



Read The Call

Featherstone Castle Spring Ostara Gathering

14th - 23rd March 2023



Yooo Hoo Faeries

Calling all queer spirits, wild witches, flower children, sacred boundary crossers, drag spectaculars, new-age enbies, wild womxn, trans priestesses and rainbow warriors! With the greatest of pleasure, we welcome you back to our spiritual home for the Spring Equinox, and invite you to gather round the hearth at Featherstone Castle to

celebrate Ostara!

Ostara is a time of new beginnings, fertility, welcoming the goddess of spring & her sister goddesses around the world, sweeping away old patterns and bringing in the new. We invite you to celebrate the theme of 'cosy, conscious connection' together - strengthening friendships, building anew, reflecting on how far we've each travelled, and on our desires still to come.

Booking opens at 7pm on the 10th February

Note! The correct gathering dates are 14th - 23rd March 2023. We got them wrong in our last email. Oops!

The Castle

Featherstone lies in the magical Northumberland countryside, close to Hadrian's Wall, the Scottish border and Haltwhistle, the geographical centre of Albion. Information on how to get to the castle can be found [here](#)

The original building dates from the 12th century and has evolved in a haphazard fashion into the beautiful castle we have come to call home. The castle is vast and atmospheric, with stone towers, open fires, ball rooms, feasting halls and a wealth of mysterious nooks and crannies. Although this is a core part of its charm, the castle is far from modern accessibility standards and this **can make it challenging for people with mobility needs to navigate.**

Full accessibility information can be found [here](#) and we welcome any access questions or enquiries at the email address below.

All meals will be vegetarian and will also cater to vegan, gluten-free and other individual dietary requirements. Accommodation is generally in shared rooms (with a very limited number of single rooms for those who cannot sleep in shared spaces). Camper vans or camping are also welcome.

Co-creation

Co-creation is the heart of any gathering, with individual Faeries offering a wide variety of events from drum circles, talent shows, auctions and drag balls, to workshops, walks and heart circles. You can find out more about Faerie Events [here](#). If you have an idea for an event you'd like to run, you can request any equipment or support in

the booking form, or bring what you need with you.

Although much of a gathering is spontaneous fabulousness, there are key teams of volunteers that provide things like food preparation, decoration, wood-chopping and welfare. Volunteering together is a great way to build friendships at the castle and to show your love and appreciation for the Faerie community. You can read more about volunteering teams [here](#), and step up for these roles on the booking form.

Compassion, Consent & Self-care

Gatherings are magical, nourishing and empowering events, but at times they can also be challenging. This gathering will be 10 days long, and host up to 90 Faeries on the busiest days (generally Friday and Saturday). At times the castle can be hectic and noisy and this can be potentially overwhelming for those with sensory needs. Sharing space with Faeries with differing needs can also be triggering for some.

We strive as a radical community to be as inclusive as possible, to make adjustments, and to manifest the core principles of care for fellow fae, alongside care for ourselves. We invite you to enter this castle space with compassion for the needs of others, awareness of [consent](#), and the preparation and tools to look after your own self-care if needed. You can find out more about what to expect at the gathering [here](#).

We also invite you to remember that the Radical Faeries is a non-hierarchical community where we all bear equal responsibility and share the workload between us. Please offer your love and support to those that volunteer, and [step up for roles](#) where you are able.

Registration

Registration for Ostara 2023 opens at **7pm on 10th February**. A link to the booking form will be shared via email and the Albion Faeries WhatsApp group. Featherstone Castle gatherings are very popular and places typically fill up within 2-3 days. Booking is first-come-first served and there will likely be a waitlist, so please email at the address below as soon as possible if you have a space but cannot make it, so that another Faerie can take your place.

We request Faeries do not turn up at the castle without a booking, as a mark of respect to those on the waiting list.

Diversity

Over recent years, the Faeries have begun a radical journey from a primarily white, gay, male community, towards a community that is more inclusive of the diverse spectrum of ethnicity, gender and sexuality that makes up queerness.

This is an ongoing evolution, and in order to ensure that gatherings offer sanctuary and belonging to those queer minorities most at risk of exclusion or harm, we continue the tradition of offering at least 25% of places to Fae who self-identify as diverse.

Payment

In order to breakeven, **the cost of this gathering will be £30 per faerie, per night.**

(£23 for castle rent, £7 for food, firewood and other expenses). For the full 9 nights, the total cost will be £270.

Payment is requested by bank transfer at the point your booking is confirmed. If you would prefer to pay at a later date, or to pay in cash at the gathering, please drop us an email when you book, to let us know your preferred payment date.

NOTAFLOF & ADAFAE

No One Turned Away For Lack Of Funds! A radical principle of the Faeries is that individual financial circumstances should not be a barrier to being part of the community. This means if you cannot afford to pay the recommended £30pn amount, we invite you to pay whatever percentage that you can.

If you are able to contribute a little more than the recommended amount, please do. The 'Additional Donations And Finance Accepted Enthusiastically' policy goes hand-in-hand with NOTAFLOF, and your beautiful generosity enables all of our community to come together at gatherings.

GAYABAGS

The Faerie finance initiatives are stunning examples of the care, generosity and compassion we show for each other in

Faeriespace. Please feel called to treat them with the utmost respect and **take a moment to think about what you can genuinely afford**. Give As You're Able, But Always Give Something

What to Bring

A suggested packing list for Featherstone Castle can be found [here](#)

In addition, for this gathering we are putting a call out for:

- Throws, rugs, lamps, lampshades, electric candles and soft furnishings such as cushions to help manifest our 'cosy' castle theme
- Things for the auction (such as clothes, crafts, plants, or services like massage or tarot)
- Offerings for the castle Alter

Questions, Help & Email

We have created this [information portal](#) where you can find a wealth of additional information about accessibility, what to expect at the castle, volunteer roles and more! The [Albion Faeries Website](#) is also a great source of information. If you can't find what you're looking for, feel free to drop us an email at Ostara@AlbionFaeries.org.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

See you at the castle!

Your Ostara Team: Ember, Egglet, Nasa, River, Golightly, Paris and Carnelian x

