

“Awakening”

12th - 21st March 2024

Featherstone Castle, near Haltwhistle, Northumberland

Yooo Hoo Faeries!

Breathe in, then unfurl outwards. Stretching upwards towards the sun, feeling the warmth on your face, Ostara has come again!! With the greatest of pleasure, we welcome you back to our spiritual home of Featherstone Castle for the Spring Equinox.

We invite all queer spirits, wild witches, flower children, sacred boundary crossers, drag spectaculars, new-age enbies, wild womxn, trans priestesses and rainbow warriors to gather to explore your creativity and desires for the year, share your skills, and celebrate the individual beauty of each other's company.

A time of rebirth, transformation and growth. Join us to celebrate the theme of “Awakening” - raising fresh energy and enthusiasm, cultivating and nourishing our community bonds, and coming out of winter hibernation blossoming with new intentions.

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, ballrooms, 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, and inaccessible to wheelchairs.** 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.

Key teams of Fae give service at the castle to provide us with things like meals, 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.

Co-creation doesn't always look like planning in advance. Maybe you'll contribute in the moment. You might suddenly feel the kitchen calling your name in the middle of the gathering, you might feel a spontaneous urge to sing or clean a toilet, you might whip up a workshop on how to do a death drop. Whatever you contribute is welcome and wanted!

Compassion, Consent & Self-care

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. Gatherings are magical but they can also be a little hectic sometimes. On the busiest days the castle can host up to 90 faeries (generally Friday and Saturday) which can be potentially overwhelming for those with sensory needs. We invite you to enter this castle space with compassion for the beautifully diverse 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 give service to weave the magic of the gathering, and [step up for roles](#) where you are able.

Registration

Registration for Ostara 2024 opens at 7pm on 12th 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 us 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 guaranteeing at least 25% of places to Fae who identify as being from a marginalised community within queer spaces.

In keeping with the gathering theme, we encourage you to explore your awareness of the diversity at this gathering and how we might radically recognise, celebrate and support minorities within the Radical Faeries.

Payment

In order to breakeven, **the cost of this gathering will be £35 per faerie, per night.**

For the full 9 nights, the total cost will be £325.

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 your financial circumstances mean that you cannot afford the full cost, we invite you to contribute as much as you can.

If you are able to contribute a little more than £35 per night, please do. The 'Additional Donations And Finance Accepted Enthusiastically' policy helps to support 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 whether you are contributing as much as you can genuinely afford.** Remember: Give As You're Able, But Always Give Something.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding gathering payments, feel free to email us at the address below

What to Bring

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

In addition, we always welcome more: :

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

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, Carnelian, Sal, Tao, Fern & Sparkles x