



WiccaUK

NETWORKING FOR WICCANS IN THE UK

WiccaUK Members Magazine

Issue Two May 2003





E-Zine May 2003

Hey all,

Welcome to issue two of the WiccaUK E-zine. We have redesigned the e-zine to complement the WiccaUK look, what do you think?

In this issue you can find information on all the regional moots, the new venue for the London moot and pictures from the April London moot. Also there are articles from Imdae by Beltane, an article from Djara and CelticVision talks about being a Bard.

As well as this please also find the monthly regulars to the magazine, in a beginners guide to the craft KitchenWitch and WhiteWolf explain all there is to know about Basil as well as a few recipes to get those mouths watering. There are several book reviews

too including the current book in the WiccaUK book circle, 'Triumph of the Moon' by Ronald Hutton.

Also new this month there is a crossword which will become a monthly thing in the e-zine also. The answers to the crossword can be found on the website, a few days after the magazine is released!

Anyways, I hope you all enjoy the magazine, keep on contributing!

Sparks

Editor

sparks@wiccauk.com

BM WiccaUK, London, WC1N 3XX

Cover picture by Imdae

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WiccaUK Contacts

The Committee

WiccaUK Chairperson: Casp - casp@wiccauk.com

Treasurer: Mage - mage@wiccauk.com

Events Co-coordinator: Janika-janika@wiccauk.com

Member Services:

Arual@wiccauk.com

sparks@wiccauk.com

Website Editor: Silvertree - silvertree@wiccauk.com

Q&A - "What are the rules of conduct for the IRC chatroom?"

There are only a few basic rules in the WiccaUK chat room (accessed either by the java interface on the site or via IRC clients such as mIRC at irc.highlandfox.com - #WiccaUK) however as is suspected all users must abide by these rules to be allowed to use this integral part of WiccaUK.

The general rules are as follows:

- 1) Swearing on the channel although largely permitted should not be offensive and over the top.
- 2) If an Op asks you to stop doing something and you don't then you are liable to be kicked and banned from the channel for the remaining day or depending on severity at the ops discretion.
- 3) Scripts are not allowed on the channel
- 4) Non-authorized bots are not allowed

on the channel.

- 5) Impersonating other members is not allowed. To unsure this does not happen users are encouraged to register their nickname.



The Structure of WiccaUK

In January 2003 WiccaUK adopted an Association structure. This basically means that Full Members own the site, and major decisions are voted on by them. Day to day decisions are made up by a Management Committee. Each year we will hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to which all Full Members are invited. Here we'll put important decisions to vote and discuss the previous year, the achievements of WiccaUK and what we aim to achieve in the next year.

The current committee consists of six people. Casparian is Chairman and looks after general running of the site and organization. Mage is Treasurer, looking after our bank account and making decisions on funding of projects. Janika is our events-

coordinator, organizing regional moots and events and keeping our calendar up to date. Silvertree is our Website Editor, adding new news stories and articles to the site and Arual and Sparks are Membership Services Managers, who deal with problems members face including passwords not working and site improvement suggestions.

The committee is bound by our Constitution, which sets out what it's allowed to do and how it's run. It also ensures members are aware who is liable, and sets out specifics such as membership fees.

Becoming a Full Member achieves two important aims. First of all, it gives you the right to complain if you



Five members of the first Management Committee (L-R) Arual, Mage, Sparks, Casparian and Janika

don't feel the site is being run properly! Though obviously we hope that's unlikely. You also help fund the website. It is costly keeping it online, server and bandwidth costs eat up most of our funding and the annual membership fee is a huge boost to us.

Elsewhere in this magazine you can find a Full Membership form should you wish to help support the future of WiccaUK!

WiccaUK Events coming up!

We've got a bunch of events coming up in the near future, and you're in for a treat if you'll be near London over the summer!

Manchester Moot This takes place on Saturday, 26th April, meeting in Victoria Train Station from 2pm.

Edinburgh Moot Our second Edinburgh Moot! Meeting on Saturday 3rd May outside Boots in Waverly Train Station at 4pm, then up to Kunama's sisters café for some tasty sandwiches. The official moot starts at 7pm in the back room of the Holyrood Tavern.

York Moot Sunday 17th May. Meeting at 11am, by the Station Pub in York Train Station. The plan is to have a look around the nearby pubs to see who can fit the group in.

London Moot Sunday 18th

May from 2pm. Downstairs at The Griffin on Villiers Street. Right next to Charing Cross and 3 mins from Embankment station. Read the next page for full details! £3 to cover room hire (or more if you're feeling flush!)

Portsmouth Moot Sunday 1st June, at Registry in Portsmouth. Our first South Coast moot, come along and meet everyone!

Also in the works is the first **WiccaUK Witches Ball**. What is this, I hear you cry! Well, basically we'll be having a meal then a night of dancing

and frolics in Central London! If we can, we'll have a live band in, but otherwise it'll be music. Dress is Formal/Smart/Gothic, with the emphasis on Gothic style if you can! As soon as we have dates and times we'll announce it on the site, but we know it'll be in July or August.

In Spring 2004 we're planning a conference, again for central London. It'll include speakers, workshops, stalls and networking sessions. We'll hopefully have details announced during May, once again when we get the venue all sorted out!

Want to run an event?!

If you're thinking about running a local Moot or other event, let us know! Email events@wiccauk.com with what you've decided so far, and we'll try to help as much as possible with the rest. We'll mention it on the site and, if we have enough notice, mention it in newsletters, both our own and other peoples, and in this magazine.

WiccaUK May London Moot

The WiccaUK London moot officially outgrew its old mooting grounds in March and so from the April moot onwards there is a new venue.

The new venue is the **Griffin** at Charing Cross in the centre of London, which as well as being bigger than the old Black Widow it is easier for the majority of people to get to too.

A door charge of £3 will now be applied to the moots in order to pay for the venue.

To get to the Griffin there are a number of routes. From Charing Cross rail station come out of the main exit and turn right from the station. Start walking parallel to the Strand and turn down the first street on your right, Villiers Street and the Griffin will be in front of you on the corner of the street.

From Embankment station. Come out of the station (not the river side exit) and walk up to the top of Villiers street. The Griffin will be right at the top by Charing Cross rail station on the corner.

The Griffin
Charing Cross Station
Embankment Station



March Moot - London



Beltane

Beltane is the second of the fire festivals, celebrated around the end of April and the beginning of May, this is a greater Sabbat, a cross-quarter festival. The God, seen as the Stag king is coming into his manhood and coming into mature power, the antlers representative of the Horned God, the Oak King begins his rule over the light half of the year. This sabbat is called after the Celtic god, Bel. Beltane is also sacred to the Maia, the Greco-Roman goddess of spring.

This sabbat is best known for fertility and healing, the great bonfire is represents the gate to other worlds. As the fire burned down, cattle would be driven through the flames to bless and heal them. Jumping over the fire three times for luck and couples could seal their vows by jumping over the fire together.

A time of self-discovery, love, union and developing the potential for

personal growth. May morning is also considered a magical time for wild water (dew, flowing streams, and springs), which is collected and used to bathe in for beauty, or to drink for health. It is said that any Maiden that bathes in this water will be fair of complexion for the following year.

The May pole is a focal point of many old English village rituals, symbolic of fertility. People would rise at the first light of dawn to collect flowers and branches to decorate homes.

Women traditionally would braid flowers into their hair. Men and women alike would decorate their bodies. Beltane marks the return of vitality, of passion.

Many Pagan traditions say that Beltane marks the emergence of the young God into manhood. Stirred by the energies at work in nature he desires the Goddess, with the result that they fall in love and unite. The Goddess becomes

pregnant of the God (though in some Traditions this is celebrated at Ostara instead). To celebrate, a wedding feast, for the God and Goddess should be prepared.

Incense can include frankincense, lilac and rose.

Claire (Imdae)

The Next Level of Thinking

Remember I'm just an idiot so don't hurt me if I get something right or wrong. This all comes out of my head so if I end up copying what someone has already said before, it was by chance

There I was sitting in the library drifting in and out of my own thoughts, pen in hand and just letting my hand flow over the page till something came along. My pen drifted for about 10 mins and while it was happening my mind was going to all kinds of places in the world just to see what it was like there. Then it dawned on me, the next dimension.

As always I will try to keep this as simple as possible, usually to help myself through it. I drew the three axis that make up our reality (length, width, depth a.k.a x, y and z) then as I drew back on the x-axis to the origin I wondered what would happen if I crossed that origin point. Now some would say you're just going into the negative part of the x-axis. But what if the origin was an end point in our universe. They're shouldn't be anything beyond the origin unless you say there is another extra dimension to be added on.

What would the properties be of this dimension, if it stayed true to form of the current dimensions, if should fold back on us in the x-axis and turn everything inside out heh. But what if instead if followed the universes dimensions back on them-

selves. This would give a single point in this new dimension a position at every point in the universe. If this new dimension could be at every point in the universe, then the universe might not even be spread out everywhere, but in one single point. We wouldn't have to worry about the universe expanding or contracting because if you think about it, everywhere in the same place, it's just our perception that views the universe as this vast object.

To link to this dimension that is everywhere, or shall we say intersecting the universe at every point, we just need to cross the threshold from our 3D environment into this extra dimension. We could say the threshold is at the origin but seeing as this dimension is everywhere and distance is meaningless, we could access it everywhere and move ourselves in and out of our reality anywhere.

Just trying to imagine this inner dimension is impossible for us really as we have enough trouble understanding our current 3D environment. But our minds are not fully bound to this 3D environment, many can move out of their bodies and go elsewhere in the world or the universe, they can astral-project, and some can see things happening elsewhere without really having available information feeding into their minds to know it.

Psychics could be on a certain

level of thinking, accessing this inner dimension and moving to another place in the universe long enough to see what's going on. As we can't comprehend this other dimension, we don't remember entering or leaving it naturally.

Our entire universe could just be this tiny little thing in this other dimension where space and time have no relevance. The whole idea of layers of space above and underneath our reality could be meaningless compared to entering this other dimension which folds back on every point in space and time with no distance involved, and best of all, this whole new dimension can pave the way for a whole new existence and a new level of thinking. Imagine going to any point in time and space within your thoughts and actually being there without leaving your seats. If this dimension can fold in on and intersect our 3D space and time, it could possible intersect other realities or planes of existence we never could have imagined.

As always, thoughts and opinions are more than welcome, you can contact me at Djara@Djara.com

Bright Blessings,
Djara

A Bards Path

What is my path...? I am a Bard - What is a Bard?

bard (P) Pronunciation Key (bärd)n.

1. One of an ancient Celtic order of minstrel poets who composed and recited verses celebrating the legendary exploits of chieftains and heroes.

2. A poet, especially a lyric poet.

Not an easy thing to answer, but it comes down to writing and music for me. I'm a Celt and follow the ways of the Brigantes.

My path is to try and find Awen, the divine spark, the power of inspiration.. It's Awen that sets Bards against all others, the inspiration, the breath of Dagda. The chief bard, head of all bards, is said to be an embodiment of that breath, that inspiration. That doesn't really tell you much. What people really want is a steadfast definition and description of what a bard is, which to my knowledge doesn't exist. The concept of barddom has changed with the times, but the spirit of the bard remains the same. Modern society Therefore, for me being a bard is about

raising awareness of issues, entertaining those that are interested, learning and in turn sharing what I learn of the old ways. It's complicated and I'm still learning. Bard's wrote many things down, but they often wrote in a code language such as coelbren, which I am in the process of learning.

The bardic ways faded out as early as one thousand years ago. About two hundred years ago, the romantic movement in poets and the rise of historians studying the myths and lore of great Britain, rather than what many consider the more interesting myths of the rest of Europe, caused many poets, writers, and musicians to seek out and follow the principles of Barddom and druidry.

The restoration of Bardic ways has led to several organizations of Bards and druids. One of note are OBOD (Order of Bards, Ovate, and Druids) who teach a very interesting, and worthwhile, training course. They also have numerous seed groups and groves that ensure that many people of many areas are covered. I follow many druid ways; I respect life, and the circle of life. I am very romantic in the way I see bards, though television and radio have made it hard to follow this romantic vision. Bard's traditionally were like the news service, but they

were much more than that. Spreading my poetry around, allowing all to seem is the closest way I can follow the basic principles.

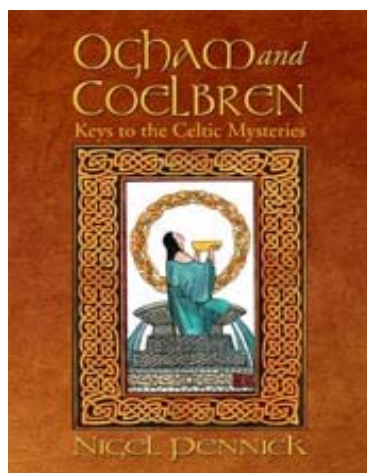
I pray rather than practice magic, though on occasion when the need arises I have been known to cast a spell or ward. When the druids were in decline, and even before in regions where the druids were not popular, they controlled the coronations of kings and queens. They taught what needed to be taught, they were soothsayers, and they were doctors, jack-of-all-trades so to speak, though their stock in trade will be their words and the harp.

I am not nearly that far, but I'm learning, and being a bard matches my creative side. I'm a poet and an author, but more importantly it just feels as though I have a purpose, it feels right for me. This is just a narrow look at what it is to be Bard from my point of view. There are many of ways and practices. There are several good resources such as OBOD (Order of Bards, Ovate, and Druids) at www.druidry.org and there are some good resources just going through the threads at www.wiccauk.com.

CelticVision

Book to complement this article- "Ogham and Coelbren - Keys to the Celtic Mysteries"

by Nigel Pennick

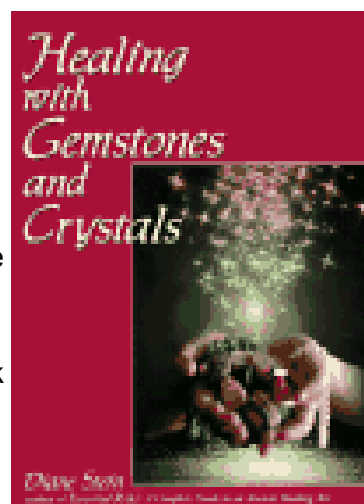


Explores the "wattles and branches" of the Celtic tree alphabets and the tree-lore of the British Isles. It is a wide ranging explanation of, and commentary on, Celtic tree traditions, covering the Oghams of Ireland and the Bardic alphabets of Wales. These symbolic systems encapsulate the ancestral spiritual traditions of the British Isles; their teaching express the Druidic world-view and ways of thought that contemporary education has forgotten. Ogham and Coelbren contains the variants of the Irish Ogham tree "alphabet" –its colors, trees, birds and

symbols, cryptic codes and hidden inner meanings that encapsulate a creative energy available today. The Welsh Bardic system is also detailed, with rare illustrations from scarce texts. A comprehensive appendix details the meanings, correspondences and cosmology that Ogham and Coelbren contain.

Healing with Gemstones and Crystals (Crossing Press Healing Series)

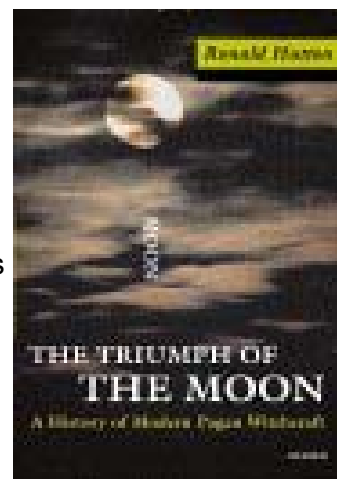
Description : Healing with Gemstones and Crystals provides a complete guide to healing the body, mind, and spirit with the aid of gemstones and crystals. Written by healer Diane Stein, this work packs a wealth of information and instructions on every page. Readers will learn how to choose gemstones and will learn chakras and the hara line for gemstone energy work.



Triumph of the Moon - Ronald Hutton

Description : This is by far the most historically accurate, thoroughly researched book on pagan history that there is, and it is written in a very unbiased format. Ronald Hutton is professor of History at Bristol University and the most authoritative writer of pagan history in the British Isles, if not the world. This book tackles head on the supposed lineage and history of modern witchcraft, setting a lot of the myths straight - all backed up with an overwhelming amount of evidence.

Although the book demolishes a lot of common held beliefs on the history of witchcraft, after reading this book it can do nothing but enrich your faith, grounding you in a historical practice which echoes through the very stones. This book should please both eclectic practitioner, and help clarify some issues within the traditional community.



A Witch's Guide to Faery Folk : Reclaiming Our Working Relationship With Invisible Helpers - Edain McCoy



Description : Working on the idea that faeries are not merely mythological creatures or elemental archetypes, but actual beings who can aid in pagan rituals and magic, McCoy tells the reader where to find them, how to call them (or protect against them), spells and rituals involving the little people and a rather helpful dictionary of faery folk from around the world. I'm impressed with the amount of actually helpful information which McCoy has included in this book.

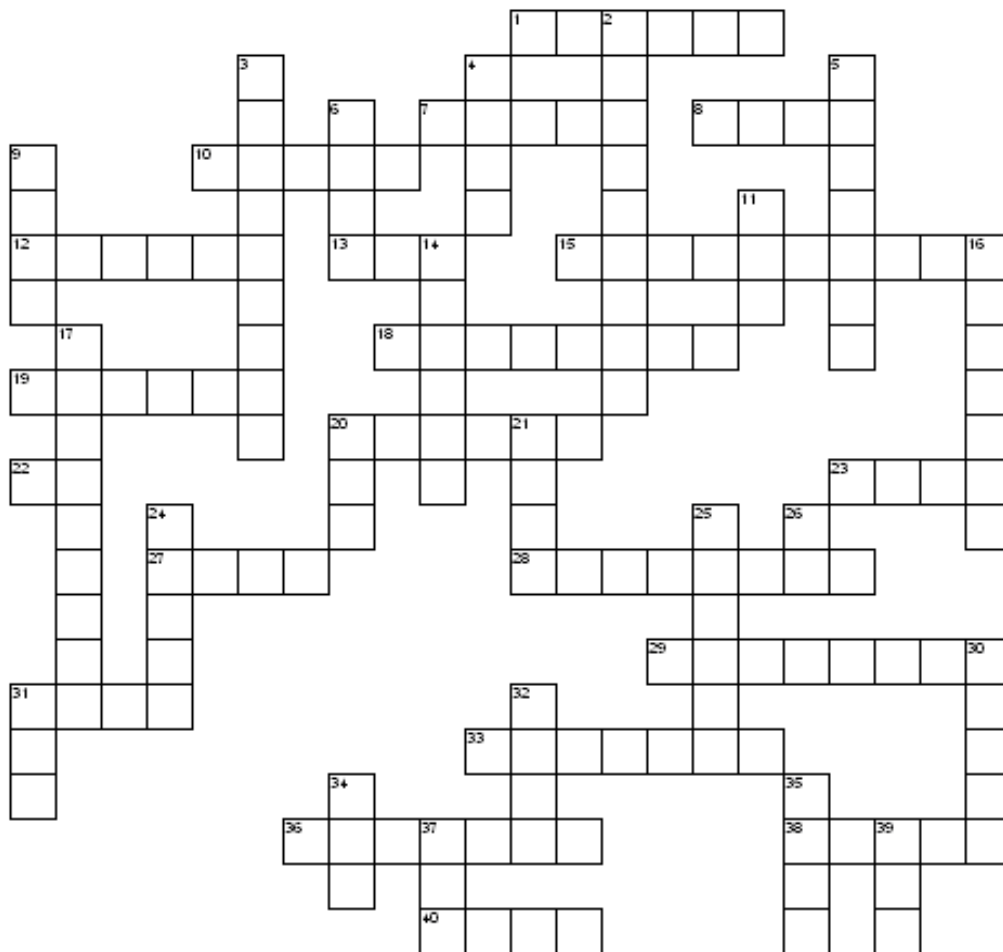
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CrossWord

In the crossword this month the two major clue themes are gods/goddess's and herbs, mixed with other words associated with the craft,

Enjoy!

The answers to the crossword can be found on WiccaUK



www.CrosswordWicca.com

Across

- 1 Otherwise known as Sahlab or Saloop
 7 The crystal Lapis Lazuli represents this element
 8 garment which may be worn when practising magic
 10 The Roman god of beginnings
 12 The fifth element
 13 popular amongst elves
 15 The process where someone is admitted to a coven
 18 This plant flowers around May time, otherwise known as a Butter Rose
 19 Akkadian goddess who represented salt water. Her husband, Apsu, represented fresh water
 20 The son of Osiris and Nephthys
 22 Devoted friend and protector of the Hurrian god Teshub
 23 Folk name 'Giver of Life' and could be associated with the 'Jolly Green Giant'
 27 Plant these in the garden to keep away ghosts and evil, protect against the evil eye and to keep unwanted visitors from your home
 28 When held in the hand this flower causes you to tell the truth
 29 Spring Flower

- 31 Herb used in countless healing and money spells and has been utilised to ensure long life
 33 When eaten this common kitchen herb provokes lust and promotes fertility
 36 This is prevalent in the dales of Yorkshire
 38 The son of Re, brother of Seth and the ancestor of the dynasties of the pharaohs
 40 These are planted in gardens to attract faeries and has been long used in love mixtures

Down

- 2 The Horned god in Celtic Mythology
 3 This Indian god was the universe, time and sacrificial alter
 4 Indian god who was the personification of desire
 5 To which goddess is this hymn for; "Greetings, goddess; make the earth abundant, fatten our livestock, give us fruits, and ears of corn, and crops"
 6 'stick like figures' used for divination and in magic
 9 Phoenician god of fertility and fecundity
 11 You could burn incense to represent this

- 14 Nabu, the Babylonian god of the scribes was this god's son
 16 Roman god of the sea
 17 Incan god who created the first men and the special protector to the emperor of the Incans
 20 Classically you can make branches of this tree into wands
 21 Faithful and devoted wife of Osiris
 24 commonly used as a cooking oil
 25 Wiccan ritual knife
 26 This Egyptian god's creature was the phoenix.
 30 In the east this plant is a mystical symbol of life, spirituality and centre of life
 31 Sumerian god, The moon
 32 That which destroys life
 34 Though highly poisonous this plant is sometimes used to raise the spirits of the dead
 35 Loki constantly played practical jokes on this Norse god
 37 Nordic god who was one armed due to the wolf Fenrir
 39 Slavic god who created the world and life

Answers on the website soon!

A Beginners Guide to the Craft Herblore

Kitchen Witch & WhiteWolf

For as long as anyone can remember people have been using not just Herbs, but other Plants and Trees to help with their magical and healing work. The information below is for reference purposes only and should be used only by those who have required or inherited knowledge.

Caution some plants can be fatal if misused.

Basil

Ocimum basilicum, St. Josephs Wort, Sweet Basil

Planet: Mars
Element: Fire

Once native to India and Persia only, and still a sacred herb to the Hindus, basil is an annual plant much used now in Mediterranean cookery. Basil contains an aromatic and volatile camphor-bearing oil, which gives it its marvellous clove-like fragrance and accounts for its use in cooking, potpourris and perfumery. A delicious tea can also be prepared from the leaves, which is thought to allay mild nervous tension headaches and nausea.

Lore: Basil is attractive to dragons, salamanders, and other fire-oriented creatures. It is sacred to the Hindu god Vishnu and his avatar, Krishna. Magical herbals occasionally refer to it as St. Joseph's Wort. Many cultures used basil in herbal medicine, which is not covered in this article.

Magical Uses

Main magical uses: Consecration, divination (esp. about love), exorcism, fertility, fidelity, good luck, happiness, harmony, love, money, passion, peace, prosperity, protection, psychic

development, psychic protection, purification, strength, success, tranquillity

Other magical uses: Clairvoyance, commanding, courage, dragons, grieving, hatred, honesty, Imbolc, initiation, inspiration, invocation, prevents theft, rituals for the dead, spell-breaking

Basil oil rubbed on a green candle before burning will attract wealth.

Use Basil as a floor wash to rid house of all evil and negativity. The incense smoke is beneficial for the same, plus banishing, exorcising and for protection.

Basil - for money and success. Soak in water for 3 days, and then sprinkle about a place of business. Also used for purification and protection and to remove obstacles in love and create harmony. Dispels melancholy and attracts friends.



Growing

There are many different varieties of Basil, the most popular one being Sweet Basil or *Ocimum basilicum*. Basil is an annual, and should be grown afresh every year. It likes a rich moist soil with plenty of sun, and can grow up to 2 feet in height. I have found the best way to grow it is in a pot outside the back door in the sun, or inside on a sunny windowsill, in a well draining compost. Keep it well watered, and the leaves should not become tough. I grew my plants from small plants from the garden centre, but you may want to try growing them from seed, or from small plug seedlings.

You can buy various types of basil besides the "sweet" variety, the other most popular being "bush" basil. All



posses the same properties, however. The herb grows with a square stem in section; smooth, slightly toothed, oval leaves, which give off a strong clove fragrance when crushed; and white, pink or red whorls of flowers which nestle in the axils of the leaves (where the leaf joins the stem).

For further advice about growing herbs, consult your local garden centre, or the web is also a good source of advice.

Culinary uses

Basil has a special affinity with tomatoes; it deliciously enhances tomato sauces, as well as adding an extra dimension to tomato salads.

This herb can be used freely in hot dishes and raw in salads, it has a distinctive flavour reminiscent of aniseed, only gentler.

Try adding raw basil leaves to a mixed green salad for a little extra flavour dimension.

Or add a scattering of finely shredded basil leaves to Wensleydale or Philadelphia cheese sandwiches.

Or if you want to be really pretentious, quickly deep fry whole basil leaves and use to garnish poached salmon.

Noted below are a couple of my favourite recipes that use basil as a main flavouring.

Further Recipes

Red salad with Green dressing

Some large, VERY red tomatoes
Bunch of Basil
Olive oil
Salt & pepper to taste

'Red Salad with Green dressing'
Sliced tomatoes, basil and optional
buffalo mozzarella



If the tomatoes have been kept in the fridge, bring them out and allow them to warm up to room temperature before beginning the dish.
Slice the tomatoes finely across the middle, discarding the tough stalk centre.
Finely chop or blend the basil and mix with salt & pepper and olive oil to make a thick green dressing.
Lay the tomatoes in a broad dish, overlapping slightly.
Drizzle the dressing over the tomatoes and serve immediately.

Simple tomato pasta sauce

1 large Onion, finely sliced
2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
1 tin of tomatoes, ready chopped if you prefer
A good squirt of Tomato puree
A good glug of Olive oil
Lots of basil (1 or 2 bunches), shredded
Black pepper
Salt to taste



Penne pasta served with
'simple tomato pasta sauce'

Gently fry the onions and garlic in the olive oil in a large pan until softened.
Add the tomatoes and tomato puree and stir well.
Season well with lots of black pepper.
Allow to gently cook over a low heat for about an hour until slightly reduced.
Check the seasoning, add a little salt if desired.
Add the shredded basil and stir well. Heat gently for about 3 or 4 minutes.

Serve with spiral pasta. Garnish with more shredded basil if desired.

Contribute!

This is the members magazine, and we need members contributions every month to keep it going! Stories, articles, book and movie reviews, just a rant on your views of the craft, some of your favourite spells or rituals... send it all in!

To submit your work, email it to sparks@wiccauk.com. If you have any pictures you'd like scanned in, send them to:

Members Magazine, BM WiccaUK, London, WC1N 3XX

And please enclose an SAE if you'd like anything returned!