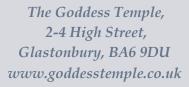
Goddess Temple News

Samhain 2016







It is dusk on the shore of Llyn Tegid, 75 people are waiting as the mists roll in over the gently lapping waters of the lake that is the home of Cerridwen, Swynwraig... Sofren o'r Tir... Mam Ysbrydoliaeth.

As the mists get heavier, some are starting to wade into the dark waters, called into them by Her, to be cleansed, to be renewed, to be reborn.

Five years ago I first stood by those waters, on a cold September night, part of a group of Druids, gathered together to celebrate the native land where the ancient ancestors once stood, as we did, not to worship Her, but to revere. Stories and poems written about this enigmatic Goddess of the Celts speak of Her fierce loyalty, Her loving nature towards all in Her domain, Her prowess in the healing arts. She spoke to trees, sang to the spirits of the land, the elements and held the Cadair – the chair of knowledge and wisdom. Even today, in the Eisteddfodau of Wales, the brightest, most accomplished poet is presented with Her chair. In the poem Chair of Cerridwen



She tells us:

When are judged the chairs, Excelling them (will be) mine My chair, my cauldron and my laws!

For years I was under the impression that the lake represented Her cauldron, and in a manner of speaking it does. but last year I climbed one of the hills that rise above the lake, and the shape was not of a round cauldron but of a Yoni. This is a metaphorical cauldron, a womb vessel, the cauldron of testing, to which we step with courage in our heart, to face our fears and our sorrows, to be rebirthed from Her womb waters. But there is a catch ...

"The cauldron will not boil the meat of a coward" we are told in the poem Preiddeu Annwfn, one of many that mention Her. We step up, there is a moment of trepidation, will we be found wanting and rejected or will we be found acceptable - which is when the fun really starts. We stand on the pearl encrusted rim and dive into Her brew, sink deep, are boiled, all dross released, the scum drifts onto the surface and evaporates. The brew is medicine or poison, can heal or kill. Only our purest intent protects us, we want to be renewed, let go of all that no longer serves us, stop old hurts and wounds from holding us back to become a better, brighter future version of ourselves. In this endeavour there is no better Goddess than Cerridwen. Her love for Her children. the cauldron born, is immeasurable but She does demand complete trust in Her judgement and guidance.

Recently, during the first ever initiation weekend of the Priestess of Cerridwen course, I was under the mistaken impression that it was others who were going to be tested. How very wrong I turned to be. There is always more to learn, the cycle is a spiral and we must walk our path without fear. Fear is our greatest enemy. Whenever something triggers our old behaviour patterns, the root cause is fear. Cerridwen shows us that there is nothing to fear but fear itself. It is Her constant challenge to us but also Her most gracious gift to us.

The cleft, Her womb entrance in this world, holds the lake that is in places 400 feet deep, carved by the old ice age glaciers, as old as 40,000 years. How many generations have stood on that shore before us? How many will stand there after us? Will they feel Her power as strongly as we have? Time is relative and yet, it is all we have.

The past is gone, still, Her story lives on. From a chance translation in Lady Charlotte Guest's *Mabinogion* to Robert Graves' *White Goddess*, from the Sisterhood of Avalon in the US to the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, from the Anglesey Druid Order to the Wheel of Avalon, I found Her presence everywhere. Her siren call inspires us to seek Her. People speak to me often of finding signs and symbols, hearing Her

Continued on page 3

This Samhain News features a number of offerings from members of the Crone Circle. This is a Circle of members who identify themselves as Crones – we share; we laugh; we cry and we create. If you would like further information about the Circle or the workshop Growing Older/Growing Wiser do contact me via email: molliemny@googlemail.com

Honouring the Crone

Facing the Crone – on becoming older and wiser

by Mollie Love



A Crone – that is how I refer to myself. I celebrate that I am no longer a Maiden but still a Mother; now a Grandmother and a Crone; Cailleach; Wise Woman; Elder of the tribe, the clan.

The word Crone is seldom used these days and if it is, it is in a derogatory way to refer to older women who are no longer revered – respected; no longer beautiful, are useless, with no recognised place in society. In our current age older women are denied recognition – wrinkles, grey hair are out and youth is where it is at. In pre-patriarchal societies elder women had their place in the tribe as the one holding the wisdom; they were consulted for their healing skills and advised on moral leadership. We no longer live in a pre-patriarchal society so do we just accept that is how it is and spend many pounds on youth creams in the vain hope of staying young looking? – no we do not. That in my opinion is certainly not being wise but rather to deny who we are and what we still have to offer.

The Crone can be scary in a culture that prioritises youth and classical beauty and she needs to be redeemed if there is a truly meaningful divine power in the great Feminine. According to Jean Shinoda Bolen, "To be a crone is about inner development, not outer appearance. A crone is a woman who has wisdom, compassion, humor, courage and vitality – (I would add humility). She has a sense of truly being herself." There is a saying: 'When the Grandmother speaks, the world listens'.

Moving into a state of Croneness is not an easy passage and there is not a special 'marker' as in previous stages. Is it when we become

a Grandmother – although not all women do? Is it when we reach or have passed through menopause? Is it reaching a certain age? Is it when we are wise – ah, yes, now that is the question? Is wisdom gained automatically as we grow older? I think not. Croneness and crone qualities are not acquired overnight and growing older and wiser do not necessarily go hand in hand. Wisdom does not come with how much we know or how many qualifications we have chalked up. To be wise is to be able to reflect on things that have passed; on painful challenges that we have learned from; to accept the things we have had to release with graciousness and knowing what still has to go; to be able to look inwards and glimpse the bliss of detachment from desire – and perhaps most of all to celebrate that which is still on offer to us and what new things we can embrace.

For me, it is an inner state of contentment with who we are; an acceptance of others as they are; we are authentic and comfortable being 'on the edge'. Not isolated but observing.

'The voice of the crone comes out of the shadows. It is the voice of wisdom, the voice of the seer – the initiator into the Mysteries. It is the voice that knows the secrets of death, the voice that men most fear, the voice they have almost silenced. For it is the voice of vision and the powers of the unseen, the voice of the Challenger.' Claire Hamilton.

Honouring the Crone

by Malgosia Chelminska

'Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born." Albert Einstein

The time has come to reclaim the essence and power of older women. In ancient times crones held power, enjoyed status and were respected as wise women. Over time this has become lost and the time has come to redress the balance. Why do we continue to accept our invisibility, being pushed aside as ageing seems to be the only available way to live a long life?

In the past, families tended to live and work near each other and older women were valued. Over the decades, due to economics and the unavailability of work, families were torn apart. In our society the focus appears to be on youth and of course it is rightful that time, energy and resources are focused on the next generation, but nevertheless the balance needs to be redressed. Young people may not be aware of the wealth and experience and skills older women have. Inevitably, young people will age themselves. How beneficial it would be if we, as crones, opened up the opportunity to share experiences with younger people.

As a society we tend not to honour all rites of passage; let us celebrate this third and crowning stage of our lives. Let us not lose our sense of purpose, our creativity and our contribution to society. We need to continue to do everything to enrich our lives. Let us start by challenging society's perception of us.

My extensive travels abroad have shown me the immense value that older women have in their communities. Problems and other issues were discussed in a circle with the crones holding centre stage. They were given many opportunities to share their experiences and were seen as an asset to their community.

As we age, our lives become more authentic and creative and we have the opportunity to be active members of the community and make a significant contribution. Our lives have been rich with experience and we have trodden many various paths – let us pass these on to future generations.

Honouring the Crone

Reverencing the Crow

by Rosie Rose

My son has recently bought a farm in Devon and it was a time of celebration. We were celebrating his 40th birthday in fancy dress – the theme being the farm. I chose the Crow and as I wore the clothes and mask I had made I felt the power of being the

Matriarch of this gathering.

The next day walking with the family I felt drawn towards an oak tree at the base of which we came upon a dying crow. I knew I needed to stay with the crow as the others returned to the farm. I asked her permission to pick her up and sang Om Tari Tam Soha as I wrapped her in my shawl and took her back to the open



barn where I made a nest in a box with hay. She had been attacked in the neck by one of her kind – a fatal wound. I stayed with her and just before she died she rose up in all her splendour, wings outstretched and as she folded gently down she quietly died.

I was able to practice Transference at the time of death, a Buddhist practice from my heart to her heart. I left her body in her nest to attend to later. I felt such a sense of privilege to have been so close to this wild winged one which will remain with me always. Later the following poem came to me.

Dead Crow is the left handed Guardian
If I look deeply into her eyes I will have found the
Gateway to the supernatural.
Crow knows the unknowable mysteries of Creation
and is the keeper of all Sacred Law.
Crow has the art of shape shifting, is the omen of change
Allow personal integrity to be my guide
I am not alone on this path of discovery

Continued from cover page

name, until finally they realize: Her presence in this world is real and She is calling them to service. She has a way of making Herself known to you, if you are one of Her children.

For a half page story in an almost forgotten book She is remarkable. Here at Goddess House we created a room to celebrate Her and offer Her our gratitude for all that She teaches us. She is the Mother of the Awen, of Inspiration, of transformation and rebirth. As with all Goddesses they tried to hide Her, you will find no mention of Her in and around Bala, even the lake is named after Her husband, but She will find a way to reach out to those who are spiritually awake in the world. They will speak, shout and sing Her name from the highest peak in Eryri (Snowdonia) to the bottom of the valley in which Her lake lies – one thing is for certain: She will not be silenced – Her can enaid (soul song) is eternal and it echoes in all of us.

Bee Helygen Baganz-Dickinson Priestess of Avalon, Priestess and Ymgorfforiad of Cerridwen

Sisters Celebrating in Crone Circle

Goddess

You sang to us through the years, You gifted us through the tears everything needed to grow to old ages. We offer ourselves as your wise ancient sages.

Threescore plus years of love and learning, travelling beyond material loss and yearning. Surrendering now to the power of Crone our fears and restrictions all outgrown.

We are wise and fierce, and piercingly true, yet loving and nurturing in all that we do. With children grown, grandchildren we adore now it's our time to swoop and soar.

Feeling our power rise, grow and surge as ageing beauties we form and emerge into fresh beginnings for our end of days. Loving ourselves in myriad new ways.

Revealing our many faces of Crone never again feeling lost or alone.

We give thanks for the guidance of the black Goddess in her love and wisdom we are truly blessed.

Offering our service to newer souls, Experimenting with variety of roles. Living fully our life's final joyride before crossing over to the other side.

In Crone circle – becoming the best we can be – our age, unique beauty being seen and set free. Showing the world our Crone strength, our transcending dancing in the delicious darkness of life's ending.

Lynne Sedgmore – Priestess Healer training inspired by and written for Mollie Love's Glastonbury Crone Circles



An interview with Dawn Kinsella, Melissa Mother

by Lisa Newing Priestess of Avalon, Co-editor of Glastonbury Goddess Temple News

I met with Dawn Kinsella, Melissa Mother of Glastonbury Goddess Temple, on a warm summer's day; I was looking forward to interviewing the charismatic Dawn about her role as Melissa Mother, which she has now done successfully for three years with the Glastonbury Goddess Temple. Having arrived straight from another Temple commitment, Dawn and I found coffee and we settled down to reflect and talk.

Lisa: So, how did you become Melissa Mother?

Dawn: Initially others in the community had suggested I apply for the role, and upon reflection, I decided to apply, had an interview and was offered the role! I was so enthusiastic about this new opportunity, so delighted to get the job.

Lisa: So what do you love the most about being Melissa Mother? Dawn: (huge smile, her joy is palpable) I love that the role is so multifaceted, there is so much variety. I love the relationships with the Melissa's, and the weaving of roles within the Temple and working with other Priestesses and Priests, weaving connections, a tangible hive community all working together to bring Goddess back. We all work, and look after each other too. I had no idea of how the role would be at the start, it was and still is, a learning experience, evolving, improving as has been needed.

Lisa: Can you tell us more about how the Melissa Training has evolved?

Dawn: Yes, of course, there is a new format for the Melissa Training, the training covers what it means to be a Temple Melissa – the nature of a sacred role. The training allows space to explore being a Melissa in the Temple and the practical aspects of being in the Temple. The training includes: holding space, calling in the Goddesses of the Wheel, participating in sacred walks on the land of Avalon, the Lady's Prayer, how to open and close the Temple and arrangements for shadowing experienced Melissa's in the Temple, before being a Melissa on their own. Last but not least, the Melissa training is free.

Lisa: How do you keep in touch with Melissa's?

Dawn: (smiling enthusiastically) ohh lots of ways! We have a Facebook page, where Melissa's are encouraged to share experiences, ask questions and share ideas, I am always interested in hearing how we can improve the Melissering experience, ideas are encouraged, we like to exchange information – we have a comments book in the Temple for Melissa's to communicate with each other, or note any issues. In addition, there is also the *Goddess Temple News* too, for wider connection and Melissa's are able to advertise their own Goddess events!

Lisa: It sounds like Melissa's are very much part of the Temple?



Dawn Kinsella

Dawn: Yes, very much so, the Melissa role is evolving and is a dynamic, creative and developing role within the Temple team. Melissa's have an important part to play in Temple Dressing, and Temple Weaver's Meetings-where decisions are made on the running of the Temple day-to-day.

Lisa: What is the minimum Melissa Commitment?

Dawn: Of course Melissa's will have various levels of other commitments, however, we ask for a minimum of two Melissa slots a month (a minimum of 4 hours a month that can be on different days). Melissa slots are put on the Facebook page, and Melissa's are able to say when they can come.

Lisa: What happens when you are away?

Dawn: The wonderful Trevor Nuthall is my assistant, he runs things when I am away, he stands in for me with organising Melissa slots, dealing with any issues, being there at the end of the phone / email / Facebook page. Trevor also manages the housekeeping within the Temple. As the Temple is open 365 days a year Trevor is essential!

Lisa: Any future developments you would like to share?

Dawn: Yes! It's very exciting – the Melissa training course will be evolving to a two day intensive course, with more content and still free of course. Experienced Melissa's who have already done the training and had lots of experience will have the opportunity to be paid to support Temple events; embodiments, sound baths, private events and other events run by Priestesses and Priests. There will be further training for Melissa's on Melissering for Embodiment and other such events.

I am also looking to develop Melissa social events – for example possibly a Yule social gathering, and there is the Melissa and Madron day each February. Thanking Melissa's for the work they do is so important, and to meet socially too.

Lisa: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Dawn: It is an incredible honour to be trusted to do this Melissa Mother role, Melissa's excel at what they do, in service to the

Temple, they all have compassion, grace and commitment to the Temple and the important role that they undertake.

Lisa: It is clear that you love this role Dawn, thank you for sharing your infectious enthusiasm, excitement and delight, I have learnt a lot about how important a role the Melissa Mother is, and your caring commitment, honesty and integrity really radiates out. Thank you for a most enjoyable interview.

To find out more about becoming a Temple Melissa contact Dawn: dawnkinsella@hotmail.co.uk

With Thanks to Dawn Kinsella, Melissa Mother, Priestess of Avalon, Priestess of Rhiannon.





Indian Head Massage Diploma Course at the Goddess House

5th and 6th November 2016

11th and 12th March 2017

2 Day Diploma Course plus Case Studies

Based on ancient Ayurvedic principles, Indian Head Massage helps to relieve stress, reduce tension and improve flexibility in the shoulders, neck and arms. It boosts circulation and may relieve: stress, tension, fatigue, insomnia, headaches, migraine and sinusitis. It leaves the client deeply calmed and relaxed, often feeling energised, revitalised and better able to concentrate. This course will also help you to develop your intuition when performing this massage technique.

In the 2 day class you will learn

- History and theory of Indian Head Massage Anatomy and Physiology relevant to Indian Head Massage
- Benefits and contra-indications of an Indian Head Massage - Indian Head Massage Treatment Sequence
 - - Aftercare advice
- Use of oils, chakras and marma points and their role in healing - Skills to perform a one hour professional treatment

This is a professional qualification and is recognised by IICT - International Institute for Complementary Therapists



Nandini Gibbins is a Priestess of Brighid and licensed and insured Complementary Therapist and Tutor for over 12 years. teaching in Devon, Somerset and South America.

"Her classes are welcoming, relaxed and she provides a fun learning environment" - Sally P.



More information call Nandini Gibbins on 07951 534960 or e-mail on info@nandinidasi.co.uk

www.nandinidasi.co.uk

Frin McCauliff Teacher of Priestesses since 2003

Priestess of Avalon Erin McCauliff has been teaching Goddess Temple students how to become dedicated Sisters and Brothers of Avalon, Priestesses / Priests of Goddess, in preparation for becoming Priestesses / Priests of Avalon. Erin stepped in unexpectedly to help teach the First Spiral with Brian Charles and when he left a year or so later, Erin took on the Training of students in her own right. Since then she has taught students what it means to love and serve Goddess as Her priestess in the modern world, not only through information shared but by the example of her own dedication as a Priestess of Avalon. Erin has taught, loved, encouraged, prompted, helped, listened to, empathised with, held boundaries, and given so much of her time and energy to her students.

I am deeply grateful to Erin for all that she has given to so many women and men over the years, both on the Glastonbury-based training and on the Correspondence training. Erin is someone who gives her time and energy so willingly in service to the Lady and no-one really knows just how much she has given of herself to help her students. Erin is an amazing, generous and gifted woman and everyone who has been taught by her will know this and appreciate her for all that she is. Thank you,

Erin is retiring from teaching the First Spiral of the Priestess Training this year and from the Second Spiral next year. We are holding a special Ceremony to thank her at our Orchard Gathering and Temple Madron Day 23rd-26th February 2017. Thank you, Erin, for all that you are and all you have given. You are wonderful! With the Lady's many blessings on your retirement.

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



Kathy Jones and Erin McCauliff - photo, Matthew Holbrook

Samhain Poetry

I welcome Samhain into the circle of my life.

Samhain's earth embraces me as deeply as I treasure Her: Her undulating land, crags that tower the sky with snow Her stones and bones deep enriching loam.

Home.

Earth gives me power
strength in myself to share
ancestors' wisdom from long ago.
DNA passed down the mother's line
from stardust far away.
In this place where veils are thin, I see the truth
held within the dance of life,
illusions broken down, seen for what they are, diminished in
their power.

At this hour, Samhain is moon time, the cry of loon time entering the midnight of new year dark underground, roots and shoots crone time hag time death time, prepares new breath time, new birth time.

When my body, tired and old or wounded young lies down to rest to sleep in hibernation curled up in roots, bids farewell to this incarnation,

then Mother Earth will take me back.
And I shall never lack for love:
She understands my weariness,
my airiness, my readiness,
and welcomes home
Her crone
into the One.

Roz Bound, Conference Elder





Goddess Temple Priestesses

· A New Website! ·

We are a network of International Priestesses and Priests that have all trained with the Glastonbury Goddess Temple.

On the website find:

- Priestesses/Priests local to you
- * Priestesses/Priests at your travel destination
- Use the Service Directory to search for: Handfastings, Baby Namings, Therapists/Healers, Funeral Care and Moon Lodges.
 - Bespoke Ceremonies and Training Courses
 - Find Goddess Temples
 - Discover Goddess Events.

Find us at: www.goddesstemplepriestesses.com Email: goddesstemplepriestesses@gmail.com



Friday 4 November 7.30pm-9.00pm

Wild Goose Studio 228 Mina Road St Werburghs Bristol BS2 9YP

Suggested Donation £5

You are welcome to bring a small object or photo to place on the Ancestor Altar

For more information visit Bristol Goddess Group FB

Associated with Glastonbury Goddess Temple

Even as the leaves fall, stories are stirring...

And I'm glad to be bringing STORYWEAVERS into the world, with tellings and workshops exploring Goddess through story and spoken word.

The myths and stories of Goddess are a vast realm, intimately here and wildly faraway all at once. Stepping out onto this terrain we are caught up in tales that speak of the creation of the cosmos, the secrets of the heart, how living relates to dying, how concealment embraces revelation, how laughter may call down birds from the trees...

As a traveller on this terrain of Goddess Story I have begun offering a new series of day workshops, which are both investigative and practical, focusing on a particular story each time.

These workshops are open to all over 18 whether or not you have previous storytelling experience. They are a golden opportunity to explore your skills as a teller and a listener, to glimpse stories that are resonating in your own life, and to uncover and re-weave some of the bright-dark threads of Goddess that have lain concealed or tangled in our familiar myths and our box of almost-forgotten yarns.

A longer Storyweaving course is coming... Holding these day workshops has already begun to help shape my understanding of what form that course will take, which tales are asking for us to hear them with new ears and make new tellings. Please come and be part of this, if it calls to you.

The next workshop focuses on tales of Transformation, and in particular the strange and compelling story of Ceridwen and the cauldron. It is on Saturday November 12th in Goddess House, 10-4. Cost £35. Places are limited and must be booked in advance. christinewatkins1@googlemail.com to book your place.

Christine Watkins has many years experience weaving spoken word and story. She performs regularly in Wales, Britain and elsewhere in Europe and is Goddess Temple Storyteller in Glastonbury. She is an experienced workshop leader and a Priestess of Avalon.





Support the **Goddess Temple**

Giving Your Time and Energy

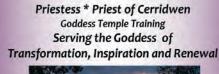
The Goddess Temple is open to the public seven days a week with volunteer Temple Melissas looking after the space while it is open. All kinds of people come to the Temple, some experiencing a Goddess Sacred Space for the first time, and many Goddess pilgrims who come to bathe in Her loving energy, to attend Ceremonies and Healing Days. We always need more volunteer Temple Melissas. If you would like to become a Melissa and can offer two or more hours of your time regularly to care for this beautiful sacred space. Contact Dawn Kinsella — dawnkinsella@hotmail.co.uk.

Become a Temple Madron

Make a monthly standing order donation to the Goddess Temple to help cover our regular monthly costs. Any amount you can donate will support the Temple. As a Temple Madron you will receive our Temple Newsletter four times a year, plus invitations to special yearly Madrons, Friends and Melissa days where Goddess speakers and presenters will delight and entertain you. Please see details on the Temple website: http://www.goddesstemple.co.uk/index.php/how-you-can-help.

Donations to the Goddess Temple, details – Lloyds Bank, The Goddess Temple, Sort Code 30-98-28, Account No. 0583169.

Let us know your address for newsletters by emailing: info@goddesstemple.co.uk.





You are standing at the threshold of a journey into You - take the first step to answer the Dark Mother's call - Become Her Ray of Light in the world.



Spiral 1: This is your time for Self discovery, Self development and Self empowerment leading to the acceptance of open hearted love for yourself and others.

Spiral 2: Priestess Training — includes how to be a ceremonialist, devise rituals, be a soul friend, deal with traumatized souls, rebirth them after retrieval and integration, midwife the souls of the dying, be a funeral celebrant, liaise with the bereaved... You are the Strength others rely on in times of sadness and pain.



Contact
goddesstempleteachings.co.uk
or call 07906 098284
for further information
about this course



Priestesses/Priests of Cerridwen

At Your Service

Here in Glastonbury, now available:

Oracling /Embodiment/ Chanelling: Her words just for You

Rites of Passage: Queening/Sageing/Croning

Letting Go/Honouring Ceremonies

For further information contact

9

Bee Helygen Priestess of Avalon and Cerridwen

25 Years Ceremonial and Ritual Experience

Auch gerne auf Deutsch!!

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You talk - We Listen



Anam Cara (Soul Friendship) Service for All Individuals and Couples Appointments available by Donation: in a comfortable and confidential setting



Goddess House Healing

Healing Therapies Care, Pampering

Goddess House is an Holistic Natural Health & Goddess Educational Centre on Magdalene Street in the heart of Glastonbury, created by Glastonbury Goddess Temple. We offer Aromatherapy Massage, Reflexology, Lomi Lomi Massage, Bowen Therapy, Womb Massage, Herbal Medicine, Soul Healing, Crystal Healing, Card Readings & more. Plus special De-Luxe Goddess treatments.

To book a healing therapy <u>Tel 01458 899 043</u> Or email: info@goddesshousehealing.co.uk

Lovely Group Rooms are also available for hire.

Email: goddesshouse@hotmail.com

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