



Wild Pure Heart and Slí An Chroí present

Irish-Celtic Winter Solstice Gathering To Nourish Your Soul

with **John Cantwell and Karen Ward**

www.billiedean.com

www.slianchroi.ie

www.wildpureheat.com

www.pathwayoftheheart.ie

Participant Information

Thank you for your interest in the Irish-Celtic Winter Solstice Gathering. We look forward to seeing you here. The following information should help you prepare for the course and answer most of the questions you might have.

Dates and Times

Open Winter Solstice Gathering

Friday, June 18th: 12 pm to 9 pm

Saturday, June 19th: 9:30 am to 9:00 pm

Sunday, June 20th: 9:30 am to 5 pm

Advanced Gathering Drawn from Medicine Ways of the Irish Lineage

Monday, June 21st: 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, June 22nd: 9:30 am to 9:00 pm

Wednesday, June 23rd: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm)

Note that with the exception of the start time on the Friday and Monday, and the end time on Sunday and Wednesday, these times are somewhat approximate, as John and Karen tailor the schedule to the particular class and its participants.

Applying to Attend the Advanced Gathering

As the three-day Advanced Gathering Drawn from Medicine Ways of the Irish Lineage is designed for experienced shamanic practitioners, we are asking people to apply by answering a few questions. This is to ensure that you are neither under- nor over-challenged by the material, and that you are wisely placed in a community in which you can positively contribute and receive in equal measure.

To be clear, if you think that the Advanced Gathering is for you, but you are unsure if your background is appropriate, or if your first introduction to Celtic shamanism and spirituality is the three-day Open Winter Solstice Gathering immediately prior, but you have an interest in participating in the Advanced Gathering, we would encourage you to apply and make your interest known to us.

To get an application form, please download it from Billie's web site (www.billiedean.com) or email Andrew to get a copy: andrew@wildpureheart.com.

Course Registration Form

We will provide you a course registration form that will let us know your details, including travel and accommodation, once you know them. Please fill in the form as soon as you are able to.

Venue

The course will be held at our property, "Ballyonree", which is about 15 minutes out of Braidwood, NSW. On the first day, Friday, June 18, we will gather at noon at The Old Bank (also called Braidwood Townstay), Wallace Street, Braidwood, NSW. Located on the west side of Wallace Street (which is the main street through town, and on some maps is labelled The Kings Highway), at the corner of Wallace and Park Lane, opposite the Royal pub. We will take care of any administrative things that need to happen, organise any carpooling that is needed, and then drive out to Ballyonree as a group, where John and Karen will welcome us to the course.

Location

Braidwood is a pretty, history, heritage-listed town in the Southern Tablelands of NSW. By car, it is approximately 3.5 hours from Sydney, and about 1.25 hours by car from the Canberra Airport, which is the closest one. Here is a Google Maps link that shows where it is: <http://adjix.com/ti3v>

For more information about Braidwood, please see the Braidwood Tourism site at www.VisitBraidwood.com.au. There is also some information at <http://www.braidwoodnsw.com>.

Getting to Braidwood

Please let us know how you are coming, and when you expect to arrive and depart.

To get to Braidwood, you can:

- drive
- fly or take the train to Canberra and catch a not-very-convenient bus from there,
- get to Canberra and rent a car, or
- get to Canberra and take a cab to Braidwood

If you would like driving instructions from Sydney or Canberra, please email Andrew (andrew@wildpureheart.com), who can send them.

The bus schedule from Canberra to Braidwood is the Murray's Canberra to South Coast line. Please see: http://www.murrays.com.au/OtherServices.aspx#Canberra_SouthCoast for details. You'll see that there is one early bus to Braidwood and one afternoon bus back. Not overly convenient, but doable. Some people have arrived the night before to catch the bus.

You can find the train schedule at www.countrylink.info. Note that you can possibly take a train to Bungendore, which is a bit closer than Canberra, and then connect with a bus from there, but the pieces may be hard to match up.

If you want to try to share a ride, let us know, and we'll see if we can help match you up with someone coming from your area or who might be able to meet you in Canberra or elsewhere. Sometimes people share to cost of a hire car from Canberra, or are able to drive together and share the costs. There are lots of possibilities, depending on who is attending the course and where they are coming from. We are happy to try to facilitate, but we can't promise anything.

Accommodation

You are, of course, responsible for booking your own accommodation for your stay.

We have reserved two places in town for course participants: The Old Bank (Braidwood Townstay) and The Old Mill. Both of these places have four rooms that accommodate up to eight people per location. The cost of a shared room is \$45 per night per person, or if you prefer to have a room to yourself, \$90 per night. These rooms can be booked through Andrew, and are allocated on a first come first serve basis. If you need to come the day before or stay after the last night, this is usually possible. There is a shared kitchen and bathroom at both of these places. Note that we only facilitate sharing of rooms by couples or people of the same gender.

Having said all of that, you are welcome to stay where ever you would like. Braidwood has a number of other places to stay with a variety of prices, ranging from basic motel accommodation, to bed and breakfast, to nicer hotel accommodation. Andrew can tell you what he's know about them, if you need.

There's a list of them on the Braidwood Tourism site, www.VisitBraidwood.com.au. Note that we do not normally encourage people to stay at the pub (The Royal Hotel) as the energies tend to be a bit jarring.

Food

Some of the meals we will share together, and you will be on your own for. Here is a schedule of meals that we are organising. If a meal is not listed here, you are responsible for organising it yourself (for example, all breakfasts are your responsibility).

Date	Arrangement
Open Winter Solstice Gathering	
Friday, June 18th	Dinner: Opening night shared meal. Please bring a vegetarian plate to share.
Saturday, June 19th	Lunch: light vegetarian meal provided. Dinner: vegetarian meal provided.
Sunday, June 20th	Lunch: light vegetarian meal provided. Dinner (optional): after the course, we will be eating at a restaurant in Braidwood. Everyone is welcome to join us (or not), but you will be responsible for your own meal. We will decide on a venue closer to the day, as well as get a sense of who will be participating so we can make a reservation.
Advanced Gathering drawn from Medicine Ways of the Irish Lineage	
Monday, June 21st	Dinner: Opening night shared meal. Please bring a vegetarian plate to share.
Tuesday, June 22nd	Lunch: light vegetarian meal provided. Dinner: vegetarian meal provided.
Wednesday, June 23rd	Lunch: light vegetarian meal provided. Dinner (optional): after the course, we will be eating at a restaurant in Braidwood. Everyone is welcome to join us (or not), but you will be responsible for your own meal. We will decide on a venue closer to the day, as well as get a sense of who will be participating so we can make a reservation.

We will have tea, coffee and light snacks available during the course.

For the meals you need to organise in town, there are several options. There are several cafes and restaurants in town, and a decent grocery store (the IGA at the bottom end of town) and a second not so great one (the one near the Old Bank) where you can buy food.

Weather

Braidwood in late late June is in its Winter splendor. And it can get cold, especially at night, as we often have frosts this time of year. Please dress in layers, and be prepared for cold as well as warm. Much of our work will be outdoors (including at night), so please be prepared.

What to Bring

- Notebook and pen.
- Veggie meal to share for the first night.
- Rattle, drum, clapsticks or similar for drumming during fire ceremony.
- If you wish, instruments to express your musical gifts.
- Mesa/Mála/Crane Bag/Sacred Bundle or sacred items in cloth – as well as all your shamanic tools. (We will be having shared shamanic sessions, and doing some stone work. Poncho, etc...)

- Poetry -that speaks to you and could be shared
- Fire & Fulacht Fia 'Food' – One offering of burnable items from your part of the country, example: corn, bundles of lavender, tobacco, cornmeal, flowers, oils, your medicine plant leaves, seeds or bark, artwork, poetry, etc... that can be offered in the fire and fulacht fia. All natural items that can burn/organically decompose, no plastic or foil please.
- Ancestral Totem – please bring along a totem of your Ancestors. This may be a photograph of a parent(s)/grandparent(s) or other family member(s). It may be a piece of jewellery or an ornament that holds the energy of your Ancestral heritage. It can be any other item that for you links you to the family/cultural/Spiritual line from which you have come.
- A Gift from your 'Anchor Tree' – in Ireland we talk of our “anchor tree”, a tree that “looks after and over us”. This will be a tree in your garden, one on your street or near your place of work. It may well be a tree that stands in a favoured, oft visited nature power place. Take time to reflect to allow your “anchor tree” make him/herself known to you. Visit the tree at least once before the gathering and ask for a totem gift from the tree. Seek permission to receive it. This may be a fallen leaf, twig, piece of bark or small branch. It may be a rubbing of the bark. It may be a drawing or photograph of the tree.

Mobile Phone

Please make sure we have your mobile phone number, if you have one, in case we need to get in touch with you while you are here or are on the way.

Payment

We ask that you pay a \$200 deposit to secure your place. The balance of the payment is due at the beginning of the course. The full course fee is \$695 for the Open Winter Solstice Gathering, and \$695 for the Advanced Gathering Drawn from Medicine Ways of the Irish Lineage.

To pay by EFT, our banking details are:

Account Name: Wild Pure Heart
 BSB: 633000
 Account No: 133984526
 Institution: Bendigo Bank

You can also pay by cheque or cash. If you need to pay by credit card, that can also be arranged, but please be advised there is a 5% surcharge for this to cover bank fees.

If you need a payment plan for the course, please discuss this with us beforehand. We are happy to work something out with you based on what you are able to committ to. Please contact Andrew to discuss options.

Conduct

We ask that you refrain from all alcohol and recreational drugs during the course, as it can affect the experience of other people, and because we are dealing with subtle (and some not so subtle) energies that are affected by those substances. We, of course, don't mind what you do on your own time, but while you are here for the course, we ask that you respect this request.

Contact Details

If you have any queries with regard to the course, please contact Andrew by email (andrew@wildpureheart.com), or phone (02) 4842 2819 or 0409 609 428.