

Philip Carr-Gomm:

Thank you so much, Ronald. Wonderful as ever, thank you so much. And before we begin our ceremony in a few minutes, I'd just like to make a few remarks, it's just going to take about five minutes. But I thought you might like to have a sample of the sort of pillow talk that occurs between Stephanie and I. So this is last night and let's see if I can remember it, very nice.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

"Good night, darling." "We're very polite in bed." "Steph?" "Yes. What do you want?" "Well, I just wanted to share this thought with you." "Well, what's that?" "Well, you know it's the Queen's Jubilee, the Platinum Jubilee weekend this weekend?" "Yes. Yes." "Well, you know she's been at it for 70 years?" "Yes." I said, "Doesn't it make my time of 32 years a bit sort of pathetic? Do you think Eimear would mind if I... " "Have you gone mad? Go to sleep."

Philip Carr-Gomm:

So now, on this auspicious day with five planets in alignment in the heavens above us, I will finally let go. Having done so 99.9% two years ago in our online ceremony. But in order to finally complete this letting go by enacting this ceremony, I first need to acknowledge a whole bunch of incredible people.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

The role of chief sounds rather grand, rather old-fashioned, and hierarchical. But in reality, it's a question of being both a kind of figurehead and being the person who takes ultimate responsibility. It's the role of leadership.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

Of course, you all know that the community you see all around you, to be ordering all its aspects and all that modern Druidry is, has grown so beautifully into what it is now. Not because of any one leader, but thanks to all of us. To everyone who cares about this spiritual and magical path, this tradition. Who loves the earth and who respects the natural world of sacred.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

And over the last 30 and more years, a remarkable group of people have come together to make the order what it is today. I can't possibly name everyone who has contributed to this work, because the roll call of incredible people who have contributed their time and energy, and talents is just simply so long. But let me mention as many as I can, of those of you who have helped the order grow and flourish, to become the wonderful community that it is.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

First of all, Stephanie, our honored scribe, if it wasn't for you, I don't think any of us would be sitting here today. For over 30 years, you've sat day after day, a cup of tea in one hand and a mouse in the other, keeping track of this...

Philip Carr-Gomm:

But you've done so much more than running the office. From the moment you painted the image of the Trilathon that appears on every Gwers cover 33 years ago, in our little flat in Primrose Hill, to these

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beautiful renderings of Will Worthington's images from The Druid Animal Oracle that you see here, and that you painted for the 50th celebrations in 2014.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

Your artistic sensibility and your editorial skills have been ever present. I've lost track at the times you've read what I've just written only to say, "you can't say that". Thank you for everything.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

Damh the Bard, honored Pendragon. I so wish you were here today. Your wisdom and common sense have been acted in exactly the way required of the Pendragon. To act as a steadying, protective, and inspiring presence. 182 episodes of DruidCast you've created, all the songs you have written, and your retelling of the branches of the Mabinogi with music and song represents an incredible achievement. You truly deserve the name Damh the Bard. The great gratitude and thanks too to Penny Billington, who has also acted like a guiding light contributing so much to the order as author and workshop leader as editor of Touchstone for over 20 years and whose trusty Knight in shining armor Arthur ZZ Billington has brought such joy and sparkle to us through his music and illustrations.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

Dear Ronald Hutton, thanks to your commitment and your rigorous scholarship, the order Druidry and the wider movement of paganism have benefited immeasurably. And I believe you hold the record for having attended virtually every camp and Glastonbury gathering. We have ever held.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

The Roll call of those to thank continues with Susan Jones, who for 17 years led the team of mentors. And now leads a small team of moderators on social media and Steve and Gail her successors who lead an incredible bunch of over 50 mentors who guide the many thousands of members all over the world. The mentor coordinators in other countries who lead their team so skillfully. Anna Blum in Germany, Anja in France, Marcus Mansard in Italy, Alexander Gabrielle and Portugal and Carol Van Hoff in the Netherlands who has just taken over from Hank and Marjorie, who were coordinators for over 20 years. Lillian Fredericks, who was mentor coordinator before Susan and created the order's first website and organized the first Glastonbury gathering. Huge thanks to her and to Adrian Rooke, our Press Officer and his predecessor, Matt McCabe, who have done such sterling work with the press over the years. Kathleen Harrington and her team who have hosted the numerous forums on the message board for so many years. All the members who run the Seedgroups and Groves too many mention at over 200 now.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

The team of Oak Tree Press to ensure that those little booklets blue, green, and white arrive on time every month, Annie, Kate Nettie, Sarah, Matthew. The teams in other countries who do the same led by Marjoliene, Alexandra, Kal. The teams who put on camps for 20 years under the OBOD banner are now under the White Horse Camps banner. River Jones, who runs our amazing School of Celebrancy. JJ and Steve King have guided our Stonehenge ceremonies for so many years. Shaun Hayes for his masterful comparing of our Eisteddfodau and for being groups coordinator before handing over to Paul Cochran and Pat Booker, you've all been amazed. As have all of you have organized the Glastonbury rituals each year, Marion, Fi, Paddy and Gabby. Huge thanks too, to the Anderida Grove team here who each year until COVID under the watchful eye of Damh and Cerri have made sure these gatherings have run so smoothly and so well. Finally, a massive thank you to my assistant Maria Ede Weaving, who after 11

years is the only person in the world apart from Steph of course, who knows me better than myself. I'm confident that both Steph and Maria will be able to find my marbles if I ever lose them.

Philip Carr-Gomm:

You're a star Maria and I can't wait to read your book on Druidry, which is coming that soon. Yes, and last but not least in this roll call of amazing people, I would like to thank Dwina Gibb for her patronage over all these years for rescuing camps from near total destruction, after the storm many years ago, to her funding of the Gibb scholarship for postgraduate research into Druidry and for her support of Mount Heamus award scholarship fund for the last 24 years. Of course, my great thanks go to Eimear too, for having agreed to take on this role. And I rather naively thought that when we asked her, she would just say yes, but she said, let me think about it. And here's another sample of pillow talk. Goodnight. What if Eimear says no, when we... Let me finish by saying all of us, whether mentioned or not, whether we have played an active role or not are integral and vital parts of a movement of awakening, of growing compassion towards the earth towards all of nature

Philip Carr-Gomm:

Today, far from Druidry seeming like some arcane fringe activity, our preoccupations are now center stage. They address the most urgent and important issue of our time, how we galvanize all of our potential, practical, creative, intellectual, and spiritual to protect and restore the earth. They arise directly the gaze of Greta Thunberg and her generation, our children and grandchildren to say we are committed to our love of nature to the fullest extent with all of our being all looking towards the same horizon, a world in which each human being has enough to lead a happy, healthy, and fulfilling life without terrible inequalities between rich and poor, without the destruction of habitats and species without the pollution of our skies and seas. Together and individually in our own unique ways. I hope and believe that we can all fulfill these two most important aspirations of the Druid Path to care for our environment in all life and to foster wisdom and compassionate within ourselves.