

Kin Hill Summer 2026

Newsletter

Greetings readers to the Kin Hill Summer Newsletter!

Turns out it takes quite a bit of effort to put them together so apologies for them not being monthly as promised previously.

A lot has happened since last time!

Celebrations

Beltane Celebrations

Early in may we celebrated Beltane, an ancient Celtic celebration that marks the beginning of summer, between the spring equinox and the summer solstice.

Beltane is celebrated at sunset with a sacred fire being lit to bring in fertility, healing and transformation.

Following Beltane traditions, after we had lit the fire we took it in turns to announce something we'd like to leave in our past and something we'd like to usher into our future, then leap over the flames. A little scary but very fun.

After this we performed a mummers play, a more recent addition to Beltane celebrations. It was completely ridiculous in the most entertaining way. Check out our costumes!



The Wedding

Towards the end of May we had the first ever wedding party on the land for members of the community, Bird and Freya. It was a brilliant day of celebrating love and partnership with food, music, readings, dancing and a few drinks too.



Before the day could get underway though there was lots of work to be done. Fields mowed, marquees repaired and erected, campsite prepared, compost toilets built, fire pit area built, stage setup and put in place, beers brewed, roles organised and booking the two brilliant bands that entertained everyone.

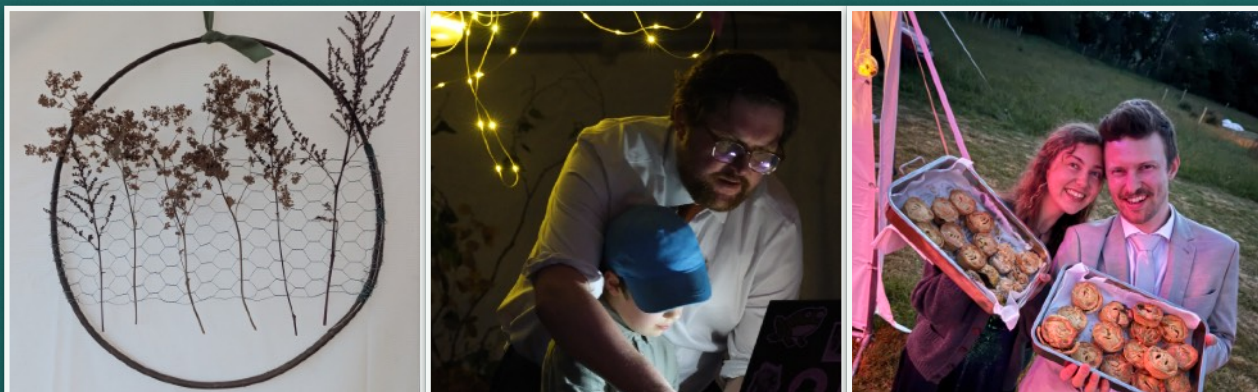


It was a huge effort by Bird and Freya with help from everyone in the community plus friends of kin hill coming to chip in, help out and lend us stuff for the big day. A big thank you to everyone involved.

On the actual day Asha was the master of ceremonies, bringing us together in this celebration with readings, anecdotes and welcoming others to the stage to share their memories of Bird and Freya. The venue was decorated with beautiful woven willow pieces by B&F's friend Monika.

Catering was done by local company Echo Events who kept everyone full and happy with a delicious array of vegan food from canapé's to curry. Beers for the bar were brewed by Josh. We enjoyed music by the brilliant Spoon Club, Lewis' band along with friends of Kin Hill Callum and Ophelia. Later local ceilidh band Mazurka took to the stage and got everyone up Caeilidh-ing. Then Stuart Robinson took to the DJ spot and kept everyone grooving into the night.

It was a joyous day had by all.



If you're interested in any of these things above for your own event then please get in touch via our email and if we can, we'll direct you to the right people.



Trees

Learning about trees in Wales

In March we took our first trip as a full community and went to visit Friend of Kin Hill, Ruth. She taught us all about Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) whilst walking around her woodland in north Wales. CCF is a low impact way of intentionally planting woodland for use as building materials and firewood whilst also sustaining a habitat for other creatures. We are hoping to bring back this knowledge and implement it in the future at Kin Hill.

Whilst in Wales, we also visited what is possibly one of the oldest trees in the world, the Llangernyw Yew, alleged to be between 4,000 and 5,000 years old.

It was a magnificent tree and we spent some time exploring its branches and admiring the strange ways it was growing.



Hazel Coppicing and new orchard

We've been planting lots of new hazel trees that extend along the border of our semi-ancient woodland, these are the start of our coppicing plans, another system of regenerative yet productive tree agriculture, allowing you to take what you need for materials from the trees whilst the hazel grove remains healthy.

We've also started planting a new orchard near the new compost loo's (built as part of the wedding prep). Apples, cherries, walnuts and greengages are what we have so far and are hoping to expand this.

Wider community

We've had 2 Community days since the last newsletter. Community days are when members of the public come and help out with projects around the land, get to know our community a little better and have a joint lunch together, if you're interested about coming to the next one visit kinhill.co.uk for more details.

The first community day was focussed on wood chipping and lots of it! We hired a quite scary looking but necessary wood chipping machine to process some of our coppiced wood and create wood chip to mulch our veg beds. This is super useful to create pathways, to stop weeds from growing on the paths and into the veg bed and for mulching around our trees.

For the second community day there were lots of projects. Applying insulating render to the farmhouse using eco friendly breathable materials, weeding in the veg garden including digging up loads of teasels that we then transplanted to make a few different teasel patches! More weeding of the garden hedge, scrubbing the raft on the lake so it wasn't slippery anymore and creating a frame for our new kiwi plant to grow along!



Events

Supper and song

Supper and song is part of an annual event showcasing local talent. A wonderful evening combining music and food in the beautiful setting of Lanercost priory. Asha co-hosted with Ophelia (local artist extraordinaire) in collaboration with echo events. She also performed (In her band **LAM**).

Musicians took to the stage to entertain, with music from folk to ambient electronica. Delicious food was provided by Echo Events, a brilliant night was had by all.



Exhibition

Running along side Supper and Song was an exhibition in Dacre Hall (next to the priory) featuring beautiful black and white portrait photos taken by Thomas. Thomas also created a camera obscura, essentially

turning a room into the inner chamber of a camera where people could see the realtime image of outside projected on the wall.



Beer and Pizza Night

Josh and Chloe hosted Beer and Pizza night. Chloe was busy slinging home made pizza from the portable wood fired oven and Josh had brewed up a storm of various beers. We cleared a part of one of our fields to create a lovely beer garden with pub benches recently built by Bird and Freya. A lovely evening of food and drink set to views of the hay bales and the Pennine hills.



Cyanotype Workshop

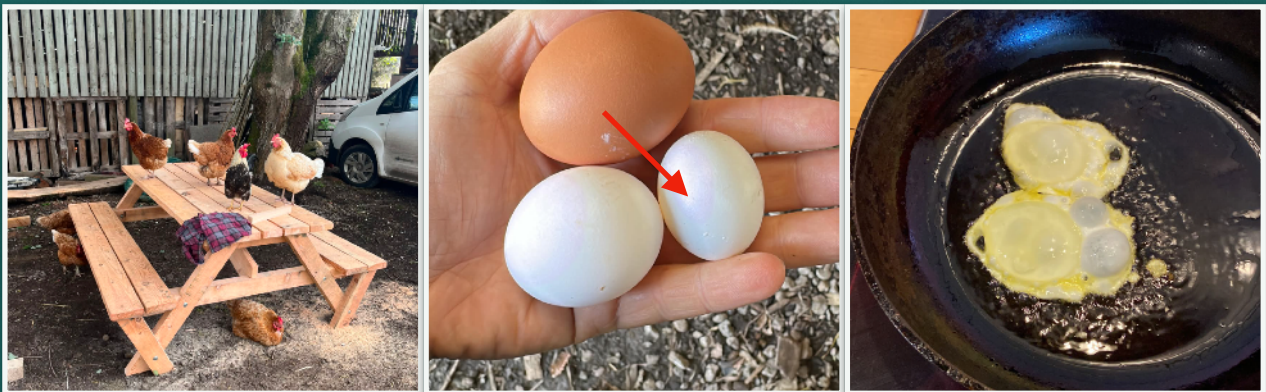
The first workshop to be held by Kin Hill Community was delivered by Lulu in our lovely studio space. Guiding participants through the art of cyanotypes, one of the earliest forms of photography, to create monochromatic blue tinged images.



Discoveries

Did you know it's possible for chickens to lay an egg with no yolk at all? We discovered this recently when we tried frying what we assumed was just a very small egg. Further research showed us that historically these have been referred to as Wind Eggs, Witch Eggs or Cock Eggs, as they were thought to be laid by cockerels. According to superstition if left these eggs would hatch a Cockatrice, a fearsome serpent which could kill with its evil stare. This could be avoided by throwing the wind egg over your house!

By the way, in honour of the yolkless egg we named our booze-less beer, wind egg



What's coming up...

Fermentation Workshop

On Sept 12th we are hosting our first fermentation workshop.

This workshop is a hands-on exploration of the microbial world of fermentation. We'll be delving into the ancient practise of lacto-fermenting vegetables and brewing probiotic tonic beverages. We'll give you the skills to confidently create your own fermented foods and beverages, full of gut-healthy vitality, at a fraction of the cost of store bought versions. Lunch included.

Spoon Club and Community Days

Please check kinhill.co.uk for any upcoming community days and also get in touch if you'd like to come to our monthly Spoon Carving Club.