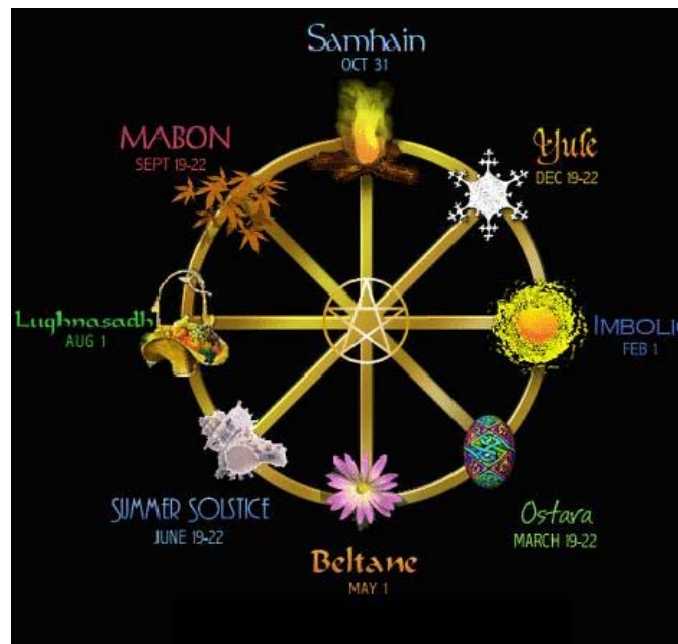


Shared Earth Open Ritual Group

Invites you to
Celebrate the Festivals with friends
in a safe open environment, everyone welcome.



BES RITUAL

Saturday 5th July 2008
7pm for 8pm start

LAMMAS

Sunday 3rd August 2008
Castle Rigg Stone Circle 14.00hrs

MABON (Autumn Equinox)

Sunday 21st September 2008
7pm for 8pm start

SAMHAIN

Saturday 1st November 2008
Workshop, Ritual & overnight stay
Details and booking can be found
<http://www.shared-earth.org.uk/samhain.htm>

BES RITUAL

Saturday 15th November 2008
7pm for 8pm start

YULE

Sunday 21st December 2008
7pm for 8pm start

For further information on
the ORG rituals please e-mail us
shared_earth@yahoo.co.uk
or phone/text 07530 559395

There is NO CHARGE for most the
ORG rituals



Bes

Appearance:

Dwarf with lion and human features

Dwarf wearing the skin of a lion

Bes was the protector of pregnant women, newborn babies and the family.

The ancient Egyptians also believed that Bes protected against snake and scorpion bites.

Amulets of Bes were popular at all levels of Egyptian society.

A vast amount of information on Bes can be found at the following web address

<http://www.thekeep.org/~kunoichi/kunoichi/themestream/bes.html>

LAMMAS

Lammas marks the middle of summer and beginning of the harvest season. Lammas is considered a time of thanksgiving and is the first of the three Pagan harvest festivals. The Sun's strength begins to wane and the plants of spring begin to wither and drop their fruits or seeds for our use as well as to ensure future crops. At this time, we become conscious of the sacrifice the Sun God is preparing to make. We experience a sense of abundance at the same time we begin to feel an urgency to prepare for the death of winter. First grains and fruits of the Earth are cut and stored for the dark winter months.

Lammas also represents the culmination of the marriage between the Goddess and the God that took place on Beltane. The God now becomes the product of that blessed union - the bountiful fruits and grains - and must be sacrificed. He is the personification of the crops that must be harvested for the survival of the people.

MABON

There were three men came out of the West,
Their fortunes for to try,
and these three men made a solemn vow,
John Barleycorn must die...

They let him stand till midsummer's day,
Till he looked both pale and wan,
And little Sir John's grown a long, long beard
And so become a man.

They've hired men with scythes so sharp,
To cut him off at the knee,
They've rolled him and tied him by the waist
Serving him most barbarously.

And little Sir John in the nut-brown bowl,
And he's brandy in the glass,
And little Sir John in the nut-brown bowl
Proved the strongest man at last.

This old folk song that has survived to this day, tells perfectly the story of this time of year called Harvest Home or Mabon. John Barleycorn was called the spirit of the fields. It was believed the sun's life was trapped and crystallized in the corn (corn was a word that referred to wheat mainly, but also described other types of grain). Often this corn spirit was believed to reside most especially in the last sheaf or shock harvested which was dressed in fine clothes, or woven into a wicker-like man-shaped form. This effigy was then cut and carried from the field, and usually burned, amidst much rejoicing. Mythically, this is the day of the year when the god of light is defeated by his twin and alter ego, the god of darkness. It is the time of the year when night conquers day.

YULE

Solstice- Comes from the Latin words Sol Stetil = "When the Sun stands still"

This 'standing still' implies that the Sun is usually in movement, turning like a Wheel and from this comes the word Yule which is a variation of the Scandinavian word Jul. Yule is observed on the first day of Winter, the shortest day of the year. Both Solstice and Yuletide festivals around the world celebrate the new cycle of the Sun, the rebirth of the Sun from out of the great, great darkness. Slowly, slowly do the days of light begin to lengthen as Sun turns from waning to waxing, from thinness of warmth to fullness of the heat that flourished all life on Earth.