

Pagan Federation North Eastx

  
 Convention 2019 Wakefield

**13th April 2019**

**Talk Timetable**

	Room 1	Room 2
10.30 - 11.15	<b>Alex Bear</b> Easy ways to be inclusive	<b>Rich Blackett</b> Viking Zombie Myths and legends
11.30 - 12.15	<b>Adam Aslam</b> The early revelation; A dialogue between a youth and his pagan elders .	<b>Philip Heselton</b> In Search of the New Forest Coven
12.30 - 1.15		
1.30 - 2.15	<b>Debi Gregory</b> Accessible Paganism and Families	<b>Cat Treadwell</b> Everyday Druidry and Inspiration
2.30 - 3.15	<b>Runecast Copper</b> Workshop: Introduction to the elder futhark runes	<b>Ashley Mortimer</b> Wicca - Ancient Beliefs, Modern Practices
3.30 - 4.15	<b>Susan Leybourne</b> Hekate and the Chaldean Oracles	<b>Nimue Brown</b> Druidry and dreaming the future

Lightwaves Leisure & Community Centre, Lower York Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 3LJ  
www.paganfedne.org

## Room 1

### 10.30am Alex Bear - Easy ways to be inclusive

Lgbtqia people make up roughly 10-15% of the world population. The sense of community that a faith group offers is vitally important in maintaining a good level of mental, physical and emotional wellbeing; especially for a group who are often rejected by their families and peers. Join Alex, for a look at some simple, practical ways that we can ensure that we are making our moots, groves, covens and events as welcoming and inclusive as possible for our LGBTQIA members.

Alex Bear is the National LGBTQIA Manager for the PF, The Transdruid blogger, an LGBTQIA activist, author and artist. He is also a regular speaker at Pagan pride Nottingham, as well as the PF online festivals.

### 11.30am Adam Aslam - Title :The early revelation ; A dialogue between a youth and his pagan elders .

The final prophet of Islam, Muhammad began to receive his Revelation (the Koran), aged 40. The world in which he and his revelation was critical of what that of the pagan Middle East, an intricate network of trading towns, with individual deities, sacred spaces and beliefs. Muhammad's home town Makkah, was a significant centre of pagan tradition.

This presentation will aim to explore in a neutral sense what we can learn from Muslim/ non Muslim sources regarding the pagan religions and customs of his time, whilst also reflecting critically on how the Quran can also provide some incite into Arabian pagan theology .

### **1.30pm Debi Gregory – Children and the Pagan community**

“Children are a gift. They're ours to make; not break.” A baby is a blank canvas, an empty vessel ready to be filled. Whether you believe a child has knowledge before it's born or not, there's no doubt that after birth the input offered by the world is vast and filled with potential. Unfortunately, not all that potential is positive, not all of it is safe. So, what can we, as parents, guardians, carers, teachers, family, friends and a community do to accentuate the positive and protect against the negative?

Debi Gregory is a mother of three with three god children, three nieces, three nephews and a multitude of younger brothers and sisters, the number of which keeps changing as her parents unofficially adopt every unwanted, unloved and neglected person that needs them. She has written a series of children's books, the first of which is due to be published very soon, and frequently talks about inclusiveness and accessibility in the Pagan community. Family and the raising of children is her biggest passion and she is currently training to become a Child, Developmental and Educational Psychologist. In the meantime, Debi juggles her studies and family with her work as the Pagan Federation National Disabilities Manager, the PF National Deputy Families Manager, the PF Chair of the Sub-Committee of Communication, as Trustee and Social Media Coordinator for Pagan Aid, a Super Campaigner for The Woodland Trust and as co-founder of the sites Witch Path Forward and founder of Ponderings of a Pagan Parent.

### **2.30pm Runecast copper – WORKSHOP: INTRODUCTION TO THE ELDER FUTHARK RUNES**

An informal and free introduction to the Elder Futhark Runes-the magical alphabet of the ancient Germanic tribes of Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The runes have been used for many centuries both for divination and as powerful magical symbols.

This workshop will provide a little of the history and mythology surrounding them, as well as teach you ways to recognise and remember each rune and it's meaning. It will show you in a fun and interactive way a few techniques for using them to reveal hidden wisdom and unveil the possible future. Free rune interpretation sheet for everyone attending.

### **3.30pm Susan Leybourne – 'Hekate and the Chaldean Oracles'**

Hecate has been viewed as a goddess of witches and magicians from ancient times to the present. Mostly known for her major role in the founding myth of the Eleusinian mysteries, she is the guardian of the crossroads, holding the key to secret knowledge and magic. However, her worship and cult changed over many centuries and by late antiquity her cult was re-animated by Neoplatonists and she became a goddess symbolic of the 'World-Soul' in the Chaldean Oracles. This system of knowledge, under Emperor Julian (the apostate), was to be 'the Pagan Bible' the last great hope in the face of increased Christian restrictions of pagan worship. The Chaldean Oracles were revered as holy, received wisdom teachings from Hecate and Apollo themselves. In this talk Hecate's role will be explored within the context of the Chaldean Oracles and their teachings on soul-ascent to the realms of the gods.

Susan Leybourne is the former Pagan Chaplain of the University of Leeds (1994-2006). She is a PhD candidate at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, where her research topic examines parallels in ascent mysticism in the Chaldean Oracles, Neoplatonism and early Jewish mysticism. She has an MA in Ancient Religions, from the School of Classics, also at UWTSD (Lampeter). She has lectured on a variety of esoteric subjects including ancient and modern paganism, western esotericism, anthropology of religion, consciousness research and mediumship and presented lectures and courses in the UK, Europe, USA and Canada. She has been featured many times in both national and international TV and press. She currently lives in Northamptonshire.

## Room 2

### **10.30am Rich Blackett - Draugr! (or the Secret History of Viking Zombies!)**

In a light-hearted but detailed presentation, Rich Blackett discusses accounts and descriptions of Zombies, Ghosts and Revenants in Old Norse Sagas.

Rich is Media Officer for the Pagan Federation, Publications Officer for Pagan Dawn and Chair of Asatru U.K.

### **11.30am Philip Heselton - In Search of the New Forest Coven**

Philip Heselton has been researching the group who initiated Gerald Gardner in the New Forest for over 20 years. He will talk about some of the individuals involved and how what they knew as 'the witch cult' evolved from the beginning of the 20th Century to 1939

Philip Heselton is a retired British Conservation Officer, a Wiccan initiate, and a writer on the subjects of Wicca, Paganism and Earth Mysteries. He is best known for two books, Wiccan Roots: Gerald Gardner and the Modern Witchcraft Revival and Gerald Gardner and the Cauldron of Inspiration, which gather historical evidence surrounding the New Forest Coven and the origins of Gardnerian Wicca.

### **1.30pm Cat Treadwell - Everyday Druidry and Inspiration**

Paganism is a lived spirituality, every day, through the ups and the downs. Cat will explore how to rekindle that connection, remember your inner magic and relight the flame of inspiration

Cat Treadwell is a professional Druid Priest and author. She has travelled internationally to perform rites of passage, while working closer to home as a community chaplain. Find her online at [druidcat.wordpress.com](http://druidcat.wordpress.com)

### **2.30pm Ashley Mortimer - Wicca - Ancient Beliefs, Modern Practices**

From underground cult to worldwide religion in just a few decades, "Wicca" is the essence of a modern day revival of ancient pagan beliefs and, perhaps, practices. Ashley Mortimer, director of the Centre For Pagan Studies and trustee of the Doreen Valiente Foundation, traces ancient pagan beliefs through human religious development to a modern history of the Craft looking for common threads of belief and practice.

[www.centre-for-pagan-studies.com](http://www.centre-for-pagan-studies.com)

**3.30pm Nimue Brown - Druidry and dreaming the future**

Activism, language, and what Druidry can particularly do to help shift our culture towards sustainability - language, storytelling etc

Nimue is the author of a number of Druid titles and the Druid Life blog. Nimue is also an online activist for The Woodland Trust and involved with the transition towns movement - which is all about sustainable living.