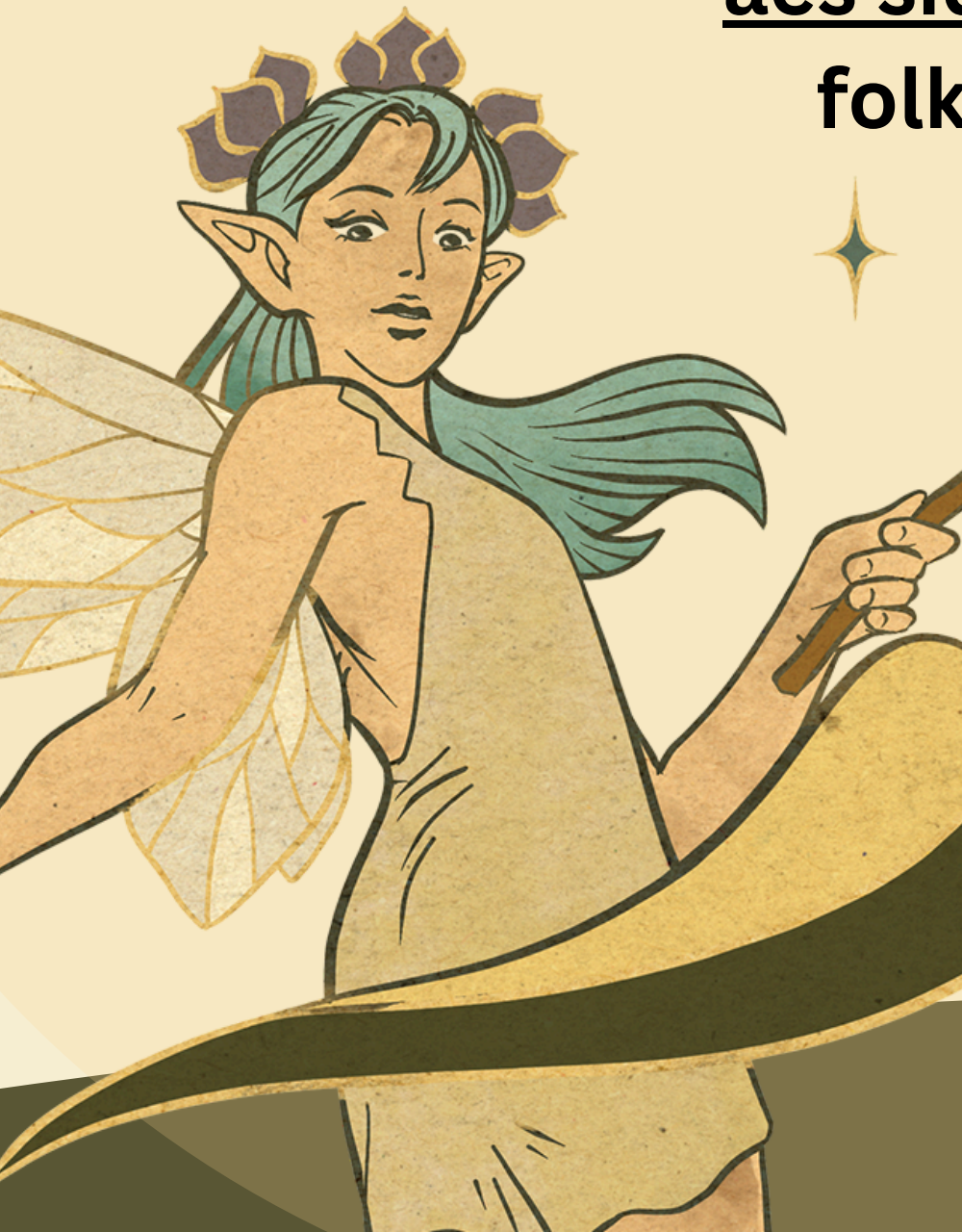


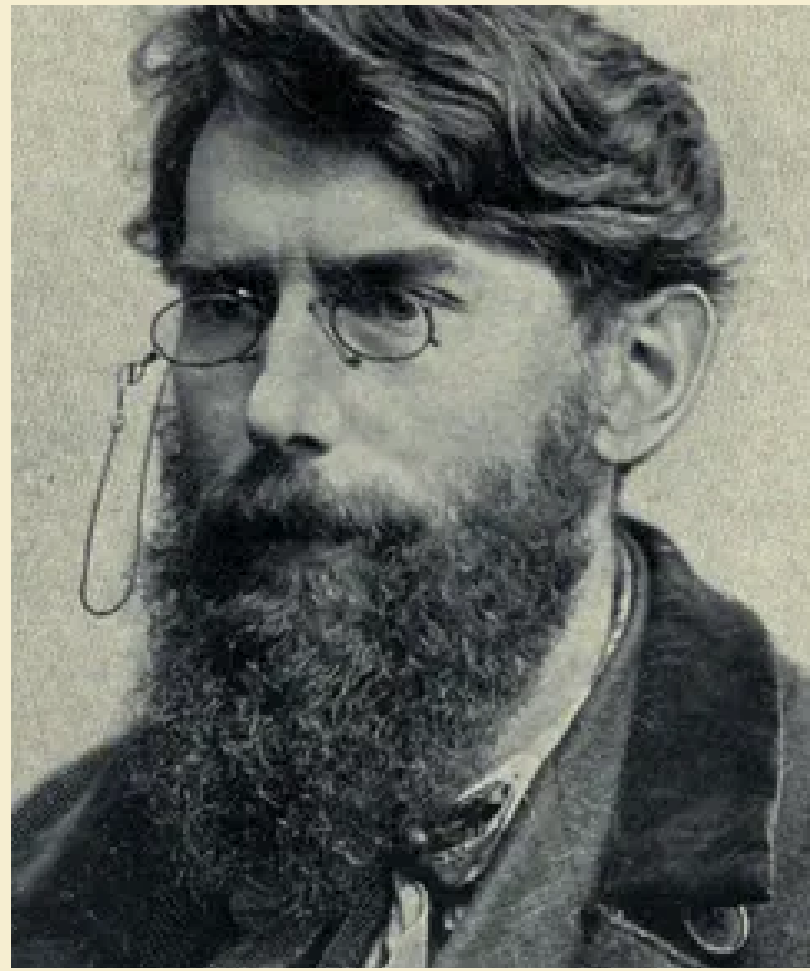
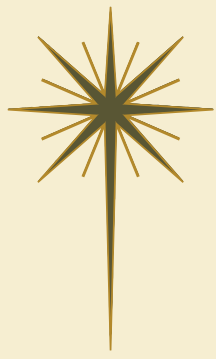


The Dusty Bluebell
FAIRY FESTIVAL

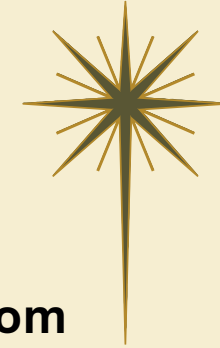


The Tuatha Dé Danann as depicted in John Duncan's Riders of the Sidhe (1911). The Tuatha Dé Danann eventually became the aes sídhe, the sídhe-folk or "fairies" of later folklore. (source:- John Duncan (1911))





Source: britannica.com



George William Russell the Lurgan born artist and writer, later known by his pseudonym Æ (AE) (1867-1935). In his work, ‘Song and its Fountains’, AE Russell recounted a profound early experience of enchantment in Lurgan Park, he described

“When (I was) about four or five years of age beauty first dawned on me. I had strayed into a park, and I remembered how I lay flat on grass overcome by some enchantment flickering about a clump of daffodils’ - near the lime trees in the demesne. This moment left a lasting impression on him and is considered his first vision.

This early encounter with nature's magic deeply influenced Russell's later work as a poet, painter, and mystic. His writings often explore themes of nature, spirituality, and the unseen realms, reflecting the impact of his childhood experiences in Lurgan.



The Stolen Child by George William Russell (Æ)

Source:-Armagh County Museum Collection

A Call of the Sidhe

By George William Russell (Æ)

TARRY thou yet, late lingerer in the twilight's glory:
Gay are the hills with song: earth's faery children leave
More dim abodes to roam the primrose-hearted eve,
Opening their glimmering lips to breathe some wondrous story.

Hush, not a whisper! Let your heart alone go dreaming.
Dream unto dream may pass: deep in the heart alone
Murmurs the Mighty One his solemn undertone.
Canst thou not see adown the silver cloudland streaming
Rivers of faery light, dewdrop on dewdrop falling,
Star-fire of silver flames, lighting the dark beneath?
And what enraptured hosts burn on the dusky heath!
Come thou away with them, for Heaven to Earth is calling.

These are Earth's voice—her answer—spirits thronging.
Come to the Land of Youth: the trees grown heavy there
Drop on the purple wave the starry fruit they bear.
Drink: the immortal waters quench the spirit's longing.

Art thou not now, bright one, all sorrow past, in elation,
Made young with joy, grown brother-hearted with the vast,
Whither thy spirit wending flits the dim stars past
Unto the Light of Lights in burning adoration

Published in 1913

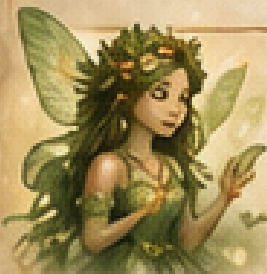
This poem is a testament to Russell's deep connection with Irish mythology and his ability to weave the mystical elements of the Sidhe into his work.



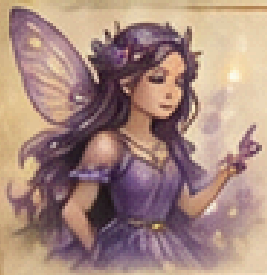
Dusty's Fairy Tree Quest

6pm-7pm

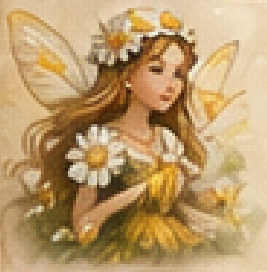
Find our Fairy Guardians and they will give you an Enchanted Woolly Wonder Wishing Thread – collect all the wishing Threads to help you on your way to becoming a **Honorary Fairy**



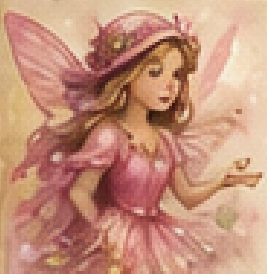
Whimsy Willow,
keeper of the woodland whispers.
Whimsy grants you
a seed of Hope



Penelope Purple
Guardian of the moonlit paths.
Penelope grants you
a dollop of courage



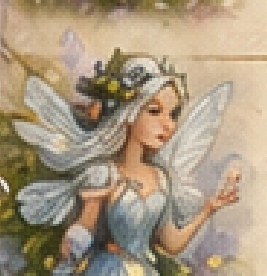
Daisy Dewdrop,
fairy of friendly Daisy flowers,
Daisy grants you
a drop of sunshine Joy



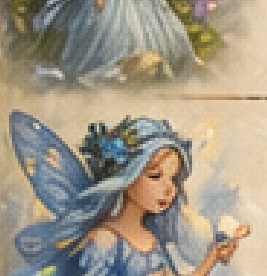
Velvet Vera
Furry-Winkle weaver of
magic and kindness.
Velvet grants you
a fluff of friendship



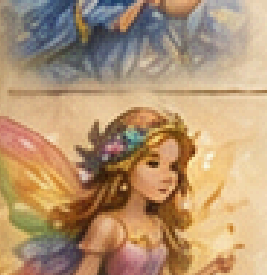
Tilly Toadstool
fairy of fungi and
sparkling stars.
Tilly grants you
a sprinkle of wonder



Sadie Silvermist
guardian of the
morning mists.
Sadie grants you
a pearl of wisdom



Fairy Godmother Blue Bell,
guardian of the spring.
Blue Bell grants you
a Glow of Kindness



Flora Fun-i-kins
the merriest fairy in
the meadow.
Flora grants you
a rainbow of happiness



Join the quest
to find the Fairy Protectors
& become an amazing
Honorary Fairy

♥ Collect a woolly wonder
wishing Thread from
each fairy protector you meet

♥ When your wrist is wrapped
in the colours of magic

✿ Make your way to the
Ancient Fairy Tree,

★ Meet Bardy Red Beard,
listen to his story –

🍄 Take part in a special
Fairy Ceremony to become
an amazing Honorary Fairy,

🌸 To finish your Quest
Find Fairy Godmother Dusty &
Make a fairy wish under her
enchanted wishing crown

🍭 Finish your Quest by
finding the way to the
Candy Floss Station
(Candy Floss £2)

At the Ancient Fairy Tree



you will meet
Red Beard Bard,
the wizard of
enchanted tales and
the only Wizard to have
the power to bestow
the Title of
Honorary Fairies
to Children,
Listen to a story and
take part in the
Honorary Fairy
Ceremony

FINISH

your Quest at the
fairy candy floss station
(£2)



With all your Threads upon your wrist

Find Danu Queen of the Fairies
with her crown, Fairy Ears and
wings that shimmer like morning sun
she reigns over Fairy realm with grace,
wisdom and a deep connection to
the earth

♥ Stop with Danu show her your
bracelets and she will direct
your path onwards to the
ancient Fairy tree

Along the way you may or
may not? :) encounter
Tadhg Oakheart,
the disappearing Druid -
Poet and storyteller of
ancient wisdom,
he carries the story's of the
Tuatha De Dannan,
passed down through
generations,
he will tell you how Fairies
came to be in Ireland,
sometimes he's here,
sometimes he's there,
somewhere? Maybe?



Fairy's love to dance and eat all things sweet

so as you are now a
Honorary Fairy

Find Fairy God Mother Dusty –
guardian of blue bell wood
and who guides & protects
fairy friends through
the blue bell woods

- make a fairy wish under
her wishing crown
- learn the enchanted
circle song - In and out
the Dusty Blue Bells



Congratulations

on becoming an
Amazing Honorary FAIRY



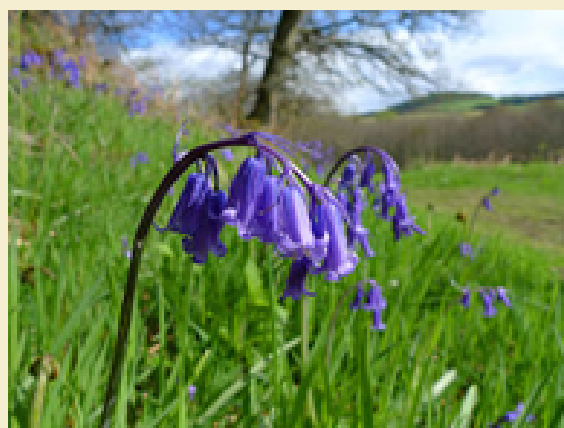
In and Out the Dusty Blue Bells

The first noting of the rhyme/song is by Alice Gomme in 1898 in her book *The Traditional Games of England, Scotland, and Ireland*.

The author Karen Maitland has speculated that the song might be a reference to folklore about bluebells, in particular that a bluebell wood in bloom was seen as an enchanted place where fairies lived. A child who picked bluebells alone could be spirited away (mastered) by the fairy folk. Even an adult who ventured into a bluebell wood by themselves was in danger of being led by pixies to wander round and round, unable to find their way out unless someone else entered the wood thereby breaking the enchantment. This folklore may originate in the poisonous nature of the bluebell bulb which can kill if eaten.

Bluebells are highly poisonous, and when not in flower the bulbs can be easily mistaken for ramsons or wild garlic, which often grows in the same habitat, so the warning that you might never leave the bluebell wood if you ate anything there was probably sound advice.

The circle game was popular with children in the sixties, with the only difference being that Master was replaced with partner.



**"In and out the dusty bluebells,
In and out the dusty bluebells,
In and out the dusty bluebells,
Who will be my master?/partner**

**Tipper-ipper-apper on your shoulder
Tipper-ipper-apper on your shoulder
Tipper-ipper-apper on your shoulder
I am your master now."/I will be your Partner**

There is much speculation about the age of this song. A group of country children in the 1900's reported that 'the master' in the song was the sinister Fairy King, who like the pied piper, would lead unwary children dancing into the underworld, from which there was no return. It is interesting that Edwardian children were still aware of the ancient superstition.

'In And Out The Dusty Bluebells' by Karen Maitland

Lurgan Townscape Heritage Scheme



We at the Lurgan Townscape Heritage Scheme (Lurgan TH) are proud to support The Dusty Bluebell Fairy Festival.

The Lurgan TH is a heritage led building regeneration scheme that is funded joined by the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and property owners



Since the scheme commenced in October 2018, ten previously derelict historic properties within the Lurgan town centre have been or are in the process of being repaired, refurbished and restored creating sixteen accommodation units, four retail units and new office and meeting spaces.



Complimentary activities and events programme has also sought to raise awareness of Lurgan's rich heritage, while promoting the efforts of the local community to increase pride in the town. In pursuit of this aim, the Lurgan TH has to date partnered with over 60 community, educational and statutory organisations to deliver 170+ activities, courses, events and workshops which have engaged over 36,000 people.



Knitted Knockers of Northern Ireland have been one of those community partners and over eight years we have worked together to increase knowledge of the group's work through film productions and the support of community fundraising festivals like The Dusty Bluebell Fairy Festival. The group's knitting prowess has also been used to showcase the historical craft of textile embroidery and production for which Lurgan was famous, through the facilitation of workshops that have created everything from Christmas gnomes to embroidered linen handkerchiefs.



As the Lurgan TH scheme draws to a close this year we wish the Knitted Knockers well in its vital work which helps to provide so much physical and emotional comfort for people enduring challenging times.

Further details on the Lurgan Townscape Heritage scheme can be found at:

www.lurgantownscapeheritage.com

IN THE LEAD UP TO
**International
FAIRY DAY
MAY**

**Friday Enchanted
Fairy Evenings**

FAIRY CREATIVE & SOCIAL EVENINGS

Creativity ✦ Connection ✦ Magic ✦ Make New Friends
Relax ✦ Laugh ✦ Be Inspired ✦ A Little Fairy Dust

FRIDAY
**8TH
MAY**

Floral Fairy Lights

Create your own magical
fairy light garland
filled with flowers & sparkle



FRIDAY
**15TH
MAY**



*Fairy House
Paint N Sip*

Paint your own fairy house
& enjoy a sip on us!



FRIDAY
**22ND
MAY**

Jewellery Making

Design & make your own
magical fairy jewellery
to treasure



**BRING YOUR
OWN BOTTLE**

Sip, relax &
enjoy the magic
together!

RELAX
CREATE
CONNECT

THE DUSTY BLUE BELL

80-82 High Street, Lurgan BT66

7:00PM - 9:00PM

♥ BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY! ♥

EVENTBRITE LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/enchanted-floral-fairy-lights-tickets-1988286993922?aff=oddtcreator>

♥ Come for the creativity, stay for the magic! ♥