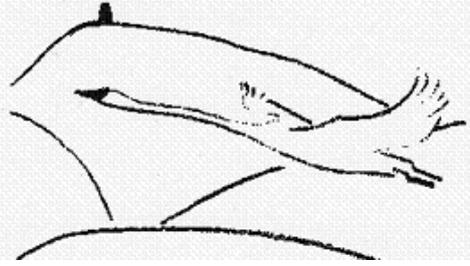


FRIENDS OF BRIDE'S MOUND



Newsletter January 2010

Members of our committee attended a meeting on 5.11.09 held at Glastonbury Town Hall with people from various organisations that have an interest in Bride's Mound: representatives from English Heritage, Glastonbury Antiquarian Society, the South West Regional Development Agency and Somerset County Council who are the new owners of the section of Bride's Mound within the Chapel Field.

Plans for the Mound are naturally in the early stages of negotiation and planning. Bob Croft, the County Archaeologist is making the clearance of the brambles on the Mound a priority which will be a great improvement on the SWRDA's 10 years neglect of this sacred land. As owners of the adjacent land including the western ridge of the Mound, we will be attending future meetings with Somerset County Council and interested parties.

The new phase mentioned in our August Newsletter has begun on our fields (see the Land Report) and as always, we will endeavour to act in the best interests of the land and keep you informed of further developments.

Jane Marshall, Company Secretary.

Land Management Report

We are now members of the Private Nature Reserve Network, who help assess, plan and implement good habitat management (www.pnrnetwork.org.uk). The Trust's belief is that the more informed landowners become, the greater the benefits to wildlife. The Trust may also be able to help find funding or give practical assistance. Those who enjoy meeting like-minded people will also have the opportunity to get to know other PNR land owners at organised events and to exchange information and ideas at the annual all-day seminar on habitat management matters and at the 'walk and talk' at a nature reserve. They help with botanical surveys and a reading list is available. We look forward to the knowledge we gain from the experience of other members.



We have also joined the BTCV (British Trust of Conservation Volunteers) so that we can move forward with finding out the feasibility of the hedge project. It is open to all community organisations wanting to work for a better environment. They can help with access to Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, have a grants and awards fact sheet that is updated every six months, offer discounts in their catalogue, subsidise places on BTCV Training courses which cover practical, technical and leadership skills from pond management to first aid and will list us on their website. We are also now members of Mendip Community Support, a local group whose aim is to provide proactive and accessible support to voluntary and community organisations.

Thanks to the information gained from these contacts, we are in the process of grant applications for funding towards hedge laying/planting, the creation of a pond and putting in a disabled pathway from our main access gate in the Beckery and we are in discussions with the County Council about gaining mains water from the Chapel Field.

Miranda Bruce (Land Manager)

Bridie Books Published in 2009

“Did Saint Bridget Visit Glastonbury?” by Beth Francis.

Available from FOBM by cheque sent to the address below or at www.friendsofbridesmound.com £5 + £1 p&p.

“Bridgid Goddess, Druidess and Saint.” by Brian Wright.

Published by The History Press (ISBN no. 978-0-7524-4865-7) £18.99

“Bride’s Mound Gateway to Avalon.” by Gordon Strong and Jane Marshall, with a contribution by Lone Bang. Illustrated by Jen Delyth

Available from the Labyrinth Bookshop, Glastonbury High Street, £12.

‘Imbolc’

The Celtic Fire Festival of Imbolc derives its name from “Oimelc” meaning “ewe’s milk”, as lambs are born at around this time of year. Imbolc is also known as Candlemass and Bridie or Bridget is the Goddess or Saint associated with this Festival. Candles are lit to celebrate the return of the Goddess from the Underworld and the return of light as the hours of daylight lengthen.

Bridie is associated with midwifery, poetry, animals, light and the land which slowly begins to show new green shoots called “Bridget’s Mantle”. The snowdrop is her flower representing the freshness, newness and purity of this time.

Bridget is associated also with Druidry and especially the silver birch tree known as the “Lady of the Woods”, as like the snowdrop, it is one of the first trees to come into leaf and represents new beginnings. The silvery bark shines in sunlight and moonlight, thus reflecting Bridget’s association with the Sun, ruler of the Heavens and the Moon, ruler of Water. The tree is linked to the element of air reflecting Bridie as a Goddess of Light and Poetry, as inspiration is blown on the wind. The element of water is thus reflecting Bridie’s connection with Wells and the healing power of water and the emotions.

Jane Marshall

Imbolc at Bridie’s Yard

On Sunday 30th January, 2-9pm there is a gathering for a gentle celebration and an honouring of Community Spirit with a fire, food, ambient music and people-play. Suggested donation £5 adults, £2 for children or £10 for a family. All proceeds to the Bridie’s Yard New Carpet Fund!

Imbolc Annual Pilgrimage 01/02/10

As usual the Annual Pilgrimage from the White Spring and Chalice Well will begin at 1pm from the small disabled car park at the front of the Chalice Well Gardens and process through Glastonbury and out along the Portchestall Drove to Cradle Bridge, where we will follow the public footpath to the Bride’s Well Stone and then onto the Mound itself by 2pm for the Imbolc ceremony.

Previously, there is also a ceremony at the White Spring beginning at 11am (doors open 10am) and in the Chalice Well at 12-12.30pm, with refreshments available until 1pm.

AGM Invitation

You are warmly invited to the Friends of Bride’s Mound AGM at Glastonbury Town Hall on Thursday the 18th of February, 2010. We will start at 7.30pm and would love to see as many Friends as possible attend. Please come with any questions and lots of appreciation for our volunteers!

We would like to thank all our Friends, especially you, for your support which is greatly appreciated, especially in these challenging times.

**Friends of Brides Mound Ltd., c/o Glastonbury Opportunities, 7 Abbey Mews,
56-58 High Street, Glastonbury. BA6 9DY
www.friendsofbridesmound.com**