

Issue 128 | Summer 2016



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“Our vision is an abundant world in which we care for the earth, each other and future generations, whilst living within nature’s limits.”

Board of Trustees: James Piers Taylor (chair), Philip Blandford (treasurer), Viv Chamberlin-Kidd, Kim Glick, Sandy James, Graham Wood.

The Permaculture Association would like to thank: enCircle, Chris Penrose, James Pullein, Ilaria (PIRN intern), all our new members and renewers, Permaculture Ambassadors, and working group members.

Newsletter: Ryan Sandford-Blackburn, Richard Honey at dg3 design with thanks to all contributors.

We invite contributions from members. It's your material that gives life to these pages, so please keep your articles and news coming. Please send contributions for the next issue by 23 August for publication September 2016.

Small print: The views expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Permaculture Association. Opportunities and courses are listed for your information, so please check with the appropriate venue to verify any details. We don't take responsibility for any courses listed herein.

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Cover photo: Recent Diploma graduate Douglas Beal with his tutor Looby Macnamara. Learn more on page 12.

Contents

Newsletter

Network news	4-6
Association news	7-8
Research update	9-10
Education	11
Permaculture diploma	12
Individual member spotlight	14
Group member spotlight	15
Design feature	16-17
Scotland	18
Wales	19
International	20-21
Children in permaculture	22
Members listing	23
Permaculture explained	24

Poster

Permaculture and climate change	1
Courses and events	2

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Letter from the Coordinator

Andy Goldring, Coordinator / CEO

e: andyg@permaculture.org.uk t: 0113 230 7658

I found the EU referendum deeply frustrating. A deal was done before the public debate even happened and then we were asked to vote on a hugely complex issue with a pre-determined answer of 'yes' or 'no'.

How different it would have been if permaculture designers had been asked to develop a participatory approach to resolving our place in Europe – one that helped us to

develop positive solutions that would meet the needs of our families and neighbourhoods, people in the UK, Europe and the wider world, future generations and the earth itself.

...hang on, that is what we're doing! It may not be focussed on a referendum, but the dynamic permaculture network is reaching out and connecting with many other groups and networks in order to co-design a positive future – in over 125 countries! We've gone beyond yes/no, I'm right/you're wrong, and are instead working to bring about positive change that works for people and planet. People win and lose debates, but with good design, everyone can win.

So I'm delighted to announce that with the support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, we will soon be able to support far more members – our network of over 300 Permaculture Ambassadors in particular – to engage the public, local groups and other sustainability networks in co-designing our future. We will promote the permaculture approach AND we will celebrate all the other great work too. Our simple principle will be that every time we promote permaculture, we will also promote another positive group/solution/network because we really are 'stronger together'.

After 40 years of testing permaculture, and with so many brilliant projects and inspiring examples (both in and out of permaculture), we know a sustainable future is possible. Now we need to make sure more people know what is possible, and how to vote with their actions, for a culture of positive change.

Andy Goldring

P.S. I hope to see many of you at the Convergence this September, a brilliant opportunity to share our skills and do some collective planning.

Join the conversation

twitter: [@permaculture_uk](https://twitter.com/permaculture_uk)

facebook: facebook.com/permacultureassociation

Find a list of all websites referenced in this issue at s.coop/workssummer2016

Network news

A tale of discovery from OrganicLea

People discover OrganicLea's food growing site in Northeast London for many reasons; Shafat Dhorat and his family are brilliant advocates for that spirit of finding us, working alongside us and then making that experience your own. His wife Salma encouraged us to carry out summer family planting activities, a healthy eating programme. Our communities stayed close – OrganicLea supported Shafat to take on an allotment for young people at a local mosque, growing organic food for local elders.

In Spring this year, Shafat was awarded a medal of excellence from the City and Guilds for his technical gardening achievement with OrganicLea and his wider contributions to community with this craft. Shafat told the City and Guilds: "A learning experience can only be truly enjoyed if the centre for learning is set up to help individuals grow as people. Hawkwood Nursery is perfectly suited for this and I found that everyone involved at the centre were not only growing plants, but also growing people. This is reflected by the words on the front entrance, 'Earth Care', 'People Care' and 'Fair Share'."

Alongside a weekly volunteering programme, we continue to support community gardens away from our main Hawkwood site and run accredited courses throughout the year at Hawkwood. This training work is supported by our partnership with the Permaculture Association. For more information about forthcoming courses and other opportunities see www.organiclea.org.uk.



Top: OrganicLea student group separating garlic cloves for planting
Bottom: OrganicLea teaching salad rotation

Spring at EcoDIY Permaculture Land Centre

Heavy work in the wood this year supplying chestnut for shingles at orchardbarn.org.uk. As an experienced beekeeper I'm still smarting after losing twelve colonies to wasps last summer. We are watching the remaining hives anxiously as they are slow developing in this cold spring.

We ate our first courgette and climbing French beans on 21 April thanks to the heat storage in our solar greenhouse (see ecodiy.org for construction), the new recycled polycarbonate hotbed is supplying early carrots. A lively group of women from an allotment came for a tour and tea, we learnt about Mallow as a medicinal plant.

Returning to Africa

Welsh Permaculture practice Sector39, now based at the Dragons Co-op in Mid Wales, have have run their first full Permaculture Design Course in Uganda.

They are working with the Wales-Uganda charity Dolen Ffermio, who give training and practical help in what is one of the poorest African nations, still recovering from decades of civil war.

Director Steve Jones first encountered permaculture many years ago when working in Zimbabwe, so he is pleased to be able to take it back; "With this course we aim to positively impact the lives of East Africans, not only through teaching permaculture but also to provide the tools for Ugandan's to move towards becoming diploma students and subsequently teachers able to convene and certificate their own courses."

Small is Ecological

The Ecological Land Co-operative (ELC) is a democratic social enterprise working to make land accessible for new entrants to small-scale ecological farming in England. They do this by helping overcome two key barriers to those wishing to live with the land: high land prices and planning consent.

"We're excited about 18.5 acres of land in East Sussex. And we're excited about it because its our second tranche of land as we work to get new entrants into ecological farming. We think you should be too as although what we do sounds simple, the work and challenges are huge and the implications are broad."



Steve Jones aims to positively impact the lives of communities in East Africa

Scotswood Natural Community Garden

The garden team have just been on a very inspiring visit to Graham Bell's cottage garden and we have been working on improving our own, already very beautiful forest garden. We have added some exciting new plants and the removed some over enthusiastic geraniums.

Our outdoor teaching area is currently being re-roofed with cedar shingles so we are looking forward to having our outdoor classroom and seating area covered once again.

We are looking forward to hosting the north east permaculture gathering here in our garden.



Volunteers at Scotswood Natural Community Garden

Highbury Orchard Community CIC, Birmingham

Within the orchard garden, we run child-led outdoor learning sessions for families. Some children have taken up foraging in the garden and at its edges. It's perfect for learning plant ID. They have created an Amazing Apothecary – mashing up leaves in bowls, and lining them up on an old log. Now one lad dreams of writing *Medicine For Free* as a sequel to Mabey's book (*Food For Free*)!

These young children have made it their business to learn a little about the healing and culinary properties of plants – using and valuing diversity. We'd be keen to hear from others who are introducing permaculture to children.

hoccic@gmail.com

Biodynamic Land Trust Huxhams Cross Farm

Working Wednesday's continue – see www.apricotcentre.co.uk/huxhamsfarm for up to date information. With the weather better, join the work in the great outdoors and improve your health while helping the farm project.

The Huxhams Cross Share Offer is still open with funds coming in to support this work and make it happen. Be part of funding this innovative, locally-connected, health-giving farm project – let's make it happen: barn, access, training room, space for processing produce, wellbeing centre, sustainable electricity and heating project and more. Together we can make the change.



An Amazing Apothecary at Highbury Orchard, Birmingham

Farming news from the Diploma Gathering

The Permaculture Farmers and Growers Network said its first official "hello world" at the Diploma Gathering. A collective of farmers, growers and advocates, we aim to support, develop and promote good practice in commercial growing and self-reliant small holdings.

The Permaculture Association is supporting the network's current main project – our own website. The site will be the home of permaculture farming in Britain, a platform from which to connect with each other, pool our wisdom and show the world what we're doing.

Until the site is ready, the easiest way to connect is to join the facebook group. Come along to get tapped into news and opportunities, meet others and shape the future of this network! www.facebook.com/groups/1779991288896989

Alternatively, email farm@permaculture.org.uk to receive occasional network development updates.

Association news

Announcing new input and funding that will benefit Ambassadors network

The Permaculture Ambassadors project started in 2013. Being a Permaculture Ambassador involves actively promoting permaculture's story and sharing information on inspiring projects and practices.

At the end of last year we worked on preparing a project plan for the next phase and submitted a funding bid. We are pleased to confirm that Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust have granted funding of £60,000 and we're looking forward to working with them.

What we aim to do in this new phase:

1. Training programme for Ambassadors
2. A far-reaching publicity campaign
3. Support for local groups
4. Build a self-supporting Ambassadors network

This new phase of work will start on 1 July 2016. Ryan Sandford-Blackburn will be working 2 days a week to coordinate.

How you can get involved

You can read details of the project at www.permaculture.org.uk/ambassador.

There will be a gathering of Permaculture Ambassadors at the convergence in Ilkley, this September. You can sign up to receive Ambassador alerts and opportunities by updating your member preferences www.permaculture.org.uk/user

Events programme to take permaculture into new areas

We are designing an exciting new events programme for 2017 onwards which will involve taking permaculture out into new areas and exploring interdisciplinary links between our movement and related subject areas and professions.

We don't have a lot of detail yet. However, we know that as part of the project we are looking to build a Permaculture Association Events Team. The team will work with us to co-produce events through the year. If you're interested in being part of the team, please contact our **Events Coordinator, Dan Hurring** events@permaculture.org.uk.

See page 13 for details on this year's convergence.

Simply increase the impact of your contributions with Gift Aid

If you are eligible but not registered for Gift Aid with us, we are losing out on £6 of your membership contribution. This extra money comes to us from Government. We can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you give in membership and donations. It won't cost you any extra.

The declaration form to complete is at <http://s.coop/pagiftaid>
Please send to
Helen, finance@permaculture.org.uk
Thank you for your support.



Bensham Manor School in Thornton Heath is home to a very special permaculture garden.

Trustees visit an extraordinary, transformative school

The latest trustee meeting was held at Bensham Manor School where permaculture is making a difference for many kids, especially those with special needs.

Alongside the usual meeting agenda and items, which included a look at measuring social yields, was a visit to a magical garden, complete with Rocket Seeds From Space (really)! Frankly, discussions about budgets and trustee nominations took second place to a giant rabbit and student sown seeds from the international space-station. A huge thanks to the school, and Cindy Stott, mastermind of this wonderful garden for providing such a great meeting venue.

If you would like to find out more about joining the board – accountancy skills particularly sought – or your group could offer a future meeting venue, please contact **Andy Goldring**.

Welcome to new staff members

Since the last issue of Permaculture Works we have recruited a further two staff members, within the roles of Paramaethu Cymru Network Coordinator and ScotLAND Project Outreach Worker. We hope you will get to work with and meet them soon.

At the time of writing the posts had not yet been recruited to.

Opportunities galore for the taking!

There are lots of opportunities to engage with the Association. Volunteering (short and long term) at the office in Kirkstall, Leeds, getting involved in working groups, taking on a project from home, becoming a trustee, suggesting an eco-entrepreneurial initiative.

Over the years, we have nurtured lots of people to take ideas forward and be successful. If you have an idea for a project or want to get involved and help with delivering the Association's mission, please get in touch with the relevant staff member.

Research update

by Chris Warburton-Brown



Research Diploma Enterprise discussion

It has been another really busy quarter for the Research team. We are slowly getting used to the big shift that happened in our work around the time of the conference last year. Our focus is more and more on international work, serving a global permaculture community of maybe 3 million! In many ways we are now the world's leading permaculture research coordinating organisation.

Exploring the nature of permaculture inspired enterprise

The Association is working with Kingston University on a project called KEEP (Knowledge Exchange for Enterprise in Permaculture). The project is exploring the

extent and nature of permaculture inspired enterprise and business in the UK.

We have now interviewed 19 permaculture entrepreneurs from across the UK. Last month Chris presented the initial findings at the Diploma Gathering in Bristol and got some great feedback and suggestions for next steps. Over the summer we will be creating resources for those who would like to start a permaculture business. There will be a full day workshop and an online Permaculture Entrepreneurs Guide.

Membership of the Permaculture International Research Network is free and open to anyone. Join on the new website pirn.permaculture.org.uk

Permaculture International Research Network news

We are delighted that Lush Cosmetics has agreed to fund PIRN for another year, to April 2017. This enables us to keep expanding the network, which now has over 700 members in 60 countries.

We are currently building six PIRN sub groups, on: livelihoods, energy-in-versus-energy-out, food forests, education spaces, evidencing permaculture, and permaculture's point of difference. In March we launched the PIRN website, pirn.permaculture.org.uk, and over the next few months will be adding lots of content submitted by PIRN members. We also have a very active Facebook group www.facebook.com/InternationalPermacultureResearch. Ilaria Noio, our intern from Naples, Italy, is doing a fabulous job supporting and developing PIRN.

.....

New interns to focus on extending the reach of our work

Two interns will be joining us for the summer months from Bradford University Department of Peace Studies, Jenny Mundy and Matt Vinson. They will be delivering a social media campaign promoting the Association's research resources. Look out for posts throughout August and please share items where you can.

Rhiannon Leach, another Bradford student, will be coming for the 2016-17 academic year as Knowledge Management intern, creating new resources and developing the Knowledge Base.

Emerging plans and a big proposal

A lot of my time is invested in developing future plans and funding proposals. I am currently developing a really big proposal around action on climate change. Plans continue to evolve for the Permaculture Research journal, we now hope to launch in early 2017. The Association has also led a funding bid to research the impact of permaculture on smallholder farmers in Nepal. Who knows where these plans may take us? Keep an eye on Permaculture Works and in the monthly e-bulletin to find out.

Let us know about your research

If you are working on any kind of research, whether for your job, as part of a degree, towards your permaculture diploma, or simply to satisfy your own curiosity, don't forget to let us know about it!

research@permaculture.org.uk



Right: Mrs Usha Gurung of Shanti Group, Salkharka village with a package of grafted fruit seedlings from her nursery, ready for distribution

Education

It's an exciting time in Education. We've retained small surpluses from previous funded projects and are now in a position to invest it in the education community. We want to develop the relationships between teachers, the Education Working Group, the office and, of course, learners. We want to make our education activities more sustainable. Here's how you can get involved.

Shape the future of the education network together

If teaching permaculture is, or will be, part of your livelihood and you want to help shape the future of the education network, come to the teachers' meeting. It will be the day before the convergence in Ilkley this September. We'll be exploring the systems and structures that will enable us to spread permaculture more effectively and create more sustainable, ethical livelihoods in the process.

See www.permaculture.org.uk/education/teaching, or call or email Joe for booking details.



New Register provides greater clarity and transparency

From 1 July, teachers and learners will benefit from greater clarity and transparency about who is qualified to issue Association Permaculture Design Course certificates. The new Certifying Teachers' Register policy will list those teachers with the required qualifications and experience.

If you teach permaculture and want to issue the Association's certificates, read the policy (under the education, teaching section on the website) and contact Joe to discuss how to join the register.

Educators Community Survey

Do you carry out any kind of permaculture education activities, from running tours and volunteer days at your LAND centre to being a diploma teacher? If so, we want to explore how the Association can support you more, deliver greater value, and help to build a thriving community. We're exploring a new membership type and want your views and ideas on what it might look like.

Want to learn about permaculture?

Check the education section of the website, www.permaculture.org.uk/education and keep an eye out for an email about it.

No permaculture courses near you? Why not organise one? Get in touch and we can provide an organiser's guide and connect you with a teacher to lead the course. Email learn@permaculture.org.uk



Diploma Gathering group 2016

Diploma Gathering 2016

22 workshops over two days, a Diploma accreditation event, inspiring design shares, tutorials, catching up with old friends and making new ones... It can only be the Diploma Gathering!

This year's event took place at the St Werburghs Centre in Bristol at the end of April and as usual attracted a diverse crowd of Apprentices, Tutors and Diploma holders as well as PDC graduates thinking about signing up for their Diploma journey. People came from different corners of the country and

Huge congratulations to Douglas Beal for his accreditation. Douglas shared his designs, including building restoration in his community in France.

The next Diploma Gathering is scheduled for February 2017 (details to be confirmed) and is open to all with an interest in the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design. Keep an eye on the website and your email inbox in the coming weeks as details are announced.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design, please see www.permaculture.org.uk/diploma Or you can drop Cath a line, diploma@permaculture.org.uk

Share your designs

We are always looking to gather and share stories about the Diploma. We can work with you to compose an article or blog post, and publish and disseminate through our channels.

Whether you're just about to sign up, currently an Apprentice or completed your Diploma some time ago Cath would love to hear from you. It's an opportunity to share your learning, get feedback, and generate interest around a topic.



Douglas Beal receiving his accreditation at the Diploma gathering 2016

Permaculture Convergence 2016

2-4 September
Nell Bank Centre,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire

Celebrate our brilliant community
in a beautiful rural location at a
unique event made *for you, by you*



Geoff Lawton
© Ingrid Pullen Photography

PLUS

Workshops with
Geoff and Nadia Lawton
+ An amazing range
of UK-based
permaculture
designers and
teachers



Pippa Chapman, one of many
members offering a workshop

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PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS
AND DEMOS

MEETING LEADING
PERMACULTURE TEACHERS

GOOD LOCAL FOOD

MUSIC AND OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES

NETWORKING WITH
PERMACULTURE PRACTITIONERS

Limited tickets on sale now. For booking details and full
information, please visit: permaculture.org.uk/convergence-2016

Individual member spotlight

Cruising down the river

Discovering the joys of permaculture in middle age

by David Godkin

It was the makeshift straw bale chicken house and the vegetable beds edged with empty wine bottles that really held my attention, as my Italian host enthused about the wonders of 'Permacultura'. All around us the corridors of well-tended vineyards on neighbouring farms contrasted with the weeds that were threatening to engulf his carrots. I had the distinct feeling that something was definitely being lost in translation.

Fast forward ten years and the feeling was very different: I was starting to 'get it', so much so that when I saw an advert for the Permaculture Design Certificate course, hosted by Newquay Community Orchard, I didn't hesitate to apply. Various websites and a few YouTube documentaries had led to a subscription to Permaculture Magazine. I was hooked. I wanted to get my hands dirty.

On the first day our tutor, Klaudia, asked each of us to present a River of Life showing how we had come to engage with Permaculture. As a former TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) teacher I was expecting an ice-breaker along more earthy lines: "If I were a root vegetable I'd be..." Overcoming an initial reluctance to give a group of strangers my potted autobiography, the River of Life introduction turned out to be a great deal more thought-provoking. Why permaculture, why now?



David with Klaudia van Gool learning about how not to get stung by nettles

In the 1990s I spent a couple of years working in Egypt with refugees. So, as this was an exercise in retrospection, I chose The Nile to depict my journey. Look at a map and you will see how this great life-force of a river resembles a mighty plant as it blossoms into the myriad tributaries of the Delta before finally merging with the sea. Being of a somewhat fanciful disposition, I like to picture myself paddling through these alluvial plains in a coracle of my own making.

That for me is permaculture; not just one of the eleven definitions modestly listed in our course notes, but a burgeoning of possibilities. And the bit that really gets my middle-aged heart beating? The fertility of it all, the prospect of abundance. For, if deserts can be encouraged to bloom, then why not people? Despite, or perhaps because of the thumping in my chest, I can't resist the urge to quicken my stroke.

Group member spotlight

Carraig Dúlra

Carraig Dúlra, a permaculture education and research project, created by Mike and Suzie Cahn 10 years ago is a social enterprise. Suzie teaches many courses on and off site in school and community gardens, and together with a local group they run a vegetable box scheme called OOOOBY.

Their 3.8 acre smallholding in Wicklow, has been designed and developed in collaboration with many volunteers, students and tutors and now contains:

- 1.5 acre native woodland
- 0.5 acre food forest and apple orchard
- different types of organic annual gardens:
 - > the circle garden
 - > a herb labyrinth insectary
 - > a traditional market garden
 - > an allotment sized garden
 - > large greenhouse with perennial polycultures and annual beds
- a mixed material (round poles, cob, straw bale), naturally built round barn with a reciprocal roof
- a washhouse/sauna cabin
- pond and swale systems
- indoor kitchen, clad with forestry waste timbers, and up-cycled dumped kitchen counters and cabinets
- outdoor cooking area: with cob oven, biogas generation, rocket stoves and BBQ



Suzie participated in Irish television's Supergarden 2015, creating a permaculture designed urban garden.

She says her favourite tweet when the show aired was "Perma What?" as it reminded her that there are many people still to share permaculture with.

The 2016 Carraig Dúlra permaculture design certificate course is taking bookings at www.dulra.org/courses/pdc

"Creating a resilient, integrated, holistic, permaculture design was important from the start of the project. I learn constantly as we implement and change the design. This informs my teaching and design work with others locally and all over Ireland."

It is great to network with like minded people, and I hope to learn from others and build the capacity of permaculture projects I am involved in here in Ireland and share ours in return."



Rain garden

reducing flood risk in towns, one house at a time

By Claire Hunt
and Ryan Haines



Claire with the four elements of the rain chain: water butt, planter, rill and planting bed

We live in a street of Victorian terraced houses in Worthing, where the modern curse of paving-over front gardens for off-road parking means that very little rainwater is getting the chance to soak into the ground. In addition, the down-pipes at the front of every alternate house gush straight out into the road. At times of heavy rain this is quite a torrent.

As part of Claire's Diploma in 2011 we decided to build a rain garden, thereby applying the first permaculture principle of Observe and interact. The concept of a rain garden is to create a rain chain with as many opportunities as possible to catch, store and use rainwater, preventing it from becoming run-off.

A domestic rain garden potentially embodies every permaculture principle. Here are some instances:

- Use and value renewable resources – every stage of the rain chain is an opportunity to put the captured water to use.
- Integrate functions and elements so that a system has several functions and more than one element supporting each function – The rain chain in our small garden has four elements, all capturing water but some also performing other functions. Other elements like the bike shelter sedum roof and gravel paths support these functions too.
- Obtain a yield – from the planting, useful or edible to humans or wildlife, and beautiful and stimulating to the senses.
- Use and value diversity – through creating different habitats and plant diversity.
- Use edges and value the marginal – especially in larger systems that include ponds, but in any case because spaces which can be alternately very wet or very dry are marginal for other uses.
- Creatively use and respond to change – For example, West Sussex Flood Risk Management Strategy says, "Surface water contributes significantly to the flood



The garden flourishing some time after implementation

risk in Worthing due the urban nature of the area". With the increasing incidence of sudden heavy rainfall due to climate change, rain gardens can help mitigate flood risk, as they do in many other parts of the world with extreme weather.

- Apply self-regulation and accept feedback – taking action about things within your own control to address an observed problem.

The rain chain – from one element to the next

The first element of most rain chains is a water butt, storing water for use in the garden during low rainfall and overflowing when full into the next element. Our neighbour was happy for us to divert their downpipe to our water butt, so we collect rain from half of our roof and half of theirs. This determined the placement of the water butt.

The water butt overflows into a storm-water planter, the second element in the chain. This captures and stores water in the soil, and has a perforated drainage pipe running the length of the planter that exits at the bottom and allows excess water to leave once the soil is saturated. There are drainage and filtration layers of gravel and sand, with the main volume being a mix of top soil, garden compost and sand. The planter is placed close to the water butt to minimise piping needed

and since only certain parts of our north-facing garden get sunshine, in the morning and late afternoon, it is in one of these areas.

The internal drainage pipe emerges from the opposite side of the box from the water butt input. A rill made from old roof tiles takes the outflow into a ground-level planted area of the garden, the final element of the chain. This is where most sunshine falls and close to the path where it is most visible.

All the planting has been chosen to tolerate wet and dry periods as well as partial shade and is perennial.

Tweaks

We tweaked the design after observing that water was running off the main bed on to the path after a particularly heavy downpour. We dug in a soak-away to direct the rill outflow towards the elder shrub. Since then there has been no run-off to the street, whatever the weather, and the garden is self-sustaining, lush and blooming.

See more photos of this design plus extra resources at blog.permaculture.org.uk

The house and garden are open during Transition Town Worthing's Eco Open Houses weekend 24-25 September, which is focusing on rainwater capture and combating flood risk.



The main planting bed in full bloom

Scotland

scotland.permaculture.org.uk



Permaculture Scotland has a new website!

Check it out at:

scotland.permaculture.org.uk

You can catch up on the latest news and opportunities, find course and events, and read about all the fantastic projects to be found in Scotland.

We hope to develop the interactive nature of the site, enabling you to link up with others in your area, join a local group, list your own projects or events, and much more.

Right now we need people to help us keep the website up to date, if you think you can help please contact us at

Scotland@permaculture.org.uk

'Permaculture Scotland Gathering participants in a sourdough bread making workshop © Gavin Murray



International Permaculture Day

Forty people attended International Permaculture Day at Garden Cottage on 1 May. Graham Bell reported: "A great day was had by all, despite it being a mite parky. Good food, garden was looking great and all the visitors got on well. It would be great to see a much stronger concerted effort for Permaculture Day nationally next year!"

"I just took it all in and am amazed by the amount of living energy everywhere."

– Ewan Moug

An inspired group of people gathered for two days at Garden Cottage for the 2016 Permaculture Scotland Gathering. The EU referendum was debated, sourdough made, Coldstream explored, the forest garden toured... so much was packed into the event, it was excellent! Thank you to all those that made it.

Wales

wales.permaculture.org.uk



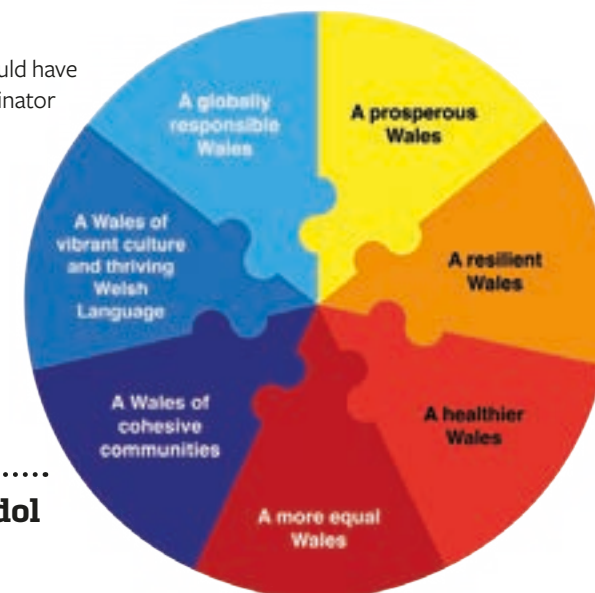
A new start in Wales

By the time you read this, we should have appointed a new Network Coordinator for Paramaethu Cymru. They will be working one day a week to make our network visible on the website, to support local groups, to draw new people in and to work with the coordinating group to make a plan for the future. Keep an eye on the website to find out more and see how you can work with them to make a difference.

Cenedlaethau'r dyfodol – caring for future generations

In April, Wales passed the Well-being of Future Generations Act – Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – which requires public bodies to plan ahead in collaboration with business, charities and the public, and to involve stakeholders in their discussions. Whether this is just a piece of paper or a huge opportunity is up to all of us to decide. What could permaculture contribute? You tell us!

Follow Welsh news at
wales.permaculture.org.uk
Get in touch with us at
paramaethu.cymru@gmail.com.
Newid dy fyd gyda ni.



Dod ynghyd yn Sir Benfro National gathering 24–26 June, 2016

We're about to hold our latest national gathering at Llamas Eco-Village as guests of the Southwest Wales Permaculture Network. It promises to be an exciting weekend, shaping plans for Wales and meeting our new Network Coordinator. We will share outcomes and photos with you in the next issue of Permaculture Works and online in the meantime.

International

Permaculture is changing the world



The map above shows countries where permaculture is being used.

- countries we have found strategic organisations or projects
- countries we'd love to know about.

If you know of a permaculture organisation or project here, please let us know using:
<http://s.coop/permaorganisations>

The Next Big Steps we've taken

The first stage of this project draws to a close in July 2016. What have we achieved and learned?

We sought to identify the key needs and skills of practitioners and organisations, and have:

- Identified over 260 permaculture organisations and projects in over 125 countries (around 70% of all countries)!
- Conducted 3 worldwide surveys, engaging 56 strategic organisations and 447 practitioners, from 33 countries.
- Delivered a co-ordinated series of workshops across 5 days of the International Permaculture Convergence. This engaged over 500 participants in strategic conversations and planning.
- Supported thematic groups to emerge, develop, and commit to action by the International Permaculture Convergence 2017, including in Education, Research, Enterprise, Climate Change, and Strategy.
- Inspired regional networks, such as Latin America and North America, to follow our methods and engage their communities in similar activities and designs to enhance collaboration.

"One thing I have personally come to realise is the amazing job that the Permaculture Association in Britain does – we are truly lucky to have a national organisation helping us to connect with others, share our knowledge and discover exciting opportunities to practice and understand permaculture. Many countries don't have an organisation dedicated to supporting them."

This complex information provided a clearer picture of our wider capacity and the opportunities and challenges for collaboration and development.

The main needs are:

- 1 Build communities and develop networks around common thematic and geographic areas of interest.
- 2 Improve access to key knowledge. Ensure that knowledge is robust (through research), and reaches those who would benefit (through education and translation).
- 3 Embed resilience and sustainability; support organisations and networks in areas like fundraising, enterprise, building capacity, and inspiring leadership.
- 4 Change the world (beyond our own boundaries); be able to influence policy and decision-makers, and advocate permaculture more widely.

To 2017 and beyond!

Next we aim to develop, trial, and evaluate a collaborative framework following the Constellation Model. See <http://socialinnovation.ca/constellationmodel> for an overview of this approach. This model seems appropriate both to the innovative work we wish to achieve, and to the unique, dispersed nature of the non-hierarchical, autonomous 'network' we work within. Constellations (groups of common interest), are supported by a stewardship group, and work within a wider ecosystem.

Everyone is welcome to be part of this global collaboration with a local focus. If you'd like to know more or if you feel inspired to join a particular theme, you can:

Email Naomi on:

international@permaculture.org.uk

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Naomi van der Velden

Read more at:

<http://international.permaculture.org.uk>

To get involved in the Next Big Step see <http://international.permaculture.org.uk> or email

Naomi.international@permaculture.org.uk

Children in Permaculture



Group on the outdoor classrooms course in May

Publication of the survey of resources

We are delighted to announce that the Children in Permaculture's first piece of research has been published! Please go to our website to download it:

www.childreninpermaculture.com

An impressive 316 resources were reviewed by our team, 20 of which are explicitly about permaculture with children. This survey recommends 31 resources such as books, films and websites which can help you to engage children in permaculture, whether you are a parent, teacher, scout leader, classroom assistant, or permaculturist working with children in other ways.

Supporting the teaching of the next generation

Carolyn Nuttall and Janet Millington, authors of the book *Outdoor Classrooms: A Handbook For School Gardens* conducted a teaching tour of Europe in May and June this year. From London to Helsinki, and Gatehouse

of Fleet, Scotland to Ljutomer, Slovenia, educators from around Europe have learnt from their wealth of experience. Participants learned about engaging children in learning outdoors and training teachers and parents in essential skills. These skills range from managing behaviour in the outdoors, to explaining the benefits of school gardens to other teachers and parents.

Outdoor classrooms training course sold out!

When we realised that Carolyn Nuttall and Janet Millington were definitely coming to Europe, we decided to put on a few two day edge events. The one in Scotland was planned for a school in a small town (population 1,000), in a rural area. We were absolutely delighted to learn that there are lots of people out there who are really keen to learn more about engaging children in permaculture. We will definitely put on more courses, with local trainers who have learnt from these international experts.

Members

'We will no longer include printed listings of group and business members, there are so many of them that we struggle to fit them on these pages! We are moving the directory online and hope this will make it more widely accessible.

Do you know a business using permaculture or a local group that could benefit? Please tell them about Permaculture Association membership.

Group membership for £40 a year includes all the benefits of individual membership plus:

- Group member feature in Permaculture Works and opportunity to share stories and news through our online channels.
- Up to five extra print copies of the newsletter.
- Access funding from Trusts and Charities that only give grants to registered charities via Project Support.
- Listing in the directory.

Business membership for £80 a year also includes:

- Member feature in Permaculture Works and opportunity to share stories and news through our online channels.
- Diploma – Up to three members of your business can apply to do the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design under your Business membership.
- Partnerships – we actively encourage and seek partnerships with Business members, welcoming opportunities for joint working on mutually beneficial projects.
- Help with your enquiries. We can guide you to a wide range of resources, recommend places to visit, advise on training opportunities, books to read, and provide broad technical assistance.

You can see a directory of all group and business members at www.permaculture.org.uk/directory. This directory is evolving. By listing online we save paper and space in this newsletter, and money in print costs and staff admin time.



Eyebright Ecology in Staffordshire

Business membership is supporting the work of Eyebright Ecology in Staffordshire, who undertake wildlife surveys to support planning applications.

"Our interest in permaculture as an integral part of our personal lives has logically progressed to a desire to apply permaculture principles to our business. This journey of redesigning our business to become more sustainable and ethical wherever possible is ongoing, our observations inform practical changes."

Use edges and value the marginal

Wild plants and our interactions

Jo Barker trained as a landscape architect but started foraging quite seriously about 20 years ago, originally because it was hard to access organic food. Every plant, and every animal as well is useful. We as humans fit into the ecosystem.

There are around 20,000 edible plants in the world, about 5,000 in our climate. When we eat wild food we are accessing micro nutrients and minerals that aren't in cultivated food. Hawthorn, that grows so well in our hedgerows, is a valuable plant with medicinal and edible benefits. All the seaweeds around our shore are edible, apart from one.

There's loads of food anyway, we just need to learn to utilise it. It seems no coincidence that almost every living plant and animal is edible or useful when we know how. We should value these resources that sit at the margins of modern culture. See food and medicine everywhere you go, in the form of plants. 'Let medicine be thy food and let food be thy medicine' – Hippocrates.

Edge can be seen as the intersection of two environments, and is where energy and materials accumulate or are transformed. Different types of mycelium exist in certain habitats and fruit under the right conditions – this fruit is fungi, or mushrooms. Fungi



Top: fungi at Comrie Croft.
Bottom: on a foraging walk



feed on decaying woody material on the forest floor, transcending the underground and floor layers. Fungi gain organic carbon and utilise it in their maintenance, growth and reproduction; they absorb, transport, transform and store organic carbon and minerals – an essential ecosystem function.

These are three easy ways to meet lots of our dietary needs, without taking up lots of extra land and resources: nuts, seaweed, fungi.

Ffiona Campbell, author of the Hunter-Gatherer way, suggests, "We are only ever happy, truly happy, when we are hunter gatherers and we can be hunter gatherers right now." She recommends learning foraging skills from someone in the know, then sharing that knowledge with others. There is a correlation between increase in urbanisation and increase in clinical depression. By taking one person who could really benefit from it on a foraging walk, we can interact with nature, and be happier and healthier as a result.

Jo Barker's talk Ancient food future food, from the international permaculture conference:

<http://s.coop/jobarkerforage>