



Pagans with Disabilities

The Pagan Federation (England and Wales)

Well-being Retreat for Disabled Pagans and Pagan Carers

Research and Planning Questionnaire

We are exploring how we can create a weekend retreat for disabled pagans, pagan carers, additional needs families and their guests. This questionnaire is part of that exploration.

We need to gather opinions from as many disabled pagans, and pagan carers, as possible to inform our decisions about venues, facilities etc. Also, we need to compile data to use when we approach other organisations and agencies to evidence why a Well-being Retreat is necessary and important.

Your privacy and confidentiality is very important to us. We will store the information you give securely and only use it for the stated purpose. Access to any sensitive or identifying data gathered will be limited to a small number of specified PF Disabilities Team Officers working on this project. Statistics and anonymised data will be compiled from the responses for the purposes of report writing and funding applications. For clarification or further information about this questionnaire please contact Disabilities Manager, Debi Gregory, on disabilities@paganfederation.co.uk

PART ONE - The Vision So Far.....

The Pagan Federation Disabilities Team started in 2015 and since then we have been working hard to create community, ease isolation and promote inclusivity for disabled pagans, pagans with carer responsibilities and additional needs families.

We have embraced social media and hosted popular online festivals but we are repeatedly being asked for opportunities for people to meet with others in person. From these requests the idea for a weekend gathering was born.

Provisionally, the gathering will happen in June 2020, and run over three days (arrive Friday, depart Sunday). There will be opportunities to share experiences, learn from each other, relax, unwind, celebrate and have fun. We have offers from some very talented and well-known pagan performers to provide entertainment on the Saturday evening.

We already know that we need to find a venue with a range of different accommodation to cater for diverse needs and offer a 'day ticket' for the Saturday for those unable to 'stay over'.

The emphasis of this event will be on the well-being of disabled pagans, pagan carers and additional needs families. However, disabled pagans and pagan carers will be very welcome to invite friends and family to attend with them, providing those guests are respectful of the events ethos.

This gathering will be different from many other mainstream events in that it will be strictly free from alcohol and illicit substances, such as recreational drugs. If possible, we will set aside an outdoor space for those that need to smoke tobacco or vape over the weekend. This decision is because we know that many people, with a range of different disabilities and health conditions, are unable to attend events where alcohol and drugs are being used. Likewise, incense and other smoke creating paraphernalia will not be permitted.

We recognise that many disabled people and carers are economically disadvantaged so we will endeavour to keep ticket prices as low as possible. However, we also recognise that the sort of inclusive accessible facilities needed are going to be costly. This is why we are already looking at creative ways of filling the financial gap with fundraising, grant applications and blatantly begging for favours. We don't want any UK based disabled pagan, pagan carer or additional needs families to be excluded because they can't afford to attend, so we want to be able to offer a few free or reduced priced tickets for those experiencing financial hardship.

We really want to make the camp as inclusive as possible and will do our best but please remember that this event is being organised by unpaid volunteers working together. All of us are either disabled or/and caring for others who are disabled. We can sprinkle magic and work miracles we can't promise to meet every need for everyone.

If you have care needs you will need to arrange to bring a carer with you. We are planning to have physical and psychological first aiders on site to deal with emergencies but don't have the resources to provide routine personal or medical care. If you are bringing children you will need to be prepared to be responsible for them throughout the event, although we are hoping to provide some sessions and activities specifically for children.

Please be mindful that everyone involved with organising this event is doing their best, often in difficult circumstances, and at considerable personal cost, so please be constructive in your feedback. If you have skills, energy or resources to spare please share, we'd love to hear what you have to offer.

(please tick all that apply)

Are you:

- A disabled pagan
- A pagan carer
- Neither of the above but an ally/supporter (*thank you for your support, please go to Part Four of this questionnaire*).

Based on what you have read so far about the vision for the event would you potentially be interested in attending:

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Please explain your answer:

PART TWO – about your experiences of being a disabled pagan or/and pagan carer

Are you able to attend pagan events? :

- Yes, whenever I want to.
- Occasionally, but not as often as I would like to
- Rarely/Never

(please tick all that apply)

What barriers do you experience to attending pagan events? :

- other people's attitudes
- lack of physical access
- lack of interpreters/signers/induction loop/other sensory needs being addressed
- lack of accessible transport
- insufficient finances to meet costs
- lack of necessary support/carer
- concerned others will find out I am pagan
- unable to make arrangements for the person I care for
- other (please give details):

(please tick all that apply)

As a result of these barriers have you ever felt:

- discriminated against
- lonely
- isolated
- unable to address your spiritual needs how you would like to
- a worsening of your mental wellbeing
- a worsening of your physical wellbeing
- other (please give details):

PART THREE – Your personal needs and preferences

(please tick all that apply)

Where would you be willing and able to travel to attend the event?:

- East Anglia
- East Midlands
- London
- Midwest and Wales
- North East
- North West
- South Central
- South East
- South Midlands
- South West
- West Midlands

Would prefer:

- an urban location
- a semi-rural location
- a rural location

(please tick all that apply)

Which of these methods of transport would you likely to use?:

- a private vehicle arranged by you
- train
- bus/coach
- wheelchair accessible bus/coach
- taxi
- wheelchair accessible taxi

(please tick all that apply)

What sort of sleeping accommodation would you be willing to consider?:

Nearby hotel/ B&B

Staying at venue in:

own room

shared room/dormitory

camp in own tent

bring own campervan or similar

Physical Access Requirements – if we book a venue where sleeping, eating, washing, shower and meeting facilities are ramped or level access, what else will you need in addition?

Sensory/Communication Requirements? If you have sensory or perceptual impairments, what do you need to be able to fully engage with all aspects of the event?

(examples: specific information in advance, information in specific format, BSL interpreter, certain lighting levels, etc)

Social Requirements- we are already planning a quiet space and a 'traffic light' badge system to allow people to indicate how much physical contact they are comfortable with, is there anything additional you require?

Diet/Nutrition - Do you have any special dietary requirements? Would you prefer to self-cater? Are you able to assist with communal meal preparation?

Allergies and Phobias – Is there anything that you can't be exposed to?

Equipment and Assistance Animals – Are you intending to bring large specialist equipment or an assistance animal? It would be helpful for us to know in advance, so that we can plan how to best accommodate this.

Medical/Clinical Needs- Do you have any medical or clinical needs which informing us about in advance would potentially enable us to make your time the event a safer or more pleasurable experience?

(example: do you need space in the fridge to store your meds, arrangements for disposing of clinical waste, etc)

What is the maximum amount that you would be willing/able to pay to attend the event?:

- Nothing I would need a complimentary ticket
- £10
- £25
- £50
- £75+

Wish List (those things that aren't essential but would make attending the event that bit easier and more enjoyable for you):

PART FOUR- What can you do to help

Is there anything that you can offer to help others access and enjoy the event?

(examples: run a workshop, provide free therapy/healing, BSL translation, driving, helping with meal preparation, helping keep the venue safe/clean, guiding people around the site, helping to erect/dismantle tents, loaning/sharing equipment, buddying someone that needs reassurance, etc)

If you have made an offer to help please ensure that you complete PART FIVE so that we know how to contact you.

PART FIVE – Your contact details

If you would like us to contact you about this event please tell us:

Your name:

Your email address:

PART SIX – Nearly done!

Assuming that we can meet the needs that you have identified how likely are you to attend?:

- Not likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely
- Definitely coming

If you attend how many other people do you predict you will bring with you?:

Essential Carers/ Personal Assistants _____
Adult friends/family _____
Children under 5 years _____
Children aged 5 to 16 years _____

Anything else you want to tell us?: