

## CHK5: Guide To Starting A Kindred



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The original, unedited document is attached as an appendix. Small edits have been made to the original for the sake of brevity, grammar, and nicer formatting, so that the sections read better.

## 1 Introduction From The Original Author (Hamish Cronin)

Should you find that there is no kindred in your local area, then why not be the first to start your very own! All of the kindreds who are members of the confederation have similar start-up stories to this!

This guide is exactly that, **a guide**. This is not the only way to set up a kindred, just advice on perhaps an easier way to do so. We speak with experience, rather than with authority.

The best way (we feel) to get the most out of being a heathen is to be a part of a like-minded community or Kindred. From the very serious Blots, to the more informal Sumbels, the fantastic socialising, and having some of the greatest friends, our Kindred makes our spiritual lives complete.

## 2 Who Are We?

We (Essex and Hertfordshire Kindred) write this with experience of running a Kindred that spans two counties, where we have gone from having four of us at a moot at the beginning of our creation, to an online presence of more than 100 members (sometimes reaching 30 or more at in person moots, our most popular being Yule). Our moots run monthly and there is no sign of that letting up. If we know we can help someone get off the ground, I will take that opportunity, so here is our advice.

## 3 What Is A Kindred

Human beings are a tribal species, we excel in a team that works as a single functioning entity rather than just individuals. Simply look to our ancestors for proof of that, and all other cultures across history. Whether you plan to do very serious Blots, more informal Sumbels, or anything in-between, having a kindred provides fantastic social and spiritual opportunities. A kindred can make a spiritual life complete.

Before you go creating a Facebook group, though, you need to decide where you want to be located, and what kind of people you want in your kindred.

Having a county-wide kindred worked best for us. The reason is that you have the chance of attracting far more people than by limiting yourself to a town, city or village, but you don't have to travel as far as if your kindred spanned an entire region! Then there is an opportunity to travel the county, perhaps to places you would never have visited otherwise.

Think of a name and create a Facebook group (or other social media group). Create a clear set of rules for the group and then simply start advertising. Post it in groups across the web and get talking to people. Eventually, you'll find that people are joining you who have heard about your kindred through word of mouth.

Once you get a number of people you're comfortable with, organise a moot (an informal local gathering). Arrange a time and a place, and turn up. Even if only one or two other people turn up then you're on a roll. Build on it from here, be consistent, every month organise a different moot. It can be good to travel all over the county to locations near your members. This promotes inclusivity, and will in turn encourage people to travel to you.

These moots can be just a casual sit down in a pub, getting to know each other, as well as learning about each other's paths. After a few months (if not sooner, but don't rush it!) try conducting Sumbels and other rituals with your now-established kindred. These can and will evolve over time.

## 4 Optional Structure of a Kindred

In our opinion, having a structure helps the kindred become organised. With people having roles within the kindred, it helps to prevent the group from stagnating and dying out. We believe every kindred needs the following:

- **Organiser:** To organise moots (We chose the title 'Jar!' in our kindred).
- **Gothi/Gythia:** To assist with the spiritual side of things, conduct blots and other rituals. Selected by the community.
- **A Bannerman/Flag-bearer:** Having a banner will help to give your kindred a unique identity, and a more personal feel. The Bannerman can be elected to look after the banner.

Having a clear structure in your kindred is essential to maintain a strong group, otherwise things can rapidly descend into chaos and fracturing.

Most of all, the best ingredient is consistency. Keep it up and don't stop, otherwise your kindred may fall apart. Even if you do not wish to employ the

structure mentioned above, a group of heathens meeting monthly and having a chat is a fantastic thing all on its own.

## 5 Summary

To summarise this guide:

1. Think of a location and a name
2. Start a group
3. Advertise
4. Organise a moot
5. Carry on organising moots
6. Elect a Gothi/Gythia
7. Create a banner
8. Start getting organised
9. Enjoy your time. Its one of the most rewarding things I've done

I hope you have found this helpful. Feel free to contact the Confederation of UK Heathen Kindreds if you want any help starting a kindred, or already have an established kindred and would like to apply to join the Confederation.

## 6 Original Unedited Guide from Essex and Herts

Confederation Guide to starting a Kindred

Written by Hamish Cronin of Essex and Hertfordshire Kindred.

### Introduction

Should you find that there is no kindred in your local area then why not be the first to make your very own! This is how all the kindreds we have registered with the Confederation started after all.

This guide is not telling people how to do things but more of a help if people want to start their own Kindred. We speak with experience rather than authority.

The best way, for us, to get the most out of being a heathen is being part of a community or Kindred. From the very serious blots to the more informal sunbels and the fantastic socialising to having some of the best friends, our Kindred makes our spiritual lives complete.

Who are we?

We write this with experience of running a two county wide Kindred where we've gone from having four of us at a moot at the begging of our creation to an online presence over 100 members and often reaching 30 or more at in person moots. Our most popular being Yule. Our moots run monthly and there is no sign of that letting up. If we know we can help someone get off their feet I will take that opportunity, so here it is.

A Kindred

Kindreds. Human beings are a tribal species, we excel in a team that works as one functioning entity rather than individuals, just look to our ancestors for proof as well as all other cultures. Whether you plan to do very serious blots or more informal sunbels it all provides fantastic socialising opportunities and to make some of the best friends you can have, the Kindred makes a spiritual life complete.

Before you go creating a Facebook group though, you need to decide where you want to be based and what kind of people you want to attract. What do we think is best? County wide. Why? It's simple, you have the chance of attracting more people and also there is an opportunity to travel around the county. You can even end up in places you would never have gone to otherwise.

Think of a name, create a Facebook group. Create a clear set of rules for the group and then simple, start advertising. Post it in groups over the net and get talking to people; eventually you'll get people joining you who have heard about it through word of mouth.

Once you get a number of people you're comfortable with, could be three or could be thirty, organise a moot. Select a location and turn up. Even if only one or two other people turn up then you're on a roll. Build on it from here, be consistent, every month organise a different moot travelling all over the county to locations near your members, this helps you be inclusive and will in turn get people to travel to you.

These moots can be just a casual sit down in a pub, getting to know each other as well as learning. After a few months (if not sooner but don't rush it) try conducting sunbels and other rituals with your kin. These can and will evolve over time.

Optional Structure of a Kindred

In our opinion having a structure helps the kindred become organised and with people having roles within the kindred helps prevent the group stagnating and dying out. We believe every Kindred needs the following:

Organiser; to organise moots (Our kindreds chose the title Jarl),

Gothi/Gythia; to assist with the spiritual side of things, conduct blots and other rituals. The Gothi/Gythia is selected by the community.

A banner; This helps your kindred feel unique and gives it an identity. A bannerman can be elected to look after this.

Structure; You want your group to be organised otherwise there is chaos and no clear goal.

Most of all, the best ingredient is consistency. Keep it up and don't stop otherwise your Kindred will die. Even if you do not wish to have the structure I mentioned above, a group of heathens meeting monthly and having a chat is a fantastic thing.

So in basic bullet points:

1. Think of location
2. Start a group
3. Advertise
4. Organise a moot
5. Carry on organising moots
6. Elect a Gothi
7. Create a banner
8. Start getting organised
9. Enjoy your time. Its one of the most rewarding things I've done

I hope you have found this helpful. Feel free to message a member of the Confederation or drop an email to us if you want any help or already have an established kindred and would like to apply to join the Confederation.

Written by  
Hamish Cronin, Jarl the of Essex and Hertfordshire Kindred