

2022 edition of the Good Gathering Guide

Fabulous Gatherings @ Follette

**Resources, Ideas & Guidelines for
Facilitators**

Introduction

Hello!

If you're reading this you're probably thinking about facilitating a gathering at Folleterre.

Yay!

All gatherings at Folleterre need awesome organizers like yourself. Whether you are facilitating your first gathering, or have facilitated dozens, or even if you're just thinking about it (*facilitation-curious*, you might say) we are here to support you.

We have put together this resource book for you--to give you some ideas, resources and guidelines from the experiences of those who have facilitated gatherings at Folleterre over the years.

Hopefully this guide will help to stimulate your imagination and offer you a basic framework and understanding of how a successful gathering might be pulled together; from its early stages of envisioning and manifestation through to its facilitation into a glorious state of self-sustaining co-creativity!

Thanks are due to all Folleterre faeries who have attended or facilitated past gatherings here at Folleterre and elsewhere in our global village. All of whom have contributed a better understanding of what works well in the magickal atmosphere of Faerie-space.

Special mention goes to Shokti Lovestar who authored the first *Folleterre Good Gathering Guide* of which this is the latest update. Thanks also due to StillWater, Richard, Hyacinth, Walnut, Mushroom, and those faeries who contributed to 'Gathering Guide Content Workshops' with their ideas, enthusiasm and resourcefulness in 2017.

This most current edition of the *Good Gathering Guide* follows some tremendous years at Folleterre, everyone having navigated explosive growth in the size and scope of the European Radical Faerie community, as well as two gathering seasons in a post-pandemic world.

With Love from the Heart,

X
X
X

Spring 2022

Summary: Gathering Phases

We have broken down gathering organization into **5 phases**, and will explain in detail how each of the small parts work to make a gathering function. We know this looks very complicated, but take heart, dear faerie! All of these steps are simple. Most of them are very easy. Once your gathering begins, faerie magic can be trusted to work.

As the Gathering Organizer, your only real job is very simple: know what all of the “moving parts” of a gathering areas described below, and make sure nothing is forgotten.

Mostly a facilitator....facilitates. This document will help you *facilitate* getting these important tasks done with the help of other faeries--we are here to support you!. Particularly during your gathering, you *should not be doing all these things yourself*, but facilitating finding faeries to get them done.

There are a couple of things described below that you *will definitely need to do yourself*--mostly, preparation before a gathering and communication with faeries who will attend.

If you carefully follow all the steps in this guide, you are guaranteed a smooth running gathering. Of course you can choose to ignore these many-hard-learned lessons! But honey, good luck if you try to tackle a gathering alone.

Phase 1: Preparation -- December and January

- Having a Great Idea: Gathering Intentions
- Finding Collaborators: Co-Facilitation and Delegation
- Setting a Date
- Visioning and Intention Setting
- Setting Boundaries
- Making a Gathering Call
- Setting up a Gathering Registration Form
- Publicity
- Communicating Expectations about your Gathering

Phase 2: The Six-Week Countdown

- Six weeks before the gathering
- Two weeks before the gathering
- The week immediately before the gathering

Phase 3: Gathering Day One

- First Practical Circle & Welcoming Energy
- Identifying the Faerie Godmothers, the Kitchen Goddess, and the Purse Keeper

Phase 4: The Gathering Itself

- Morning Circles & Establishing Routine
- Identifying the daily work facilitators: Faerie Roles
- Identifying workshops and making time for play
- Planning Heart Circles
- Making ritual and magickal preparations

Phase 5: Closing the Gathering & Clean Up

- Closing the Energy
- Closing the Sanctuary -- who will do it?

Phase 1: Preparation

1.1 Having a Great Idea: Gathering Intentions

We collectively gather as radical faeries at our sanctuary Folleterre in order to meet each other and create community. Such gatherings occur at specific times, and are organized by facilitators like yourself. When you are facilitating a gathering it is helpful to carefully consider its intentions.

Gatherings that follow the cycle of seasonal changes throughout the year are fixtures that ground radical faerie life at Folleterre: Beltane in May, the Summer Solstice in June, the Great Circle and Summer Gathering in August, and Sawain in October.

Along with Spring, Summer, and Autumn (Lumbers)community weeks, these gatherings have natural intentions that have developed into strong traditions: opening the sanctuary and welcoming Spring to the land, celebrating the Abundance of Summer Sun, gathering EuroFaeries from all over Europe, and celebrating Autumn harvest through work with the trees and land of Folleterre.

At other times, it is sometimes helpful for organisers to communicate some specific intentions for the energy of a gathering that extend beyond the cultural traditions of “radical faerie gatherings at Folleterre” by setting a theme. It is possible that you have a desire to call faeries to gather to make music, to dance, to sing, to focus on radical activism, gardening, care of orchards and forests, to appreciate My Little Pony, rainbows, unicorns, glitter, drumming, crochet, or even basket weaving! Sometimes gatherings have been given special intentions or themes to help focus the co-created spaces. Past intentions have included ‘quietness’, ‘Art Making’, ‘Rewilding’, ‘Stillness’, ‘Sexuality and Spirituality’, (Tantrastic) ‘Female-bodied-ness’ (Pussylicious), Pan-the-god, and more.

Though no theme is even required, the only limit on gathering themes is your imagination! Do remember that among faeries playfulness and fun are equally as important as spiritual or political intentions. Themes may help to attract some faeries but may also (possibly accidentally) exclude others. Is your theme going to be consistent with Folleterre’s core values?

Remember that Folleterre is a Sanctuary which has become something of a Spiritual Oasis for many different people. At Folleterre we foster stewardship of the land and we honour our natural environment and our Sacred Faerie Nature. We are also supportive of diversity and inclusivity and we are ‘not-for-profit.’

See more about this in section 1.5: Setting Boundaries.

Once you have an idea for a gathering--put it out there! Check out who else is interested. Every gathering is different depending on intentions set by facilitators and also on the many dazzling and sometimes unexpected gifts that each faerie brings with them.

If you are unsure about your choice of theme contact the Gathering Princess (gather@folleterre.org) who will be able to offer advice. Having said all of this, you may not want to set a theme for your gathering. And that’s just fine too!

1.2 Finding Collaborators: Co-facilitators and Delegation

So you’ve decided you’d like to facilitate a gathering... What’s next?

If this will be your first or second time facilitating a gathering, try to team up with at least one other faerie who has facilitated many gatherings before.

If you have facilitated many gatherings and find it very easy, then definitely try to team up with someone who has never facilitated a gathering before!

Folleterre has an enormous need for new, experienced organizers, and the very best way to learn is through collaboration and experience.

Gathering facilitation isn't rocket science but it helps if you're practical, reliable, dependable, confident and energetic. If you are none of these things but you can pull together a faerie crew who are, then that can work too! As a facilitator your key role will be to ensure smooth communication and inspire action and co-operation.

Some tasks such as planning, administration and holding the space will probably fall on your shoulders. However the sharing of roles with co-facilitators and the delegation of tasks to willing gathering attendees is what allows co-creation to blossom and grow.

More on this in the Section 'Phase 3: Day One: Setting the Scene and Allocating Roles'

1.3 Setting a Date

Setting dates for your gathering is crucial and must be done with plenty of advanced notice. In general, we try to publish gathering dates in January of each year, which means you should make your plans in *December at the latest*.

We know that this early planning can be difficult---but remember that it is important! Many faeries must request their holidays from their employers at the beginning of the year, and faeries who travel from great distances can only afford to travel by booking far in advance. Faeries with difficult jobs, faeries who don't have a lot of money, and faeries who live in distant places sometimes have the greatest need to be at the sanctuary, and last-minute planning excludes them.

Having said that, spontaneous gatherings with a few weeks notice are not impossible--but you should contact the Gathering Princess immediately to discuss your plans as they develop.

There are certain set dates for our regular traditional Folleterre gatherings (Beltane, Great Circle/ Summer Gathering, and LumberJanes). You may wish to help facilitate one of these gatherings or you may want to hold a separate gathering with its own unique theme or at a different time of the year.

Contact the Gathering Princess (gather@folleterre.org) to establish which dates will be best for you and your team. She will be *very very happy to hear from you!* Seriously, if you're reading this you should email her!

1.4 Visioning & Intention Setting

Once you have reserved your dates, get together with your co-facilitator/ team well ahead of time. Throw around ideas. Dream! Imagine the space you will be holding. What kind of structure would help your participants into their role of co-creation? What images spring to mind? How do you start to lay the seeds of possibility for this gathering with the wider faerie community?

1.5 Setting Boundaries

You may wish to set boundaries around your intended gathering. Boundaries exist in many forms, and can be very helpful in creation of any gathering, but especially in the case of gatherings with a specific intention.

The key to all boundaries is open communication---the more complex/strong the boundary, the more communication you should plan on engaging with gathering participants and the wider community.

Simple boundaries might include:

- How many faeries can attend the gathering (gathering cap). The Gathering Princess will also inform you if a pre-existing cap on all gatherings has already been established.
- Arrival/Departure. Is it intended that faeries should try to arrive and depart at the same time?
- Alcohol/Substances/sSmoking/Electronics/Noise. Details of these boundaries are commonly negotiated within gatherings.
- Working/Community/love weeks. Such weeks have very different expectations from gatherings.
- Collective intentions (examples: gathering themes on nature/ecology, subject-subject consciousness)

More complex--strong--difficult boundaries might include:

- An expectation that all faeries present will participate in a particular ritual, workshop, or process
- An expectation that all faeries behave in a certain way while they are on the land
- An expectation that faeries follow the intentions or commands of a facilitator or leader
- An expectation that faeries have a certain nationality, cultural background, or speak a certain language while on the land
- An expectation that all faeries present should self-identify within a particular sub-group within the LGBTQIA+ ecosystem
- An expectation that all faeries present should have some immutable characteristic

The Sanctuary aspect of Folleterre--the idea that Folleterre is a spiritual home and refuge to all faeries-- is extremely important within the community. Even in the case of the strongest boundaries, there must still be room for all faeries to visit the land. We have had experience of different ways that strongly bounded gatherings can unfold successfully alongside other faeries being on the land. It's good to think about how this will work carefully in advance and discuss it with the Gathering Princess.

*Important note! If you are developing a gathering with extremely strong or exclusive intentions or boundaries (e.g. a workshop for a small number of faeries), the time of year is an essential consideration. The middle of summer (mid July to end of August) is probably **not an appropriate time**---gatherings at this time have by long-tradition been larger and less structured, so even with the strongest intentions and Call, many faeries are likely to register for your gathering so that they can **return home to their place of sanctuary** rather than participate in your highly intentional gathering.*

The least ordinary and somewhat uncommon, but most challenging (and most discussed!) types of boundaries for gatherings of radical faeries at Folleterre are those that create exclusive gatherings or exclusive spaces within gatherings for those faeries of a particular gender or sexual or other identity or characteristic within the wider (and broadly inclusive) radical faerie community.

While any gathering of radical faeries as an affinity group of LGBTQ+ persons who have responded to a Gathering Call may be described as a *non-mixité* event, at some times faeries have facilitated gatherings or spaces within gatherings that are *extra-non-mixité*--creating gatherings with special intentions or special containers for those who self-identify as needing such spaces.

The specific details of how such an *extra-non-mixité* gathering or space is proposed, intentioned, selected, and enacted are absolutely critical, and will strongly affect how it may be perceived by the wider community of radical faeries. Facilitators are urged to engage with extreme thoughtfulness and care in the details of how they propose and enact any *extra-non-mixité* spaces at Folleterre so that they may fall within the range of tolerance for consent within the wider community.

Openness in communication and openness in spirit are both required to navigate the creation of spaces with strong boundaries.

Plan on giving plenty of time and space to communicate your intentions in advance with the gathering princess, the stewards circle, and the wider community--and most especially of all, with faeries who will join you in your tightly-bounded gathering.

Over many years and countless gatherings, it has often been clear afterward that difficult gatherings could have been avoided simply by more and better communication in advance. Dear facilitator of a strongly bounded or strongly intentioned gathering--- you are encouraged, enheartened, inspirited, begged, urged, cajoled, requested and Called to engage in as much communication as possible about your gathering well before it takes place. Proceeding into creation of such a space without special preparation and open communication is a treacherous path, and the safety of the community is threatened by walking it badly. It is for this reason that the wider community, the Stewards Circle, and the Gathering Princess take special interest and care in the facilitation of strongly bounded gatherings.

1.6 Making a Gathering Call

When you set your gathering dates and intentions, you are not only taking care of practicalities, you are issuing A CALL to faeries everywhere to join you on the land. **This is the oldest tradition of Radical Faeries, echoing the first Call made for the first gathering of faeries.**



Find a way to put your visions and intentions into your GATHERING CALL. At a very minimum it must communicate your gathering date, but otherwise you can be as creative as you want—even videos or songs have been made. Don't over-think this and don't wait very long--keep it simple!. Visit our archives for inspiration: <https://www.folleterre.org/en/archives/>

An example text: A CALL for faeries to attend a Summer Gathering at Folleterre. July 31 to August 7 2022. Discover and go beyond your boundaries. Enjoy spirituality, community, nature, and the elements. Experience encounters of the Faerie Kind. Live your fantasy and creativity. Facilitated by OurLady and ElektricheWasser. Contact: summer.gathering@folleterre.org

The gathering call is used as the promotional material to publicise your gathering. For publication on faerie websites and in the Folleterre newsletter, it is very helpful for you to prepare an image file (.jpg or .png preferred) As Soon As Possible.

1.7 Publicity

In the past we focused on publicity for gatherings because radical faeries in Europe were few in number and our gatherings were not always well attended. In 2022, this is generally no longer a problem.

When your gathering is included in the annual calendar, at a minimum it is published 1) on the Folleterre website and 2) in the Folleterre newsletter.:

Faerie Websites

- Folleterre's website www.folleterre.org -- ask the Gathering Princess gather@folleterre.org
- EuroFaeries website www.eurofaeries.eu -- ask the Gathering Princess gather@folleterre.org
- Albion Faeries- email the webmasters at faerieuk@gmail.com

Folleterre Newsletter

Folleterre publishes a newsletter by email to >1500 faeries on an erratic basis. However, once the gathering calendar is set, it will be communicated to the community via email.

If you desire to more widely publicise your gathering, that is up to you. Examples of where you might publicise a gathering include

- Local or regional LGBTQ+ community spaces or groups
- Your own personal network of faeries and friends via word-of-mouth or email.
- Faerie facebook pages
- Faenet

1.8 Communicating Expectations about your Gathering

When faeries register for a gathering using online forms on www.folleterre.org, or by emailing YourGatheringName@folleterre.org, you should respond immediately to confirm that you have received their information. If many weeks pass without communication or confirmation, faeries get nervous that they have been forgotten or their information has been lost. A short, simple, sweet email saying "thank you darling, see you soon!" is very welcoming and makes faeries feel immediately connected to your gathering.

Later on, a few weeks before your gathering, it is good to send a more complete welcome letter that includes lots of information about your Theme, Getting to Folleterre, Things You Should Bring, etc.

For easy and beautiful inspiration, **See Appendix 4: Sample Welcome Letter**

There are some other special expectations you definitely need to communicate about:

We celebrate diversity and nothing is impossible. However, if you wish your gathering to have a different approach from previous radical faerie gatherings (e.g. for it to be alcohol and substance free, for unclothed bodies to be restricted, for inflexible arrivals and departure days), **the impacts on all participating faeries must be carefully considered in advance.**

It is essential that if you expect to deviate from traditions of Folleterre's radical faerie gatherings, you do so after seeking some guidance and feedback from the Stewards Circle, Gathering Princess, or some Faerie Elders.

Note!: Any gathering boundaries or special expectations need to be clearly communicated to every participant in the gathering as soon as possible!

- **Food**

All meals at Folleterre are communal and vegetarian. Vegan meals are easily provided, but dairy products and eggs will be present for those who choose to eat animal products. We usually aim to meet all faeries' dietary needs, but very special or restrictive diets require lots of communication with the gathering organizers.

- **Children and Pets**

By default it is inappropriate for children (under 18) or pets to be brought to Folleterre as they can have big impacts on other faeries. Under extraordinary circumstances, *with the prior consent of all faeries present* in (usually very small) gathering, a small number of dogs have visited the land.

- **Substances and Alcohol**

Faeries are encouraged to be considerate and discreet about their consumption of alcohol and other substances. Alcohol is often present and faeries may sometimes be intoxicated or, may use substances as part of their spiritual practice.

- **Nudity and Sexual Expression**

As part of overcoming shame about our bodies and sexualities nudity and public sexual expression are often a normal part of life at Folleterre. *It can sometimes be difficult to strike a balance that reduces the risk of triggering memories of sexual abuse and trauma.* If you anticipate that there could be a deviation from Folleterre's tradition of total acceptance of all kinds of bodies, in any form, shape, or size, with or without clothing, it must be communicated clearly to all gathering attendees in advance.

- **Special Access Needs and Disability**

Faeries are unendingly creative and will make tremendous effort to facilitate hosting faeries on the land whatever their needs. However, special needs must be communicated openly and far in advance with gathering organizers so that preparations can be made and information about conditions at Folleterre can be passed along.

- **Financial/ Other Contributions**

All Folleterre gatherings have a tradition of welcoming all regardless of their capacity to make a financial contribution (NOTAFLOF-no one turned away for lack of funds) In fact, for the give-and-take of a sustainable community to work effectively, faeries are encouraged to **give only as they are able** (but to consider always giving something-whatever that something is: even if that is simply your fabulous presence!) and also to **take only as they need** (but to always consider taking at least something for themselves).

The current suggested break-even contribution for gatherings is set at between €20-40 per day

An important role at any gathering is that of the Money Goddess whose job it is to collect contributions, reimburse shoppers, keep records, deposit cash at the bank in Lure, settle accounts and fill out a cash flow summary. More of this later under section 'Phase 3: Day One: Setting the Scene and Allocating Roles'

- **Technology and Photography**

Most faeries come to Folleterre for an off-grid experience away from the often crowded and frenetic digital virtual social network experiences of their lives outside of Faerie Space.

Some faeries may, for whatever reason, need to maintain some form of on-line connection whilst at Folleterre, but they are usually requested to do so privately and avoid using electronic devices into the space of other faeries.

We have some very talented faerie photographers who are keen to capture the beauty of the land and lovely faeries. Other faeries don't want to be photographed or at least want to feel assured that their frolicking isn't publicised to the world on social media!

There is a longstanding consensus that consent must be sought for photography of other faeries.

Photographs taken during gatherings should NEVER be shared on social media without the express permission of all subjects.

1.9 Gathering Communication, Registrations and GDPR issues

You will be provided an email address YourGatheringName@folleterre.org for your gathering. Therefore, you *must provide a valid personal email address* to the Gathering Princess for your communication. All registrations and emails will be forwarded to this address. Do not give a "junk-mail" address--you will need to communicate quickly and easily with faeries who register for your gathering.

Gathering Registration processes are determined by the Gathering Princess and will be communicated clearly to facilitators in advance. In recent years this has happened digitally via the Folleterre website.

Here we have some clear information and boundaries you must know about:

- **Registrations for your gathering are your responsibility as facilitator.** Do be graceful--try to be as personal and welcoming as possible with faeries who register for your gathering! Don't be rude--do respond to every email! For some facilitators, this means increased email responsibility at some times. Some faeries manage this by creating email folders or special "faerie email" accounts to separate faerie business from their personal lives. For some faeries this amount of email is not possible. If you are a very disorganised faerie (and that's totally OK!) or a faerie who hates email, then find a co-facilitator who can specialise in this task and handle all of your gathering's digital communication.
- **Use of social media and/or Evil Companies.** *Folleterre gathering registrations absolutely cannot be managed or organised using facebook, faenet, or any other third party products.* In particular, some faeries have reacted with strong preferences that Google not be used. Just don't do it.
- **GDPR Compliance.** We know that this may be something that you have never thought about, but under European data privacy guidelines, when a faerie registers for a gathering they are providing Folleterre with sensitive personal data that falls under GDPR restrictions. This is a huge and wildly complicated topic, but for your purposes, here are some important facts that you must acknowledge:

You, as facilitator are:

- In possession of sensitive personal data.
- Responsible for protecting this personal data
- Cannot share this data without explicit consent
- Must delete this data if requested

In practical terms, since you are Facilitating a gathering, Folleterre obviously cannot eliminate or restrict your access to this data, even if we wanted to. However, we must inform you of your responsibilities to the community in handling this data appropriately. Take care, dear faerie!

Two easy tips!: The most common area where a well-meaning facilitator can avoid a simple mistake is in email communication. NEVER send an email directly to all attendees. Simply use the BCC function in group emails!

*Because faeries like to keep in touch after gatherings, one easy way to **consensually** facilitate this is to place a sheet of paper on the message board for faeries to choose to share their email addresses publicly if they want to.*

1.10 Waiting Lists and Selective Inclusion in Faerie Gatherings

Faeries who register for gatherings should expect to be able to attend them. This is easy to understand.

However, in recent years it has been necessary to impose some caps on total gathering size, and sometimes there isn't enough space for everyone. In other cases, the special intention or boundaries of your gathering or community week may necessitate limiting the number of faeries on the land. This means that a tricky new job has been created for facilitators: deciding how to manage too many gathering registrations.

Gathering facilitators should feel obligated to communicate clearly what their system will be from the very beginning.

The traditional and most simple way to approach this challenge is with the use of a very simple waiting list:.

Example: A gathering capped at 50 faeries.

0-50 registrations The first 50 registrants are accepted and informed they will be attending..

51-70 registrations Above the 50-faerie boundary, registrations are put on a waiting list.

70+ registrations After the 70-faerie waiting list boundary is exceeded registrations are “closed,” on the website and no further registrations are accepted. Cancellations (even very many cancellations!) can always be expected, so staying in touch with faeries who register is very helpful. Please be considerate of faeries needs for planning, and inform them right away if/when they move from the waiting list into the gathering. Numbers are hard to predict here, but with a 30-50%-of-total buffer in the waiting list, normally everyone will be able to attend. Don’t worry; you will still manage to have a great gathering If you deviate slightly above (or below) your intended gathering cap.

Some faeries have recently experimented with randomised selection at a pre-set date--a “lottery” or “drawing straws” (in practice... a digital random number generator is used on a pre-assigned date, for example 8 weeks before the gathering start date, to assign each registration to the Attending list or Waiting list. Then everyone is notified at the same time). This system introduces extra fairness into the waiting list, because it does not exclude faeries who find out about gatherings a little bit later or are slow to act in responding to the call. However, the weakness of this system is that it can easily exclude faeries (especially working-class-faeries) with jobs that require much advance notice for receiving holiday times. There are no perfect systems here, but both a “first-come” and “randomized” system are relatively fair and easy to communicate and understand.

A note of caution. Cronyism is not a faerie value. If you facilitate a gathering and manage registrations in such a way that your friends are favoured, faeries will definitely find out and grrrrrrfriend....there will be lots of gossip about this decision.

Under extremely extraordinary circumstances, gathering facilitators may wish to impose certain criteria for selective inclusion of some-faeries-but-not-others in their gathering. Such criteria may include immutable identity related characteristics. If this is the case, clearly communicating such intentions for the gathering and its intended exclusivity should be performed at the stage of a gathering call and communication. *Selective acceptance (or rejection) of faeries who have registered for a gathering afterward is not a tool that is used at radical faerie gatherings at Folleterre.*

Facilitators are urged to proceed with the utmost caution and care in any decision to deviate from a simple registration process, and must work in open communication with the Gathering Princess and with consent of the Steward Circle when doing so--by working together, transparently, towards a solution that is within the frame of tolerance for consent of the community.

We focus carefully on these difficult questions, because even with the very best intentions, selectivity for gathering attendees opens up many unpleasant blind-spots for the most well-meaning facilitators. This Good Gathering Guide cannot and does not intend to provide you with a RULE for how to manage these tricky questions in each possible case. What this Good Gathering Guide can do is help to open your thinking about best practises and blind-spots, so you can formulate a good plan and communicate it clearly to the Gathering Princess, the Stewards Circle, and the wider community.

Example 1. Our gathering has few cars, so faerie drivers will be prioritised from the waiting list.

Whoops! By solving this practical problem in this way, you have accidentally introduced class-bias into your gathering against those who can’t afford cars. What about faeries who choose for ecological reasons to avoid cars, are they less welcome at folleterre? There are other solutions in this simple example. Have you already asked gathering attendees? Have you considered rental of a car or a van to service the gathering collectively for this week?

Example 2. Our gathering has described an intention to focus on womxn faeries, but not many womxn have registered compared to other faeries, so I will selectively accept them off the waiting list.

Whoops! By selecting womxn from the waiting list you could be accidentally 1) introducing cronyism, selecting the people you personally know to be womxn and/or 2) accidentally excluding womxn-faeries who you perceive to be outwardly presenting as men but have responded to your intentioned call. Neither of these things are very ideal. Furthermore, asking very specific questions regarding sexual or gender identity status during registration presents additional GDPR challenges and should not be done---doesn't asking these personal questions of faeries registering for gatherings even sound kind of gross?

Example 3. Our gathering has an explicit intention to create a space for faeries with an immigrant background, since immigrants are underrepresented in our community. Therefore only immigrants will be able to register for the first 4 weeks, then anyone else can register.

Opening the door a little wider, a little earlier, could increase equity in the gathering in a fair way, butWhoops! Who exactly is an immigrant in Europe, this land of migrants? Do you mean immigrants of a certain perceived national or ethnic background? Would a group of Quebecois living in Paris count as immigrants? Perhaps you mean economically disadvantaged recent- immigrants--in this case, needing a registration made in January for a gathering in July is probably not going to work for the targeted group. There may be ways to effectively engage with such a group of persons through personal contact or promotion through community networks, but that requires active work on your part as a facilitator. If you have a very specific intention but avoid active community work by passively engaging in registration selectivity, you may or may not actually achieve your desired goal to increase the number of attendees of one kind or another, but you will almost certainly introduce unintended biases into a Folleterre gathering.

This is a difficult path to navigate for everyone involved. Extreme care must be taken, or this path should simply be avoided entirely. *If your gathering isn't collecting registrations of the kind that you intended, maybe the intention for this gathering was not clear enough, or maybe simply too few faeries responded to the intention that you proposed.* Maybe the gathering was just at the wrong time of year-- for example in the middle of summer, when nearly all faeries want to spend some time at Folleterre. Almost certainly, you will still have a fabulous gathering without engaging in any selectivity.

Phase 2: Six- Week Countdown

OK you've done all your preparation, you can now just wait for the registrations to roll in!

Since the bare minimum is that you'll need to find ways of getting Faeries from the train station in Lure to Folleterre and back again AND be able to provide them with nourishing food, it's helpful at this stage to 1) identify Faeries who will have cars to offer lifts and, 2) a Faerie who is prepared to take on the role of Kitchen Goddess

The Kitchen Goddess (KG) is not responsible for personally preparing meals but orchestrates Kitchen Mums, and facilitates willing Faeries to prepare meals. KG takes responsibility for all aspects of food planning and purchasing identifying any allergies or dietary requirements and helps Kitchen Mums to be aware of any problematic ingredients. They plan ahead to ensure ingredients are available and to avoid last- minute shopping trips. - **Also see appendix 3 for Kitchen Goddess Guide**

6 Weeks before the gathering

Check your number of bookings. Are there more than you expected? Maybe you'll need to ask for more help. Are there fewer than you expected? Maybe you'll need to reduce your plans.

Do you have advanced plans for potential workshops? Imagine the shape of the week and start setting dates for an opening ritual/closing ritual. Will there be an auction? a no talent show?

Communicate with the Gathering Princess about any guidance you might need for opening or closing the house at Folleterre, or other aspects of facilitating the gathering.

Communicate with the Gathering Princess about placing a large order of Bio-Food for delivery to the house. This is easy to do, but must be done in advance. For bio-food ordering guidance, see **appendix X: The Folleterre Food and Ordering Inventory**

2 Weeks before the gathering

Send out a welcome email- **see Appendix 4: Sample Welcome Letter**

In this you can suggest what to bring and what to expect. What is the weather forecast to be like? What kind of drag to bring? Will there be a need for warm clothes and waterproofs? Remind faeries to bring a torch and eco-toiletries. Something for the Altar for an opening ritual? Maybe make an advance request for workshop and community volunteers for co-creation. Give a reminder about the use of technology, phones, photography, pets and substances.

1 Week before the gathering

Check emails from participants for any last minute demands/ requests/ changes of plan. Get to the land early- ideally a couple of days before the scheduled start date. Together with your Kitchen Goddess, evaluate the food there is in the house and get an idea of what needs to be replenished. Go shopping for fresh food.

Shopping interrupts the flow of a gathering and places a burden on faerie drivers (nothing is more disruptive to the peacefulness of Folleterre than a trip into a horrible Big Box Store under harsh fluorescent lighting surrounded by money and boring people).

It is best if you don't have to make shopping trips for at least several days during your gathering--this means that a little bit of planning on your part and one big, difficult trip can deliver days of peacefulness to the faeries on the land. Well organized shopping and keeping faeries away from the city unless absolutely necessary can be your gift to the faeries at your gathering.

See **The Kitchen Goddess Guide**.

Phase 3: Day One: Setting the Scene and Allocating Roles

The First Day

The first day of the gathering is likely to be a bit chaotic so this can be a day to set expectations for the coming time together. There are likely to be late arrivals getting into Lure expecting a pick-up from the train station and possibly some late departures from the previous gathering. If this is the case you would do well to keep a focus on practicalities and aim for your opening ritual to be on Day 2 of the gathering when those expecting to be there for the duration have all arrived and feel settled in. The key to helping the settling in process is to hold regular practical circles every morning at the same time (10 AM is a good goal) and brief practical check-ins at an informal circle before dinner.

Keep reminding yourself that it is not your job to organise and do everything!

As a facilitator you are simply providing the internal management for the gathering.

First Practical Circle

If you and/or your co-facilitators are able to provide a playful welcoming energy to the assembled faeries they will be able to relax and enjoy coming together in community. They will each have arrived with their hopes, fears, gifts, skills, joys (and demons), ready to live and heal together for the duration of this gathering. A loose and open timeline will invite the community into contributing to the evolving structure of the gathering.

Clearly identifying the range of gathering tasks to be shared (see **Appendix 1: How many faeries does it take to run a gathering?**) and seeking volunteers ensures that the basics are being done throughout the gathering. Most roles can be allocated on a daily circle by circle basis. However there are three roles which ideally need to be held for the duration of the gathering:

- **Faerie Godmothers**
- **Pursekeeper / Money Goddesss**
- **Kitchen Goddess**

It's helpful to establish who these faeries are at an early stage.

Faerie Godmothers take on the role to welcome and inform newcomers and less experienced faeries. These faerie godmothers can be Faerie Elders with many years of experience and wisdom, or other faeries who have spent considerable time at Folleterre or among Radical faeries. Self-identification into this role is a simple (but not always the best) way to identify godmothers.

As the facilitator, if you know of a faerie with deep wisdom or experience in your gathering, consider lifting up this faerie to the community in your practical circle: "In addition to all those faeries who volunteered as godmothers, I would like to point out Jackie Monroe standing over there who you should get to know. She has been coming to faerie gatherings since Terschelling, and in addition to telling wonderful stories, she can give you excellent makeup tips and housekeeping ideas for your time at Folleterre."

Faerie Godmothers carry a very powerful energy in a gathering, helping to transmit not only practical information, but also stories, experiences and fundamental aspects of faerie culture to newcomers. Faerie Godmothers are a facilitator's best friend. By clearly identifying those faeries with the most experience who can always be on hand to answer questions can dramatically reduce the demands on you as a facilitator.

There can be quite a lot involved in this role since it may well need to involve explanations of a whole range of issues such as faerie culture/ equality/ consensus/ consent/ rules/guidelines//land boundaries/respect for nature/ hygiene / water supplies/ toilet and washing arrangements/ giving instruction on tick removal and first aid / health and safety / potential hazards/ what to do when there are medical issues/ an accident/ an emergency /fire safety awareness This role may also involve looking after the needs or challenges of individual faeries even potentially acting as a facilitator between faeries who find themselves in conflict.

Pursekeeper / Money Goddess an established and trusted faerie who collects income and receipts during the gathering, and organises reimbursements if needed. They also calculate the total number of 'Faerie Days' for the financial summary (by making a note of how many Faeries are at dinner each day). This Faerie is also responsible for completing the simple accounting records, getting excess cash deposited at Credit Mutuel Bank in Lure, and completing the financial summary at the end of the gathering. **See also Appendix 2: The Role of the Money Goddess During Gatherings**

The **Kitchen Goddess** orchestrates Kitchen Mums, and all aspects of food planning and purchasing. The Kitchen Goddess is not responsible for personally preparing meals, but facilitates willing Faeries to prepare meals that are nourishing to the body and soul. The Kitchen Goddess identifies any allergies or dietary requirements and helps Kitchen Mums to be aware of any problematic ingredients. They keep a check on the food inventory (including the garden and wild foods) and plan ahead to ensure ingredients are available and avoid last- minute shopping trips. **See also Appendix 3: Kitchen Goddess Guide**

Once these roles have been allocated the remaining roles are self explanatory and are many ways we can nurture each other on a daily basis. Volunteers can be sought on a daily or meal by meal basis.

Kitchen Mums offer to take on preparing a meal together with a few **Kitchen Slaves**, **Dish Dancers** and **Clean-up Diva** will do the dishes and tidy up. **Bridget the Fire Faerie** will make sure there is always gathered firewood and hot water for dishes and showers. **Pick-up and Drop-off Faeries** will provide lifts for shopping, visits to the déchetterie, etc., **La Composta** and **Lavatory Attendant** will help to lovingly care for our waste. **La Laundrette** looks after the laundry and ensures there are welcoming bed spaces for new arrivals. And, possibly, most importantly of all there will be **Queens of the Drag Closet** who dedicate themselves to making sure our drag is kept in perfect condition!

Phase 4: The Gathering Itself

A gathering will reflect the energy and positivity the organisers. Aim to create a structure which embodies flexibility and be open to developments arising within the moment. Embrace the natural flow of what arises from the group, adapt to it and remain conscious of the well-being of the whole community.

Don't over-structure or you will end up with the label 'control queen'!

Having no structure at all is leaving the creation of connection and intimacy to chance – perhaps there will be enough creative and conscious faeries present to bring the group together, but it is also possible that new people will not feel part of the magic unless intentions are clear, grounded and shared.

The thing here is to keep the balance between the soul space of the event on the one hand and the practical contributions being made on the other.

Getting people comfortable with the practical challenges of living on the land is crucial in getting the space into shape. Providing adequate information about hygiene, water supplies, toilet and washing arrangements, ticks and first aid is essential. Ensuring that practical needs of faeries are met will bring all to a good place of connection – eg adequate food supplies, clean and comfortable sleeping spaces, attention to healing needs.

A useful way to ensure that attention is given to the daily tasks of maintaining sanctuary and community life is to hold a **morning practical circle** after breakfast each day to find out how people are doing. Attention can be drawn to the daily practical jobs that need to be done and, once this is sorted, it's time to start planning activities.

Typical Morning Practical Circle Agenda

The morning Circles are a chance to listen to the community needs with cheerfulness and authenticity and to encourage effective emotional communication. As Gathering Organizer, you might want to facilitate these circles yourself, but feel welcome to invite other confident faeries to take on this task--it is a good "first step" for faeries interested in taking on roles in facilitation and organizing. Give any circle facilitators the list of practicalities found below.

Traditionally, morning circles start with a round of faerie names and a brief grounding exercise to bring all those present into focus.

Stretching together is a good way to wake up if energy is running too low, and a minute of silent meditation together can ground the circle if energy is running too high.

A. Practicalities to be addressed

Here is a quick check-list for some issues that you need to bring up in the practical circle every day for new faeries and as good reminders for very experienced faeries.

- Arrivals -- Who will pick up faeries? At what time? Welcome, friends.
- Departures -- Who is leaving today? Goodbye, dear ones.
- Numbers -- How many faeries are on the land today? Pursekeeper and Kitchen Mom must know.
- Roles -- How happy are volunteers? Is change needed today? Assistance?
- Food -- Lunch and Dinner Moms
- Sparkle -- How about cleaning? Are things going to the right places? Is there a need for clean-up?
- Health -- Identify who to talk to. Remember to check for ticks. Toothbrushing station. Condoms.
- Hands -- WASH YOUR HANDS with soap and water frequently. Where?
- **Fire** -- Can more firewood for bonfire and water be gathered in the forest? Who will do it? Remember: Dry wood piles are only for the stoves in the house.
- **Water** -- Is there enough drinking water? Remember--the well runs out, so use the taps wisely. Coffee and Tea-making outside of the kitchen.
- **Earth** -- Shit tower. Remember: only shit and sawdust in the tower. No pee. No baby-wipes. Pee only on dry land or in special pee-stations with dry hay.
- **Air** -- Remember to breathe and enjoy some stillness with other faeries.
- Workshops: Heart Circles? Land-walks? Hikes through the forest or to the lakes? Skillsharing activities? Gardening groups? Landworking? Faerie projects in art or music or construction?

B. Heart Circles

Gatherings of radical faeries at Folleterre include heart circles. There is no other tradition more enduring among radical faeries, and at Folleterre it has always been an integral part of our culture to engage in them often and (try to) facilitate them well.

Furthermore, good gatherings are built through good heart connection! Depending on the size of your gathering, try to identify faeries who can facilitate them daily, every-other day, or as-often-as-needed.

Identifying capable facilitators for heart circles should be given as much priority as identifying Faerie Godmothers, the Kitchen Goddess or any other named role within the gathering.

Clearly explaining the etiquette of heart circles and giving the circle prominence in the timetable will assist in making it into the central sacred point of the group energy. Themed heart circles can be good way to encourage deep and passionate sharing. Depending on the languages spoken by faeries in attendance, it can be interesting to propose non-english heart circles.

See **appendix 6: Heart Circle Guidance**

C. Ideas for Workshops, Rituals, and Special Events

Have a jumbo timetable for the week displayed on the wall in the Breezeway with large sheets for each day of the gathering divided loosely into time bands (e.g.before breakfast/ after breakfast/ after practical circle/ after lunch/ after dinner). Make sure that key events are clearly highlighted on this (e.g. practical circles, opening and closing ceremonies, initial heart circles, early workshops themed to the gathering etc.

Suggestions for co-created workshops and activities should now arise naturally from the assembled group who will have an idea of when best to hold their event within the loose framework of the week.

Respond to the themes that naturally emerge and encourage responses from all participants.

Gatherings often feature a performance night – the **no-talent show**, which needs to be signposted well in advance to give time for creative collaborations to arise. For the show an organising team, stage crew and presenters will be needed.

An **auction** is often held as a fundraiser, sometimes for a specific project at the sanctuary. Auctioneer(s), models and a faerie to record the purchases are needed here.

Fire nights are a crucial feature of time on the land. People from cities are often not used to the energy and magic of the fire circle. Coming to a fire with a shared intention, maybe honouring ancestors or a deity, can help unite the energy at the fire. Fire is the element of spirit, and it is here that energy is most likely to raise, so giving people space to express emotionally through song, music and dance, and to feel safe and comfortable doing it, is essential. Fire can burn away our difficulties, can help us to heal our past, and can also be a way of putting energy into things to come. First and foremost, fire brings community together, providing light and heat in the night. Fire faeries who are enthusiastic about creating and looking after the fire, or who bring music, movement and stories to the circle, bring a lot to the energy of the gathering.

D. Scheduling time for doing nothing and simply being!

Encouraging people to take time to enjoy the stillness and magical presence of nature will help people to settle on the land and slow down enough for deep connection with each other and the spirits of the place.

E. Special Projects on the House/ On the Land

There may be visiting faeries who are keen to work on land or house projects during the gathering. During Work Weeks, these projects are likely to be the main focus and theme for the gathering.

Indeed working together practically can be a deeply spiritual practice bringing faeries into community around the love of our sanctuary.

During the course of a gathering there may be faeries who become enthusiastic about projects for the land and the house. It's important to bear in mind that there is a carefully thought through Land Management Plan for Folleterre so any land management projects need to be tied in with this medium to long-term strategy.

Similarly, alterations to the structure of the house and its buildings should be carried out only in co-ordination with the Steward's Circle evolving House Management Plan.

If in doubt check out what the current prioritised projects are with one of the Stewards

F. Magical preparations and Opening Ceremony

All facilitators will approach the magick of a gathering in their own unique and special way. The following is some guidance offered by Shokti Lovestar on how you might choose to prepare and also some reflections on the magickal ingredients of an Opening Ceremony

'Prepare magically for the gathering by making offerings to spirit at significant points on the journey from conception to manifestation. Connecting the plans to spiritual dimensions is crucial to assist the flow of the energy in advance and during the gathering, and to attract people who are truly interested in the theme and focus of the event. Offerings can be as simple or elaborate as the imagination suggests. They also open channels of communication through which spirit can make its own suggestions back to us.

Spend time meditating on the purpose and theme, coming to a plan for creating the energy space in which the group will journey, and spotting where the major events or activities within the gathering might happen.'

'A good opening ceremony can perform the miracle of helping the assembled faeries drop baggage carried from the outside world and open the group to developing intimacy and love.

As a facilitator, getting into a relaxed place of connection and communication with the land and the community around will bring a balanced, calm and positive energy to the gathering space. Guiding the group into a sense of shared purpose, community, and energetic space at the start of the event will help the growth of love and spirit. We are co-creating space in which we can all spend time in soul energy, a healing experience every time as we find some balance to the mental and ego energies that dominate so much of life. Honouring the sacredness of this experience helps to bring it on, and honouring the uniqueness of each person's soul and path to spirit brings miracles too.

Calling to the elements brings us into deeper connection with the energies of nature around us, and into all parts of our own beings. Reminding folk of faerie principles of heart listening and sharing, of subject-subject consciousness, of caring for and learning from nature all help to set the scene and tune people to the purpose of gathering, thus speeding up the process of connection and integration.

Once created, the energy field will flow and develop in its own way.

The energy connection of an open hearted and considerate group will enrich the spirit of the sanctuary and charges up all involved with great energy for each faerie's individual journey.'

OK - So that's really all there is to it!

Let the energy flow and most importantly don't be so focused on your role as facilitator that you forget to be a participant. It might be useful to co-ordinate with your co-facilitators to ensure you give yourself at least a day off from all facilitator duties when you can simply throw yourself fully into what's happening.

If it all starts to get too much - simply shout out and know that there are friendly faeries around to support you and to relieve you of whatever you're finding burdensome!

Phase 5: Ending the Gathering

Closing the Energy

Having a clearly defined beginning and ending to a gathering helps focus, and although often impractical for some, it is worthwhile to encourage people to come for the whole of the gathering, from start to finish in order to build a coherent and safe group energy. When this is not possible, try to make a virtue rather than a difficulty of the comings and goings. What matters most is that people get time in the sanctuary energies (though a group staying together during the period of a gathering can journey far together).

Preparing people for return to the outside world is valuable. Give tips on a gentle and safe re-entry. (**See Appendix 5 Suggestions about Aftercare**)

Hold a closing circle for appreciation and final sharings, and a ceremony to honour and thank all the spiritual energies that have been at play.

It's good to build in some slow down time at the end of a gathering so that people head away from the sanctuary feeling enriched and energised. Arrange for contact lists to be sent out and photo sharing possibilities. Check if there are any faeries who don't want their image, or their contact details, to be shared. Make sure their request is passed on to the Secretary!

Closing the Sanctuary

Folleterre is a home for all faeries. Folleterre is a beautiful and welcoming sanctuary for faeries because we take care of each other, and because we take care of the sanctuary like it is our own home.

Special Note! Folleterre has well known challenges around laundry, but the single most likely thing that will annoy or cause conflict/complaint as a result of your end-of-gathering facilitation is failure to do laundry. Do try to do laundry along with shopping throughout a gathering period so that there is extremely little (or none) left at the end of your gathering. If for some reason you expect to leave a large pile of laundry, do communicate this to the next gathering facilitators to help avoid conflict. As a gathering facilitator, try to be gracious, empathetic, and accepting if you have inherited someone else's laundry pile.

It is your responsibility as the gathering organiser to be sure the house is closed properly. With a little planning and communication, and with the help of 3 or 4 faeries this is very simple and takes less than one hour. *Remember: this is not a job for you to do alone--but it is your responsibility to facilitate it.*

If some faeries want to stay beyond the date that you will leave--as is often the case--you have two approaches to choose from.

- 1) Ask the faerie(s) who stay to take on personal responsibility for cleaning and closing the house. You must make sure that this/these faerie(s) understand all of the necessary steps and tasks. Give them the **Closing the House Checklist** and the **Closing the House Manual**. When the house is left as a disaster for the next faeries--rumors begin to fly quickly! If a faerie will take personal responsibility for being the "last faerie on the land" by staying after the close of your gathering, make it very widely known:
 - a) Announce publicly in the morning circles the *name of the Faerie who is leaving the land last* and who will be helping this faerie with closing the house. Do they need help? Who will help them?
 - b) Tell the Stewards Circle immediately (by emailing residency@folleterre.org) when you leave who has taken on the responsibility for closing the house.
- 2) If a faerie wants to stay beyond the gathering, but refuses to take full responsibility for closing the house, then ask the faerie to leave the sanctuary with you or contact the Stewards Circle immediately (by emailing residency@folleterre.org). According to our **Guidelines on Residency**, any faeries who wish to reside at Folleterre outside of gatherings do so *only with the consent and support of the Stewards Circle*. If a faerie is not well-known to you, has no or plans vague plans to leave, or will not take on personal responsibility for cleaning or closing the house---please contact the Stewards Circle immediately.

End of the Gathering Checklist

- ☐ Make sure that you have an up-to-date contacts list before everyone leaves!
- ☐ Clean, tidy, make the house nice and pretty for the next visitors.
- ☐ Nothing is left outside in the yard, near the sink, or scattered in the main barn or tool/breakfast barn.
- ☐ Dishes all cleaned and put away in cupboards
- ☐ Make sure that there some basic food supplies in the cupboards.
- ☐ Get the laundry done! --damp and dirty laundry will turn rotten and be garbage for the next faerie.
- ☐ Take the trash and recycling down to the Decheterie.
- ☐ Make sure that a financial report has been made for the Treasurer
- ☐ Make a cash deposit at Credit Mutuel.
- ☐ Leave dry wood and a beautiful note in the kitchen for the next visitors to the house
- ☐ Close and lock all doors and windows in the house --hide the key in its secret place.

Soon after the Gathering

Send the financial report to the Treasurer

Since this was already written on the land by the Gathering Purse Keeper, this should be very easy!

Write a Gathering Report and send it to the Secretary

There is a long tradition of writing reports or summaries of gatherings to share with the community. Sometimes these are just a few sweet sentences. Sometimes they are detailed reports of gathering activities with photographs and artwork. Sometimes they are videos posted on the internet.

For some faeries who for health or other reasons can't come to the sanctuary, reading gathering reports in the Newsletter are a way for them to maintain their connection with the community from great distances. Sharing your gathering experiences with them is a way to transmit the heart and spirit of your gathering far and wide to faeries who may need support in their lives away from the sanctuary.

If you can't write a report, consider asking another faerie who was there to write one from their own perspective. There are many skilled faerie writers who can weave a beautiful fabric of impressions and feelings from the land.

Appendix 1: How many faeries does it take to run a gathering??

Studies have shown that Faeries who are well fed and cared for are more secure, open-hearted and available for any sort of magic. When these tasks are accomplished, it provides that "nurtured feeling" for Faeries coming to Folleterre.

Gathering is not just Faeries throwing a party. Gathering is a time for us to experiment with living in community. Life at Folleterre is remote and off-grid, which brings us many joys, but also more tasks and practical challenges than we may be used to at home. Many hands make for very light work.

These are "guidelines" developed to plan a smooth, nurturing gathering. These are not rules. There are other roles to do with Faerie culture and spirituality, but those we entrust to the Faeries who gather. Just because you take on a role doesn't mean you have to do all the tasks yourself – see it as a coordinator role. You are responsible to see it gets done, but that might mean asking other Faeries to do the tasks. Asking is friendly and invites more people into the sphere of "provider" thus enhancing the whole gathering.

"Staffing" for a Gathering

- Gathering Facilitators
- Faerie Godmothers/ Mediation Faeries
- Pursekeeper/ Money Goddess
- Kitchen Goddess
- Kitchen Mums and Slaves
- Dish-Dance Choreographer and Dish Dancers
- Clean up Diva
- Breakfast and Beverage Babe
- Bridget the Fire Faerie
- Lavatory Attendant
- Garden Guru
- Queen of the Drag Closet
- Pick-up and Drop-off Faeries
- Travel & Shopping Coordinator
- La Composta
- La Launderette
- Gathering Records Keeper
- First Aid Faeries

Some roles are small, so feel free to take on two. Some tasks may need to be shared. Every Faerie is encouraged to share enough of the work to keep everyone comfortable and safe, and help make more room for magic and sanctuary together.

Even if you've not committed to a specific task, you can still help out if you see something that needs doing, or offer to help another Faerie.

Spreading the responsibility helps prevent breakdowns and burn-outs among the over-committed, helping to make sanctuary safer for all including "the Gathering Facilitators". Taking on a role is also a great opportunity to learn new skills and grow your confidence. Never chopped wood before? Offer to be the Fire Faerie and someone will step forward to help you learn!

Gathering Facilitators

The Gathering Facilitators provide the internal management for the gathering. With circle input, the Coordinator drafts a timeline, invites other Faeries to help with gathering tasks, and ensures that the basics are being done throughout the gathering. These Faeries also often facilitate Morning Circles and Dinner Circles, and help coordinate announcements and activities. They offer information and advice to help Faeries take on other roles and responsibilities.

Faerie Godmothers/ Mediation Faeries

Faerie Godmothers offer information to less experienced Faeries. They may offer a brief tour of the house and land, and are on hand to answer any questions about where things are, how things work and other aspects of life at Folleterre. This role may also involve looking after the needs or challenges of individual faeries and acting as a facilitator between faeries who find themselves in conflict.

Pursekeeper / Money Goddesss

This Faerie collects income and receipts during the gathering, and organizes reimbursements if needed. They also calculate total number of 'Faerie Days' for the financial summary (by making a note of how many Faeries are at dinner each day). This Faerie is also responsible for completing the simple accounting records, getting excess cash deposited at Credit Mutuel Bank in Lure, and completing the financial summary at the end of the gathering. See also **Appendix 2: The Role of the Money Goddess During Gatherings**

Kitchen Goddess

The Kitchen Goddess orchestrates Kitchen Mums, and all aspects of food planning and purchasing. The Kitchen Goddess is not responsible for personally preparing meals, but facilitates willing Faeries to prepare meals that are nourishing to the body and soul. The Kitchen Goddess identifies any allergies or dietary requirements and helps Kitchen Mums to be aware of any problematic ingredients. They keep a check on the food inventory (including the garden and wild foods) and plan ahead to ensure ingredients are available and avoid last-minute shopping trips. See also **Appendix 3: Kitchen Goddess Guide**

Kitchen Mums and Kitchen Slaves

Each Lunch and Dinner needs a Mum (or co-Mums) to plan the menu and express their culinary flair, and ensure a menu which nourishes and is suitable for all dietary requirements. Slaves harken to the call of the Kitchen Mums and do their bidding (usually chopping vegetables). Mums and Slaves sign up for a single shift at a time, not for the whole gathering.

Dish-Dance Choreographer and Dish Dancers

Setting up the dish-washing station and ensuring there is enough hot water at the shower fire is an essential public health task! Dish Dancers usually sign up for a single shift at a time. The role of choreographer is to help enough faeries sign up for each shift, and to ensure they have all they need.

Clean-up Diva

Immediately after lunch, the kitchen usually needs a bit of a tidy. Cleaned pots and crockery need putting away to make room for the after-lunch washing up. Surfaces need cleaning and food needs putting away. Maybe the compost, cooked food or recycling needs to be taken away? The kitchen is now a delightful space for the Dinner Mums and Slaves to work their culinary magic! If the woodstove is being used, once every gathering, the inside needs to be cleaned (it needs a long time to cool down, and the top panels lift off for cleaning).

Breakfast and Beverage Babe

This is a role for an early riser. All Faeries are happiest when they have a good breakfast and an adequate supply of caffeine (or herbal beverages). First thing in the morning, give the kitchen a bit of a tidy and put out the breakfast supplies – cereals, bread, spreads, yogurt, bowls and spoons etc. Depending on the weather, maybe the woodstove needs lighting? Put the kettle on and make a pot of tea and a big pot of coffee (Faeries drink lots of coffee). Maybe you feel inspired to make some porridge or buckwheat for everyone? Often it's nice to have afternoon tea as well (16.00 is usually a good time): maybe make some beverages and find some biscuits or other sweet treats to serve.

Bridget the Fire Faerie

Bridget ensures butagas tanks are refilled at Colruyt in Melissey. They assess the wood inventory and ensure that there is enough wood, kindling etc. in the right places, cut to the right sizes for all the fires. They ensure that the bathing fire is lit every morning and afternoon so there is hot water for showers and dishes. The most important job for Bridget is often organizing fire-wood gathering: dry wood in piles is **ONLY** for burning inside the house stoves. Wood for bonfires and heating water must be gathered in the forest. In a busy gathering, this must be done every day.

Lavatory Attendant

Good toilet facilities are very important to keep both us and the land healthy. This Faerie shows their love for the gathering by ensuring the toilets are stocked daily with sawdust, fresh towels, toilet paper, hand-washing water and soap. They are responsible for checking on the composting schedule of the accessible toilet. They ensure that the hay in the pee stations is replaced once during the gathering, and that the old hay is fully removed and composted correctly. If sawdust is running low, they must organize a special trip to the Scierie to collect a large quantity of sawdust to refill our supply.

Garden Guru

This Faerie takes a beautiful moment each day to notice which crops, wild foods and flowers are ripe for harvesting. They liaise with the Kitchen Goddess and Mums to ensure the produce makes its way into our lunches and dinners. They also make sure that the lawns, paths and camping spots are mown at the beginning and end of each gathering (but make sure that the meadow and prairie are not mown before August). They also keep an eye on the garden and make sure it is watered and weeded if needed. This is a good task for a very experienced gardener or landworker, but it is also good for inexperienced faeries to join the Garden Guru and learn about how the garden at Folleterre works--workshop opportunity!

Queen of the Drag Closet

This delightful faerie keeps an eye on the state of the drag closet and helps prompt Faeries to remember to keep it tidy and beautiful at all times. They also help rescue any drag that might be forgotten in other parts of the house every morning, and put it away in the drag closet.

Pick-up and Drop-off Faeries

There are usually faeries with cars who are prepared to offer their chauffeuring services to the community. Remember: it is customary for drivers to be given a few euros (~5-10) for their petrol. Some drivers don't need this or don't ask for this. Others do. But there is a strong expectation for faeries to offer this money, and if they don't it is appropriate for drivers to ask for it.

Travel and Shopping Coordinator

This role involves helping faeries with getting to the land and leaving at the end of their visit. A coordinator does not need to have personal access to a car and is not a bus or taxi driver, but is responsible for coordinating pick-ups/ drop-offs at the train station. They liaise with the Kitchen Goddess to help coordinate these with shopping trips; and also with La Composta and La Launderette to efficiently coordinate car journeys for trash and laundry.

La Composta

This Faerie sets up trash, compost and recycling collection system and maintains the order of waste management throughout the gathering. This Faerie is responsible for ensuring that kitchen waste, wood ash and hay from pee stations are composted correctly; that the grease trap is cleaned; that cooked food and waste from the grease trap are burnt (or buried in the garden); and that trash and recycling are taken off the land during the gathering.

La Launderette

This Faerie checks the laundry pile and ensures that each gathering takes care of its washing. There is a Launderette in Lure and laundry can be coordinated with shopping or pick-ups. This Faerie also helps ensure that departing Faeries clear their beds and make it welcoming for the next visitor.

Gathering Records Keeper

This Faerie collects names and contact information (for those who are happy for their contact details to be distributed) throughout the gathering, and ensures the Gathering Contact List is sent to all participants after the gathering in a timely fashion. The List is also sent to the Treasurer. This Faerie also ensures that a Gathering Report is written and distributed online (Folleterre 06 email group and FaceBook group).

First Aid Faeries

If there are health-care workers on the land, it is good to identify them in case an emergency does happen. If health-care-worker faeries want a (much needed!) break from their profession--don't worry, another sensible faerie can take care of 99% of First Aid needs that arise on the land. First Aid Faeries can find all the information about local health care services in the **Faerie Phone Book**. Remember to ask faeries to check themselves for ticks--and be prepared to pull out a few for squeamish faeries who can't do it themselves.

First Aid Faeries should also promote the location of condoms and safe-sex information in the house. There is an HIV information service by phone in France, and **post-exposure-prophylaxis is available in Lure and Vesoul.**

Appendix 2: The Role of the Money Goddess During Gatherings

1. Collect contributions – You have to tell people at Practical Circle to give you their contributions. Make yourself available immediately after every circle, every day, to receive their contributions. The suggested contribution is 20 to 40 euro/day for gatherings, 10 to 20 euro /day for work weeks, and might be different for some specific gatherings. Remind faeries regularly. Tell them where to put the contributions. Count the contributions and put them in the Kitty. Try to convince people not to give you checks because they're difficult.

2. Reimburse shoppers – Get receipts from faeries who went shopping and reimburse them with the gathering's money. Or you might give them cash before they go shopping, but record this carefully.

3. Keep records – Use the Book-Keeping Notebook to write down contributions and expenses. Use the calculator to keep a running total, and then make sure the money in the Kitty is the same as what it's supposed to be. Get receipts and staple them in the Binder.

4. Send money to Lure – If there is more than 2000 € in the Kitty (or 1000 € at a small gathering), put it in an envelope and give it to a trusted faerie to take to Credit Mutuel in Lure. There is a "carte de dépôt" in the drawer so they can make a deposit easily. There is no code or PIN needed for the card.

5. Settle accounts – At the end of the gathering, remind people once more to make a contribution. Find out who still needs to be reimbursed and reimburse them. Tell me if someone needs to be reimbursed by bank transfer. Leave around 200 € in the Kitty and take the rest of the cash to Credit Mutuel.

Do not take cash home; this is how it gets lost.

6. Fill out a Cash Flow Summary – Add up all the contributions and expenses in each category. Take a picture with your phone and send it to Hyacinth, and leave the original in the Binder. If you do not have a smartphone, ask someone else to do this--it is important.

That's it! Ask a steward if you need help. Call Hyacinth at 01 42 26 69 91 or email me at archihyacinth@gmail.com

Appendix 3: Kitchen Goddess Guide

CONTENTS:

- 1 General Principles
- 2 Where does Folleterre food come from?
- 3 How to Shop
- 4 What to buy
- 5 Meal Planning and helping the Kitchen
- 6 Special diets
- 7 The Breakfast Barn
- 8 How to store food

General Principles

When it comes to food at Folleterre, here are your big 3 concerns:

Quantity – Do the kitchen teams know how much food to make? Is there enough stuff to make it with?

Variety – Is this stuff all the same? That's bad. There should be different kinds of stuff, like fruits, vegetables, grains, beans, oil and vinegar and spices, TVP... And there should be variety within each of those categories too so we're not eating the same fruit every day.

Budget – We can have nice things at Folleterre! But there are ways to keep quality high and food costs reasonable. The general rule is that ½ of contributions collected in cash go to the bank. Of course, if people will starve at your gathering, spend more than that.

That's it. Get stuff, get enough stuff, get different types of stuff, don't spend too much.

Don't go to the store more than you need to. It's work and if there's food at the house, then don't waste your afternoon getting someone's favorite thing. The kitchen needs to learn to use what's at Folleterre. We're faeries, we get creative instead of just buying stuff.

There are some other parts of the job, like working with kitchen teams and food storage. But you can't fail at this job – you're learning as you're going and you're doing wonderfully. Really, I think you're doing fine.

The rest of this guide is more practical information.

Where does Folleterre food come from?

Extensive information about local suppliers and markets including addresses, opening hours, directions, and of course phone numbers can be found in the **Faerie Phone Book**.

Base Bio – This is where those 5kg bags of grain come from. Some stewards put together a large order 2 or 3 times a year from this bio supplier and it gets delivered right to Folleterre. If the order is expected when you're organizing a gathering, expect several anxious calls from the faerie who placed the order. It's all paid for online, so just sign for it and put it away.

Morel Primeurs – Behind the E. LeClerc in Lure. This is where we get most of our fruits and vegetables. They're locally owned, they've always supply good quality vegetables, and they often give a discount if you call in the order in advance. Before leaving the house for grocery shopping, call them at **03 84 30 33 91** and ask for cases of various fruits and vegetables. Make a good list before you call.

Colruyt – Colruyt in Melissey is the closest supermarket to Folleterre. It is not a large shop, and they don't sell some products in the large quantities that we need. However, for small gatherings or for small shopping needs, it is all you need. Some of their basic products, like meusli, tomato paste, oil, milk and cheese products, 36-pk eggs etc. are good quality and sold at good prices. This is where we exchange our bottles of butane gas.

LeClerc – Part of the large Zone Industriel in Lure that can be accessed either through Lure or via Froideterre. This is where we get all the other food that we can't get elsewhere. Try to do a big shopping here the day before the gathering if one is needed. They sell some foods in large quantities and even have a section of "special diet" food like gluten free baking mixtures and "exotic" ingredients like coconut milk. Making a trip to LeClerc is a big production and difficult for faeries after quiet days on the land. Try to avoid shopping here repeatedly unless absolutely necessary.

Caput –The closest bakery to Folleterre is in Melisay and it is terrible. Another 10 minutes from Folleterre in the direction of Lure is Caput in St. Germain, and their bread is wonderful! There's also another Kaput next to the train station. They give you the 4th loaf free if you buy 3, so buy in multiples of 4.

Honey neighbors – Right at the bottom of the hill as the Route du Souvenir Francais intersects with the main road, turn left. Then turn left right away into the driveway of a house with a "MIEL" sign. Go up to these people's side door and give them money for buckets of locally-produced honey. They are shy people but they know us very well.

Eggs: La Coco sometimes has eggs. Buy them from her if she has them. They also sell eggs at the Depot Vente just East of Melissey.

How to Shop

Call Morel before you go so they can get the order ready. Find a French faerie if you need help with this.

Make a good list so you don't forget stuff, and figure out quantities before you go.

Find a driver. Make sure there's room in the car for the shopping.

Pick 1 or 2 stores to go to. If people want you to go elsewhere, say "no." Really, you will lose your whole day if you try to go to everyone's store. You can say no to the people who want tobacco, to the people who want tea tree oil (good luck finding that in Lure), to the people who want you to go to their favorite store to get their favorite thing.

Do a train station run if you can and if it's needed, though. That's actually helpful.

Talk to the Money Goddess to get the kitty. No one else will need it while you're gone.

Get a couple of shopping carts at LeClerc. No need for bags, you can just fill up the trunk of the car or the trailer and have faeries help you unload when you get back. Pay and keep the receipt.

Stop by Morel after going to the grocery store so that the fruit and vegetables aren't sitting in a hot car.

What to buy

If a bio order was placed for your gathering, then don't fear: no one will starve.

Groceries

Here is a good start on a **LeClerc shopping list**. It's not everything, but it's almost everything that people have come to expect at Folleterre.

Tea – We try to get good tea from the UK, but if supplies are gone then Earl Gray or "English Breakfast Tea" are necessary for some faeries' daily functioning. Twinings is popular from LeClerc; Lipton is not. Get enough for each faerie to have ½ a bag a day.

Coffee – We usually try to get this from Base Bio. If we didn't, Bio Village is nice and there are also some of those country-specific coffees at LeClerc. 150g per faerie per gathering (assuming a 7-10 day gathering).

Eggs – For large gatherings, cardboard trays of 30- or 36 eggs are best. There is a free range brand that is reasonably priced at LeClerc that sells in packs of 12. Be careful with these! Reserve them for baking and cooking where they are necessary. Store them carefully and out-of-view. Hard boiled eggs for breakfast can use up all your eggs in just a few minutes. ½ an egg per faerie per day is a good start.

Cheese – This is a big deal at Folleterre, because when meals fall apart (and it might happen), faeries run to the bread and cheese. I make sure to get the big 3 cheeses – camembert, emmental, and chevre –in equal proportions. ½ a package per faerie for the gathering should be enough. Eco+ cheese at LeClerc is too cheap for us. President (for camembert and emmental) and Soignan (for chevre) are ok brands. Also, get some other cheeses, hard cheeses like Romano and blue cheeses like Roquefort for variety and cooking. Very large bags of shredded emmenthal are really useful for making gratin and other tasty meals. Compare the per-kilo price of cheeses.

Rice – This is the only grain that we don't get at Base Bio. Comptoir du Graines (Camargue, basmati, jasmine) and Teureau Aile (risotto) are good brands at LeClerc. Get a bunch (10 kg is reasonable for a 1-week,

20-person gathering) and several different kinds. It's very popular. Buy plenty--sealed in packages it lasts a long time.

Milk – If the supply from the Base Bio order runs out. Bio Village at LeClerc has been cheap in the past. Warning! Do not get “Lait ecreme” – that's skim. Look for “Lait entire” or if you can't find it then “Lait demi-ecreme” ½ liter per faerie.

Soy/rice milk –If the supply from the Base Bio order runs out. Delisse and Bio Village are alright. Rice milk is more popular than soy (its full of sugar!). How much to get depends on how many dairy-fees you have.

Jam – Check supplies--sometimes we have lots of home-made or buy from La Coco or other neighbors. Bonne Maman is popular. ½ a small jar per faerie. Get a variety of flavors.

Sugar – Get a big, blue 5kg bag at LeClerc if you have baker faeries. Baker faeries like to work with granulated, white sugar. Other sugars are not necessary. Brown Sugar, Turbinado Sugar, and Cassonade, Agave Syrup and Honey are not healthier than white sugar. If no one is baking, get smaller bags.

Salt -- If the ordered salt runs out, then get 1kg bags of inexpensive sea salt. This is very important.

Flour – Get normal flour, at least 10kg. Other kinds of flour can be hard to find, but will usually be included in the Base Bio order. “Fleur de Jura” flour is good, regionally produced and available in 5kg bags at Colruyt.

Melange Patisserie Non-Gluten – The Yellow Bag, found in the organic aisle. This is expensive and difficult to cook with--only get what you need, if you definitely have faeries with celiac disease at the gathering.

Butter – Elle et Vire is a good brand. Buy large 500g blocks. 125g per faerie.

Non-dairy butter – Tournolive or St. Hubert. Warning! Check if it contains “BABEURRE” – that is a dairy product. There is no point in getting margarine with dairy in it; the vegans can't eat it and the non-vegans won't like it. ½ pack per non-dairy faerie.

Oil – Sunflower (Fruit d'Or) and Olive (Puget) are the 2 big ones, although someone might need Grapeseed oil for massages. 1/5 liter of each sunflower and olive oil per faerie per week. Colruyt brand extra-virgin olive oil is a good quality, multi-purpose oil. Peanut oil is also popular.

Raisins – Get a few bags. There are some OK brands at LeClerc. People like dry fruit for cooking and snacking and raisins are priced right.

Nuts – Depends on your budget and the season. Sometimes they can be way too expensive. For this reason, we order large quantities of sunflower seeds from Base Bio. Consider walnuts or peanuts that are still in the shells so that they are consumed more consciously. Careful.

Chocolate. Bio Village is good if you don't want to deal with a variety of flavors and everyone is always happy with bio. It's cheaper than Lindt, but Lindt is better. Eco+ and Cote d'Or are too cheap for faeries.

Cocoa. VanHouten cocoa powder is available at Colruyt, and best quality. A chocolate cake or chocolatey dessert is easier to share and lasts much longer than chocolate bars.

Vegetables

Morel Primeurs shopping list – Call in your order. This way the faerie picking it up won't forget anything. The first 4 are the staples, then you'll want to get other stuff for variety.

Bananas. Get a case (18 kg). Any more and they'll probably go bad, but faeries do like bananas.

Apples. Another case (10 kg), maybe 2 depending on the size of the gathering. Avoid bio apples – if the faeries at your gathering won't eat non-bio apples, then there are bananas.

Potatoes. Good as a grain substitute. Ask if Spunta potatoes are in season. Otherwise get 20 kilograms of a good, versatile potato.

Onions. Get 1 to 3 bags, depending on the size of your gathering. Onions are universal.

Salad stuff. Lettuce or cabbage or whatever. Just make sure it looks clean when you buy it – cleaning salad at Folleterre is the worst.

Carrots. A case is enough.

Other fruit and vegetable. When I make a list, I'll usually write something like “4 more cases of whatever.” This because quantity and variety are more important than any specific fruit or vegetable. Look at what's in season, cheap, and pretty.

Bread

Caput shopping list – We eat about ½ a baguette per faerie per day. If someone is going to Lure, ask them to pick up 1 baguette per person (so 30 if there are 30 faeries at the gathering) and we can eat day-old bread.

Meal Planning and helping the Kitchen

First, get the kitchen pick a grain. Soup and salad meals don't work at Folleterre; we're moving a lot. So get a grain going so that faeries aren't bothering the next kitchen crew to finish early. (Here, a "grain" is anything high in carbs, like rice, pasta, polenta, potatoes, lentils, beans, buckwheat, bread, millet.... Remember that quinoa is watered with the blood of puppies.)

We eat about 1kg per 12-15 people, depending on how much other stuff there is.

If you're making something with wheat (pasta, bulgur, couscous, bread), you'll probably need a gluten-free grain. We often have gluten-free pasta, but rice can work as well.

Second, encourage the kitchen to incorporate some vegetables. Maybe they're already in whatever they wants to make. Maybe a salad would be nice.

Third, think protein. TVP is our best friend – soak it for 10 minutes then saute to get rid of the weird flavor. It can make convincing hamburger with soy sauce and olive oil.

Fourth, make sure the kitchen knows when to start. Depending on the size of the gathering, dinner should start either right after lunch or maybe as late as 5 PM.

Fifth, suggest making a dessert if the kitchen doesn't seem overwhelmed. They're not necessary, just nice.

Help the kitchen keep it simple. Many people aren't used to cooking for these numbers and will want to start at 5PM and make a fancy 6-course meal. What's easiest is giant pots of something (chili, soup, lentils...). It's OK for the kitchen to make something easy – cooking for large groups is already hard.

Special diets

They're not hard to handle with a little preparation and flexibility.

Keep a list in the kitchen and tell people on the first day of the gathering to check it to make sure it's accurate.

Over the last few years, I found it helpful to divide the list up into 4 major categories: no gluten, no soy sauce, no dairy, and vegan. (I also have room at the bottom for allergies and other restrictions.). Yes, soy sauce contains gluten, but asking the gluten-frees about soy sauce can show who's really strict and who's not.

Now, understand the diets.

- Vegans eat no dairy, no eggs, and no honey. Vegans who cheat will eat some of those things, but it's not our place to judge.
- Dairy-free means no cheese, milk, butter, or yogurt. Some can handle butter or yogurt, and some can eat dairy if you just tell them in advance (there's a pill for this).
- Gluten is found in many grains, like wheat, barley, spelt, and rye. Oats can be contaminated in France so French faeries might insist that there's gluten in them, but there's not. Base Bio's oats aren't contaminated. Soy sauce contains wheat, and therefore gluten. Beer contains either barley or wheat, and so it has gluten too. If someone has celiac disease, make sure that the same spoon isn't used to stir the normal version and the gluten-free version.

Communicate with the kitchen. If someone has a really weird diet, ask them! They're usually happy to help.

The Breakfast Barn

Any gathering with over 20 people should have a separate space for people to eat breakfast and to make snacks, otherwise they will bother the kitchen. This does not have to be in the area we call "the Breakfast Barn." It can be in the Breezeway or elsewhere. It just can't be in the kitchen.

Here's what this area absolutely needs:

- Water – at least one 35-liter bidon.
- Something to heat water – A gas burner, the old stove...

- Coffee and tea
- Coffee and tea stuff (milk, sugar, tea strainers, coffee filters...)

As you can see, the main use for the Breakfast Barn is coffee and tea. If there are more than 40 faeries on the land, be sure to get everything related to coffee and tea out of the kitchen. Announce at Practical Circle that there is to be no coffee and tea making in the kitchen. People will complain. Your kitchen crews will thank you.

Here's some other stuff that's nice for a Breakfast Barn.

- Bread and cheese, in case the meals are bad
- Fruit, so people don't have to look for it in the cellar or the wet barn
- Jam, honey, peanut butter....
- Left-overs
- Yogurt
- Paper towels
- Cups, spoons, knives...

How to store food

This has become a problem the last few years at Folleterre.

Any food left exposed anywhere, at any time can draw pests:

The dormice like fruit but will eat anything else left out if they get hungry.

The mice live outside and will come visit if food is left out consistently.

The little yellow birds will get at the butter on the windowsill.

The bees and wasps will go after jam or honey left open or a messy table in the breakfast barn.

The flies are their own problem in the kitchen.

Ideally, leftovers will be covered and stored in the cellar, fruit will be stored in those big plastic bins that snap shut, and grains will be stored in the cabinets and the cabinets will be closed tight.

Dirty dishes should not be left out for animals to clean---faeries should do the dishes regularly and pick them up wherever they see them.

We are working on solutions for the flies--screens for the kitchen windows. This can be a major problem at a gathering.

Ask for help if you need it. You should not be the only person putting food away after meals. At the practical circle every day---remind faeries that all food needs to be put away and cleaned up when they are finished with it.

When mice and other rodents come into the house after our food (we don't really mind in the end a few nibbles), the real problem is that they eat the wood and wires, damaging the house, and they like to make nests in our beds and blankets, ruining them and contaminating them with urine and shit.

Food storage--and cleaning up all dirty dishes immediately-- is an important job for everyone to keep the sanctuary clean and sanitary.

Appendix 4: Sample Welcome Email

Summer Gathering 2022
Intentions and Practical Information

Dearest sweet faerie,

We are the two faeries who are facilitating the summer gathering, Hyacinth and Foxie, and we're delighted that you're coming!

We would like to share with you our basic intentions and feelings, as well as some practical information about life at a gathering. We hope you enjoy it and feel free to contact us if you need to know anything specific. You can reach Hyacinth at archihyacinth@gmail.com and Foxie at commeunphoque@openmailbox.org

Intentions for the Summer Gathering

Folleterre is a "pink lighthouse" where queers develop their special gifts and explore the relationship between sexuality and spirit. It aims to provide a place of safety, refuge, and inspiration – a home for an ever-growing family of kindred souls.

We invite you this summer to join in the great spiral of love, creativity, exploration, glitter, and fun. Let us listen and speak from our hearts. Let our stories enrich and inspire each other. Let us share your glowing beauty and soft tenderness. Let us breathe and eat and sing and blossom together. Let us shine in every colorful facet of our beings! We invite you to come and celebrate our faerie selves, creating community, enjoying, and giving to and receiving from each other.

Folleterre is not a hierarchy. As organizers, we help to plan and prepare the gathering and facilitate daily life, but we do not direct or decide what the community does. On the other hand, we all try to learn and consider each other's feelings in order to function as a community, knowing that not every desire can be satisfied.

A gathering is a co-created event where faeries come together to make a temporary community. The community requires daily participation from everyone. The Summer Gathering is our big gathering each year, the one with the most faeries. It can be loud and exciting, with quiet moments of peace and tranquility.

We organize on a daily basis. Every day we meet for the Morning Circle, where we decide what we will do that day and who will do various glamorous jobs like dishes, cooking, being fabulous, wood-collecting, cleaning... We eat the noon and evening meals together. Faeries bring ideas and materials for workshops, like massage, meditation, dance, music, drag, art, healing, radical living.... We create rituals together at the opening and closing of the gathering, and any time in between for magic. Feel free to create your own and bring ideas – we love to share and help realize each other's visions.

Heart circle is offered on a regular basis. Heart circle is the center of how we create love and community at Folleterre. This process, which follows a few guidelines, allows us to express our feelings and listen to other faeries' feelings with our hearts, without fear of judgment.

We also have fun! We might practice yoga, sun bathe, craft, cook, sing, drum, sit around the fire, talk, meditate, play board games, eat chocolate, take a bath, build a Love Temple, go hiking, kiss cute faeries....

Theme

Early August is the beginning of the harvest season. Fruits are dripping, grains are hard, berries are tumescent with... juice. It's time to harvest love, to play in the fields, to crawl in the grass, to climb trees, to celebrate the bounty, to wallow in the profusion of magic, talent, no talent, food, water (hopefully), drag, creativity, laughter, tears, emotions, sensuality, rhythms, and condoms. We invite all participants to bring ideas for creating harvest celebrations through this summer gathering. What have you planted that is coming to maturity? What did you cultivate that you want to share? Workshops? Stories? Skills? Recipes? Songs? Projects? Conversations? Wigs?

Summer Gathering Events

Every gathering is different and it is up to us (yes, you too, darling!) to decide what we want to do. Here are some things we usually do at the Summer Gathering that we like, and we're suggesting a new one too. The dates are just suggestions to help people plan; they are totally open for discussion.

Opening/Closing Rituals – August 1 and August 9, after dinner

While there are always rituals going on at Folleterre and anyone is welcome to create one whenever they want, two rituals that we know will happen are the Opening and the Closing Rituals. Come for both if you can.

Auction – August 3, after dinner

Each year we have an auction to raise funds for a specific project. It's a safe evening where you and your fellow faeries can offer goods and services to be sold to the highest bidder, this year with a commitment to economic solidarity. Bring something for the auction, bid on other people's donations, or just enjoy the show.

Harvest Day – August 5, depends on weather

Oh my goddesses everyfaerie, we're going to have a day to celebrate the harvest! We (as in you and me and 50-some of our newest friends) will draw on harvest festivals for ideas for rituals and games and projects to celebrate the abundance of the summer. Think Lughnasadh with glitter. Think Thanksgiving with a gluten-free tofurky. Think Lamas celebrated by dressing up as llamas. Think of various Harvest Moon festivals from around the world but earlier because we're not rescheduling the Summer Gathering. It's going to be fierce.

The No Talent Show – Sunday, August 7, after dinner

This is your chance to sing or act or read poetry or do whatever you always wanted to do in front of an audience... and we'll like it! No talent required.

How we live

Extensive practical information can be found on Folleterre's website:

<http://www.folleterre.org/visit/>

Sleeping

The most comfortable way to visit Folleterre is by planning to camp on the land in a tent. There are numerous beautiful corners to pitch a tent on the land, and having a private place on the land to retreat to from the noise of a gathering can be helpful. Bringing your own, rainproof tent is encouraged, but there are always some extras on the land to borrow.

Noise

Faeries can make a lot of noise when gathered together! Consider others and the time of day before you pick up a drum and be respectful of the people sleeping in the barn.

This is also a reason to consider sleeping in a tent. Snoring, talking, walking, and other noises that are normally acceptable at night can be heard from the other side of the barn.

Privacy

There is limited privacy at Folleterre, especially during large gatherings like the Summer Gathering. If you need your own space that will not be disturbed by others, we strongly recommend bringing a tent.

Eating

Food at gatherings is strictly vegetarian, and vegan options are available. If you have a dietary restriction or allergy, make sure that we know about it. The region around Folleterre does not have many grocery options, so we may need time to prepare. Remember that we are all volunteering our energy to create food together; if you are worried that we may not be able to meet your dietary needs, consider bringing some of your own food.

Water

Clean drinking water is available on tap in the kitchen and at the dish-washing area. It is high quality and was just tested last year. If our local source runs dry, we get water from the community source in Ternuay.

Weather

It can be as low as 7 or 8 degrees at night at Folleterre, even in August. It often rains. Bring warm clothes, good shoes or boots, and rain-proof clothes.

Cars

We have a small parking lot at Folleterre. It is immediately to the right as you enter the trail to go up to the house. We also ask that people park in the parking lot and walk up to the house instead of driving up to the house to prevent further erosion of that trail.

Drugs, smoking, and alcohol

We would like everyone to be aware that not all faeries have the same relationship with alcohol and that having alcohol present and visible may make some faeries uncomfortable. Alcohol will be discussed at the beginning of the gathering. In the meantime, do not assume that Folleterre will provide alcohol or create a bar. Last year, people who wanted to drink brought their own alcohol, and this system worked nicely.

We ask that smoking take place away from the house (not in the breezeway or on the couch in front of the entrance) because the wind blows it all into the house and up to where people with various allergies sleep. If you smoke, please protect the land and place your cigarette butts in the garbage. If you don't, another faerie will have to.

Gatherings are our time for community creation, so be aware of how the consumption of certain substances affects the faerie community.

Physical and mental health care

The nearest doctors and pharmacists to Folleterre are over 20 minutes away by driving and have limited hours. Bring all the medication you will need for your entire stay.

Accessibility

Many faeries living with disabilities come to Folleterre each year, and we are happy to work with faeries to make this shared space something everyone can live with.

That said, there are things that will not change before this summer. Folleterre is in a rustic setting and its outdoor surfaces are neither flat nor smooth. The barn has some narrow doors, unfinished floors, and steps between most rooms. Some indoor spaces are upstairs. We have some electricity from solar panels, but it is not guaranteed. Faerie space is run on a somewhat chaotic schedule where time is easily forgotten.

We are happy to talk about accessibility issues to see if you can come to Folleterre.

Money

This gathering is happening thanks to the contributions of hundreds of faeries who have come to Folleterre in past years. Contributions make the land available for faeries in the future.

While we try to do as much as we can ourselves in our hugs-and-kisses-based economy, Folleterre still needs money to pay the mortgage, pay for the food and other gathering expenses, and to maintain the house and the land. The bank and the grocery store do not accept knitted hats, blow jobs, and lentil soup in lieu of money (oh, how we would be rich if they did!).

Folleterre gathers money at gatherings. We suggest a contribution of 15 to 40 euro a day.

No one is turned away for lack of funds. If you can't contribute financially, that's OK! We love you and we want to see you this summer. Also, if 15 euro is too much but you can still contribute, any amount that you can give is welcome.

You can contribute in cash or you can pay via wire transfer in advance. Transfers made in advance help us prepare for the gathering.

Bank transfer works best; PayPal and TransferWise also work.

Les Amis de Folleterre, Banque Cr dit Mutuel, 4 rue Henri Lebrun, 70800 St.Loup-sur-Semouse, France. A/c no. 00020076201. Banque 10278. Cle 60. Guichet 07861.

IBAN: FR76 1027 8078 6100 0200 7620 160

BIC (SWIFT code): CMCIFR2A

Memo: THE NAME OF THE GATHERING

Getting to Folleterre

Our address:

Les Amis de Folleterre

35 Route Souvenir Fran ais

la Montagne

70270 Ternuay-Melay-St. Hilaire

France

Telephone 03384638940 (or 00 33 384638940 if outside France)

Getting here by road

Take the D486 from either Lure or Le Thilot. Head to the village of Ternuay-Melay-et-St-Hilaire. Take for the Route du Souvenir Fran ais (also known as the 'Route de la Montagne'). If you're heading north from Lure, the route will be on the right, just before you leave the village. If you're heading south from Le Thilot, the route will be at the start of the village, on your left.

Go up the Route du Souvenir/de la Montagne for about 3km. You'll pass two houses on the left. Suddenly the main route will swing to the right, but there is a little lane in front of you which continues up the ridge in a straight line. This is Les Groulots.

A little way up that lane, there is a telephone pole, and faerie signpost. Welcome to Folleterre! The parking is immediately to your right and the house is 200m ahead!

GPS coordinates: 47.782764, 6.670415 –or- +47° 46' 57.95", +6° 40' 13.49"

And a Google map: <http://goo.gl/maps/ByliZ>

Getting here by public transport

Travelling to Folleterre is usually done via the town of Lure, about 20km away.

There are several direct trains each day from Paris to Lure that leave from the Gare de l'Est train station. A ticket costs 55 euro, but tickets purchased online and in advance can be as low as 15 euro.

You can also get to Lure from Basel SBB station. You must change trains at Mulhouse Ville and/or Belfort. Single tickets cost around €15.

What to Bring

- Flashlight (Very important! It gets dark early at Folleterre and there are not many lights!)
- Rainproof tent
- Sleeping bag
- Towel
- Biodegradable soap and toothpaste (we have some if you can't find it)
- Outdoor, practical shoes
- Jacket or sweater – Clothes for cold weather (even in August)
- Colorful and/or comfortable clothing
- Everyday drag
- Drag to leave at Folleterre
- Raincoat & waterproof boots
- National health care card/information
- Medications
- Musical instruments and art supplies
- Things for workshops you want to organize or participate in
- Goods and services to donate to the auction

Appendix 5: Suggestions about Aftercare

A Faerie Gathering is an event, a moment in time. It happens, and then it's over, and we return to our lives.

But ripples (and maybe waves) ensue, and if we are very lucky, our normal patterns are disrupted.

In the brief time of a few hours or days before normality reasserts itself is a golden opportunity to metaphorically re-set the bones of our being, and to nourish ourselves at a deep level.

Here are some ways to help that happen.

- Firstly: avoid negativity. Don't read newspapers, watch the news, and stay away from social media.. Avoid confrontations and negative people. And don't watch or read about violence or other disturbing things.
- Choose that which is nourishing and comforting and supportive. Challenges and opportunities for growth can come later.
- Spend time in nature: long walks, lying downs, inhalations of greenery.. If you have access to it, go to it. Now is an opportunity to connect more of your regular human consciousness with the natural world that you're part of.
- Treat yourself excellently: stay hydrated, eat well, luxuriate in lovely baths and showers, read for pleasure, cuddle up with blankets and pillows and stuffed animals, and go to bed early and/or sleep in.. This is a time to step up your self-care game, and to bask in and receive your own care and love for yourself.
- Clear your aura: with sea or rock salt baths, spritzing yourself with cleansing aromatherapy/essence sprays, smudging with sage or resin incense, spending time in nature, using sound. Don't rely on mental imaginations for this self-cleansing. You're clearing out the gunk of the day, and your life, and the world – it takes more than a brief flicker on the scrolling news ticker of your thinking mind to unburden yourself energetically, or to shift things internally.
- Commune with your inner world: journal, write poems, write anything. Draw, sketch, scribble, paint. Dance, move, pretend you're a tree, unleash your inner interpretive dancer! Give yourself the time you need to experience and swim in the waters of your own being. This is really what it's all about – no angels, no animal guides, no transmissions. Just feeling your feelings, and letting them express as they want to.

You may also want to consider having regular (or semi regular) body work, to help release trauma from your physical body and to help ground more life force into your body, and/or psychotherapy, to help you emotionally and psychologically transform and grow. Healing can help also, and is complementary to all of these things.

Appendix 6: Heart Circle Guidance

Heart Circle Guidance

1. A talisman is passed around the circle. Whoever has the talisman has the opportunity to share.
2. At the beginning of each sharing the person holding the talisman says their name and this is repeated back by the circle as an affirmation of the love and mutual support being held by the circle.

3. One person shares at a time whilst the circle listens with empathic awareness. In this way heart circle is different to a normal conversation, with no direct response to sharing's being required, although something offered into the circle may resonate with you and affect your own subsequent sharing.
4. Heart circle is a sacred space to reflect on what is alive in you in this present moment, connecting with your feelings, needs and emotions.
5. You are encouraged to own your own statements by using 'I' and 'my'. Notice if you begin to drift into using 'you', and 'we' and bring yourself back to being the central character in your story, personalising your sharing.
6. You are invited to consider using nonviolent communication to take responsibility for your own feelings and emotions. An example of this could be "when I heard this poem by 'A' I felt angry", rather than saying "your poem made me angry". Others may help to create the conditions that trigger an emotional reaction in us but the nature of that reaction is ours to own and take responsibility for. Emotions, either happy or sad are a sign that our needs may or may not be being met. Heart circle is a wonderful opportunity to explore and more fully understand these needs.
7. You may say nothing when the talisman is offered to you. Allow yourself time to be present with the feelings that do come up and take a moment before passing it on. You can also express yourself through song, dance, movement or anything else that feels like a direct expression of where you are in this moment.
8. During the circle you may hear something that resonates with you. As a way of expressing this we make a 'ssssss' sound.
9. You can use any language of your choice, especially in multi lingual circles. You can also request a translation if there are willing translators in the circle.
10. During someone's sharing it's important to allow them their personal space to fully be with their own experience, whether that is tears or laughter. We can offer comfort and cuddles from the circle after a sharing has finished.
11. Everything that is said in heart circle is CONFIDENTIAL. If you'd like to talk about something that was said in the circle with that person afterwards you can ask them if they would be able to talk about this issue with you. Please respect that this is a request and the answer could be a no. It is inappropriate to talk about any other people's sharing's, unless you have the explicit consent of those who were present to do so.
12. Following this guidance all the Hearts of the Circle are connected in a sacred intimacy of trust, truth and compassion.