



## *A CALL TO GATHER AT IMBOLC*

Friday 26th JANUARY to Monday 5th FEBRUARY 2024

PADDINGTON FARM, GLASTONBURY

Yooooooooo Hooooooooo!

Dearest Fae,

In January we return to our home of Paddington Farm in Glastonbury for our Imbolc Gathering.

You are invited to come home to the HEART.

We invite you to return to the sanctuary of our tribe for one last moment of cosy slowness before the wheel turns and Spring is upon us once more. As we listen to the seasons, let's listen to each other and our needs, taking time to rest, indulge in tranquillity and begin preparations for the return of the light. Bring your seeds to be sown (be they physical or spiritual) and as a community, let's plot the course of our year ahead. At this small and often intimate gathering, let's relish the gentle awakening of nature from her wintry slumber and call Spring back into our lives with heart circles, song, dancing, cuddles,

firelight, some excellent faerie food, musical offerings, skill sharings, rituals/ceremonies, time in nature and an abundance of warmth and love.

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 Spring; Chalice Well and pilgrimage to Bride's Mound.

OUR MULTIFAERIOUS TRIBE of queer spirits, gay witches, flower children, faggot farmers, treehuggers, sacred boundary crossers, drag creatures, gatekeepers, ceremonial queens, tricksters, 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, we are aware of the importance of improving racial diversity within Faerie community space and as an organiser team, we are committed to working towards a solution to this. We are therefore trialling a 'priority booking approach' to Fae who identify as People of Colour (POC)/Global Majority. Fae who identify with these marginalised identities will be given priority space to attend the gathering. We will also retain our now traditional inclusivity spaces, and we especially welcome Faeries who identify as marginalised in ways beyond race, such as women, trans, non-binary and Faeries with disabilities (see below for access information). 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.

In order to promote diversity, a third of places at the Gathering will be reserved for those who identify as marginalised. We respect the right to self-identify.

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 Welfaerie 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 faeriniser 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 fae who would like to learn more about what goes into organising a gathering, so you can learn from/shadow this organiser team in advance of future gatherings. Please get in touch via [imbolc@albionfaeries.org.uk](mailto:imbolc@albionfaeries.org.uk).

It's very important that faeries feel physically safe in the gathering and we ask all faeries to behave in ways which respect this. It is important we work together to enable this, learn from experiences at previous gatherings and we will build on other work underway (e.g. from the Community Healing Circle).

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.

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 discreet and they are not offered to others, as this can be problematic for some, for example those in recovery.

#### CALL FOR A KITCHEN TEAM:

We need a small team of 2-3 faeries who will be responsible for:

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

This team is NOT responsible for actually cooking, we will be inviting fae to cook lunch and dinners each day, ideally different folks each time.

The faeriniser 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.

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 emailing [imbolc@albionfaeries.org.uk](mailto:imbolc@albionfaeries.org.uk)

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.

As faeries we are radical in our approach of NOTAFLOF – we want you to come, and we don't want financial hierarchies to prevent you 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 (hopefully) be made up by the generosity of other faeries. We encourage the principle of GAYABAGS (Give As You're Able But Always Give Something), embracing a monetary energetic exchange for everyone.

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! We have to pay for the farm, for our food and all essential gathering costs.

Paddington Farm charges a fixed amount for the accommodation. If 30 faeries attend the 10 days, the breakeven amount per faerie is £130.

No One Turned Away For Lack Of Funds (NOTAFLOF)  
Give As You're Able But Always Give Something (GAYABAGS)  
Additional Donations And Finance Accepted Enthusiastically (ADAFAE)

The booking form will go live at 12pm on 12/12/23 at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/yTEDppyhvf2piwMH8>

Faenet event link:

<https://faenet.org/community/community-events/2644-imbolc-gathering-at-paddington-farm-glastonbury>

Much love from your faerinisers:

*Greenheart (they/them), Arrow (he/they), Epiphany (he/they) & Ember (they/he)*