**Workshop Topics**

by A.C. Fisher Aldag

These workshops are “hands-on” with group participation and question-and-answer periods. Many of these classes take about an hour. The folkplays can take longer – explanation then performance. Most classes have a “reading list” and suggested purchases. Shopping will be encouraged!

**For Beginners to Advanced**:

*Magick 101* – can be a one-hour session covering the basics, or divided into six sessions, with much more depth, including a quiz. Taught from the Western Esoteric perspective. Components of a ritual, basic grounding, centering, shielding, creating safe magickal space, deities and entities, elements, tools, herbalism, various paths, holidays /Sabbats, & bringing the will into manifestation.

*Folk Magick* – what is it? How is it different from Wicca, Druidry, Heathenry, or Ceremonial Magick? Some folk magick artefacts and ritual tools will be on display. Entities will be briefly discussed. Emphasis on British Isles Folkloric Traditions and pre-Gardnerian Witchcraft.

*Terrific Talismans* – Folk Magick objects used for sympathetic & contagion magick & their meaning. Use of talismans and amulets, intrinsic vs. extrinsic properties of items, sigils, hidden objects, witches’ marks, hexefoils, alrauns, etc. Then create your own talisman w/ paint, markers, or wood-burning tools.

*Tell-Stones* – an older form of divination, originating in the British Isles, a bit similar to “throwing the bones”. Learn to make a “reading board” or cloth, the meaning of the “houses” on the board, and the symbolism of some crystals and stones.

*Basic Drumming* – So often at gatherings, folks say, “I can’t drum.” Sure you can! Philosophy behind the sacred drumbeat, touching on use in various cultures; a few basic beats; using sound for cleansing, healing, summoning, trance work, and just plain fun. Part 2 can be ritual drumming as an enjoyable community activity and spiritual practice.

*Use of Plants in Magick* – Tisanes, powders, ointments, potions, and more; using plant “allies” for healing & manifestation. Some plant properties and preparation techniques will be explained. More in depth: gardening by the moon signs, foraging, plant identification outdoors.

*Sheila na Gig and the Green Man* – These enigmatic figures appear all over the British Isles, from churches to pubs, and elsewhere around the world. Are they historically Pagan or Christian proscriptions against lust and gluttony? Explore some history and the modern reverence for these images. Then we’ll make our own Sheila or Green Man from sculpey polimer clay.

*Happy Holy-days and Superb Sabbats* – The basics of the Wiccan Sabbats & other seasonal British Isles holiday celebrations. An overview of the “big eight”, the Esbats or moon phases, & less-well known customs, OR an in-depth season-specific workshop. Includes traditions, deities, crafts, talismans, ritual dance and drama, discussion of ceremonies, & foods. (Note: while I’ll cheerfully participate in Wiccan, Druidic, Heathen, and other rites, I’m not really qualified to lead them. However, I can facilitate a British Isles Folkloric ritual. See “Folkplays”, below.)

*Kids’ Activities* – a nature walk, or basic kid-friendly ritual, or making a holiday-specific craft.

**For More Advanced Folx**:

*Shielding & Creating Liminal Space* – Other than casting circle, several methods of creating a safe space in which to work magick. British Traditional Witchcraft “compass” with a stang, doth & rig, chalk outline, ditch, besom & scythe, & more. Use of talismans, personal shielding, & other individual techniques. The *Mill of Magick* can be included, learning the traditional chant & ritual.

*Folkloric Deities* – entities from the British Isles and the Celtic lands who may or may not be found in literature, such as the Bucca /Cernunnos /Herne; Queen Mab /Goddess Mawb /Madron; the Grim Reaper; Cailleach; Gofannon /Goibniu /Tubal Cain /Weyland; Goddess Brighid /Saint Brigit; and a few others. These entities are sometimes called “folk saints” or “non-canonized saints” by Catholic folx. Legends, veneration, related praxes.

*The Horned Lord* – an in-depth look at Cernunnos /Herne /the Bucca, including history, artefacts, & legends. Horned Gods are found around the world, and we’ll explore their imagery, rituals, folklore, & their relationship to Shamanic practice.

*Avataring Deities and Entities, or “God for a Day”* – Allowing a deity or entity to work through a practitioner during ritual, also called spirit possession, channeling, or being “ridden”. For experienced magick-users.

*Accommodating Disabled Magick-Users* *during events* – This workshop is for ritual leaders as well as those with physical impairments. Assisting physically-challenged magick-users to get the most out of a ritual experience. Sensory issues, mental/ cognitive/ emotional challenges, and neurodivergence can also be discussed. A hands-on session will be included, so that attendees can try using a wheelchair and other assistive devices.

*Guided Meditations* – Shapeshifting, including a bit of legend, & then entering the mind of a sparrow or rabbit. OR the Magickal Pool, also called an energy bank or psychic wellspring. An explanation & then a journey to our “happy place” as a repository of magickal power.

**Folkplays & Foolery:** A history of Ritual Theater in the British Isles, also called guising, mumming, or a processional. Participants can watch some online examples of the art form, learn the philosophy behind the fun, and then (if desired) perform an actual folkplay. These are usually seasonal activities which can be done in conjunction with a Sabbat /holiday. 2 + hours, some props and costumes are needed. *Choose from:*

*Spring*: Plow Play, Jack in the Green, Beating the Bounds, the May Branch, the May Pole, Robin Hood *Summer*: George & the Dragon, Lugh vs. Balor, King Arthur, Hay Cart Dressing, Oak vs Holly Kings

*Fall*: Bran the Harvest God, Burning a Wicker Chicken, Lady Mawb’s journey, Quest for Mabon

*Winter:* The Stag Hunt, the Mari Lwyd, Hunting the Wren, Holly vs Oak Kings

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