



Yoooooo Hooooooo!

The gate to the faerie realm is open and welcomes you home!

Sap is rising, the sun strong again warming the land and sparking much growth, mayflower is blooming and hedgerow buzzing... come and soak it all up with us as Avalon calls the faeries home. 10 days of sacred communal magic awaits us at Paddington Farm, Glastonbury. Beltane is fast approaching, the time of year that we celebrate fertility, creativity, sensuality, sexuality and the abundance of Spring.

We are gathering again at the time when the wheel of the year returns to Beltane. But as the crisis in the world grows and our mother Earth is suffering, can nature continue to come back with each cycle to the same wholeness, beauty and glory? And can we? Still we come together, as by our nature we were always meant to, once more, again and again, in spite of the division that those who maintain the crises wish to see. And our return might be the cycle and the wave that gives us hope, power and stability to build upon, something we can bring back to world with us from faerie space.

Paddington Farm and Access

We are gathering at Paddington Farm in Glastonbury for Beltane, from the 8th-18th of May. Paddington is a working farm that houses up to 27 guests indoors, with additional spaces for faeries to camp or stay in vehicles on site. The classroom we used previously is no longer available for hire, so this year we'll have the barn as our largest indoor community space. To give space to more activities and ideas, and to be closer to the land, we would love to have some large tents,

marquees, gazebos, etc this year put up outside. If you have something available that you could offer for the gathering, please let us know.

Click [here](#) for more detailed farm access info, and [here](#) for more practical info.

You can email organisers at beltane@albionfaeries.org.uk

What to expect

Last year we had activities such as cuddle puddles, sock wrestling, incredible sound bath, rituals, white spring visit and experience, fire poi displays, owl sanctuary visit, walks up Glastonbury Tor, dawn nature walk, art making, herbalism, performance, singing around a campfire and many more. We hope for more of the same, plus who knows what..

[Click here for more on what to expect](#)

Paying for the Gathering

We want anyone to be able to come, regardless of money, and in order for people to be able to come while paying less, we need the people who can pay more to pay more. If you genuinely cannot afford to pay the break-even amount, you are encouraged to pay what you can; using the principle of GAYABAGS (Give As You're Able But Always Give Something). But NOTAFLOF (No one turned away for lack of funds) always applies, there is more info underneath about fundraising, which is one of the ways we are hoping to alleviate financial pressures on individuals.

Pricing Info

Based on an average of 40 faeries per night the break-even cost for this gathering is £27.10 per-faerie per-night - £271 for the entire gathering. Gatherings have been making around a 15% loss on average in recent years so we are now factoring that in to the recommended contributions. The venue hire cost and cost of food have increased since our last Beltane gathering, these factors explain the increased suggested contributions this year.

NOTAFLOF, GAYABAGS and ADAFAE (additional funds accepted enthusiastically) have been wonderful pillars of our radical approach to financial disparity within our community. We value these greatly, and hope that the text below can better help us locate ourselves in terms of our contributions for this gathering. We hope by including these guidelines - which we've adapted from other radical organisations - we will be able to carefully consider, and be generous with, what we're able to contribute. Above all, we hold NOTAFLOF dearly, and wish for this sacred, radical tenet of our community to remain abundant and shameless - we will never pressure those surviving at the margins to pay anything, and we hope that those thriving will help us create radical resource justice to keep us in alignment with this value.

- Recommended NOTAFLOF Contribution £5-175,
Bursary places are available. If your situation doesn't allow you to pay any contribution, please let us know on your registration form.
For example: I struggle to find stable employment due to discrimination/I am an unpaid community organiser.
- Recommended Solidarity Contribution £175-275
I am comfortably able to meet all of my basic needs. I can afford public transport. I am able to buy some new items.
- Recommended Comfortable Contribution £275-350
I have a safe and stable place to live, such as a rented flat or house. I do not have to rely on temporary accommodation like hotels or hostels. I have a regular income of less than £25,000/year.
- Recommended Redistribution Contribution £350 (and above)
I own my home or rent a higher-end property. I have a regular income of £25,000 or more.

If you have investments, retirement accounts, or inherited money. I can comfortably go on holiday. I have access to family money and resources in times of need. I receive a total income above the minimum living wage or work part-time by choice.

Due to ongoing financial losses and high numbers of cancellations at gatherings we are trying some new approaches that have been discussed and proposed in the finance and gathering & events circles, one of these is to ask for a small deposit to confirm your place. We recommend for NOTAFLOF applications £5 or 10% of your pledge whichever you prefer, £10 for everyone else. Once you have been offered a place please pay the deposit or full contribution within 7 days to confirm your place. Payment details will follow in later emails.

Fundraising

The Albion faeries have had many discussions about finances and how to keep gatherings financially viable whilst honouring our principles of NOTAFLOF. If you have any ideas for fundraising before or during the gathering, please get in touch at beltane@albionfaeries.org.uk. We would like to hold a one-off fund raising event outside of the gathering online such as an auction or Talent Show/gig. We will hold the usual auction of items and services at the gathering, please think what you might be able to donate. More on this after registration.

Co-Creation

Every faerie gathering is co-created, so it's up to us to bring these days to life, and fill them with magic, ceremony, workshops, drag, dance and connection. Every day we hold circles where faeries can volunteer for daily tasks, from cooking to woodcutting to making the bathrooms sparkly – it's also a place for faeries to ask questions, share news and / offer workshops, walks, dance parties, cuddle puddles, whatever you feel called to offer. The faerienisers take responsibility for making the gathering happen, but once it starts it's up to us all how it unfolds! There will be a Signal group formed ahead of the gathering which we encourage you all to join, where we can all share ideas we have for the gathering ask questions, arrange lift shares and get a head start on signing up for tasks and roles etc.

We're co-creating the space around us as well, so you're welcome to bring with you if you're able:

- soft and cosy items and 'frou' that will make the space more comfortable, welcoming, bright and enjoyable
- what you feel called to add to the community altar
- what you can offer for the communal spaces and the land around us for creating space for others
- what makes your space more like home, more magical, and expresses your true being

You're welcome to leave at home: what you will feel more free going without!

Love Temple and consent

The Love Temple is a space for intimate connections. It is a play space that welcomes Faeries regardless of age, gender-identity, sexuality or anatomy. It is usually opened with a ceremony to raise sacred sexual energy, gently introduce the concept of boundaries & consent, and help break the ice if you're feeling timid or nervous. The Love Temple often hosts rituals and workshops throughout the week.

There are some written guidelines for the love temple and consent, drafted for our Gatherings at Featherstone Castle, but much of what has been written applies to our time at Paddington Farm (and in broader life-context too). [\[here\]](#)

Diversity and Inclusion

Over recent years, the Albion 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. We want to think a little differently about diversity at our gatherings - about the barriers that minorities encounter, and the unique identities of each individual fae. 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 will operate a priority booking approach for those that identify as any of the following: POC/global majority/minority ethnic, cis woman, assigned female at birth, and trans or gender diverse. If you would like to hold a minority-inspired ritual or event, we can support you in manifesting your ideas. We'd particularly like to hear from the community about how we can improve our representation and involvement from people of the global majority.

Substances

We intend to keep an atmosphere conducive to the joy and work of coming home to the heart and where we can be sensitive to one another and feel safe enough to be vulnerable. It is important that the gathering remains accessible to those that may have a difficult relationship or bad reactions to alcohol or substances. To this end, we ask that if anyone chooses to use alcohol / substances, it is done consciously, discreetly and mindfully- this might look like drinking from mugs rather than glasses and not obviously displaying alcohol bottles, staying mindful of how much you consume and taking personal responsibility for the collective care we strive for. This is for the safety and wellbeing of everyone and is core to how we honour and respect each other.

Welfare

While gatherings can be wonderful and healing, they can also take us to emotional places that might feel tender, vulnerable, or dark. Bringing these feelings into the shared space of the gathering is a beautiful offering, and many faeries have felt supported to bring deeply personal journeys into our co-created spaces. As faeries we care for each other in every aspect of the gathering, especially during times of distress and struggle. As with substance use, however, we want to remind faeries that each of us is ultimately responsible for our own wellbeing. This does not mean that we expect you not to ask for help at a gathering - rather, that we want you to be in charge of the help you get, if and when you need it. If you feel you might be at risk of severe distress, a mental health crisis or any other kind of serious health emergency during the gathering, we strongly encourage you to think about whether it is appropriate for you to join the gathering this time. If you do decide to come, please have a think about what you might need in such a scenario and let us know before the gathering. We are not professionals, but a community full of loving, compassionate individuals who try to do their best.

Another part of looking after each other is staying away from the gathering if you are unwell with a contagious illness and even a little cold for you could be incredibly serious for someone else and all too often some of our immuno-compromised faeries have been left sick for weeks on end following a gathering after someone arrived unwell or still in the contagious stage. So we love you but we ask you stay away until clear of symptoms for a few days and would look forward to seeing you after that.

Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS)

Honouring and feeling inspired by the conversations that has been happening within the faeries, as organisers we'd like to keep this sentiment for this gathering when planning and shopping for our food, to try and avoid supporting companies associated with the ongoing genocide in Palestine. Find out more about BDS [here](#), and get in touch with us organisers if you've got any

questions or further ideas about how we can honour this intention.

Accommodation

The main camping field is large, giving plenty of personal space and privacy, and we are enquiring if we can also use the smaller orchard camping field for a quieter option. The campsite has showers, toilets and water points. If you can't bring your own tent, you can ask to borrow one in the signal group or by messaging the organisers.

We will aim to have regular campfires so bring warm clothes and a torch for evenings in the field. Especially if you are camping bring: torches and other lights, sleeping bag and warm clothes for suddenly chilly evenings and cold nights, hot water bottle, footwear for dewy grass in the mornings. For more practical information about the gathering including more suggestions of what to bring click [here](#)

Indoor accommodation consists of 27 beds spread between 2 dormitories as well as a small number of single and twin rooms that will be allocated first to people with accessibility needs. If your preference is for indoor accommodation, but you are able to camp please let us know on the registration form, so that we could welcome as many fairies as possible.

Age restriction

This gathering is an adult only event.

Dogs

As Paddington Farm is a working farm with various animals on site, all dogs must be kept on leads 'at all times' whilst moving around the farm. The farm adds a surcharge for each dog (an extra £2 per night). Please advise us on the registration form if you're planning to bring a dog.

How to book

The booking form for this gathering would go live very soon on Monday 6th of April at 5pm BST.


Please find the booking form [>> here <<](#)

If you are having issues loading the form, please try a different browser or a different device. If this still does not work, please contact us by email at beltane@albionfaeries.org.uk

We aim to confirm most people's places by the 10th April, 4 weeks before the start of the gathering. Once we have offered you a provisional place, please pay the deposit or full contribution you pledged within 7 days in order for your place to be confirmed. After this, you would be added to the gathering's Signal group, so you can start connecting, planning together and asking any questions you may have. If we reach capacity there will be a waiting list and we will let you know if you are on it.

Thank you for reading this far! We are excited to welcome you home to faerie space soon!

Lots of love,

Hello Nebula (he/they em/um), Theo (they/them), Devon Oak (he/they), Esja (she/her/ ) , Woody (he/him), Forget-me-not (he/him), Mama Bear (she/her), Dormouse (he/they/any)

Thanks to previous organisers who we could copy and get advice from for the call, and the fundraising, finance, gathering & events and comms circles who are supporting us.

(No AI was used in creating this document.)