

Alison Whitfield

Alison Whitfield, also known as the White Witch of Clayton, is a Claytoner through and through. Her family has lived and worked within the village for generations. Her grandparents ran the old mace on Barnes Street fifty-five years ago, and her parents owned a chip shop on the square.

Alison, like any child her age, would investigate the local area, with her mum warning her to stay away from the local canals and river or Jenny (Ginny) Green-Teeth would drag her in. She told me about the Folklore of the Green River Hag that was used as a cautionary tale for children and remembered how much it had scared her. She explained that the people around here are quite superstitious and referred to the history of Pendle as the cause.

As a pagan based so close to Pendle Hill and the history of the Pendle Witches, Alison has chosen to provide Witch Walks with her friend under the name 'Walking With The Witches.'

However, her interest in Pendle doesn't stop there. Alison has been working with local archaeologists from Burnley to investigate and excavate the surrounding areas, finding Celtic burials from the Iron Age and a Bronze Age settlement at Castor Cliff in Colne.

When describing what she was doing, she said that she had found that Archaeologists don't seem to be interested in what they've found, they only seem bothered with happenings down south.'

Alison surrounds herself with people of similar interests. She told me about her friend who is researching different goddesses and their timelines. She explained that around the time of the hunter-gatherer, people would worship a Moon Goddess. There are also known to be certain areas around Pendle that align with the moon at significant points of the year.

It was fascinating listening to Alison. I found out about her love of exotic animals that she keeps as pets. Tarantulas, snakes, and a cute Axolotl called Darwin. Her love of graveyards and her ghost-hunting adventures. I was very lucky to hear a ghost voice recording that she captured in a churchyard.

It was a pleasure to speak to Alison, with her friendly persona and head full of such interesting facts. I wish I'd had more time to pick her brain. Before she left, I asked her one last question. 'What's the best advice you've ever been given?' Instantly, she replied with a laugh, 'Don't eat yellow snow.'