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Imbolc Gathering 2025

Where: **Paddington Farm, near Glastonbury, Somerset**

When: **27th January to 5th February 2025**

Bookings Open: **1st December 4pm**

Yoo-Hoo Faeries!

Welcome to winter! This is your call to the Imbolc gathering, to set mutual intentions with us for a new coming-together, and to put the date in your diaries for registration.

Please **read the whole call** to find out how this gathering will be held, and how to best prepare.

For an audio version of this call, click [here](#). (Many thanks Embrace!)

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Imbolc is here!

Paddington Farm - location and access

Co-Creation

Inclusivity

Substances

Looking after our health and wellbeing

BDS

How to book your place

Imbolc is here!

Hello sweet babies, Imbolc is upon us, and we'd like to warmly call you back to the belly, to embrace the season and the cold earth with the warmth of our community.

The new year's seedlings are germinating under the earth - the lambs gestating in their mothers' wombs – the earth makes its first turnings back towards the sun, as life prepares to regenerate once more.

As we move through the last of the winter darkness together, we meet this season where it's at, meeting each other again just as we are.

This call is a powerful initiation of our community's Imbolc ritual. We invite you to join us as we set the intention for our shared time to come.

Listen for the resonance in your gut: if you too feel the pull of community cohesion, the quickening of the new year, the urge to nurture our potential, the desire to imbue our new beginnings with hope after an especially dark winter, then this gathering is calling your name and your juices into the cauldron!

Join us in weaving a container of *cosiness///warmth///light///family///care///hope///homeliness///nourishment///holding/// being held* as we turn once again toward the light half of the year.

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We gather at Paddington Farm in Glastonbury from 27th January until 5th February. Paddington is a working farm that houses up to 30 guests, mostly in shared dormitories with bunkbeds, plus a few twin rooms on the ground floor which we prioritise for faeries with access needs.

The accessibility of the farm leaves a lot to be desired – your faerinisers are a bunch of cripp weirdos who will do our best to make it work for you, so get in touch and we can give you full low-down.

Click [here](#) for more detailed farm access info.

Co-creation

Every faerie gathering is co-created, meaning that every single thing that happens is offered by you!

Every day we hold a morning circle to allow faeries to volunteer for daily tasks, from cooking to woodcutting to making the bathrooms sparkly – as well as for faeries to ask questions, share news and offer workshops, walks, dance parties, cuddle puddles, whatever you feel called to offer.

It's important to say that rest is also a valued and beautiful offering, especially at this time of year. We encourage every faerie to ask for the help and care they need throughout the gathering, and to take on tasks together, not in isolation. This is your time to be held in community, as well as to help hold this sacred space however you can.

We, the faeriniser team, have taken responsibility for making the gathering happen, but there are lots of jobs to be done once the gathering starts. You can sign up for different jobs on the booking form when you register.

(And if you'd like to learn how to organise a gathering of your own, get in touch to learn from or shadow us! imbolc@albionfaeries.org.uk)

Inclusivity

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radical queerdos, which has its roots in a historically white, gay community centred on men's sexual liberation (find out more [here](#)).

Our community has diversified considerably since the 1970s, and is now a place where we help each other feel free and loved through earth-centred spiritual practices, queer intimacy, ritual, play and care. You can read a simple page on our website of how we now describe ourselves in Albion [here](#).

We know the Radical Faeries to be an identity that is available to claim by anyone, and in many ways cannot be defined. In the spirit of this, we are aware of the importance of improving racial diversity within Faerie community space and as an organiser team, we are committed to working towards a solution to this.

In order to promote diversity, a significant number of places at the gathering will be reserved for those who identify as marginalised. We respect the right to self-identify. More details will be shared on the booking form.

Substances

For a connected, present, and heart-centred Gathering, we ask that any use of mind- and behaviour-altering substances, such as alcohol, be kept very low-key and conscious. This is not a ban, but a call for consideration of how our behaviours impact on those around us. This consideration might look like drinking from mugs, not wine glasses, being aware of our own limits around intoxication, and honouring that this gathering is not the place to push those limits. We ask that if anyone really feels the need to use such substances, such use is discreet and they are not offered to others, as this can be problematic for some, for example those in recovery.

Every faerie is responsible for staying within their own limits at this gathering. If you think you'd have difficulty with this, or are looking for a space to intentionally get high with others, please consider whether this gathering is the one for you.

Looking after our health and wellbeing

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to emotional places that might feel tender, vulnerable and dark. Bringing these feelings into the shared space of the gathering is a beautiful offering, and many faeries have felt supported to bring deeply personal journeys into our co-created spaces.

As faeries we care for each other in every aspect of the gathering, especially during times of distress and struggle. As with substance use, however, we want to remind faeries that each of us is ultimately responsible for our own wellbeing.

This does not mean that we expect you not to ask for help at a gathering - rather, that **we want you to be in charge of the help you get, if and when you need it.** If you feel you might be at risk of severe distress, a mental health crisis or any other kind of serious health emergency during the gathering, we'd strongly encourage you to think about what you'd need in such a scenario and let us faerinisers or our team of Wellfaeries know before the gathering. A [mental health crisis plan](#) is always a good thing to have prepared, regardless of whether you've been in crisis or not in the past.

Lastly, don't forget to let us know your emergency contact is when you sign up on the booking form.

BDS

We faerinisers want to honour the discussion had in last moots (faerie-wide meeting) about how our community can better follow the principles of the BDS movement, to avoid supporting companies associated with the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. To this end, we have decided not to use google services to create our booking form this year, and will be taking a look at how we source our groceries for the gathering to make sure we aren't supporting any companies on the BDS campaign's [list of targets](#).

Find out more about BDS [here](#), and get in touch with us faerinisers if you've got any questions or further ideas about how we can honour this intention.

How to book your place

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December at 4pm.

Places are limited so we recommend you book as soon as possible, and encourage you to come for the whole gathering. We know how powerful a gathering can be when we come together for the full journey, and will prioritise those who intend to stay the full duration.

Divided by 30 faeries who stay for the whole gathering, **the breakeven cost each is £186.83**. The cost to the community of booking Paddington Farm stays the same, no matter how many of us stay for fewer nights than the full gathering.

Please read the important information in this link: [IMBOLC 25 MONEY STUFF.docx](#)

To help keep our gatherings financially accessible we work on the three principles of...

NOTAFLOF (No-one turned away for lack of funds)

GAYABAGS (Give as you're able but always give something)

ADAFAE (Additional donations and finance accepted enthusiastically)


Find out more about these principles in the document linked above.



With love from your Imbolc 2025 faerinisers

Greenheart, Embrace, Mycelium, Granite, Blossom, Epiphany, Ice Leaf, Sutra, Snapdragon

See you all in the West Country!

 **Special Note:** A huge THANK YOU to Ember & NASA of the Featherstone Ostara team, they created the notion page that we used as

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page.



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