
MAKING MAY-DAY MAGIC

The May Issue

Responsibility for the next May/June issue was given to Mark Matthews, a long term and valued member of the editorial team, in the distant past an AHP committee member, more recently a management consultant and bon viveur. His theme was unemployment but it didn't happen that way.

At the start of the new year, when I agreed to be guest editor for the May issue, my initial theme was the problems of unemployment. Unemployment to employment, organised labour and international movements and workers solidarity - the connection with May-Day was too obvious to ignore. My research into the various themes excited me so much and led to so many interesting ideas that my mind seemed possessed; or at least filled with a couple of rockets, two dozen jumping crackers and assorted squibs. I had spring fever.

The paradox was that the general news seemed to consist of depression, despair, despondency and doom. This contrasted not only with the themes of May-Day but with my contact with a wide body of opinion that not only argued the need for change but had very clear ideas about how the change would occur. It was magic coming at me from all directions and in many forms; from the sublime to the ridiculous. It seemed that the 'New Age', 'New Era', 'New Paradigm Networking', 'Greening', 'Peace' and 'Feminist' movements had all decided that this spring was going to be a 'HAPPENING'. Self and Society is joining in as a channel of communication, facilitator, clearing house and generally benevolent energy source.

If in some way we can weave together all the various strands, we can all be part of a very powerful webspell. The focus for our energies and activities is May-Day Wednesday May 1 1985, which will as in the past be a day of the people, peasants, workers and the mages. The essence will be caring, sharing, smiling but above all having fun. Anyone remember 'Flower Power'? It wasn't organised, authorised and certainly not official but it worked and it was a kind of magic.

All sorts of magic can be practised. Sublime magic that sees behind appearances, occult magic that creates appearances, make believe magic which transforms the humdrum, even peasant magic which brings the gods back to earth. Anyone and everyone is invited to join in, be it as individuals, groups or whole movements.

The original Pagan festival - called Beltane - was one of regeneration. A theme not inappropriate to the present. Apart from the aim of ensuring good crops in an agrarian community, it was very much a celebration. With the advent of the industrial revolution and the development of factory workers, unions became necessary. In 1889 a Socialist International Congress voted to hold a celebration on a fixed day each year. The day decided upon was May 1. The aim was for unions and workers, all to celebrate on the same day and weave their own spells and incantations against the capitalist employers and the imperial war mongers. For this occasion, peace seems an appropriate theme.

The other theme is the May-Day international distress call. A corruption of the French m'aidez meaning 'Help Me'. Each of us can ask for help and offer help. "M'aidez this May-Day!" And in this post industrial, technological era, it is perhaps timely to incorporate these older themes into our celebrations. While we have chosen this magic as the word to allow wide and fun seeking involvement, there is a very clear spiritual or cosmic energy content.

The May issue of this magazine will focus on these themes plus others that are related to what is happening. We are printing posters and sticky labels with the campaign theme. Idea sheets and other helpful items will be produced shortly, so any ideas would be very welcome. We also need as much detail as possible of any plans or official support that groups can give. If possible we aim to get the media interested so press officers, and P.R. people should definitely make contact.

Even planning making May-day MAGIC is proving great fun. So May-Day Magic itself should be more rewarding still. Do join in.

Mark Matthews

- Surrey** April 28th-29th. **Counselling in Emotional Distress.** James Kilty. Details: Dr. James Kilty (IHE), c/o Department of Educational Studies, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH, or telephone Diana Lomax at (0483) 571281 ext 826.
- May 19th-20th. **A Couples Inquiry.** James Kilty and Meg Bond. To inquire into various aspects of relating together. Details as above.
- West Midlands** **Bioenergetics group** with Geoff Whitfield, Worcester. Details from Helen Maté, 177 Pineapple Road, Birmingham B30 2SY. 021443 2422.
- Yorks** March 22nd-24th. **Spring Equinox Festival Gathering.** The Mansion, Wentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham, Yorks. Booking through: Xzone - Barnsley 742161 x 205 or Imogen - Brighton 723362. Contributions welcomed - dance, music etc.

CONFERENCES

British Macrobiotic Summercamp 1985, the first British Macrobiotic Summercamp will be held at the Abbey International College, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire, Saturday, 24th August until Friday, 30th August 1985.

The purpose of the camp is to demonstrate the tremendous potential for health generated by an environment offering a combination of social, intellectual and recreational pursuits alongside a well balanced, whole food macrobiotic diet.

Further information (SAE please) Summercamp '85, c/o East West Centre, 112 St. Stephen Street, Edinburgh EH3 5AD.
