

**Yooooooooo Hooooooooo!**

**Dearest Fae, In October we return to our magical home of Featherstone Castle for our much-loved Autumn Gathering.**

**You are invited to come home to the HEART. Let's join nature, flaming and fruiting in all its autumnal glory. Let's settle into the warmth of the tribe once again, and gather as a community. Let's feel the healing colours of the great outdoors. Let's relax, celebrate and renew love!**

**PLEASE READ THE WHOLE CALL TO HELP YOU DECIDE IF THIS GATHERING IS FOR YOU**

**This gathering usually has a higher-energy vibe than some other Albion faerie gatherings. Please be aware that you may not be safe from witnessing things that might upset you (for instance, the use of alcohol); you may be kept awake by loud music, communal spaces will be very busy, and so on. We will do our best to make quiet spaces but we can't control the behaviour of all fae who want to party.**

**It's very important that people feel physically safe in the gathering and we ask all faeries to behave in ways which respect this. If a faerie clearly physically threatens another we will challenge them and do all we can to help them change that behaviour. If it's clear their behaviour is continuing and is a direct threat, it's for the gathering to decide if that faerie should be asked to leave the gathering.**

**From experience, we know faeries gain more from a gathering if they are able to be there for the whole time.**

### **Inclusivity**

**We welcome all LGBTQ+ queer kin to the Castle who will actively seek to create an inclusive, safe and respectful space for all through practices such as active consent, boundaries and open communication.**

**One reason our gatherings are radical is the principle of No One Turned Away For Lack Of Funds (NOTAFLOF) meaning they are open to all regardless of financial capacity, without justification.**

### **Accessibility**

**The Castle is not wheelchair accessible, and can be difficult for people with reduced mobility to navigate. If this will be a problem for you please contact the organisers as soon as possible so we can offer what assistance is available. We will do everything we can to support and facilitate your presence at the gathering. At times the castle can be noisy and potentially overwhelming for those with sensory needs. At the last gathering we made some radical changes to castle life to accommodate various needs, and we will continue to build on that. We strive to be as inclusive as possible, make adjustments, and be supportive as**

a community, whilst being honest around the structure of the event and the building so people are able to make their own judgement on attending.

Accessibility information can be found here:

<https://featherstone.notion.site/AccessibilityMobility-26cdaf581be74431b6bd609f2c11e2f1>

The castle can also be a challenging space for many other reasons. At the heart of faerie culture there is a foundation of care for fellow fae, as well as care for yourself. Entering the space we would like to have compassion for others, as well as self-compassion.

### Getting involved Right Now

We'd particularly welcome fae to be part of The Kitchen Kollektive and The Welfaeries. Please let the organisers know via the booking form if you would like to be involved in these teams as they benefit from being set up before the gathering.

### Gatherings are Co-created – What to Expect

All faerie gatherings have their own co-created character and vibe. It is our intention that, at this gathering, faeries feel welcome, warm and held in a communal space of togetherness.

We would also like to encourage a spirit of collective faerie responsibility and teamwork. Gatherings are magical happenings, with their spontaneous fabulousness, but some structure is needed to keep faeries fed, warm, safe, well and supported. We are a community that depends on co-creation. This means we freely give our time and energy to all practical activities which enable the gathering to flow smoothly. We will be looking for faeries to join the teams that are essential to the smooth running of the gathering – The Kitchen Kollektive, Woodpigs to stoke the fires, Sparkle Faeries to keep things tidy and the Welfaeries.

Other volunteering roles could be supporting faeries with accessibility needs, helping to decorate the castle, holding workshops, helping to run the Love Temple, helping set up the No Talent Show and other events, creating rituals, holding heart circles. You can let the organisers know how you can be involved in one of these teams when registering for your place.

### Morning Practical Circle & Meals

Breakfast is self service, followed by a checking-in, practical circle which helps us bond and plan the essential tasks for the day. The circle is also a good way to find out Featherstone Samhain Gathering 2023 5 what is going on in the workshops and other activities faeries offer.

The rest of the day is co-created through the interests and offerings of faeries. It may include whole-group activities such as a ceremony. Lunch and dinner are created for the community by volunteers and helping with food preparation and clean up is a lovely way to nurture the community and get to know other faeries.

### **Food**

All shared meals will be vegetarian and vegan. Help in the kitchen is vital and appreciated. If you are considering offering to cook a meal and will need a special or rare ingredient for that dish then do think ahead and bring it along. Also, if you have specific dietary needs please tell us well in advance so we can adjust the shopping. We aim to honour specific dietary needs as far as we possibly can.

There is a second kitchen that is available in the annexe for you to prepare your own food (bear in mind this may be busy at mealtimes), we ask that any meat products you choose to bring are kept and prepared in this kitchen. Please be mindful about this.

### **Heart Circles**

Heart circles allow us to share our feelings and be heard without judgement. They are a sacred, powerful means of creating trust and understanding, and fostering connection. There will be heart circles scheduled into the programme and these may be daily.

### **Faeries love to have Fun**

Dancing, drumming, drag, all kinds of music-making are features of gatherings. We have our fabulous version of cabaret (No-Talent Show), a lively auction to support Featherstone gathering funds, possibly outdoor fires by the river, and much more.

### **Rituals**

As faeries we are reclaiming our role as spiritual leaders, creating rituals that empower us. There will be whole-group ceremonies as well as smaller rituals. These affirm our connectedness to each other, the earth and spirit. They nourish our community's spiritual needs. All are invited to create / co-create / hold rituals.

### **Workshops and Other Offerings**

Faeries are encouraged to offer and attend workshops throughout the gathering. These can range from yoga or meditation sessions, workshops in healing, art, drumming etc, to walking trips, drag catwalks, naked karaoke and more. We faeries are a creative tribe and the castle is a perfect environment to share our skills and try out ideas with the community.

### **Health & Well-being**

**Please think carefully about coming to the Castle if you have symptoms of any infection as we will be in shared living spaces, so any infection is highly likely to be passed on and there are no facilities to self-isolate. Many in our community are immuno-compromised and at higher risk of complications from infection. Please be conscious and caring by taking a Covid test before coming to the gathering and being willing to take more tests as the gathering continues. In the interests of communal care please be considerate about the risks of sexually transmitted infections. If you're considering sexual activity then it is in all of our best interests to consider getting tested before attending. Please also be aware that the nearest hospitals are 30-35 miles away.**

### **Self Care is Sexy**

**There is usually a lot going on at gatherings and though we are encouraged to participate in activities it's important we look after ourselves. It is good to find quiet moments to check-in and make sure you are taking care of yourself. There will be welfaeries at the gathering. Please feel able to chat to a welfaerie about anything in confidence or ask for support.**

### **Accommodation**

**Most bed spaces are in shared rooms, some in large dorms. If a single room is essential please ask via the booking form but be aware that we may not be able to offer one and we cannot guarantee it. Camper vans and camping: If you have a live-in vehicle you're welcome to bring it but no awnings please as space is limited. Camping is an option. We are allowed up to 10 SMALL tents.**

### **Arrival and Departure**

**The gathering starts at noon on Tuesday 17th October. Please don't arrive before then. Also, if you hear of people planning to 'just turn up' without registering, please discourage them! We are making catering plans based on the numbers we are expecting, also there may be no sleeping space for them. And most importantly, those that 'just turn up' are being disrespectful to those hoping to get a place if the gathering has a waiting list. The last night of the gathering is Wednesday 25th October. All faeries must leave the castle by midday on Thursday 26th October.**

### **Cancellations**

**Please inform the organisers as soon as possible if for any reason you have to cancel. This is so we can offer your place to others should there be a waiting list. You can do this via your original Faenet booking form or the contact details you'll receive.**

### **Gathering Spaces**

**Places at the gathering are limited due to space and practical considerations. Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis to those completing the booking form. The Featherstone gatherings are often very popular and fill up**

fast.

We aim to let people know if they have got a space as soon as possible. We will be operating a waiting list. If you register your interest, get a space and then are unable to come, please email us as soon as possible so we are able to offer your spot to another fae who is on the waiting list.

### Diversity

For many, this may be your first gathering in faerie space, for others a welcomed return. We know the Radical Faeries to be an identity that is available to claim by anyone, and in many ways can not 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.

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 Queerdom.

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 faeries who self-identify as diverse.

Examples could be that you're a faerie of colour, a faerie who is non-binary, a trans faerie, and/or a woman.

### Dogs

If you are planning to bring a dog please contact the organisers immediately. The castle gathering will be limited to a maximum of 2 dogs. There have been incidents with local livestock and dogs. So currently, we are being asked to ensure that all dogs are kept on the lead while outside the castle. Not every faerie is comfortable around dogs, so we are asking dog owners to be responsible for their animals, to keep them quiet and to keep them out of both the Kitchen and Dining Hall. Whether dogs are permitted in workshop spaces, circles etc will be negotiated at the gathering.

### Payments

The cost of this gathering will be £32 per faerie, per night. (£23 for castle rent, £9 for food, energy and other expenses eg firewood). If you plan on coming for the full 9 nights, the cost will be £288. If you are able to pay more than this it helps make it possible for people on low incomes to attend.

The suggested contribution is £300 for the whole gathering.

As faeries we are radical in our approach of No One Turned Away For Lack Of

**Funds (NOTAFLOF) – we want you to come, and we don't want financial hierarchies to prevent your spirit from joining us! This means that if you genuinely cannot afford to pay the break-even amount, you are encouraged to pay what you can; the deficit will be made up by the generosity of other faeries. We encourage the principle of GAYABAGS (Give As You're Able But Always Give Something).**

**Gold-Winged Faeries Please Read! If you can afford to pay an extra donation over your gathering fee, this is how NOTAFLOF works to balance the books. This is the ADAFAE principle (Additional Donations And Finance Accepted Enthusiastically) – if you can give more than the suggested daily donation please do so, and share your love! We have to pay for the castle based on occupancy, for our food and all essential gathering costs.**

**Once your booking has been confirmed please make your payment in advance of the Gathering if possible.**

**Please note that clicking on the attending button on the Faenet event page is NOT booking your place. You need to actually go through the booking process and receive a confirmation email to have booked.**

**Registration opens on.. Wednesday 6th September at 7PM The booking form can be found [here](#)**

**Travel Information: <https://albionfaeries.org.uk/gatherings/featherstone>**

**We look forward to welcoming you Home to the HEART at Featherstone Castle.**

**Much love from your faerinisers... Qweaver , Candy , Magpie ,  
Greenheart , Fern , Sparkles , Blossom , Soul , Shuffle & f a y  
e**