



Bringing our community together
Kin Hill February newsletter 2026

GREETINGS FROM FROZEN FEB!

Welcome to the first edition of our now monthly newsletter!! The twisting turning wheel of the year is creaking towards spring, Lulu with her keen eyes has spotted many a rising bird in the bushes and there seems to be no rest from the headlines. We have been thinking about dancing, prancing, veg bed making, green house glazing and general preparation for the growing season and year ahead.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Want to come join our stroll through spring? Here's what's coming up:

Community Day

Saturday 18th April
10 am - 4 pm

Join us for a day filled with nature, friends and food - including a guided walk of our semi-ancient woodland.

VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS

We've launched our 2026 volunteer scheme! If you'd like to learn some new land based and nature connection skills, gain new experiences in community living and have two or more weeks to spare, get in touch with us.

Spoon Club

2nd Sunday of every month
For the carvers, whittlers, wood lovers and crafters, spend the day around the fire in company making the things you love. Please contact us, for more information.

WORKSHOPS

Exciting plans afoot at Kin Hill to share our skills and passions! Stay tuned in to our newsletters for further updates.



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?



FAT HERDY OUR STAR
RAFFLE PRIZE



FREYA MODELS
CEILIDH WHALEY

Community Ceilidh

Our second year hosting our fantastic Valentines Ceilidh - and our first year in the atmosphere of the Dacre Hall. It was a beautiful night where the whole community turned out to participate in the chaos of the ceildhos led by the wonderful Tailgate busker.

Highlights included our favourite dances - Strip the Willow and the Cumberland Square Eight (we are Cumberland loyalists of course!), our raffle with hand-made prizes overseen by Ceilidh Whaley (we sold 150 raffle tickets - that's 1.5 strips per attendee!), the hand-made decorations and Wonky Stars (led by Anna Paramor), and of course the delicious food - thank you Echo Events!



January Community Day



Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky (Khalil Gibran)- and the theme of January's Community Day! Planting, pruning, liberating from plastic growing tubes, we showed some love to our tree friends in return for all that they do and teach us, as well as successfully team problem solving after we accidentally took Jimmy for a bog bath he didn't want.

Resplendent Jimmy basking in the sun (if he was dating this surely would be his profile photo??)

P.s. check out our lunchtime spread by pizza king Josh and salad queen Lulu!

Wassail

Wassail the trees so that this year they bear, many an apple and many a pear!

Our day aptly ended with a wassail to our orchard- a riotous singing, dancing and banging of noisy things. It is traditionally done on one of the 12th nights (5th or 17th Jan) to wish orchards well for the year ahead. Dusk is a preferred time for such merry making, as this is when the human and spirit world are said to overlap- apple eating spirits, be gone!



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

Celebrating the seasons



IMBOLC

Meaning in the belly, Imbolc, marks the midway point between Winter and Spring Equinoxes. It offers us the opportunity to notice what seeds we are sowing and intend to grow in the coming year. To refresh shoots of intention and tend to them when they need attention.

Imbolc is St. Brigid day, the goddess of fire and hearth, so to mark the festival, we lit our first fire in our newly made fire pit. The full moon this year landed on the same day as Imbolc – those avid moon watchers will know that a full moon rises at the same time as the sun sets – and so these first flames accidentally found themselves in alignment with that mirroring rising and setting of full moon and sun.

The maiden of Summer and Spring - Bridgid is also a patron of poetry, so in the dusk light, we read poems to each other as we crafted Brigit cross's from rush's harvested from the land. Here we share a poem written by Lulu.



Lewis took this hare photo on his phone!!

12th October 2020
Indigenous People's Day
by Lulu Guinness

May I dig in
to learn
what this land loves.

May I dig in to over turn
this fallen forgetting
into the ripe remembering of
our ancient future

May I dig in
to plant myself
in this soil
receive this rain
soak in this sun
revolve, evolve
with the earth
as our seasons cycle.

May I dig in,
grow multiple
roots that tap
the dark,

to experience
and understand
the unseen.

May I dig in
to stand tall,
to sing with joy
what can't be spoken,
to set seed and return
what is given in love.

May I dig in
to become
indigenous.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

GSD Wins



Every Tuesday, the residents of Kin Hill work on the land together. We call it GSD - Get!! Stuff!! Done!! Some wins this month have included welcoming shiny new things-Anna's fabulous fire pit, painting our glorious second greenhouse, (soon to be) bountiful veg beds and hot to trot horse manure palace (to feed our veg beds well!), hedge laying and having a good old clean up for the year ahead

Craft on the Hill



Byrd !!

Our February spotlight is the god father of spoon club. Many have learnt the art of the spoon from him and I have a feeling many more are fated to fall into the hands of our master carver.

FRIENDS OF THE HILL SPOTLIGHT

Ophelia Appleby portraits

Ophelia's work captures and enhances the minutest expressions but also the imprints of what has gone before, the experience that is held in the eyes (and beard) of a man who has seen many years, her grandmother in a constant state of remembering and forgetting as she deals with dementia or the care in the cuts in the orange of her father as he makes another batch of marmalade. Enjoy...



FATHER MAKING MARMALADE

@opheliaapplebypainter



FRIENDS OF THE HILL SPOTLIGHT

Ophelia Appleby



PETER IND



A LAST LOOK