

BRITHDIR PROGRESS REPORT – 6

The final session started on September 14th, and was the week leading up to the full moon, on the 21st, and the Equinox, on the 23rd. We had roughly the same crew as in the spring, so it was not too hard to get organised, as everyone knew what to do. We knew also that we had to try and shift the big mother who had broken two of our poles in the spring, and that we needed a new pole to do so. The folk at Brithdir had a new one for us, but when we saw it, it was obvious that it would be no good, as it was the same size as the broken ones. So an emergency mission went to a nearby friends place, where there was a large conifer forest, and there we were given a splendid 20ft larch pole, perfect for the job.

The first stone that we decided to work on was, in fact, not the big one but its next door neighbour, almost as big and the usual strange shape. By now we knew that these stones are quite hard to see when in the ground, so we felt OK to put this one up where it was, marking the rough direction of Imbolc and Samhain sunrise, - the horizon is not level here, in fact the Prescelli mountains are the backdrop at this point. The stone responded well to our new pole, and was up within a day and a half, ending up almost a double to the East stone beside it. And so on to the BIG one , the last [!] one.

We were up and ready to go nice and early, full of confidence that we were going to do this one at last. And the pole broke again!!!! What a blow! We did a bit of searching to see if we could find another one in the woods around Brithdir, and meanwhile cut the broken end off, and did a whole lot more digging around the stone, as it seemed that part of our problem was that there was still a part of it underground, creating a suction on the stone. By lunchtime it seemed we could not locate a better pole, so we tried again with the larch one, and lo and behold, it did it! The extra digging had broken the earths' hold on the stone and finally it was willing to get up and dance. The big debate on where it should go now started, and we had quite a few tuning in sessions as we worked, during which it became clear that bringing it straight up would be the right thing to do, where it would be a rough guide to the Minor Southerly moon standstill. This part of the circle is the flattened egg shape bit, where the energy goes outward slightly, and the major ley line runs through. This last bit of the work we had most of the Brithdir folk with us, and the stone went up at last, smoothly and clearly. Many barrows of earth were needed to fill in the holes left by these two stones, and the rest of the day was spent digging and turfing.

The next morning we went up to finish the turfing, aware of a rather strange feeling to it all. There was a small stone left in the ring, part of the group of three that had been lying on the ground in the north east of the circle. Somehow we had all managed to ignore this one, though we had erected the other two, and at one point earlier in the week Libby, one of the team, had asked if it could go to her place, to cap a mini dolmen her neighbour had made. This had seemed a good idea at the time, and George had offered to take it there for her. So he attempted to get it into his car. Looking back, it becomes obvious that we had got so used to moving big stones quite easily, that this little one looked really easy. However, it must still have weighed 700lbs, and lifting it was not so simple. George struggled on for a while, but then it suddenly became clear that we needed to give this stone some proper attention, and so we tuned in around it to see what exactly it wanted to do. As soon as we did so, it let us know that it wanted to stay right there, with all its friends, and not go off anywhere else, and the right place for it was in the gap [we hadn't noticed this gap till now] in the northeast. Once this was established, the stone was SO easy to move it was funny! We put it up on rollers and rolled it over to a nice neat little socket hole we had dug for it and in it went. There was some debate as to which way up it should go, but in the end the stone decided, in fact going on its "side" and neither up or down. At this point we all felt so much better, as the circle was now truly finished.

That night there was a lovely ceremony in the circle, with a blessing of every stone, just as we had done when we started. The fire was tremendous, and all the stollage was burnt, and some of the short poles and all the wedges etc. The stones were so beautiful in the firelight, and seemed to be as happy as we were to be there and upright again after so long. Our hope is that this lovely place will be used by many folk in years to come, as a place sacred to the Earth and to all Her children.