly transformative. The Conference has always been progressive and challenging, and I hope it always will be. It is the space where we can push the boundaries of who we are, of what we know, and what we dare to experience of Her, all together, in the company of other Goddess-loving people. We can take those experiences home with us to change our lives and the lives of all those that we meet and touch, for the better.

It is my prayer that we shall all be blessed always in Her love as we allow her loving energy to flow in us. May the Goddess Conference continue for another twenty years as a re-Source of Her love and healing power!

Kathy Jones, Creative Director, Glastonbury Goddess Temple and trainings Co Creatrix, Organiser, Glastonbury Goddess Conference.

19 turns of the Goddess Conference Wheel

by Mike Jones



Photo, Mike Jones, [seated centre]

I’m padding along down the track to Bushey Combe, a tail of foxes strung out behind me, our orange coats glowing in the twilight. We are headed to the den of the Fox Maiden in the valley below. Other animal tribes are slinking and slithering their way to their own Oracle Animals – the Dolphin Oracle disporting herself in blue, the Snake Oracle hissing in black. I greet each fox in the twilight, beside the Fox Maiden’s den as they seek Her oracle.

Bride’s Mound is covered in white and sweetness, such sweetness. The Brighidine Sisters have come bearing Brighde’s flame from Kildare and our flames are united. We are floating above the surface of the field, brilliance of spirit and beauty.

I am in a circle of priestess and priests, golden light glinting off honey mead shots on silver trays held in offering to those who come. We drink and are uplifted beyond our imagining, entranced and

dancing, dancing, dancing... what was in that mead, I am asked... I added nothing... it was Rhiannon’s intoxication.

There is a red tent and to enter is an intensity of slick embrace and radiating heat.

I am knee deep in the flow of the river, sweet water song rising above the splashing of the weir. The waters brought in offering from all over the world are poured into the waters of the Brue to carry our prayers to the ocean.

We are in warm White Spring water and our skins become silken.

We pass through veils in the Temple and approach the thrones of the Red, White and Black Goddesses. Time stands still.

We find our soulskins, they were lost, but now they are found and we wrap ourselves in the rhythm of the sea from whence we came.

I am in walking by the river, gathering heron feathers gifted



every morning. These hang from the pole I hold to propel the barge through the mists, carrying a tribe at a time to the shores of Avalon. We see through the mists an island of bright colours, priestesses spiralling and circling on the shore.

The Morgens are embodied and it is only nine thirty in the morning. I am overwhelmed.

I have built so many fires, dug so many firepits. Lamas bonfires lit in ceremony, flames licking skyward. Fire Goddess arises.

I have called out the names of so many masked goddesses. Rhiannon, Aphrodite, Pele and Kali. Hecate, Keridwen, Isis and Sekhmet. Lakshmi and Elena and Morgen La Fey. Some were unpronounceable, some were very long, some were funny and then there were the "I don't knows".

I promise myself and others that I will not hasten across the firewalk this time. Yet once the fires are spread and ready to walk, I hasten and so am singed as so many times before. At the end, I watch a dog walk across, fur unsinged!

Originally, we pulled the Goddess in a golden cart to the foot of the Tor and carried her up from there. But then the cart went astray and we carried her from the Hall to the Tor and the Wells, to Chalice Hill and it seemed everywhere. Mother, Mother, Mother, Mother... Great Mother of Us ALL.

Grey and red threads stretch in spider web, held in hands as old memories are witnessed. There is shaking, much shaking, and shouting and screaming, thrashing and wailing, and breathing and breathing and... breathing. The grey thread stores the old and is burnt in the cauldron, but keep the red thread for it is the thread of life and the thread of hope.

We are in the place of dust and ashes. Oh no! The cry is repeated. Oh no! We have descended so far, that it seems that there is no turning back. Then naked beauty walks across the room... and we rise.

We are singing to the Lady, the Lady of Avalon. Your creation goes on and on. Violet Lady of the Summerlands. You are the Source and the Return.

The death road has been stitched and sewn for days in sacred space. It is carried to the place of ceremony. We walk the death road in silence and solemnity and pass across to the other side. Thought is gone and we are suspended... then it is time to return and the walk to life is a walk of joy.

We have entered paradise, priestesses are standing stones and standing stones are priestesses. These are the stone women of whom we have heard. We are surrounded by trees and greenery and rising music, and this is our Mother the Earth whom we love infinitely.

I give thanks to Goddess. I give thanks to the Lady of Avalon. I give thanks to the Priestesses. I give thanks to all the wonderful women and men who have journeyed with us. And I give thanks to my lover, to whom I proposed in the 19th year and married in the Temple before Samhain. I love you!

*Priestess of Rhiannon
Two Spiral Training
with Katinka Soetens*



Rhiannon, the Great Goddess of Love calls to us. She asks us to remember who we are: Sacred Embodiments of Her. Erotic, sensual, powerful, alive, conscious, compassionate, beautiful, wild, wise and loving. Priestesses of Her Temple, which is our body, our mind and our heart, and the land around us.

First Spiral: Nine weekends of teaching between Oct 10th/11th 2015-Oct 8th/9th 2016

**Full Info: www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk
Glastonbury Goddess Temple,
2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU
Tel 01458 898755**

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**Intensive Healing Course
Six 3-day weekends**

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**Full details:
www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk
Glastonbury Goddess Temple, 2-4 High St,
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My Goddess Journey since 2003

by Marion van Eupen



My first Goddess Conference was 'The Morgen Year' in 2003. I had been doing an online course 'Vrouw en Kracht' (Woman and Power/Strength) with Barabara Driessen in The Netherlands and the culmination of this was the great adventure of travelling to Glastonbury (on my own!) and attending the Goddess Conference. I had no idea, about what it would be all about, nor about how this event would change my life forever!

I travelled by bus, because I was too anxious to fly and go through the enormous Schiphol airport. I left Eindhoven at 11 pm and arrived in Bristol at 11 am the next day, stepped in the 377 to Glastonbury, booked into my B&B with Kath Watson and went straight to the Town Hall to register.

It must be that moment that did it, stepping into another world, where all was colour and beauty, smiles and the presence of Goddess. I walked around as if I had stepped into heaven, I felt called to all the great Goddess Hangings, on the Walls, the ceilings, behind the altar, but especially the Goddess on the right side called to me... little did I know then, that I was once going to be Her Priestess, living here on Her land.

I remember every little thing from that first Conference: how I met so many women who would walk with me on my path and still do, how I was totally bowled over by the Opening Ceremony, how I couldn't stop crying singing for Monica Sjöö, how I came in late to one of the ceremonies and they sat me with Emma Rose in the circle of Morgen La Fey and how She then opened my heart in a way that was both terrifying and outer worldly beautiful, how we got a blessing in the White Spring and how I was so spaced out after the Morgen Oracle in the Assembly rooms that I forgot my backpack with my passport and all my stuff there.

But one thing I remember more than anything: how I had come home to Her and there and then decided I was going to be Her priestess.

So the journey began, I met up with Sandra in September that year for the opening of the Dutch Goddess Temple and that same day enrolled in the Priestess training with Sutisha. Two years later (10 years ago) I initiated as Her Priestess, literally led by Kathy Jones. We were immediately put into action at the first Dutch Conference where I received the flame of Avalon from Katinka as representative of the Priestesses of Avalon.

In the next years I would be co-organising the Dutch Conference with Sandra, set up the Dutch Brighde retreat, teach Priestesses in the Dutch temple and...move to Avalon.

And here I am, Ceremonial Priestess at the 20th Glastonbury Goddess Conference.

In the 12 years since 2003 I have changed country, found new love in Alastair and transitioned from having a job as a lawyer to being in Her service fulltime and wholeheartedly!

One thing I can say, she has made true what I heard Her say all those years ago :

'I am your soul's deep song
The dream of belonging
Take my hand
I am Sovereign here, the Shining One
Who takes you across the water to Avalon.'

www.priestessingforyou.com



Bearfoot Walking

Sacred fire and glass walking ceremonies
and empowering workshops
Arrowbreak ceremonies

To book an event for your group contact Weeza at
goddessjourneys@mail2star.com OR
'Bearfoot Walking' facebook page

Autumn Firewalk

Sat 3 Oct, 7.30 pm
EarthSpirit Centre nr Glastonbury
£55.00 (adults only)

As the evenings draw in come and give your gratitude for your harvest of the year, let go of what no longer serves you and turn your focus and vision to what you would like the winter months to hold for you.

'Forget the 5th November' family firewalk

Sat 7 Nov, 7.00pm
Paddington Farm nr Glastonbury
£55.00 per adult,

£70 per adult and child (over 10's only) attending together.
Put on your favourite bobble hat, bring a beautiful lantern, and come and enjoy a different way to celebrate bonfire season. Walk the fire and discover your own bright 'sparkling...fizz...whoosh'...self!

Places limited so
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL CONTACT WEEZA AT -

goddessjourneys@mail2star.com or
'Bearfoot Walking' facebook page

CowGirl Parlour Project

by Christine Watkins
Priestess of Avalon



In another step in the dance of the artist priestess I've spent much of the last year working on a project inspired by the figure of the Abundant Cow. Strands of mythstory have been woven around her in many ages, countries and cultures – the Bountiful Cow, the Stray Cow, the Speckled Cow, who gives all the milk that is asked of her, prolific and unstinting, until the day she suddenly disappears. I have been considering these stories in the context of contemporary dairy practices in the UK.

CowGirl Parlour was envisaged as a walk-in installation in a vintage touring caravan, accompanied by a sung and spoken live performance including a pop-up ice-cream parlour, destined in the first instance for a ten day public 'pilot'. At the time of writing this, the first of these public outings is imminent! My heart lifts every time I see the ancient figure of the Starry Cow Goddess raising her horns and her arms in glorious gold and red on the side of the caravan. It's great to see people smiling when they see her!

The year of working on this piece has itself been a rich and abundant one – beginning with late summer and autumn walking some of the story sites in Wales and the Marches... Llyn Barfog, Mitchel's Fold, Llyn y Fan, Y Fwch a'r Llo, – then winter reading, wide and plentiful, meetings and conversations with farmers, with women and men who work with cows in different ways, and of course, the cows themselves.

I've been introduced to the details of bovine biology and the work of dairy scientists, to the tortuous economics of dairy farming today, to Nordic womens' pastoral music (a sung link between the earth, animals and voice that is one of the oldest, richest and most distinctive female music traditions in Europe) – and much more besides.

Through all this, again and again I've experienced the invitation to slow down... to fall in alongside the rhythmic hip-rocking pace of the cow as she follows the track.

earth
Rhythms



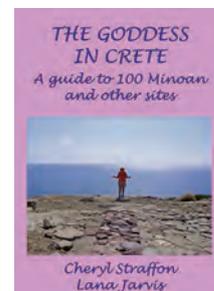
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To be in touch contact
Priestess of Avalon, Lisa on 07899 900 164

In the tumble of Plenty, the long-time vivid story that the Abundant Cow and humans are telling, there are joyful and also painful truths about the deep longings for Enough... and for More. There have been deepening insights into my own experiences of what sustains and nurtures and what gives rise to a fear of scarcity and lack.

I intend to write more fully elsewhere about the pathways I've been following as I've explored some of these questions in the nurturing and abundant care of the Cow Mother.

With Joy. With Abundance. With Generosity. (as it says on the back of the caravan!) www.cowgirlparlour.org



The Goddess in Crete

New detailed guide book that explores the ancient sites, the beautiful finds, and the culture and civilisation of Minoan and later Crete.

Over 160 colour photos and illustrations.

£12.95

Available from The Glastonbury Goddess Temple Shop,
or from www.goddessalive.co.uk.

Goddess Alive! Magazine

including news, research, artwork, photos, personal experiences and ritual.

Twice-yearly £6/issue.

Available from the Goddess Temple
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Priestess/ Priest Training in Germany

by Miriam Wallraven



On her CD "Priestess", Anique Radiant Heart sings "The Priestesses are Returning." This is also true for Germany where I have started the first Spiral of the Priestess/Priest of the Goddess/Priestess/Priest of the New Time Training in November 2013 and began with the second group in November 2014. A new time has begun when so many women and men celebrate Goddess all over the world, and since I initiated as Priestess of Avalon in 2008, I had the vision of Priestesses and Priests reclaiming the Goddesses of Germany.

In the coming years, I held many Goddess workshops, began practising as a Soul Healer, and I work as an academic researching mythology, literature, and gender studies and wrote my second academic book after my PhD on women's occult literature – the pioneering women that paved the way for our Goddess spirituality today. Finally, my paths as priestess, healer, and scholar came together and I found the courage to offer the Priestess/Priest of the Goddess Training which is designed as a two year journey for women and men. I started this adventure with ten wonderful, courageous women and the second year with nine women and three men – all of them beautiful, committed, inspiring individuals.

The training combines scholarship with ritual and ceremony practice, social-political knowledge with mythology, and deep personal development with creative expression. I live in the South of Germany very close to where the Ice Age "Venus vom Hohle Fels" was found. The West and South of Germany were inhabited by Celtic tribes, whereas Germanic peoples lived in the North and East. I felt very strongly about also including other Goddesses in the Wheel of the Year, especially the Roman "travelling Goddesses" who changed their forms and faces as people in Germany worshipped them, such as Isis, Venus, Demeter, and Cybele. For me, they prove that all cultures were once Goddess cultures and that they met and inspired each other. Thus, the Wheel of the Year that I created celebrates this diversity and abundance.

We begin our journey of transformation after Samhain. Since numerous archaeological finds show us that the cauldron was an important ceremonial tool for Celtic and Germanic peoples, but the name of the Goddess of the cauldron is lost, I reclaim Ceridwen as Goddess of transformation. We receive a message by the oracle of the three Norns, Urd, Verdandi, and Skuld, the Goddesses of

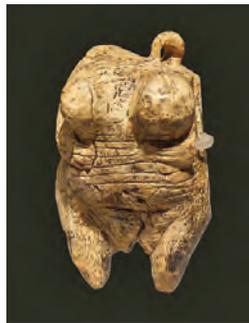
fate, and let go of all we no longer need on our Priestess/Priest path with Hel, Goddess of the underworld. Around the Winter Solstice, we connect with the Goddesses of Air and Vision. Holle/Perchta is still widely known in Germany through fairy tales: The most important folk customs centre around the sacred nights ("Rauhnächte") from the Winter Solstice to the 6th of January. We make our own ceremonial feather fans to be used in these nights when the webs of the world are woven anew and Holle rides on the wind with the wild hunt.

We create a powerful ceremony to heal our inner child when we meet at Imbolc to celebrate the Goddess worshipped as Brigantia, Briga, or Brigida. Our circle focusing on the Goddesses of Fire reflects the Germanic, Celtic, and Roman heritage of our land: With the Germanic Ostara and Sunna, the Celtic Bear Goddess Artio and the Roman Diana we reclaim our power, craft our Priestess/Priest wand, and walk the labyrinth.

Our lush Beltane weekend is blessed by the energies of the Goddesses of Love: Venus, the Germanic Freya, Goddess of sexuality, seidr magic, and war, and the Celtic Horse Goddess Epona. We make a sacred doll to represent our self-love and enter into the Lady's mysteries in a Moonlodge ceremony. The Goddesses of Water bless our Summer Solstice circle with their waters of life and deep emotional healing. We call the Germanic Goddess Ran of the ocean as well as the Celtic Abnoba and Sirona of the healing springs and wells. We also visit Goddesses in the local museum in this circle to connect to our past in different ways.

In our Lammast circle, we celebrate the Goddesses of Abundance. Demeter and Sif guide our ceremonies of gratitude. We also honour Isis as mother, healer, and protectress. We go on a pilgrimage-excursion to the cave where the "Venus vom Hohle Fels" was found and visit her in the museum to connect to our ancestors who held the feminine as sacred. Finally, at the Autumn Equinox we reap the seeds of the first year of training and manifest all we have learned in a moving initiation ceremony blessed by Gaia, the Germanic Nerthus as well as Gefjon whose name means "she who gives."

The Great Goddess Holle is in the centre of the wheel, because she is the cosmic Goddess of rebirth and of the eternal cycle of transformation. She is weaver and initiator, and she will be in the centre of the second year of the training which starts this year in December. It is designed for experiencing Goddess within and without: It focuses on a daily intense meditation practice that



Venus vom Hohle Fels



leads us into Holle's transforming and healing Otherworld. And we'll learn the essentials skills for bringing Goddess into the world by practising rites of passage and ceremonies for different needs. We'll experience the Priestess/Priest as healer and as oracle and embodiment of the Goddess. This is the new time and in Germany the Priestesses and Priests are returning!

If you are interested in the path of the Priestess/Priest and feel called by the Goddess, I'd be happy to give you more information: www.die-heilende-insel.de, Email: heilende.insel@gmail.com, or contact me on Facebook: Miriam Raven (you can also join the open group "Ausbildung PriesterIn der Göttin – PriesterIn der Neuen Zeit")

Looking forward to reclaiming and celebrating the Goddesses with you! *Miriam Walraven*

We are delighted to announce Mary Bruce has successfully completed her B.Sc which means she is now a fully qualified herbal practitioner.

Mary tells us, I hold private consultations in my clinic five minutes walk from central Glastonbury. My onsite dispensary holds a large variety of quality sustainable herbs, many from my medicinal herb garden. I run courses, workshops and talks from my clinic and venues around Glastonbury. The Herbs of Avalon course has another introductory day in September.

Contact : herbalistmary@icloud.com or ring 0781 499 3706



Goddess of your Heart

A year's magical journey of creativity, invocation, connection and dedication to whichever Goddess you love best.

Journey to meet Her, then find Her in every season:

As Crone Goddess of death and descent ...17/18 October 2015

As Mother of Air, of sound and story ...12/13 December

As Maiden Goddess of new beginnings ... 23/24 January 2016

As Mother of Fire, of growth and courage ... 2/3 April

As Lover Goddess of blossom and delight ... 7/8 May

As Mother of Water, of movement and flow ... 25/26 June

As Mother Goddess of nurture and plenty ... 6/7 August

As Mother of Earth, of manifestation and completion ...
1 / 2 October

8 weekends in Avalon, culminating in a day of ceremony, presentation and gratitude when you may dedicate in service to your Goddess.

Facilitated by Michelle Patten, Priestess of Avalon and of Rhiannon

michellepatten43@yahoo.com

01458 835 086 / 07542 946 776

The Sacred Bee – Reclaiming the lineages of the Bee Priestess

by Angie Twydall

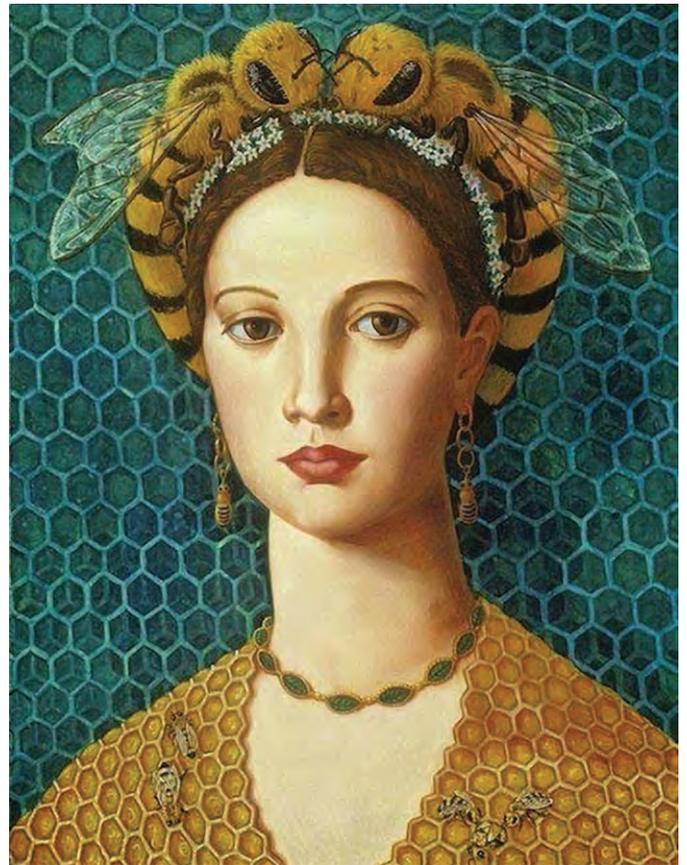
Why does it take a crisis to happen before we sit up and take action? Is there something in our brains, our energy fields that shift our consciousness and we wake up, rise up to whatever is the challenge? From this point of view, a crisis can be our best teacher and guide.

This crisis awareness happened to me over seven years ago with the situation of honeybees dying off, colonies collapsing and becoming Queenless. Goddess kept bringing this into my awareness, constantly, through the media. I got Her message and took direct action by buying some hives and honeybees from a retired farmers wife. So, I went into bee keeping to do my small part, to help save the pollinators.

Many years on the gifts I have received from the Bees has been more than I could have possibly imagined:- the teachings, awareness, communication and connections have surpassed the obvious gifts of the hive; the honey, propolis and beeswax.

New update – I am totally delighted to let you all know that we collected a swarm and successfully homed them. The Avalon Apiary is set up on the principles of natural bee keeping and with honour to the sacredness of the Bees. Our first hive was named by Michelle Patten, and is called Lily.

I am now ready to share the Bees wisdom and work raising the awareness of others. Do you hear the call? are you ready to do something to help save the bees?



A new on-line beginners basic bee keeping course starts in September 2015 – 6 modules, worked on at your own pace, this is for complete beginners who want to know where to start. It is recommended you complete this on-line course first and then move onto the one year Bee Priestess course. This is made up of 6 weekends over one year, based in Glastonbury.

Come and feel the ancient lineage of the Minoan Bee Priestesses, come connect to the magical flight paths of the Bees, come beat your drum to the rhythm of the swarm!

On 4/5th December I am hosting Laura Bee, from the College of the Melissa USA. Together we will be presenting our journeys into Sacred Bee Keeping, some of the teachings and ceremony. Let us ponder in our hearts and awareness. Let us hear the call to renew our ways, bringing reverence and care into the lives of all. Let us all be a part of helping the bee to regain health and vitality again. www.theblessed-bee.co.uk



Reflections on 20 years of the **Glastonbury** Goddess Conference !!

Anique Radiant Heart, Priestess Of the Global Goddess



I will never forget the first time I attended the Glastonbury Goddess Conference in 2004. I had been walking with the Goddess for many years already, and had organised many conferences and gatherings for women to celebrate Her, here in Australia. I had been singing Her praises and sharing my Goddess music in many ways and experiencing wonderful connection to Goddess and those who love Her... yet nothing could have prepared me for the magnificence I was about to experience as I walked into the Town Hall for the Opening Ceremony that

fateful day. I had been on a tour of SW England, taking in the ancient sites and having my mind and heart expanded in ways I cannot describe, so you might say I was already "primed", yet as I took in the beauty of the decoration, the magnificence of the Priestesses who were leading the ceremony, the depth of the invocations, the power of the intention and the total dedication of all who were holding sacred space on that day, I was transformed at a cellular level. My heart overflowed and I cried tears of joy and gratitude that I had "come home" to a place I had not even known existed in myself. I was changed for ever.

That year, Kathy had invited me to present my music and my teaching on the chakras, so the next day I stood on the stage for the first time and led the whole Conference through singing the chakras – it was the largest group I had ever led to date and it was thrilling. I was hooked! So I have been coming back year after year, so deeply honoured to be one of the Glastonbury Goddess Conference "family", sharing my music through concert and teachings, supporting the Priestesses with specially written songs, offering my love of Goddess through workshops and experiences informed by my global view of Goddess and absorbing all that I can of the Avalonian tradition and the experience of Priestesses that I deeply admire.

So today, I hold sacred space in my own Goddess Temple in Australia and train Priestesses in the ancient tradition of the Global Goddess, which incorporates the best of many of the ancient Goddess ways, and this year I am blessed to be traveling with 2 of my 3rd Year Priestesses to the Conference. I don't know how long I will be able to keep traveling the vast distance between Australia and England, but for as long as I can, I will be here, in Avalon, at Conference time, loving my community, loving my dear friends of over 10 years and celebrating our Lady in deep beauty.

Thank you Glastonbury Goddess Conference, thank you Kathy Jones for your vision and loving friendship, thank you Priestesses for your beauty and dedication and thank you Great Mother of us All for this blessed LIFE. www.goddess.net.au

Roz Bound, Conference Elder



In 1996, Goddess created a journey for me, an adventure of synchronicities to return me to the land of my Somerset heritage after forty years of living thousands of miles away. And every year after, She has called me home. Her landscape never fails to draw me in.

And in 1996, when I walked into the Glastonbury Assembly Rooms for the very first Goddess Conference with nervous excitement, I opened myself to whatever would happen.

In 2015, I will enter the Twentieth Goddess Conference, feeling exactly the same way. In between I have grown a million years.

So many memories from so many conferences: linking arms to sing and sway while Julie Felix sings Woman; meeting Rose at the first conference as we manifested our crone-hood; climbing the Tor on a full-moon midnight after a banquet; meeting Kathy for the first time every year after I arrive from Canada, catching up – then saying goodbye before flying away, moving on; so many laughs and tears with our beloved Koko; the incredible people I've met over eleven years of sitting at the front desk, one foot in the street, one foot in the circle. And seeing those beautiful faces return year after year.

Conference colours blur in my closet: a rainbow of orange, turquoise, black, red, white, each colour reminding me of healing circles and heated well waters, fire ceremonies and yoni stories, animal spirits and death walks. Over twenty vari-coloured years, I have retired, moved, travelled, grandmothers, buried dear friends and family, fallen in love, studied, graduated, priestessed the land, and aged – for fifty weeks in the year.

But for two weeks in every year, I have the gift of being called home again by Goddess, home to Avalon, to a nourishing place called the Goddess Conference – a place that renews my spirit and my courage, a place in which I can serve Her with immense gratitude, and a place to which I hope to return for many years yet, over which my spirit with linger when I no longer can.



Lammas Poetry

Kernel – The Corn Maiden

On a glorious morn, near Lammas tide,
Maiden Kernel, danced through the countryside,
She gathered blooms of cornflower blue
and poppies of a blood-red hue,
To decorate her Mother Ker's altar,
Alas in her purpose she began to falter.

To gaze and admire a sight so delicious,
She stopped and picked the vain Narcissus.
The sky turned black and with a crack of thunder,
The Earth split open and was torn asunder.
Kernel fell into the bleak underworld below,
Where no mortal ever dared to go.

She found herself in a pitch black barrow,
And crawled through tunnels long and narrow.
With joy, she saw a flickering light,
But stopped still in horror at the sight
Of her grandmother, Keridwen the Crone,
Stirring her dark cauldron, all alone.

In terror she tried to keep a distance,
But with an animal grunt, the crone's insistence,
Beckoned her Granddaughter to her side,
Where Kernel laid her head and cried.
When later she woke and raised her head,
The Crone bade her drink from cauldron dread.

The bubbling drink was a refreshing balm
And Kernel at last began to calm.
As time passed by in the womb like cavern,
Kernel learned her ways, and saw the pattern,
Of nature's wondrous regeneration
She viewed the Crone with veneration,

And learned her Grandmother to love.
However in the Middleworld above,
The Grain Goddess Ker searched for her to no avail,
On earth there was no sign, no trail.
Ker's realm began to break and splinter
Her sorrow brought the land to winter.

Her elder daughter Kerhiannon,
Searched every hill and every canyon.
At last the Lover full of love and light,
Found her way below to the realm of night
To her joy saw her sister and the Crone
And marvelled at how Kernel had grown.

Kernel then remembered her life above,
She turned to great Keridwen with love
Embraced and promised without a fear
That she'd return for three months a year.
The cauldron smoked, bubbled and burned
As Kernel left the cave, the Spring returned.

Ker's joy burst forth for all to see,
Green leaves and blossom on the trees.
At Beltane She entertained Green Man Kernunnos
And with Lammas once again upon us,
The fruitful harvest returned to earth
And to a new Kernababy Goddess Ker gave birth.

Each year the cycle of the seasons spin
Through sunshine, snow and rain and wind.
New growth continues above and underground,
Where love and understanding once were found
And our story told of how the grain is grown
Through Maiden, Lover, Mother, Crone.

Claire Kehily, Discovery student

OWNING

I am becoming more brave.
I will dare to say I am a Priestess
in a world that holds that word as somehow
crazy, deluded certainly, possibly even
dangerous and scary.
*In Crete an ancient mural in a church still shows
a line of naked priestess in chains,
hell-fiends tormenting them with blades and fire.*

Long breasts, deep vagina, unbound hair
I carry spirit in my earthly body;
I am Dark Moon Woman transcended
through white and red to Wisdom
I see Goddess returning through our troubled skies
through wars and violated children,
through land raped into angry dust
and I will priestess her, call her healing love:
through ritual and my daily living; I know
in all her many names she spells the flame of hope.

To own the word Priestess,
I am becoming more brave,
beside my thousand thousand priestess-sisters.

From Rose Flint's collection of Goddess poetry, Grace Beneath Bone, Available from the Goddess temple shop.



Rose Flint
*Conference ceremonialist,
Conference poet.*

I was at the very first conference in 1996 – and have been to them all! That first one was so exciting... no Melissas of course, just running about doing everything. And what an extraordinary line-up of greats, women so influential to the Goddess movement, so many women of power in one place the air was electric! Monica Sjoo, Asphodel Long, Caitlin Mathews, Jill Smith, Carolyn Hillyer, Jana Runnels... and more. And every year since, astonishing, learned, wild, fierce, strong and beautiful women come from all over the world, to praise the One and the Many-Named Goddess with their sisters.



Photo Katinka Soetens, third left,
Conference Attender / Ceremonialist since 1997

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Priestess of Avalon,
Priestess of Rhiannon

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photo: Rob Wildwood

For further details and to apply online please see:
goddesstempleteachings.co.uk
or contact Michelle direct at
michellepatten43@yahoo.com
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Contact information:
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