

## AUGUST 2019

FRIENDS OF  
BRIDE'S MOUND



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Once again we had a hardy and fantastic team of stewards at Glastonbury festival working in the South East Corner. For some reason our numbers were reduced this year, having grown from 9 – 15 in the previous 5 years, we were once again back to a team of 9. In part this was because we were given the job of looking after the back stage gates for the SE Corner venues of The Common, Block 9, The Unfairground and Shangri-La, which are the all-night venues.

We had a brilliant shift regime which meant we only worked one night shift from midnight to 6am, the rest following on with a 24 hour break between each shift. Therefore, we only missed the Sunday evening music, which is a small price to pay for being able to enjoy the rest of the festival. And we will have raised approximately £1000 for Brides Mound which will be put towards reducing the loan incurred when buying the ridge fields. A huge thank you to all the stewards who are so wonderful to work with.



*Serena*

## A Permaculture Forest Garden on Bride's Mound?



Imagine a garden bursting with ripe fresh fruit, plentiful nuts, and a supply of vegetables, kitchen potherbs and salads. A garden which is more productive per square foot than a traditional kitchen garden, and which provides food almost all year round, as well as being organic, low maintenance and self-watering. This idyllic vision can be a practical reality: a permaculture “Forest Garden”, as pioneered by the determined visionary Martin Crawford at the Agroforestry Research Trust in Devon.

The remarkable edible ecosystem of a Forest Garden mimics a “natural” young woodland but using plants that yield plentiful food (and may also include other useful crops such as medicinal plants, fibre plants etc) rather than the native plants found in the natural ecosystem.

The original plans for the Chapel Field of Bride’s Mound, drawn up by Natasha Warner in 1995 included just such a Forest Garden along the boundary with the neighbouring water treatment plant. While we now enjoy a wonderful array of orchard trees on the Chapel Field, the original vision of a true Forest Garden next to Bride’s Mound (not on the historically significant mound itself) have never been realised. The committee of the Friends of Bride’s Mound is now making very early investigations into potential sources of funding to create just such a Forest Garden, ideally with the involvement of the community in planning, planting, maintaining, and perhaps most importantly, harvesting!

A forest garden consists of several “layers” of food producing plants. Fruit and nut trees form the canopy layer, productive bushes grow between and beneath the trees, and the “forest floor” consists of self-seeding and perennial productive plants. Climbing plants rise through all these layers, providing yet another source of food. This sustainable, edible ecosystem is wonderfully productive, and, once established, requires very little work. As Martin Crawford explains in his comprehensive book, “Creating a Forest Garden”, in the face of runaway climate change, a Forest Garden might well feed us in times when other agricultural systems struggle to cope.

While plans are at a very early stage, we will keep you posted on progress in future newsletters!

*Joanne Mudhar*

## Land Management



We have work to carry out this autumn. We plan to remove the small willow that is growing in the first rhyne and to improve the view of the Mound from the bench/pond, by pruning a large branch from the first willow in line of sight and by pruning two smaller trees back to hedge, on the boundary between our land and the Mound.

We also need to pollard the group of willow at the corner of the “Ridge” hedge, where it dips down to a lower point before turning upwards again at 90%. These have previously been pollarded and if neglect lapsed pollards develop heavy branches that the tree is unable to support.



Many thanks to our new Committee Member, Lynda for the beautiful sign she has created for our gate.

*Miranda Bruce*



Bright Goddess Bridget, Bringer of light,  
 We call upon you as keeper of the eternal, sacred flame.  
 As we call your name may we feel your warm glow  
 And as the sun wanes in the sky may our inner light grow.  
 To sustain us no matter how hard life may seem,  
 For it burns eternally as the holly stays forever green.

Bright Goddess Bridget, Bringer of Light,  
 We call upon you as Goddess of Healing at your sacred well  
 To cast o'er the Earth your magical spell  
 So all threatened land, species, trees, birds and wildlife  
 Are protected by your freely flowing waters and golden glow  
 Nourishing all life.

Bright Goddess Bridget, Bringer of Light,  
 We call upon you as Goddess of Smith craft and Spiritual Alchemy,  
 At this challenging time of transition  
 And balancing Aquarian and Leonine energies  
 So the best of the now is integrated with the best of the past  
 And the Golden Age will have returned at last.

***Jane Marshall***