



# The VAHAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE DUNEDIN THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 2008

Issue 4

Welcome to Vahan 4 for 2008.

For August through to November we are going to profile a range of healing modalities as laid out in the programme.

## SPRING EQUINOX CELEBRATION

Following on from the success of the midwinter celebration we will celebrate the Spring Equinox with a party tea and festivities on Sunday 21st September. Flowers would be an appropriate theme. More information will be sent out shortly.

**Imbolc** is one of the four principal festivals of the [Irish calendar](#), celebrated among [Gaelic](#) peoples and some other [Celtic](#) cultures either at the beginning of February (AUGUST— Southern Hemisphere) or at the first local signs of [Spring](#). Most commonly it is celebrated on [February 2](#), (AUGUST 2ND— Southern Hemisphere) since this is the [cross-quarter day](#) on the [solar calendar](#), halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. Originally dedicated to the goddess [Brigid](#), in the [Christian](#) period it was adopted as [St Brigid's Day](#). In [Scotland](#) the festival is also known as *Là Fhèill Brìghde*, in [Ireland](#) as *Lá Fhéile Bríde*, and in [Wales](#) as *Gwyl Ffraed*.

Imbolc is traditionally a time of [weather prognostication](#), and the old tradition of watching to see if serpents or badgers came from their winter dens is perhaps a precursor to the [North American Groundhog Day](#). A [Scottish Gaelic](#) proverb about the day is:

*Thig an nathair as an toll  
La donn Bride,  
Ged robh trì traighean dh' an t-sneachd  
Air leachd an lair.  
"The serpent will come from the hole  
On the brown Day of Bride,  
Though there should be three feet of snow  
On the flat surface of the ground."*

Fire and purification are an important aspect of this festival. [Brigid](#) (also known as Brigid, Bríde, Brigit, Brid) is the [goddess](#) of poetry, healing and smithcraft. As both goddess and saint she is also associated with holy wells, sacred flames, and healing. The lighting of candles and fires represents the return of warmth and the increasing power of the Sun over the coming months.

### **Pre-Celtic origins**

That Imbolc was an important time to the ancient inhabitants of Ireland can be seen at a number of [Megalithic](#) and [Neolithic](#) sites, such as at the [Loughcrew](#) burial mounds and the [Mound of the Hostages](#) in [Tara, Ireland](#). Here, the inner chamber of the passage tombs are perfectly aligned with the rising sun of both Imbolc and [Samhain](#). Similar to the phenomena seen at [Newgrange](#), the rising Imbolc sun shines down the long passageway and illuminates the inner chamber of the tomb.

[Wiccans](#) celebrate a variation of Imbolc as one of four "fire festivals", which make up half of the eight holidays (or "[sabbats](#)"), of the [wheel of the year](#). Imbolc is defined as a [cross-quarter day](#), midway between the [winter solstice](#) ([Yule](#)) and the [spring equinox](#) ([Ostara](#)). The precise astrological midpoint in the Northern hemisphere is when the sun reaches fifteen degrees of [Aquarius](#). In the Southern hemisphere, if celebrated as the beginning of Spring, the date is the midpoint of [Leo](#). Among [Dianic Wiccans](#), Imbolc (also known as "[Candlemas](#)") is the traditional time for [initiations](#).

Among [Reclaiming](#)-style Wiccans, Imbolc is considered a traditional time for rededication and pledges for the coming year. (*SOURCE—WIKIPEDIA*)

### **MEDITATION GROUP**

Mondays 7-8pm society rooms

Margaret Van der Vis and Victor MacGill are running the meditation practice group this year. Please let Margaret or Victor know if you are interested.

Phone 477 2942 for more information.

### **Programme 2008**

#### **AUGUST**

Sunday 3rd – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Sunday 3rd – Merry Meet and Merry Part. Pagan Pot Luck Tea. A meeting place for those who identify with the Wiccan, Shamanic or Magic(k)al paths. Come and share a meal and company with other kindred spirits. Those wishing to learn more are welcome. And Merry Meet again

Monday 4th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 6th – 7.30pm COMPLEXITY THEORY WORKSHOP with Victor Macgill

Friday 8th – Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 8th– 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 10th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 11th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 13th – 7.30pm ENERGY AWARENESS and evening with Body Healing Worker Sonny Chin

Friday 15th Yoga – 5—6pm  
Friday 15th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 17th– Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 18th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 20th – 7.30pm – COMPLEXITY THEORY WORKSHOP with Victor Macgill

Friday 22nd Yoga – 5—6pm  
Friday 22nd – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 24th– Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 25th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 27th – 7.30pm – **Hector Guthrie: Spirituality and radical psychology;**  
How psychology is transforming the spiritual quest.

Friday 29th Yoga – 5—6pm  
Friday 29th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 31st – Library Open Midday – 4pm

## **SEPTEMBER**

Monday 1st – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 3rd – 7.30pm – COMPLEXITY THEORY WORKSHOP with Victor Macgill

Friday 5th Yoga – 5—6pm  
Friday 5th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 7th– Library Open Midday – 4pm

Sunday 7th – Merry Meet and Merry Part. Pagan Pot Luck Tea. A meeting place for those who identify with the Wiccan, Shamanic or Magic(k)al paths. Come and share a meal and company with other kindred spirits. Those wishing to learn more are welcome. And Merry Meet again

Monday 8th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 10th – 7.30pm – **Dada (Jitendrananda): Yoga mysticism; Is a link between the finite and the infinite the self and the super self.**

Friday 12th Yoga – 5—6pm  
Friday 12th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 14th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 15th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Friday 19th Yoga – 5—6pm  
Friday 19th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 21st – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 22nd – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 24th – 7.30pm – **George Mawdsley; Psychosomatic Therapy**

Friday 26th Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 26th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 28th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 29th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation