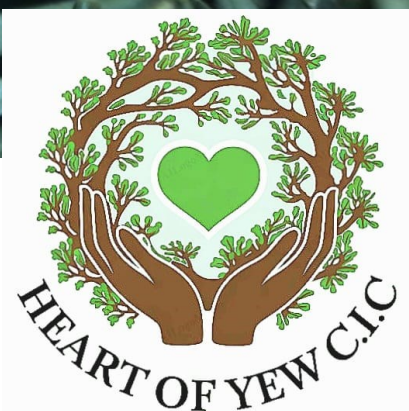


# HEART OF YEW

a druid community  
handbook



# HEART OF YEW

## welcome home...

Four times a year, at the sacred turning points of the seasons, members of Heart of Yew, Druidry, and their friends gather to celebrate as a community. Together, we create Druid retreats & other celebrations that are both safe and sacred—places where we learn to live in harmony with one another, the land, and the life that surrounds us.

For one fleeting yet powerful week, we share in the experience of living, eating, and sleeping as a community. Though temporary, the bonds of trust and friendship we weave—so deeply valued in Druidry—make these gatherings feel like a true homecoming. Here, we discover and express our most authentic selves, sharing laughter and joy, challenges and frustrations, love and creativity with both old friends and new.

The magic of this space is as rich and varied as life itself. From peeling potatoes and scrubbing pans to dancing wildly to the beat of the drum, we embrace it all. Expect masks, mischief, and mayhem alongside moments of stillness, silence, and deep spirituality. In the heart of nature, we celebrate the fullness of our humanity.

## THE HEART OF YEW TEAM

# DRUID RETREATS & EVENTS

At Heart of Yew, our retreats and gatherings offer a space to step away from the demands of everyday life and reconnect with nature, community, and the wisdom of the land. Rooted in Druidic tradition, our events provide an opportunity for deep reflection, spiritual exploration, and meaningful connections with like-minded souls.

## druid retreats

Our Druid retreats are immersive experiences designed to nourish the soul. Set in sacred natural spaces, these retreats weave together ceremony, storytelling, meditation, and practical wisdom. Whether you are new to Druidry or have walked this path for years, our retreats provide a safe and sacred environment to explore your journey. Expect moments of quiet contemplation, shared laughter, and the simple joy of being in nature.

## seasonal events

Through out the year, we gather to celebrate the Wheel of the Year at our seasonal Events These gatherings blend ritual, creativity, and community living, marking the turning points of the seasons with shared meals, ceremonies, and workshops. Each camp has its own unique atmosphere, from the quiet reflection of **imboic** to the fiery passion of **beltain**, the abundance of **lughnasadh**, and the deep ancestral connections of **samhain**.

## what to expect

At all Heart of Yew events, you will find a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, where people of all backgrounds and levels of experience can come together in shared purpose. Whether you are attending a retreat, a seasonal camp, or a day event, you can expect:

- A deep connection to nature and the changing seasons
- Rituals and ceremonies that honour the land and our ancestors
- Opportunities for learning, creativity, and personal growth
- A community that values kindness, respect, and shared wisdom

Whether you join us for a weekend, a week, or just a single day, our retreats and events are a chance to return to the heart of nature and the heart of yourself.

# WHEEL OF THE YEAR

As the year turns and the seasons shift, each camp takes on a unique energy, reflecting the time of year and the spirit of the land.

## imboic

As the snowdrops nod in the breeze, our gentlest and most intimate gathering takes place at Wild Ways in Shropshire. Nestled at the edge of the Wyre Forest, this camp sits on a hill, overlooking the valley below. Here, we come together in the quiet of winter's end, finding warmth in close company. Accommodation is communal in either the double-lined yurt or the dormitory style longhouse. Both spaces are heated by stoves. The shared living spaces at Wildways fosters deep connection, making this a truly special gathering.

## beltain

As nature bursts into lush greenery, we celebrate the fertility of the land and the fire of our own creativity. This is a time of passion, renewal, and joyful connection.

We weave our energy together making the very best of the ancient woodland of Wild Ways, which is gloriously full of spring flowers and wildlife at this time of year. This is a time of the vibrant dance around the Maypole, a celebration of life's endless cycle. As night falls, the flames of the Beltane fires call to us. One by one, we leap across them, embracing courage, transformation, and the wild magic of the season.

## Iughnasadh

At the height of summer, we gather with our families to celebrate the first harvest. This is a family friendly event with people typically sleeping in tents or vans in a beautiful site in north Wales, close to the mountains and the sea, and within sight of that most magical island of the druids, Ynys Mon.

With a rich variety of activities, there is something for everyone—workshops to inspire, ceremonies to honour the season, and space to connect through creativity, play, and community. As we celebrate the fruits of the land and our own efforts, we weave the bonds that sustain us, strengthening our connection to each other and the turning wheel of the year.

## samhain

As the veil between worlds thins and the year's cycle nears its end, we gather once again in Wild Ways to honour our ancestors and embrace the mysteries of the dark half of the year. This is a time of deep reflection, remembrance, and transformation.

The flickering light of fire and lanterns guides us through the night as we hold ceremonies to honour those who have walked before us. We share stories, laughter, and silence, acknowledging both loss and renewal. Samhain invites us to step into the unknown with courage, to release what no longer serves us, and to welcome the wisdom that comes with the turning of the wheel.

## ceremony & ritual

The spiritual heart of camp is our shared ceremonies, which bring us together in celebration, reflection, and connection with the land. Rituals are woven from the collective energy of the community, often shaped by the workshops, meditations, and experiences leading up to them. For those who do not belong to a Grove, these gatherings offer a rare opportunity to take part in large communal rituals. Robes are not required, though you are welcome to wear them if you wish. Some choose to dress in a way that reflects the season, while others come as they are—both are equally welcome. If you have clothing, jewellery, or sacred items that help you enter a ritual state of mind, feel free to bring them along. Many of our ceremonies are planned together, and we welcome ideas, inspiration, and contributions from all who wish to take part. Whether through spoken words, music, movement, or silent presence, everyone has a role in weaving the magic of ritual.

## SPACES

### gate

The first place you will see upon arriving at camp is Gate. Please look for the signs when you first arrive. Gate is a threshold between the everyday world and the sacred space of our gathering.

### communal sleeping at wild ways

At Wild Ways our retreats, we share warm and welcoming communal sleeping spaces, fostering a sense of closeness and connection. Comfortable mattresses are provided, but Please bring your own bedding, including a sleeping bag or blankets and a pillow,....

### well being

Well-Being is a place is where you can seek physical, emotional, and spiritual healing and support.

This sacred space is open to all, offering a place to both give and receive healing therapies such as Reiki, massage, and readings—or simply to sit quietly and recharge away from the bustle of camp.

Healing sessions are offered freely at a mutually convenient time. If you have therapeutic skills to share—whether in energy work, bodywork, meditation, or just a place to be heard—please connect with the Well-Being Team to offer your gifts to the community.

The Well-Being space also provides common first-aid essentials like plasters and disinfectants, alongside a selection of conventional, herbal, and homeopathic remedies. A qualified first-aider is available daily as a first point of assistance.

## communal sleeping at wild ways

At our retreats, we share warm and welcoming communal sleeping spaces, fostering a sense of closeness and connection. Comfortable mattresses are provided, but please bring your own bedding, including a sleeping bag or blankets and a pillow, ( and don't forget ear plugs) to ensure a cosy rest. The communal nature of these spaces encourages a spirit of respect and care for one another, creating a restful and harmonious environment for all.

## kitchen

We provide **three nourishing vegetarian and vegan meals each day**, made with care to support the well-being of our community. If you have any allergies or specific dietary needs, please inform us in advance so we can do our best to accommodate you.

## children & teens

Children and teenagers will be welcomed an integral part of our community. Many of our young adults have grown up coming to camp, and as they step into parenthood themselves, they take an active role in camp life. Parents, please note: You remain fully responsible for your children at all times.

## dog policy

Dogs are welcome at our retreats, but to ensure harmony and safety for all, we ask that you **notify us in advance** if you plan to bring a dog.

On arrival, we require a **refundable deposit**, which will be returned at departure, provided that all guidelines are followed. Dog owners are responsible for keeping their pets under control at all times, cleaning up after them, and ensuring they do not disturb the peace of the camp.

Please be mindful that not all attendees are comfortable around dogs, and some areas of camp may be off-limits to them. By bringing your dog, you agree to respect these guidelines and help maintain a welcoming space for all.

## quiet times

Most people at camp enjoy exercising their gifts with song and storytelling late into the night. You are asked to not make loud music, especially drumming, after 11pm.

## personal responsibility

Being part of a community means looking after ourselves, each other, and the space we share. Please take care of your belongings and any camp equipment you use. If you notice something that needs doing, take the initiative to do it or ask for help—our camp thrives when we all contribute.

## conflict resolution

Conflicts can sometimes arise, and how we handle them affects the harmony of our community. If you have a difficulty with another member, we encourage you to speak with them directly, calmly, and privately to resolve the issue as soon as possible. If you do not feel comfortable doing this or if the issue remains unresolved, you may ask the Wellbeing team., and they can help you.

Please avoid bottling up grievances or discussing issues behind someone's back, as this often leads to greater misunderstandings. Approaching conflicts with an open heart and patience usually leads to resolution.

For rare cases where mediation does not resolve the situation, we have a formal conflict resolution procedure. You can read it online at [HEARTOFYEW.COM](https://www.heartofyew.com) by A dedicated online space for this and other constitutional documents is also in development.

If you feel mediation has failed and wish to move forward with the next steps of the conflict procedure, you must first consult with one of our Heart of Yew Team.

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## The heart of yew community camping event - code of conduct

As members of The Heart of Yew, we gather in the spirit of respect, connection, and unity. To ensure that our community camping events remain safe, welcoming, and harmonious for all, we ask that participants uphold the following code of conduct:

### 1. Respect for Nature and the Environment

- **Leave No Trace:** Preserve the natural beauty of our surroundings by minimizing impact. Dispose of waste responsibly and leave the campsite as you found it, or better.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Use environmentally friendly products, minimize water usage, and conserve energy. Respect wildlife and avoid disturbing natural habitats.

**Sacred Spaces:** Honour any sacred or ceremonial areas. Treat these spaces with care, reverence, and mindfulness.

### 2. Respect for Each Other

- **Kindness and Inclusivity:** Treat all community members with respect and kindness, regardless of background, beliefs, or personal differences. This is a safe space for everyone.
- **Consent and Boundaries:** Respect the personal space, boundaries, and privacy of others. Always seek clear consent before entering into any physical or personal interaction.

**Active Listening:** Allow others to speak and share their experiences without interruption. Engage in open-hearted and non-judgmental communication.

### 3. Safety and Well-being

- **Physical Safety:** Be mindful of your actions, ensuring that no behaviour endangers yourself or others. Follow safety guidelines for camping, fires, and any tools or equipment used.
- **Alcohol and Substance Use:** While we honour personal choice, we ask that alcohol and substance use be kept in moderation and done in a way that does not disturb the peace or create discomfort for others.

**First Aid:** Be prepared to assist with any minor injuries or medical needs. Familiarise yourself with the location of first aid supplies and know who the designated first-aid volunteers are for each Event. Wellbeing will be clearly signposted and the wellbeing team introduced at the beginning of the event.



#### 4. Engagement in Activities

- **Participation:** Engage only if you feel drawn to, in workshops. Share your skills and knowledge when appropriate, and support others in their learning and growth.
- **Punctuality:** Show respect for facilitators and fellow participants by arriving on time for scheduled events and activities.

**Silence and Reflection:** During designated quiet times or ceremonies, honour the space by observing silence and creating a peaceful atmosphere.

#### 5. Conflict Resolution

- **Peaceful Communication:** If conflicts arise, approach them with calm and understanding. Seek resolution through dialogue and mutual respect.

**Mediation:** If a conflict cannot be resolved between individuals, seek the guidance of a designated Well Being Person to help facilitate a peaceful resolution.

#### 6. Commitment to the Spirit of the Event

- **Spiritual Awareness:** Recognize the spiritual aspect of this event and respect the practices of others. Participate with an open mind, whether in rituals, meditations, or ceremonies, or respectfully observe.

**Gratitude and Reciprocity:** Express gratitude for the land, the community, and the opportunities for growth and connection. Be mindful of giving back, whether through volunteer work, skill sharing, or helping others.

By adhering to this Code of Conduct, we ensure that The Heart of Yew camping event is a nurturing and enriching experience for all, deepening our connection to the earth, our community, and ourselves.

#### Agreement

By participating in The Heart of Yew community camping event, you agree to uphold this code of conduct. Failure to comply may result in removal from the event to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all.

#### Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to event organisers or staff members. We are here to support a positive experience for everyone involved.

Further Documents can be found Here;

<https://www.heartofyew.com/event-docs/>

## PHOTO & VIDEO PERMISSIONS

To respect the privacy and sacred nature of our gatherings, we ask that all attendees seek permission before taking photos or videos of others. Some members of our community prefer not to be recorded, and we honour their wishes. Any photos or videos intended for public sharing, including on social media, must have the consent of those featured.

If you would like to opt out of appearing in any media, you can do so by completing the **Media Opt-Out Form** on the Heart of Yew website. Please let the event organizers know if you have any concerns. Together, we ensure our gatherings remain a safe and respectful space for all.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

Heart of Yew thrives through the contributions and energy of our community. If you would like to get involved—whether by offering a workshop, helping with camp life, or sharing your skills—**we would love to hear from you!**

Please **contact us through the website** or speak to a member of Heart of Yew at camp to find out how you can take part. Your ideas, enthusiasm, and presence help weave the magic of our

## Our Team - Heart of Yew

## HEALTH & SAFETY

The well-being of our community is a shared responsibility. Please take care of yourself and be mindful of the safety of others while at camp. Be aware of uneven ground, open fires, and any potential hazards in the natural environment. Take extra care when moving around the site, especially in low light conditions or adverse weather.

A qualified first-aider is on duty each day, and basic first-aid supplies, including plasters and disinfectants, are available at the Well Being area. If you have any medical conditions, please ensure you bring any necessary medications and let someone know if you may need assistance.

If you notice any health or safety concerns around the site, such as broken equipment, unsafe

structures, or trip hazards, please report them to a Heart of Yew team member as soon as possible. In case of an emergency, inform a camp elder or organizer immediately.

By looking out for one another and caring for our environment, we create a safe and supportive space for all.

## STAYING CONNECTED

Heart of Yew is more than just a gathering—it's a growing community that stays connected throughout the year. Whether you want to share experiences, ask questions, or keep up to date with future events, there are plenty of ways to stay in touch.

Follow us on our social media channels to stay updated:

Website: [heartofyew.com](https://heartofyew.com) (for event details, policies, and resources)

Watsapp : [Heart of Yew](https://www.instagram.com/heartofyew) (for photos, inspiration, and announcements)

Facebook Page : [facebook.com/heartofyew](https://www.facebook.com/heartofyew) (updates)

Facebook Group: [facebook.com/heartofyewcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/heartofyewcommunity) By Invite - (for discussions, updates, and community sharing)

Email: [heartofyew@gmail.com](mailto:heartofyew@gmail.com)

We love hearing from our community, so feel free to reach out, share your experiences, and stay connected with the Heart of Yew family.