

# NEWS LETTER

£1

– to cover printing costs and small donation to temple

## Upcoming Events

### Summer Solstice – Ritual and Celebration

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 12 noon.

Acclaiming warmth, light, and longer days.

### Lammas Celebration

Early August - join us to celebrate harvests and fruitfulness. Details to be confirmed.

Please ring the Airy Fairy shop (number below), or see the temple Facebook page (see web address on page 2), in July for updates.

## Regular Groups

### Magic Witchcraft Chaos & Beyond

From simple techniques and ways of working magic to deeper principles and discoveries.

- From Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2-6 pm. For details see: [www.facebook.com/SheffieldGoddessTemple/](http://www.facebook.com/SheffieldGoddessTemple/)

### Pagan Pathways – Talks, Discussion, Tues. 8pm

- 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Dreams (Lynn and Robin)
- 17<sup>th</sup> July: Spirituality and Science (Liz)
- 31<sup>st</sup> July: Snails (Val)

### Shamanic Meditation Drum Group

- 23rd June and following alternate Saturdays, 2-3 pm. Each session £4 (concessions available). With Meranda Thompson.

To book on to the above events please ring the Airy Fairy shop on 0114 2492090



## Goddess Derwena

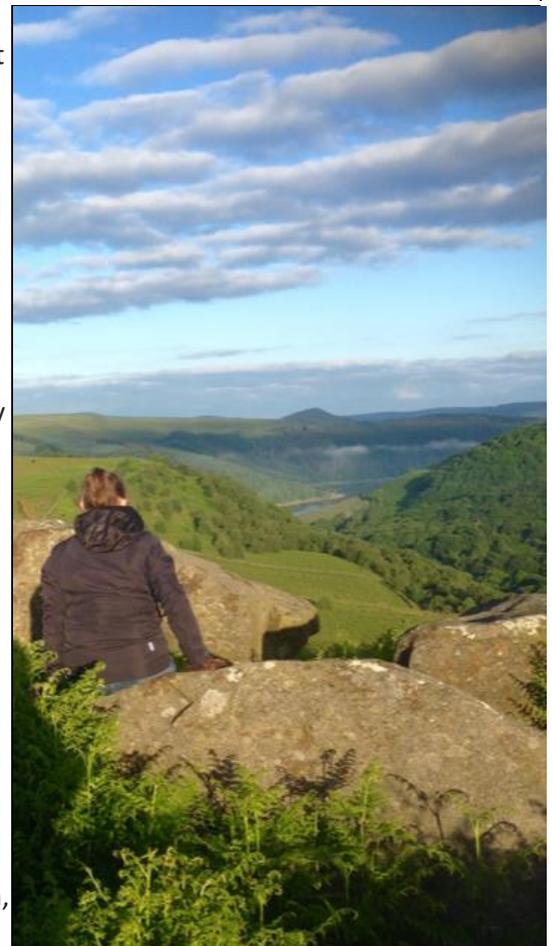
### Lady of South and the glorious summer solstice

Here in the Peak District, many ancient Brythonic, Goddess names are genuinely held within our landscape. These sacred and ancient names were given to hills, mountains and rivers by the ancestors and are known in archaeology as 'eternal names' because they have been in existence, relatively unchanged, for thousands of years.

If you have been following the Northern Goddess wheel through the newsletter you will already have met Edene, Brigantia, Don, and Arnemetiae. The river Goddesses Don, Derwenna, Rhibelissama and Edene mark the 4 directions and therefore the solar solstices and equinox festivals of Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn.

The Goddess Don is personified in our glorious local river as she flows East (Spring Equinox). For the summer solstice we have the lovely, shimmering Derwent. Derwent is another ancient Brythonic name meaning the river of the oaks. Derwen or Derwenna are feminine Celtic names which are still used in Wales today.

*[article continues overleaf]*



*The Derwent Valley  
on a summer solstice morning*

### Temple Melissas



Our Temple Melissas are the people who hold space in the Temple between 12.30 and 1.30 pm every day, Monday to Saturday. It is a delightful job to do. If you would like to be part of the Melissa team please leave a message at Airy Fairy for Ann Staniland or Brian Harrison.

### The Temple on Facebook

facebook



Sheffield Goddess Temple



For all the most up to date information on what is going on at the temple, don't forget to check out our Facebook page which has all the latest news of events, and photos of recent happenings.

<https://www.facebook.com/SheffieldGoddessTemple/>

### Contact Sheffield Goddess Temple Newsletter

To submit articles, news of relevant upcoming events, or to make suggestions, please email us at:

[temple@lovecat.com](mailto:temple@lovecat.com)

### Goddess Derwena

*[continued from front page]*

There are two major Derwents in our region, and both flow to the south. The upper Derwent river flows into the Howden and Derwent reservoirs. The water is clean and pure. The upper valley is remote, clothed in Oaks and stunningly beautiful, calling the walker to just progress a little further around the next spur of land, and the next, and so on. Each alluring curve leads us deeper into her mysteries. The hills above the Derwent hold many important archaeological features such as stone circles, burial mounds and cup marked rocky tors. Hordron Edge stone circle looks down upon the confluence of the Derwent and Ashop rivers, the landscape is particularly lovely here.

As the walker progresses along the ancient route of Derwent Edge, visually Win Hill and Lose Hill draw gradually closer together until they form the distinct outline of the Mother's breasts. At this most sacred place of the Goddess, the ancestors built a very large significant burial mound for an important Bronze Age leader.

There is nothing so bright and lovely as Derwenna shimmering below as the glorious sun rises to reach its zenith at the midsummer solstice. Venture out and connect to her sparkling mysteries!



*The Derwent... at the remote end of the valley*

Join our Sheffield Goddess Temple Melissas between 12:30 and 1:30 pm, Monday to Saturday, to experience these seasonal energies in quiet contemplation.



# *Celebrating Summer Solstice and the Oak Tree*

By Glennie Kindred

The Summer Solstice marks the longest day and shortest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. From this point onwards the days will shorten and the nights will lengthen until we reach the Winter Solstice once again. This is a transition moment, a recognition that a new cycle is about to begin, a moment to pause, to look back and celebrate what we have actively achieved in the last six months, and envision the harvest to come. By marking the Solstices we acknowledge this beautiful flowing symmetry that brings balance to the natural world and into our lives.

Traditionally people would gather together on Solstice Eve for a candle-lit procession, and entertain each other with music, dancing and plays. They would gather around a 'bon' fire (a 'good' fire) of Oak wood and stay up all night until dawn (around 3.30 am), to watch the Sun of the new cycle rise in the extreme North East.

Is there a way you could gather with friends and family and experience this ancient tradition? Daybreak particularly feels very special. Being out so early in the half light, hearing the loudness of the dawn chorus and watching the sky lighten or the Sun break free of the horizon as the day begins, is thrilling and worth the adventure of being up so early. (or so late if you stay up!) Ask everyone to bring food and drink to share and some firewood for the fire and ways for the children to sleep comfortably. Make simple head-dresses from twisted and bound grasses and wild flowers. The sticky long stalks of Cleavers (Sticky Willy) make instant circlets that can be used as a basis for further weaving. Encourage everyone to look for a special 'Solstice Stone' along the way, and use it as a meditation stone to contemplate this great turning point in the year's cycle.

As the Sun rises or the sky lightens, holding your stone, each calls out 'I give thanks for.....' Everyone cheers each other on. Let your heart expand with your love for life! Share breakfast together and go for a walk afterwards.

Alternatively gather with family and friends for a 'Bring and Share' Summer Solstice Supper. Have an evening walk to a place that faces the North West and watch the Sun go down. Light an outdoor fire or if indoors, light

lots of candles in a bowl of sand, and sit round it to share and celebrate what each person has done since Midwinter. Reflect on new skills and insights gained, possible new directions and understandings that will help take you forwards. This close-sharing around firelight is very magical and offers opportunity for deepening our relationships with each other. Again, cheer each other on, make it celebratory! Raise glasses in a toast to each other.

## **The Oak - *Quercus robur***

The Oak is linked with the Summer Solstice in folklore and legend as the doorway into the inner realms and the new dark cycle of the year that is about to begin. Set out on a quest to find an Oak tree that you can regularly sit with. For generations people have sat beneath the mighty Oak to gain strength and spiritual renewal. It helps the inner world to slip back into perspective, allowing new understanding to grow and decisions to be made from a place of balance.

Thank the tree before you leave, as this helps build personal and heartfelt connection. Our appreciation keeps our hearts open and paves the way for that wonder of wild edge phenomena - of having true friendship and relationship with trees.



This article was originally published in *Green Parent* magazine.

For more information see Glennie Kindred's website: <http://www.glenniekindred.co.uk>

# *Sanziennele – Summer Fairies of Romania*

Each year, on the 24th of June, Romanians celebrate the pagan holiday of Sanziene. Along with the Fates, Sanzienele are part of the big and charming family of Iele – gracious fairies with magical powers. Unlike most Iele, Sanzienele are always good and kind to humans. It is said that on the night before their day, they fly over meadows, smelling and touching the wildflowers, enriching them with special healing properties. Sanziene is also the Romanian name of a wild yellow flower, commonly known as the Lady's bedstraw, frequently used in ancient healing potions. So, the 24th of June is the perfect day for collecting this flower, along with other local medicinal plants.

Moreover, on Sanziene's Eve, it is said that they bless the animals and the fountains, strengthen people's marriages, heal people of different diseases, and then like to dance and sing until dawn.

## **Sanziene – Midsummer Celebration in Romania**

This holiday also focuses on celebrating the Sun. This is why, on Sanziene's Eve, people still make huge campfires on top of the hills and to dance around them. The bravest men even try to jump over the fire, as it is believed that the fire will purify them, and that all their sorrows will disappear in the flames. In some villages, the young boys try to impress the girls by playing with fire, literally. They take burning torches and start to rotate them, creating circles symbolizing the Sun, in a dangerous but captivating and sparkling show. Then, the unmarried girls go to gather some Lady's Bedstraw flowers to put under their pillow, asking Sanziene to help them dream about their true soul mate.

As expected, Sanziene's Day has its own specific rituals, mainly focused on love spells. In some regions, especially in the countryside, it is common that the young girls play



Picture: Saturnian - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
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the role of Sanziene. One of the girls is chosen to represent Dragaica, the most powerful Sanziana. After she is dressed in white and embellished with golden wheat spikes – the symbol of the Sun and Summer – she must gather all the other girls into a big circle and dance. Then, they all go collecting Lady's Bedstraw flowers and create beautiful wreaths. In some regions, the girls throw their wreath in water while chanting their

wishes for love. In other parts of the country, the wreaths are thrown over the house; if the wreath stays on the roof, the girl will marry soon, if not, the girl still has to wait.

It is not a good thing though to be a male and walk at night during Sanziene Eve night, as that is the time when the fairies dance in the air, blessing the crops and bestowing health on people - they do not like to be seen by males, and whoever sees them will be maimed, or the fairies will take their hearing/speech, or make them mad.

In some areas of the Carpathians, the villagers then light a big wheel of hay from the ceremonial bonfire and push it down a hill. This has been interpreted as a symbol for the setting sun (from the solstice to come and until the midwinter solstice, the days will be getting shorter) ✨



Lady's Bedstraw

### **Article sources:**

<https://rolandia.eu/sanziene-summer-fairies/>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A2nzian%C4%83#Notes>