

Frequently Asked Questions about the **Pioneers of Change** programme



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1. What can I expect when I join the programme?

The programme is formed through the 2 residentials at Hazel Hill Wood in June and October 2018. The core team (Caroline and Daniel) will host the events, with additional input from other inspiring change-makers and pioneers in their fields. The 2 residentials take you and your project on a journey from ideas stage, through practical development and challenges, to equipping yourself to go forth and grow your impact. Between residentials you are encouraged to go through your own personal reflection process, play with your idea(s), grow them and, if it feels useful, connect with fellow programme participants to gain and give support. While everyone's journey will be different, we know that the experience of spending time together in the environment of Hazel Hill Wood is a deeply bonding one, giving rise to a special kind of support network that many committed change makers feel they lack.

2. What will I gain from this programme?

This will depend to a large extent on what you need, how far you commit to the process, and what you come to it to achieve. But our intention is that participants will gain:

- a supportive community of other change-makers
- deeper self-knowledge
- appreciation of your own unique gifts and greater clarity about how best to share them with the world
- recognition of the ways that you sabotage yourself, and tools to change these habits
- practical ideas and guidance to develop your ideas into functioning projects or services
- inspiration, nourishment, time and space for reflection and wild dreaming

3. Do I need a concrete project idea or an existing project to take part?

Not necessarily. You may have a clear idea and be struggling to implement it effectively. You may have an 'intention' or a passion but your course of action in relation to it is not clearly formed. Or you may already have an established programme and you seek to increase your impact through it. Or it may be something in between. The main thing, is that you are driven to make positive change in the world, and that you are willing to go on an exploration with us to develop it further. We hope you will come with an openness to develop and play with an idea or ideas over the course of the year.

The way in which you experiment with your developing ideas is up to you. You will get most from the programme if you are willing to test out your ideas, and learn through doing, not just on the residentials but in 'real life'. If you want to start your own enterprise, event, or if you want to initiate a change process in your current work situation...

we will support you in making whatever the next steps are on your personal journey.

4. What if I have more than one project or idea?

Bring all of them! An important aspect of this journey is to get clarity on where and on what you want to focus your energy. The first module in particular will help you decide what you are most drawn to focus on, and how to make use of your own unique gifts and experience. For most people there is more than one 'perfect idea'. Through the programme you will get many opportunities to bounce ideas around, get feedback, try stuff out, dump things... all that is part of the process of distilling your idea into a 'product' that you take out into the world.

5. What kind of people will be there?

That's hard to answer at this stage. We are advertising it among people who might identify themselves as changemakers, activists, green pioneers, transition towners, charity/NGO leaders, social entrepreneurs... At the pilot weekend in 2017 we had a beautiful diversity of different backgrounds, ages, gender, life stories and ideas. (Find out more about the Pilot weekend [here](#)). What will probably connect all participants is the wish to work towards a positive future for their communities, the world, the planet... and a desire to grow personally through the work that they do.

6. I want to create a for-profit enterprise. Am I in the right place?

Yes! What is important is that you want to have a positive impact through the work you feel called to do. Furthermore you also need to be up for confronting yourself with yourself; ready to challenge yourself and grow personally. One of the most important aspects of long lasting success is a healthy relationship with yourself and your dream.

7. How much time do I need to invest besides the residential?

That's up to you. We certainly don't set formal tasks to complete, but we do encourage you to work and play with your idea and/or with other people from the programme, in order to move forward with your project and your own growth process. The learning that you get from your experience in between the modules provides rich material for the next time we meet together. But exactly what that looks like is up to you. We hope it will be a case of pursuing work that you dearly dream of doing, rather than feeling like obligatory 'homework'.

8. Is it essential to be there for both modules?

No, but we hope you will choose to do so! We encourage people to join for all modules, as there is a thread and story that runs through the whole programme, and together they form a coherent journey. It also means that you have the chance to deepen your connection with other people sharing the journey. But both residentials stand alone as well. Each of the events will be a unique experience, as the wood, the group and the content will be very different on each. If only one of the modules feels relevant to you, then of course you are welcome to join just one. We would encourage you to contact us and discuss your requirements and interests, so that we can help you make an informed decision. [Get in touch!](#)

9. Can I pay in instalments?

We try to make this programme as accessible as possible. If you have any questions about payment methods, the possibility of instalments or other payment related issues, please don't hesitate to [get in touch with us!](#) (You can also ring Daniel 07599774716 or Caroline 07970 529207)

10. What is included in the ticket price?

Your fee covers all the costs of this programme including the accommodation, food, facilitators and guest speakers, and any materials required. Your travel costs and any personal equipment would be in addition. Joining this programme contributes to the work of Hazel Hill Trust (the registered charity that owns the wood), which aims to promote wellbeing, resilience and sustainability: for individuals, society and the natural world. The trust helps people to engage more deeply with nature, and to grow life skills in a beautiful environment. Find out more [about the wood here](#)

