

# The Druids Ancient Peoples And Places

A collection of archive and classic writings on the origins, development and revival of the druidic tradition. The text covers customs and practices, Celtic roots and modern interpretation.

Author James Francis Smith Smith's 350-page narrative-history illustrates the Celts deference of women as leaders and warriors to that exhibited by Rome. Set in Europe, Druids, Celts, and Romans pit the Celtic civilizations, family life, and beliefs against that of the Romans. Celtic awareness of Rome's existence begins with the murder of a Druid in the exotic forest of Helvetia (ancient Switzerland). This act compelled Ragenos, champion of the Mayri tribe, to leave his oppidum (hill fort), and become a mercenary guarding the Druid's gold, during which he befriends Danous the Bard of the Parisii. Meanwhile triplets, Una, a female, and two males, Mick and Hugh, born to Conel and Meva, are fated by the Goddess Sulis to save the Celtic race. That very night, a female is born to the Julian family of Rome. Time passes before the haughty Julia is betrayed, sold into slavery, and purchased by Conel's Mayri tribe. As their servant, she teaches the Mayri triplets about Rome in exchange for her freedom. While crossing the Alps to return Julia to her family, Una is injured in an avalanche, left behind, betrayed, and sold to Etruscans. The male triplets and Danous the Bard take off to free Una. Once back in Rome, Julia enslaves Conel. Turkos, the Mayri trader, returns with this news. Knowledge of her husband's capture incites forces Meva to recruit a Celtic army, which crosses the Alps to rescue Conel, who escapes on his own. Ragenos and the triplets, lead the Celts in defeating the Romans at Allia, invade their city and earn

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forever-their eternal hatred. The Romans criticized the Celtic weights. Adding his sword to the Celtic weights, Ragenos said, "Vae victis"(Woe to the conquered.) The Romans provided additional gold to complete the ransom and the Celts headed for home. But not before Una marries a Celtic Warrior. Danous offers her a poem for his gift before taking up the lonely life of a wandering poet. Mick leaves to become a mercenary and Hugh a Druid. A tale based on the very first encounter between these ancient peoples. Readers Comments: "He took pearls from history and culture of the past and strung them into a spell-binding story" "It was a history that I'd been totally unaware of, but found fascinating. I also really enjoyed the characters."

Describes Celtic society in which the historic Druids lived in the second century BC, the sources of information about Druids in classical and vernacular writings, and the creation of Druid myths.

The ancient history of Ireland involves many mysterious beings who may have been aliens or had come from another dimension called "The Otherworld". This book examines the history of mythical people in Ireland such as the Tuatha Da Danann, the Gods of these peoples and their descendants. The fairies include the Leprechauns- there being several different types, and the Druids who may also be descended from these ancient peoples. What is the history of fairies and druids? Did they really exist? There are stories about all of these beings who may have all been inter-related. Information on "The Otherworld" is also included. It is supposed to be a realm where these beings all originated and can return to. Some humans have visited and returned too. I've also collected some stories about possible modern encounters with these beings. These may still exist in our modern world. The acclaimed author of Witches, Druids, and King Arthur presents a "lucid, open-minded" cultural history of the Druids

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as part of British identity (Terry Jones). Crushed by the Romans in the first century A.D., the ancient Druids of Britain left almost no reliable evidence behind. Historian Ronald Hutton shows how this lack of definite information has allowed succeeding British generations to reimagine, reinterpret, and reinvent the Druids. Hutton's captivating book is the first to encompass two thousand years of Druid history and to explore the evolution of English, Scottish, and Welsh attitudes toward the forever ambiguous figures of the ancient Celtic world. Druids have been remembered at different times as patriots, scientists, philosophers, or priests. Sometimes portrayed as corrupt, bloodthirsty, or ignorant, they were also seen as fomenters of rebellion. Hutton charts how the Druids have been written in and out of history, archaeology, and the public consciousness for some 500 years, with particular focus on the romantic period, when Druids completely dominated notions of British prehistory. Sparkling with legends and images, filled with new perspectives on ancient and modern times, this fascinating cultural study reveals Druids as catalysts in British history.

The Druids New York : Praeger

Who were the Druids? What do we know about them? Do they still exist today? The Druids first came into focus in Western Europe - Gaul, Britain, and Ireland - in the second century BC. They are a popular subject; they have been known and discussed for over 2,000 years and few figures flit so elusively through history. They are enigmatic and puzzling, partly because of the lack of knowledge about them has resulted in a wide spectrum of interpretations. Barry Cunliffe takes the reader through the evidence relating to the Druids, trying to decide what can be said and what can't be said about them. He examines why the nature of the druid caste changed quite dramatically over time, and how successive generations have interpreted the phenomenon in very

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different ways. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Tells the story of human settlement in Ireland from its beginnings 10,000 years ago to St Patrick's Christianizing mission in the 5th century AD. This is interwoven with accounts of major excavations at sites such as Carrowmore, Rathgall and Navan Fort. Early in the first century B.C. a Greek philosopher named Posidonius began an ambitious and dangerous journey into the little-known lands of the Celts. A man of great intellectual curiosity and considerable daring, Posidonius traveled from his home on the island of Rhodes to Rome, the capital of the expanding empire that had begun to dominate the Mediterranean. From there Posidonius planned to investigate for himself the mysterious Celts, reputed to be cannibals and savages. His journey would be one of the great adventures of the ancient world. Posidonius journeyed deep into the heart of the Celtic lands in Gaul. There he discovered that the Celts were not barbarians but a sophisticated people who studied the stars, composed beautiful poetry, and venerated a priestly caste known as the Druids. Celtic warriors painted their bodies, wore pants, and decapitated their foes. Posidonius was

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amazed at the Celtic women, who enjoyed greater freedoms than the women of Rome, and was astonished to discover that women could even become Druids. Posidonius returned home and wrote a book about his travels among the Celts, which became one of the most popular books of ancient times. His work influenced Julius Caesar, who would eventually conquer the people of Gaul and bring the Celts into the Roman Empire, ending forever their ancient way of life. Thanks to Posidonius, who could not have known that he was recording a way of life soon to disappear, we have an objective, eyewitness account of the lives and customs of the ancient Celts.

Druidism evolved out of the tribal cultures of Britain, Ireland, and western France over 2000 years ago. Druidry's appeal lies in its focus on a reverence for the natural world. This book explains the practical value of following Druidism, and examines its core beliefs and relevance to the contemporary issues. Druidism, the ancient shamanic religion of Britain is experiencing a major revival there and in America. This book is both a complete description of the Druid Way as well as a fascinating tour of the major Druid sites, ruins, and "power places". Includes specific suggestions for bringing this ancient wisdom tradition into our own lives and activities.

This book offers an ethnological study on the Druids and their religion.

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The number of practising Pagans is increasing dramatically, but still Paganism is shrouded in a cloak of fear and misunderstanding. This collection of views from a wide range of Pagans and academics reflects the diversity of traditions and thinking that characterize modern Paganism.

A guide to the history and practices of the Druids and the Celtic faith • Reconstructs the Druidic faith from surviving remnants, parallels with other Indo-European traditions, and dedicated study of scholarly sources • Details magical rites and ceremonies, methods for consecrating an outdoor temple, and customs for celebrating important festivals such as Beltaine and Samhain • Discusses rules for firecraft, making offerings to deities and spirits, and the ancient Coligny calendar, including the names of the months in old Gaulish  
Druids and their magic, lore, and rituals have fascinated all those who encounter them, from the ancient Greeks and Romans onward. Even today, the mere mention of their name evokes pictures of standing stones, mistletoe, golden sickles, white-robed priests, and powerful sorcerers. But were they really as we picture them? Drawing on comparative mythology and linguistics, archaeological evidence, and etymology, Teresa Cross offers readers a comprehensive course in the history and development of the Celtic spiritual tradition and its lore, reconstructing the Druidic faith from the

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remnants that have survived and dedicated study of scholarly sources. She also reveals parallels with other Indo-European traditions, such as the similarities between Celtic and Vedic Hindu beliefs and practices. She chronicles the ethics and spiritual teachings of Druidism and the Celtic faith and examines what happened to these beliefs during centuries of Christianization. Moving from history to practice, Cross details magical rites and ceremonies as practiced by modern-day followers of Druids. She explores the structure of the Toutha, which roughly corresponds to "tribe," methods for consecrating a nemeton, the outdoor temple that offers the optimum sacred space for the meeting of heaven and earth, and the rites and customs associated with important festivals such as Beltaine and Samhain. She also explores the rules of firecraft, the sacred art of giving to the cosmos, making offerings to deities and spirits, sacred food and beverages, and the ancient Coligny calendar, including the names of the months in old Gaulish. Offering an authentic handbook for starting your own Celtic group led by Druids, Cross reveals the meanings and metaphysics behind the Celtic and Druidic customs and traditions, reuniting the fragmentary remains of long-lost Druid culture with the still-living practices of the Celtic faith. First published in 2005. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

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This book reveals how the Celts came to Britain in the sense of how the term 'Celtic' first became associated with the British Isles in the eighteenth century and then gradually took on its modern popular meaning towards the end of the nineteenth. The role of the druids and the importance of craniology in this process is emphasised.

A book of conversations with prominent Druids from across Britain, the USA and other countries whose voices describe the basic beliefs, practices and struggles of the emerging Druid faith. Conducted in person and online in the late 20th century, these collected conversations provide a historic window into the movers and shakers of the modern Druid world.

Ancient sources and modern scholars have often represented the Athenian festival of Adonis as a marginal and faintly ridiculous private women's ritual. Seeds were planted each year in pots and, once sprouted, carried to the rooftops, where women lamented the death of Aphrodite's youthful consort Adonis. Laurialan Reitzammer resourcefully examines a wide array of surviving evidence about the Adonia, arguing for its symbolic importance in fifth- and fourth-century Athenian culture as an occasion for gendered commentary on mainstream Athenian practices. Reitzammer uncovers correlations of the Adonia to Athenian wedding rituals and civic funeral oration and provides

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illuminating evidence that the festival was a significant cultural template for such diverse works as Aristophanes' drama *Lysistrata* and Plato's dialogue *Phaedrus*. Her fresh approach is a timely contribution to studies of the ways gender and sexuality intersect with religion and ritual in ancient Greece.

In this fascinating, illustrated reinterpretation of Celtic cosmology, a leading scholar reveals what it meant for the Celts to gaze up at the star-studded heavens. Beginning with the world-famous Gundestrop Cauldron—an ancient Celtic artifact embellished with curious carved images—the author embarks on a rigorous reevaluation of Celtic celestial beliefs. Join him as he explores the imagery's previously obscure significance and reveals the secret cosmology of the druids.

Druidry is primarily a reconstructed ethnic religion derived from what is known about the beliefs of the ancient Celts. Those who follow it may be drawing on anthropology, folklore, archaeology, history and even academic research; others may hear the 'Druidic Call' to celebrate Earth and Sky but may not know where to learn more. These are the seekers whom *The Solitary Druid* is dedicated to. An essential first step in Paganism and a necessary one for those new to the Druid's path, focusing on the core teachings of modern Druidry.

A comprehensive insight into Druids in Britain since

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1500, with hundreds of sources never used before. The first major overview of the subject for over 30 years.

A history of the cult of the ancient Druids, exploring who they really were and what role they played in the Celtic world. The author's interpretation of the facts is based on both archaeological and etymological findings. Peter Berresford Ellis sifts through evidence and, with reference to the latest archaeological findings and the use of etymology, shows that the Druids have been subject to a swaythe of propaganda and myth-making through the centuries.

A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

In this beautifully-written guide, Chief Druid Philip Carr-Gomm shows how the way of Druids can be followed today. He explains - The ancient history and inspiring beliefs of the ancient Druids - Druidic wild wisdom and their tree-, animal- and herb-lore - The mysteries of the Druids' seasonal celebrations - The Druids' use of magic and how their spirituality relates to paths such as Wicca This guide will show how the wild wisdom of the Druids can help us to connect with our spirituality, our innate creativity, the natural world and our sense of ancestry. The life-enhancing beliefs and practices of this spiritual path have much to offer our 21st-century world.

Listen to the call of spirit and seek truth in wild groves, the shifting seasons, and the beauty of the Old Ways. Discover how to embark on this sacred green path and enrich your life with its ancient wisdom. Practicing Druid Penny Billington offers a clear and structured course of study grounded in Celtic history and mythology, and highlights the mysteries and modern practice of this nature-based tradition. Each chapter

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begins with an evocative visualization and captivating Welsh mythic tales from the Mabinogion are woven throughout, introducing lessons and key concepts. A series of hands-on exercises will help you internalize these truths, develop a spiritual awareness rooted in nature, build a relationship with the multi-dimensional world, and ultimately adopt a druidic worldview to guide you in everyday life. Archetypes Animal energy The elements The Nwyfre Symbols The Wheel of the Year The Otherworld Trees as teachers and healers Shapeshifting From joining a druidic community to starting out as a solitary practitioner, this unique spiritual guide offers advice on everything you need to know about practicing Druidry today. Praise: "I loved this rich and intuitive approach to the study of modern Druidry. Penny's book is full of wisdom and insight. The comprehensive course is accompanied by beautiful visualizations and carefully crafted inspirational exercises."—Barbara Erskine, bestselling author of *Lady of Hay*

Learn how this powerful means of self discovery can heal us and link us to the natural forces of nature.

\*Includes pictures. \*Includes ancient accounts of the Druids written by Caesar, Cicero, Pliny, and more. \*Explains the modern revival of Druids. \*Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading. "Throughout all of Gaul there are two classes of people who are treated with dignity and honor. This does not include the common people, who are little better than slaves and never have a voice in councils. Many of these align themselves with a patron voluntarily, whether because of debt or heavy tribute or out of fear of retribution by some other powerful person. Once they do this, they have given up all rights and are scarcely better than servants. The two powerful classes mentioned above are the Druids and the warriors. Druids are concerned with religious matters, public and private sacrifices, and divination." - Julius

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Caesar The Celts are one of the most well-known groups in Europe and one of the least understood. Depending on which classifications are used, the Celts are also one of the oldest civilizations in Europe. In the centuries before Christ, the Celts were spread out across much of continental Europe, and though they are mostly identified with Gaul, evidence suggests they also spread as far as Portugal. However, even though they were spread out across Europe before the height of the Roman Empire, most people associate the Celts with the British Isles today, particularly Ireland and Scotland. After they had been relegated to those smaller regions as a result of the Romans and other migrations, the culture of the Celts as it is currently understood began to congeal during the Early Middle Ages, and Celtic culture, folklore, and legend have all become inextricably intertwined with Irish history and British history as a whole. The Celts have fascinated people for centuries, and the biggest fascination of all has been over the Druids, a religious class at the heart of Celtic society that wielded great power. Naturally, people have been interested in Druids for centuries mostly because they don't understand much about the Druids or their practices. The earliest meaning of the word comes from the Ancient Romans, who labeled them "Druidae" in reference to the white robed order of Celtic priests living in Gaul, Britain and Ireland. They were a well-organized, secretive group who kept no written records and performed their rituals - allegedly including human sacrifice - in oaken groves, all of which interested and horrified the Romans. The order was eventually crushed under the weight of first Roman conquest and then the imposition of Christianity, and from the remains, centuries of myths, imaginings and dreams were superimposed over the little that was known about the Druids. Not surprisingly, people have come to associate the Druids with what have been imposed. Even today, there is a revived Druidic religious

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movement that fuses this skeleton of knowledge about the ancient Druids with ideas such as rituals at standing stones (like Stonehenge), nature and sun worship, the carrying of ornate staves, and Arthuriana. Wider popular culture has seen "Druids" - usually some form of secretive nature-priests - in games like Dungeons and Dragons and World of Warcraft, and films like *Wicker Man* (1973 and 2006) and *Druids* (2001). *The Druids: The History and Mystery of the Ancient Celtic Priests* explores the known and unknown about the Druids, from the historical evidence of their existence and practices to the evolution of Druidic concepts over time. This book also looks at the growth of Druidism since the 1700s, along with the practitioners who embrace new ideas and beliefs. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about the Druids like you never have before, in no time at all. For Aífe, the beautiful adopted daughter of Drui healer Ethne and her warrior partner Ruadh, life revolves around the sacred beauty and ancient mystery of the Old Ways. Surrounded by lush, green trees and frolicsome wildlife, the Forest School has been the heart of her Druidic education- and her beloved home. But to become a healer and priestess, she must leave behind all that she loves and journey to the Druid Isle . . . Handsome and spirited, Lucius is resolved to seek adventure outside of the Christian monastery where he was raised. Following a daring escape one night, Lucius arrives at a Pagan Gaulish village and discovers their gentle way of life. But a political firestorm is brewing, and Lucius is caught in the middle as the church and the Romans attempt to destroy everything the Druids hold dear. In his desperation to escape ruthless enemies and untold dangers, Lucius finds himself on the Druid Isle, where he will face the biggest decision of his life. Set on a third-century island off the coast of Scotland, this instructional Celtic tale delves deeply into the spiritual mysteries of the Druids, offering glimpses of Druidic

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daily life, herbal lore, and ancient rituals, along with a fascinating look at the Romans, Gauls, and Britons. Includes a Celtic/Druidic glossary. "One of the best features of the book is the small bits of old lore from the Druids scattered throughout . . . I would definitely recommend this book!"—Rev. Skip Ellison, Archdruid of Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF) and author of *Ogham: The Secret Language of the Druids*

A book that is difficult to classify - a popular introduction to the history of Druidism whose scope necessitates a brief study, yet it is thoroughly up-to-date incorporating new ideas and research. Ten chapters look at the archaeology of the druids, celtic practices, the classical literature, sacrifices, prophecy, female druids in celtic society, sacred places and priests, druids in Irish mythology, the 18th and 19th century revivals, and modern beliefs. The bibliography is accompanied by a directory of modern druid organizations.

"The ancient Celts capture the modern imagination as do few other people of classical times. Naked barbarians charging the Roman legions, Druids performing sacrifices of unspeakable horror, women fighting beside their men and even leading armies—these, along with stunning works of art, are the images most of us call to mind when we think of the Celts," observes Philip Freeman. "And for the most part, these images are firmly based in the descriptions handed down to us by the Greek and Roman writers." This book draws on the firsthand observations and early accounts of classical writers to piece together a detailed portrait of the ancient Celtic peoples of Europe and the British Isles. Philip Freeman groups the selections (ranging from short

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statements to longer treatises) by themes—war, feasting, poetry, religion, women, and the Western Isles. He also presents inscriptions written by the ancient Celts themselves. This wealth of material, introduced and translated by Freeman to be especially accessible to students and general readers, makes this book essential reading for everyone fascinated by the ancient Celts. The Sun Initiation of the Druid Priests and their Moon Science; The Mysteries of Ancient Ireland; Celtic Christianity - the Heritage of the Druids; Teachings of the Mysteries - the Spirit in Nature; The Great Mysteries - the Mystery of Christ; The Function of the Standing Stones; Spiritual Imaginations.

Presents a study of the legend and reality of ancient Druids, looking at their Celtic origins, their religious practices and beliefs, and areas in which they were believed to have special wisdom, such as philosophy and magic.

Ancient Classical authors have painted the Druids in a bad light, defining them as a barbaric priesthood, who 2,000 years ago perpetrated savage and blood rites in ancient Britain and Gaul in the name of their gods.

Archaeology tells a different and more complicated story of this enigmatic priesthood, a theocracy with immense political and sacred power. This book explores the tangible 'footprint' the Druids have left behind: in sacred spaces, art, ritual equipment, images of the gods, strange burial rites and human sacrifice. Their material culture indicates how close was the relationship between Druids and the spirit-world, which evidence suggests they accessed through drug-induced trance.

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