

January 2018

FRIENDS OF
BRIDE'S MOUND



C/O Glastonbury Opportunities, Unit 7 Abbey Mews, BA6 9DY. Email; friendsofbridesnew@yahoo.co.uk

IMBOLC – Thursday 1st February, 2018

The Friends of Brides Mound invite you to join us for the day
Traditionally known as the feast day of St. Brigid.

9.30am White Spring opens

10.00am Ceremony at the White Spring

12 noon Meditation at the Well Head at Chalice Well

10.00 – 1.00pm Refreshments available at Chalice Well

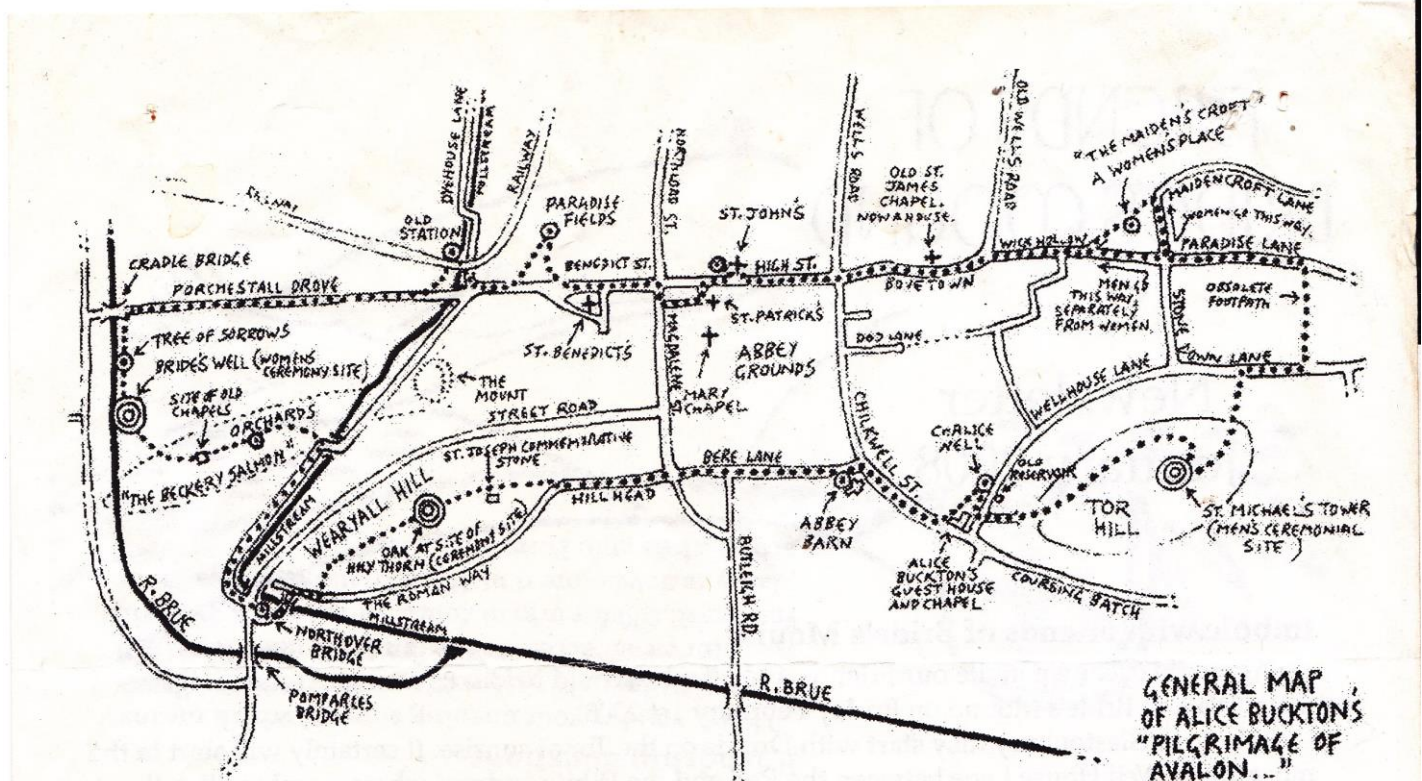
1.00pm Walk to Bride's Mound with **Serena Roney-Dougal**;

Meet outside the White Spring, where the White and the Red springs join.

Wear clothing and footwear suitable for wet and muddy conditions!

2.30pm Gathering around the fire on Bride's Mound.

The following map is from an article in Avalon Magazine Summer 1998 with a follow up in autumn/winter 2007 issue. Alan Royce



The Brideswell Pilgrimage

This route was used circa 1900 as a means to "open spiritual channels" to empower the Blue Bowl, which was in the "Brideswell" culvert at Beckery at this time. After the removal of the Bowl to Bristol it was re-employed as part of the rites used in the "Order of the Table Round", in which the candidate passed through all the elements while circling the town. The present form of the route was devised by Alice Buckton, who modified it slightly to support a more "feminine" view of its function. The route passes through several of the most attractive locations of the town and can be completed in roughly four hours. It is particularly attractive if you time your trip to reach the Tor top around sunset, when the Golden Road to the Isles of the Dead can be witnessed.

For anyone interested in doing some detective work there are various anomalies. How could the route have been to "Empower the Blue Bowl" when supposedly only Goodchild knew about it at that time, 1900? And how could they have known about the culvert it was in? Doesn't make sense. Unless Goodchild had told Alice Buckton - was she in Chalice Well then? Or Goodchild started a pilgrimage? (e mail us with your answers)

Bride's Mound and its environs have been a place of pilgrimage since the far past, probably due to its proximity to the River Brue where pilgrims coming from the west would land. Pilgrims to the Isle of Avalon are said to have spent a night in the chapel at Beckery before proceeding to Glastonbury Abbey. In the 1920's Alice Buckton devised a Pilgrimage Route down Benedict Street and Porchestall Drove onto what is now the Friend's land, stopping to hang rags, known as 'cloodies', on a thorn tree near the sluice (or lost Bride's Well), as offerings in return for blessings or healing, a survival of the Celtic practice of votive offerings, before proceeding to Bride's Mound. The walk we now do is only part of Alice's Pilgrimage Route that took in the whole of Glastonbury.



The Blue Bowl

In 1897, Dr. John Goodchild was told in a vision to bury a blue bowl purchased in 1895 in Bordighera, Italy, as soon as possible after his father's death. This he did, placing it in the pond by the sluice (or lost well) near Bride's Mound, as the vision directed. Dr. Goodchild made a pilgrimage back to this spot every year between 1899-1906, only missing the year 1905. Eventually on 3rd September 1906, Janet and Christine Allen found the bowl in the pond, but replaced it. They were friends with the Tudor Poles and on 1st October Kitty Tudor Pole removed the bowl, with Dr. Goodchild's consent, to a shrine in her family home in Bristol. Today the bowl is back in Glastonbury, under the guardianship of the Trustees of Chalice Well.



Chair's Report January 2018
 Welcome to another newsletter!
 We have been producing these newsletters twice a year since the Friends of Brides Mound began. I believe this was 20 years ago in 1992?! None of us realised then that we would own the Fields that lead down to the River Brue from the summit of the Mound and that so many more people would become so passionate about the Mound and its importance to the Glastonbury story and sacred landscape. Then, the Mound was neglected and inaccessible, unloved and appreciated only by a few.

Now, there are so many visitors, even though one access is still blocked by Vincent's unfinished industrial development and finding your way in is unmarked, along the pot-holed road through temporary living accommodation and an organically growing metal re-cycling/scrap yard to our gate opposite the coal yard; access is also possible via the footpath along the river bank from Pomparles Bridge to Cradle Bridge. And yet, sacred land it is. Brides' Mound. The ancient western gateway to the Isle of Avalon. Archaeologically confirmed as sacred land. Many of us have known this in our bones since first setting foot on its gentle contours and sensing our ancestor's footfall before us. All are welcome to come and connect with respect for the land.

Our connection to sacred land is personal and yet it is something we can all share. The Friends organise the Imbolc Walk on the 1st February every year to honour the sacred isle of Bride's Mound. We also keep up a communication with the managers of the Chapel Field, the South West Heritage Trust, so that the land is properly taken care of and the sacredness is not forgotten. The work we do is practical, in service to this pocket of sacredness within the heartland of Glastonbury. I thank all of our committee members (you know who you are!) for taking on such work as is required for any such organisation; secretarial, land management, treasurer, fundraising. Whilst we are a very efficient, compact group, we are now looking for help in certain areas. If you could help with leaflet distribution, becoming our Friendship secretary, fundraising (e.g. organising stalls at fares, any new ideas, etc.), working on the land (at the moment bramble clearing, tree pruning, etc. are required) or simply learning the ropes of the committee by coming to meetings, please contact me on our email or send us a letter, to arrange a meet up. As there is no Glastonbury Festival in 2018, we are not looking for stewards this year.

(Jaine Raine)

Our AGM will be on Thursday March 22nd, at the Library of Avalon, at 7.00pm, followed by tea, wine, snacks and chat.

Sacred Place of Brides Mound

As a member of Ashgrove Druid group I am writing this from a personal perspective and trust that it shares at least some resonance with other visitors, friends and guardians of Brides Mound. Brides Mound is a magical, joyful place with its abundance of trees and shrubs, wild flowers and wild life and it is also where we as members and friends of Ashgrove hold our 8 festival rituals throughout the year and also visit individually and collectively to spend time simply being amongst the beauty and the tranquillity offered.

As we proceed towards our place of celebration near our revered Ash tree, we honour and thank the guardian trees of the gateways by speaking a few words aloud or silently, then meander further, pausing to hail the oak, which, with each passing year is steadily growing in stature; all these trees serve to remind us that we are also guardians of the



land and deserve our utmost respect and awe. The atmosphere is alive, earth energy beneath our feet, sweet bird song, rustling grasses and leaves in the breeze, pictures forming in the clouds, a dragon, a hare or perhaps a personal message. Between the soft sound of our footsteps, a quiet feeling of being observed by nature spirits playing hide n seek amongst tree roots and dew jewelled greenery. Embraced by the subtle and occasionally not so subtle nuances of all the elements, each season offers up mystical wonders reminding us of the cycle of life, death and rebirth and introduces a quality of humility in recognition of the magnificence of which we are all a part of this splendour and beauty in this world and beyond.

Our ceremonies also serve to remind us that we are able to connect with our ancestors, their wisdom and also that we are all the ancestors of tomorrow for future generations; remembering too, that we bring forth into our current incarnation our own lineage of our many past lives which holds a hidden treasure trove of inner wisdom, silently awaiting our call or nudging us with a golden nugget of inspiration. Each ritual enhances the energy of this sacred place, building a deeper magical portal in the land, when we utter the words "may there be peace throughout the whole world" their resonance spreads worldwide through the web of the land and subtle rainbow coloured ethereal mesh.

During this year a few of us gathered together to beat the bounds, walking around Brides Mound, drumming and rattling our shakers, singing and pausing in respect and reverence of the guardian trees, the directions and the elements whilst acknowledging the sacredness of the land, sky and oceans. Occasionally resting a while, being still in quiet contemplation, there developed an awareness of all who have trodden these pathways, a feeling of connectedness to Glastonbury, its heart reaching out across the world, then, whilst truly grounded in the here and now yet slipping into limitless time, visions swirled and intermingled with an anticipation of exciting future changes yet to be revealed.

We all have our favourite trees, yet, attempt to chose one, there is another and another, they are all so loved from deep within our hearts, which is why here, I have chosen not to name many individual trees because each of these great beings give their unique gifts, support and healing unconditionally, we couldn't live without them, their transformative process of the air we breathe, their roots, grounding whilst reaching deep within the earth continually growing, nurturing the body of the tree, its branches, blossoms, leaves, fruits and nuts, sustaining life, a world within a world; mighty arms stretching up towards the sky honouring the sun, moon and stars. A reminder of our own divinity, God, Goddess, Spirit, Great Spirit. We are one with nature and all existences.

(Susan Townsend)



WHY WE CAN'T ALLOW CAMPERS ON OUR LAND

Cattle are unlikely to notice foreign objects as they ingest them. They chew feedstuffs just long enough to coat them with saliva. When a tent peg, ring pull, nail or other metallic object is ingested by cattle it tends to be retained in the reticulum (the first chamber in the alimentary canal). Objects that puncture the reticular wall allow leakage of rumen fluid into the body cavity and can even puncture the diaphragm, leading to potentially more severe problems such as the formation of abscesses and adhesions. The reticulum is situated alongside the diaphragm. Damage to the diaphragm can lead to respiratory problems. Metallic objects that puncture the reticular wall and diaphragm can cause significant health problems to the affected animal and may result in death. These metal objects can also damage farming machinery or may be taken up in our hay and ingested by animals eating that hay.

Miranda Bruce (Land Manager)