This month Iona Heath writes on ‘rewilding’ general practice. It is a powerful editorial, at a time where wildfires in the system threaten to torch our precious primary care ecosystem. It sets out a vision for the future direction for general practice: knowledge of biology must be combined with an understanding of the power of biography.

As with any rewilding, it will take time for the regeneration. We have to be prepared to advocate for policies that will bear fruit in years to come, perhaps a generation, but are in reality ‘simply empty.’ We need to be mindful of the general practice landscape. We face an analogous future of call centres and transactional walk-in practices that provide a facsimile of health care that is similarly barren.

It can be difficult to envision a better future; it stretches the short-termism of our Homo sapiens brains. The world we live in now has a perceived stamp of permanence but our horizons are all too often limited. What is more immutable than the length of a day? Yet, the tidal effect of the Moon slows down the Earth’s rotation so each day is a tiny fraction of a second longer. Around 430 million years ago the day was just 21 hours long. We don’t need to lose ourselves in the mind-bending qualities of deep time to push general practice forwards. We do need to snap out of the illusion of the status quo. There can be no more vacillating on climate or in our future; it stretches the short-termism of our

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The immediate challenge is to build a system that prioritises the values of continuity, a system that prioritises the values of relationships and continuity with the scant landscape. We face an analogous future of call centres and transactional walk-in practices that provide a facsimile of health care that is similarly barren.

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