A large bonfire of sticks and branches is burning brightly at night. Sparks are flying upwards from the fire, creating a trail of light against the dark, cloudy sky. The fire is the central focus, casting a warm glow on the surrounding dark ground and vegetation.

join the WILD HEARTH
in a collective exploration of

WINTERING

A unique invitation to join 13 people around the hearth
for a 3-month exploration of what it means '*to winter*',
on lovingly stewarded land 5 miles south of Bristol.

A three month nature-based exploration on the theme of 'wintering'

This is a unique invitation to join us in a collective journey of 'wintering'. Together as a small community, and in deep connection with nature and all its wild beings, we will explore what it means to truly honour this season that is so often overlooked.

To integrate the harvests of summer and cultivate wisdom, marking thresholds and navigating the darker months in community.

To tend to endings and let die or compost those things that are no longer needed.

To reach a state of dormancy and notice our dreams before preparing for the return of the light.

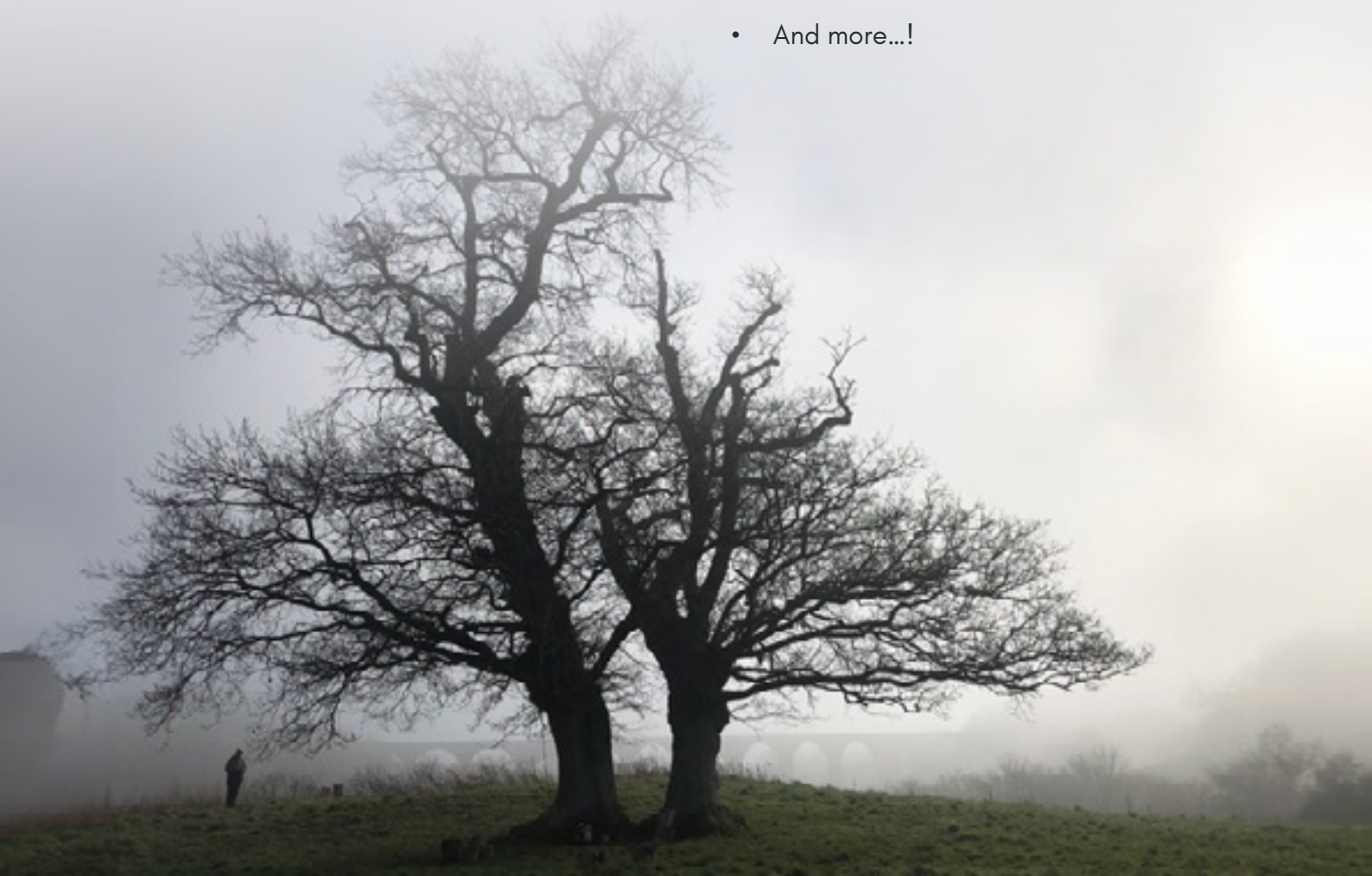
Over five gatherings between the Celtic festivals of Samhain and Imbolc, we will gather on an exquisite patch of lovingly stewarded land 5 miles from central Bristol.

Together, we will co-create a programme that allows space for emergence and contributions from the people who feel called to join us.

With just 13 seats around the fire, this will be an intimate group and there will be ample opportunity to share your gifts, as well as receive from others.

Some questions we wish to explore:

- In a culture obsessed with productivity and focus, what might it mean 'to winter'?
- Which things in us, and in the wider world are going to need to die to make way for the new, and how might we tend to this process?
- How might we find inspiration from and build a reciprocal relationship with nature and the 'more than human' world during our journey?
- And more...!



Why wintering?

We are cyclical beings. But our dominant modern culture works in a linear way. We've become disconnected from nature. Living in towns and cities, sheltered from the elements in our centrally-heated homes, it's all too easy to forget to notice the seasons as they shift.

Nature works in regenerative cycles, meaning the Winter is no less important than the Summer, the night is no less important than the day. But many of us forget this. How often we wish away the dark and the rain, enduring their inconvenience as we await the return of the warm Summer days.

As the leaves fall from the trees and the nights draw in, once again nature reminds us it is time to let go of what no longer serves us. To go inward, to hibernate, to dream and turn our minds to the seeds we may wish to plant for the Spring.

With mental health issues, loneliness and disconnection at an all time high – could it be that by tending to the darker times, we can begin to chart a new course for ourselves, our lives and the way we relate to each other? Perhaps, might we even sow the seeds of tomorrow in our wider culture, and begin to usher in the elusive future which Charles Eisenstein famously named 'the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible'?

“The times are urgent; let us slow down”

– BAYO AKOMOLAFE



Practicalities

Where

A secret wild location in Pensford, five miles from Bristol. Accessible by bus – and we will facilitate lift sharing.

Dates for our wintering gatherings

- Friday 1st November 2024
- Wednesday 27th November 2024
- Wednesday 18th December 2024
- Wednesday 15th January 2025
- Saturday 1st February 2025

When:

10am – 4pm

Additional events (optional)

There will also be wider community events on 1st November (Samhain ceremony and feast), 21st December (Winter Solstice dawn lantern walk to Stanton Drew Stone Circle) and 1st February (Imbolc ceremony and feast) which you are warmly invited to attend with friends and family.

Investment

£575

What you get

- Participation in all 5 full day Wintering gatherings
- Meals and refreshments during the gatherings
- Access to warm indoor space in our cosy yurt with wood burner
- Invitation to community events marking seasonal thresholds
- Access to the land for solo or family time, encompassing wetland, woodland and a riverside rewilding haven
- Ongoing community support through shared Whatsapp group and additional emergent offerings

Note: We have priced this in reflection of land costs, food, refreshments, the time and energy that is required to create and hold this process for a season in a supportive and regenerative way without us as organisers burning out. Whilst we believe this offering is unique, we have benchmarked against similar journeys, courses and retreats. If cost is a barrier to you but you feel a ‘full body yes’ for participating, we are interested to hear from you as we are offering one discounted space and welcome other offers of energy exchange.

This is for you if...

- You can make all the dates for all five gatherings
- You are comfortable with emergence rather than rigid structure
- You wish to get away from screens and immerse yourself in nature
- You feel called towards slowing down and grounding yourself in a nurturing community this Winter
- You are curious to explore how regenerative, nature-based approaches can inform your life and the wider world

How to apply

- Please fill out this [Google form](#)
- Please go into a space in nature and record a voicenote (5-10 mins), telling us why you feel called to join and what you might wish to explore in a journey of 'wintering'. Then email it to thewilderkin@gmail.com

Note: With capacity limited to 13 seats around the fire we unfortunately will not be able to offer a space to everyone, and encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

Who are we?

We are '**The Wilder Kin**', a small group of curious people, who took part in a nature-based residency called 'Earthed' in 2023.

Over six months, we returned every few weeks to the same place in nature, a 25-acre farm in Pensford, 5 miles from central Bristol, which will be our home for this Wintering journey. We shared our hearts' longings, spent time on the land, under the trees and by the river, ate together, held ceremonies to mark seasonal thresholds, and built a deep community through exploration of more regenerative ways of being and working. We felt an immense benefit in our lives from stepping away from screens and into relationship with wild space, from slowing down, listening and taking inspiration from each other and the 'more than human' world.

We now wish to invite others into this space to share in what we have created, and continue to evolve and deepen our community.

Our skills and interests include a wide range of practices and modalities including: sustainability and regeneration, the art of mentoring and 8 Shields, rewilding, permaculture, rites of passage, nature facilitation, regenerative leadership, community building, warm data, ritual and ceremony, the wheel of the year and much more.

Jessica Ferrow

Mother, nature facilitator, matrescence guide, poet, sustainability geek, celebrant-in-waiting.

Sally Wilding

Wild ally, mother, 8 Shields apprentice, permaculturist, regenerative farmer, rewilder, educator, song carrier, emergent ceremonialist.

Juliet Daye

Soul-Cabin for daughters, meta-crisis nerd, warm-data host, community-experimenter, system coach, facilitator, artist.

Ella Saltmarshe

Ancestor in training, mother, time-traveller, earthling.

Heather Knight

Regenerative creative, visual storyteller and amplifier for the emergent paradigm, wild being.

And finally...

We hope you will join us to explore relationship with river, tree, raven, wren; listen for the lessons on the harsh but wise Winter wind; warm your toes in the yurt by the fire as we share our stories; allow yourself to be nourished by companionship, drawn from the deep well of dark treasures awaiting us all to discover together. Come and winter with us.

Sally, Jessica, Heather, Ella, Juliet