

A CALL TO GATHER AT IMBOLC

27th JANUARY to 5th FEBRUARY 2023

PADDINGTON FARM, GLASTONBURY

We gather again in the magical land of Glastonbury at Imbolc, the high point of the Winter, where we begin the journey out of the dark months and look forward to Spring. This small and often intimate gathering will bond us with heart circles, skill sharing workshops, healing, musical offerings, ritual, walks in nature, cosy fireside chats, cuddles, shared delicious meals, and the magic that each of us brings.

Albion Faeries have been welcomed into the ritual landscape of Glastonbury to celebrate this time of quickening, and we will join Imbolc celebrations at the White Well and Chalice Gardens.

OUR MULTIFAERIOUS TRIBE of queer spirits, gay witches, flower children, faggot farmers, treehuggers, sacred boundry crossers, drag creatures, gatekeepers, ceremonial queens, tricksters, wild womxn, hippies, new age enbies, pagans, lesbian lightworkers, activists, sissy shamans, transgender priestesses, ecofeminists, genderqueers, walkers between worlds, rainbow warriors and whoever else you are!... We know the Radical Faeries to be an identity that is available to claim by anyone, and in many ways cannot be defined. In the spirit of this diversity, we wish to welcome in people who do not identify as white and those of other marginalised genders and identities. Whilst we are committed to and learning about radical inclusion of people of marginalised identities, we recognise that white, cis men at the moment make up a majority in the Faeries and we seek to continue to broaden the diversity of our Queer community. We recognise that how we do this is a work in progress and we don't always get it right – we welcome all energies working towards greater inclusivity. This gathering especially welcomes women, trans Faeries, Faeries of colour, and Faeries with disabilities (see below for access information).

In order to promote diversity, a quarter of places at the Gathering will be reserved for those who identify on the booking form as belonging to these groups, which can often be marginalised by the dominant culture. We respect the right to self-identify. When the majority places are filled (first come, first served), there will be a waiting list and a cut-off date, when we will let Fae on the waiting list know they have a place or not.

For a connected, present, and heart-centred Gathering, we ask that any use of mind- and behaviour-altering substances such as alcohol be kept very low-key and conscious. This is not a ban, but a call for consideration of how our behaviours impact on those around us. This consideration might look like drinking from mugs, not wine glasses, being aware of our own limits around intoxication, and honouring that this gathering is not the place to push those limits. We ask that if anyone really feels the need to use such substances, such use is discrete and they are not offered to others, as this can be problematic for some, for example those in recovery.

ACCESS: Unfortunately, the building is not wheelchair-accessible, and the area around the farm is often muddy, also dark at night, so care is needed with mobility. Much of the accommodation is upstairs, and our main work/playshop space is upstairs. The Classroom space (if we have use of it) is 40 metres from the main house, across an uneven car park, and up five steps. As Faeries we have a culture of caring for each other and helping each other when we can – this also is work in progress in terms of offering assistance to those in need, and the accessibility of our venues. Discussions of further development of the Wellfaerie role and issues of access are encouraged. If you would like to talk in more detail about the access issues of the farm; ways your needs might be able to be met or anything else, then please get in touch.

Single/twin bedroom spaces on the ground floor are very limited, some of them being in the Longhouse, a few metres from the main house, and are allocated on a first-come first served basis to those with needs who request them; most of the accommodation is upstairs in dorms with bunk beds.

CO-CREATION: All Faerie gatherings are co-created and self-catered, and it is hoped that everyone is happy to help, as they're able, with the work of living in community. You can sign up in advance on the rota, and we hold a circle each morning to ensure the daily tasks are allocated. This circle is also where the daily offerings for activities are discussed, and any issues can be raised.

We, the core team have taken responsibility for making the gathering happen: writing the call, managing bookings and pre-ordering food but there are lots of jobs to be done once the gathering starts. If you want to contribute please indicate so on the booking form and we will be in touch.

We welcome interest from inexperienced Faerinisers, who may wish to join the team to learn what goes into organising a Gathering. Please get in touch via the Faenet event if you would like to be an Apprentice.

CALL FOR A KITCHEN TEAM: We need a small team of 2-3 people who will be responsible for:

- + sorting the initial food deliver upon arrival
- + managing the cooking rota
- + helping the cooks
- + making sure there is enough food so the cooks can do their job
- + shopping trips into town as and when needed
- + clearing up the food at the end and arranging to transport any left over dry goods to the next gathering

This team is NOT responsible for actually cooking, we will be asking for volunteers to cook lunch and dinners each day, ideally different folks each time. Last year we had an amazing system of supporting people to cook and plan meals which we can share with the team to help the team get started.

The Core team will pre-order a lot of bulk dry goods and vegetables to arrive at the start of the gathering. These will be plant based/vegan main meals, and vegetarian options available for breakfasts. We do this partly because it is healthy to eat this way and also to keep to our food budget of £5 per faerie per day.

BOOKING: Places are limited, as camping is not permitted at the farm at this time of year, so early booking is recommended and we would encourage you to come for the whole gathering. We will prioritise those that can attend for the whole gathering over bookings of just a few nights.

Booking form link: <https://office.faenet.org/index.php/apps/forms/qStCzwQwNTAsBM3r>

Booking form link:

<https://office.faenet.org/index.php/apps/forms/qStCzwQwNTAsBM3r>

Your Faerinising Team:

Sparkling Water (they/them), Epiphany (he/they), Blossom (he/she/they), Unicorn... and you?