Issue 126 | Winter 2015

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The Koanga Institute Heal the Soil IPCUK 2015

www.permaculture.org.uk

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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), Alexander James, Graham Wood, Viv Chamberlin-Kidd, Kim Glick.

The Permaculture Association would like to thank: enCircle, Andrea Alvord, Celia Ashman, Verity Wong, Chris Penrose, Bryher Bloor, Naomi Harriott-Brown, Karl Naylor, Julie Nutchey, Geoff Lawton, Nadia Lawton, Frank Gapinski, Jane Gapinski, Megan Hume, Silvio Volkmann, Maria Cooper, Lachlan McKenzie, Emily Gray, Vijaya Copsey, Joseph Walker, Imola Andras, all our new members and re-subscribers, ambassadors, working group members, IPCUK volunteers and participants.

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 February 15 for publication March 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.

The Permaculture Association is a company (05908919) and a registered charity (1116699 and SC041695)

Design dg3 Printed on r Leeds.

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Printed on recycled paper by AKA, Leeds. ISSN 1474-2381

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Cover photo: IPC 2015 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ Sagara, licensed under a Creative Commons attribution



Letter from the Coordinator

Andy Goldring, Coordinator / CEO e: andyg@permaculture.org.uk t: 0113 230 7658

It has been a very special year for the Association. Hosting the 12th International Permaculture Convergence was a huge undertaking, and we learned a huge amount about how it is being applied in countries all around the world as well as making lots of new friends and connections.

I was greatly inspired by the stories of the scholars that you helped to attend through a crowdfunder campaign. People like Ayouba (Liberia) and Eugenio (East Timor), both of whom have lived through wars, hunger and hard times. Using permaculture, they turned around not only their own fortunes, but those of the communities around them too. They are change makers, making their world more peaceful and abundant.

They are not alone. Each of us, in our own way, is trying to do something positive, to make a difference in our own place and community. We are all at different stages in our journeys, some are further ahead and give the rest of us inspiration to carry on, others are just beginning, excited with all the fresh possibilities that permaculture holds. The Association is a way of connecting us up so we can help each other, and achieve more than we could on our own.

We definitely achieved a lot together in 2015, but we can't rest on laurels; there is still a lot more to do! We have plans for developing new services and projects; for learning, for local action, for networking, for research, for outreach to new audiences, for advocacy and for creating change, all built around supporting our members, friends and allies on their permaculture journeys.

All of this takes time and money, so if you can, please give a Christmas gift to your Association so that we can re-double our efforts in 2016. With your help we can help the next generation of change makers, eco-designers and community champions to get involved in the wonderful world of permaculture... thanks!

I hope you have a peaceful winter,

Andy Goldring @andygoldring

Join the conversation

facebook: facebook.com/ permacultureassociation Contribute to your newsletter! Send articles and news to communicate@ permaculture.org.uk

Network news

Lagan Valley Permaculture Northern Ireland

With 20 years experience in teaching introductory permaculture courses, and workshops on sustainable developments; Lagan Valley Permaculture use their 10 acre woodland, no dig vegetable field, micro livestock and local culture as a basis.

They network with school gardens, ecology groups, women centres, and community gardens. They welcome visitors campers, wwoofers, sharing ideas and discoveries.

Philip Allen, Lagan Valley Permaculture, Lisburn Co Down ecoworrierphil@gmail.com

Ecological Land Cooperative success

Through a community share offer, the Ecological Land Cooperative now have enough financing to secure their next site. They will soon start work to develop the next cluster of low-impact, ecological smallholdings in England. £328,350 was raised!

New two year project explores culture and economics of wheat growing on a local and global scale

Between Autumn 2015 and Autumn 2016, a collective made up of members of the public, the food industry, farming community, artists and researchers are becoming active stakeholders in a field of wheat in Branston Booths, Lincolnshire, England. This project follows two years research into the culture and economics of wheat growing on a local and global scale.

Hull permaculture and transition group

Hull Permaculture group first formed after a permaculture design course had come to an end. It was formed as a means to keep in touch and continue learning together. They try to meet up on a monthly basis (but sometimes life gets in the way); during the winter months they usually meet up at a local pub, have a chat, bring books, magazines and questions to share, and have group discussions. Now, joined with Transition Hull to combine efforts, the group welcome new involvement – see

www.transitionhull.co.uk/permaculture for details.

Sheffield and East Peak network

Barbara Bristow would like to develop the permaculture network around Sheffield and East Peak, as part of her Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design. Anyone interested in making contact can email her at **greavehouse@yahoo.co.uk**.

Yorkshire Permaculture

As a way of sharing information, a new Facebook group was set up following the IPC. It is hoped that people will join if they are in the Yorkshire area as a way to network, collaborate and connect across the county. www.facebook.com/groups/ yorkshirepermaculture



Enjoying learning, laughing and growing together at the Fejø Retreat LAND Centre in Denmark

Fejø Retreat LAND Centre

2015 has been a great year at Fejø Retreat LAND Centre, Denmark! They have welcomed wwoofers, volunteers and visitors from all over the world and enjoyed learning, laughing and growing together. One visitor even made a fantastic short film! You can find that on The Healing Garden blog:

https://helbredendehave.wordpress.com/films. Coming in 2016 they will be building a yurt at Easter Time. You can also join the Meditative Garden Week in July.

Please contact **moloney@fejoe.dk** for details.

Strawbale roundhouse build highly commended for innovation

Karuna, in Shropshire, recently applied for the Idox Innovation Award for the building of the strawbale roundhouse. They were selected as a highly commendable project in Innovation in Promoting Environmental Sustainability. The panel said, "Karuna Insight Design CIC ticked a lot of the Awards' boxes, demonstrating an innovative approach to producing and promoting new construction techniques and methodology... commended for its ability to showcase variety and innovation." If anyone has a flare for this sort of work who is willing to help Karuna with funding, please contact them: email **merav66@hotmail.com**

www.fieldofwheat.co.uk

Network news

North Devon Permaculture Network

The network saw its 1st anniversary in July. This came during a forced hiatus so there was no celebration. However the group has gained momentum and a new, vibrant energy. Interest has picked up with new members continuing to filter in. November's gathering highlighted the diversity of the group, with a significant number of the group are families with young children.

Although the network title refers to a permaculture collective, members' knowledge of permaculture ranges from very little to those who have a full Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) and several years experience. 'Integrating rather than segregating' is an important permaculture principle we use to bring together the edges between the mainstream and permaculture worlds.

As we continue to emerge, plans for skills share events, fundraising and gatherings are being made. It looks like the next year will be an existing ride!

Meetings run the 1st Sunday of every month, 2–5pm.

For more details contact Iain and Wenderlynn, email us@northdevonpermaculture.co.uk or text 07516477470. Facebook: North Devon Permaculture Network. Twitter: @NDPermnetwork



Food sovereignty gathering in Hebden Bridge

2016 events

We are looking forward to another year of successful events, with some relief to not be hosting a huge international gathering, yet using the learning to prepare excellent offerings. We are planning to host a national convergence to connect members to network and learn – details coming very soon!

For Diploma apprentices, the Diploma Gathering will provide a space for sharing designs, group tutorials and guild working. This will likely be in early May, final dates to be confirmed.

Then, there are plans for regional gatherings by local groups. You can read about the Scotland Gathering planned for June on page 22.

If you have an event planned for 2016, remember to tell the network about it: use your members login to list at **www.permaculture.org.uk** – we will share it through our channels.

Food Sovereignty and a National Food Policy

Members of the Association made up a good number of the 250 people that attended the second food sovereignty gathering in Hebden Bridge in October. Amongst many excellent workshops, one that is set to continue is the National Food Policy work initiated by the Landworkers Alliance. The Association will be supporting this over coming months. Get in touch with Andy to get involved.



The Permaculture Association office is closed 21 December 2015 to 4 January 2016. Thanks for your patience over this time.

Association news

AGM and Winter Gathering

Over 50 members gathered at Cecil Sharp House for the Annual General Meeting, followed by a Winter Gathering of workshops and celebrations. Thanks to those that could come, also those of you who voted by proxy.

A heartfelt thanks to those trustees who leave the board – Stefan Geyer who has been a wonderful chair and very dedicated trustee – and Teresa Ponting who made great contributions but had to step down for personal reasons. Welcome to Sandy James and Graham Wood who now join the board.

Do you earn money from work inspired by permaculture?

The Permaculture Association, in partnership with Kingston University, have secured funding to map enterprises and businesses inspired by permaculture in the UK. If you are involved in a permaculture inspired enterprise, either as a worker, an investor or a customer, or if you make all or part of your living from a permaculture related activity, please let Chris know the business name, type of work, geographical location and contact email, website or phone number. For more information **research@permaculture.org.uk**

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Research update

by Chris Warburton-Brown



International
Permaculture(Jonathon Porritt, David Holmgren). More
than 15 universities were represented at the
conference. At the heart of the opening
session was the launch of the Permaculture
international Research Network (see
opposite).

Many of the talks, including all the keynote

listen to on the IPC YouTube channel. If you

only have time for one, watch Kristín Vala

Ragnasdóttir talking about her research

meet them: http://s.coop/kristinipcuk

Speakers at IPC 2015

on the massive challenges facing the world

economy, and how permaculture can help to

speeches, are now available to watch or

Permaculture Association hosts biggest ever permaculture research event

Over 650 people from 70 countries attended the IPC conference, making it the biggest permaculture research event ever held. 109 speakers spoke on a huge variety of topics, ranging from community building to soil.

Keynote speakers included professors (Tim Lenton and Kristín Vala Ragnarsdóttir) alongside frontline permaculture practitioners (Pandora Thomas, John Nzira, Rowe Morrow), founders of inspiring social movements (Cathy Debenham and Rob Hopkins), and internationally known 'green' speakers

Packed hall at IPC 2015 © James Taylor



Permaculture International Research Network launched

We want to continue and enhance the many, many research conversations that began at the international permaculture conference, through the Permaculture International Research Network (PIRN). The launch of PIRN formed the centrepoint of the conference's opening session.

In order to further knowledge and understanding of permaculture in all its aspects, researchers and practitioners need to work closely together and learn from each other. PIRN will facilitate this by promoting knowledge exchange, providing peer group support, giving access to journals, books and literature reviews, developing collaborative action research projects and creating a place to access research and to share findings. It is being built entirely online, and will include monthly e-bulletins, a database of members and their research projects, a brand new website, a facebook page, an interactive map and the chance to join research projects. It has already attracted over 400 members in 50 countries and facilitated hundreds of new relationships. We have big hopes for PIRN and a big vision.

On 10 September, PIRN held its first ever research workshop. Over 70 permaculture researchers attended. Attendees were asked what they would like to get from the network, and what kind of permaculture research they would like to see undertaken. Answers were staggeringly varied, but there was a general consensus on the need for online networking and the development of collaborative research projects.

Attendees split into smaller groups around the themes in the Holmgren Flower, and worked on developing actual collaborative research projects that the network could deliver.



A number of potential projects emerged, including forest garden polycultures and making a livelihood from permaculture.

Next steps for our research work

We are contributing to special IPC editions of Permaculture Design, Permaculture, and Reclaiming Diversity and Citizenship. We are building PIRN. We are exploring the possibility of a dedicated permaculture research journal. We are starting a new project on permaculture business entrepreneurs in the UK. We are reinvigorating our ten year forest garden research project. We are following up all the amazing new friends and networks we made around the world at the IPC. We are continuing with our ongoing research tasks, like maintaining the Permaculture Research Digest. With so much going on, we have decided not to take on any new research projects until well into 2016!

All of this work highlights the most pressing need, which is to secure more funding for our work. With Chris' current funding coming to an end in March, we need to find a secure financial basis for his post in the long term, so he can focus his energies on research instead of on funding.

Membership of PIRN is open to anyone with an interest in any aspect of permaculture research. You can join by emailing Chris at **pirn@permaculture.org.uk**

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Permaculture works

Education

Children in permaculture – funding success

We have secured EU funding for a 3 year project developing practice, curriculum and materials for teaching permaculture to children. The project will feature cooperation between partners in several European countries. This will create a new project coordinator post and some paid time for specific project deliverables. Many thanks to members Lusi Alderslowe, Gaye Amus and Rakesh Bhambri for their work on the application. Read more on opposite.



Permaculture Educators' Course, Denmark

New teachers gain skills & confidence

In early summer, we sent six trainee teachers to Denmark for a Permaculture Educators' Course. We also sent four aspiring teachers on an Environmental Education Tools course in Spain. Zaibun Nisa said "it was a great immersion into the field of environmental education as well as learning what it takes to be an engaging and supportive facilitator. I went away feeling confident in my ability to face a classroom and be able to handle whatever came my way!"

Staff compare notes with Permakultur Institut, Germany

Joe and Cath visited the Permakultur Institut in Germany in June. This gave them a chance to learn about the systems and processes in place there and bring some fresh ideas to the education provision at the Association. Danke schön to our hosts!

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Education outcomes from IPCUK

At the IPCUK convergence, several permaculture teachers agreed to cooperate on the development of an international permaculture education group. More details as they emerge.

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Permaculture glossary

This project aims to develop a multilingual glossary of permaculture and help accelerate the spread of permaculture beyond anglophone countries. It started within the Language Group of the organizational team for the IPCUK and includes Association members Tomas Remiarz and Tasha Eve in collaboration with Maria Prieto. Find out more at: www.facebook.com/PermacultureGlossary

Want to learn about permaculture? Check the course listings on the website:

www.permaculture.org.uk/courses.

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.

Children in permaculture



Taking on the animal spirit at IPCUK, with Lara from Slovenia, and children from around the world. © Lusi Alderslowe.

We are delighted to announce that the Children in Permaculture project has been awarded €250,000 for a 3 year project from Erasmus+. Exciting times for educators, parents and children! Six partners from UK, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Italy are working to develop a range of activities and outputs.

This international exchange will develop, test, adapt and implement practices in permaculture education with children. It aims to:

- Develop a permaculture curriculum suitable for children.
- Create well designed materials for educators.
- Collect and create an open education resource.
- Foster a cohesive society through learning with people from other countries and cooperation between formal and informal education settings.
- Share best practice and new perspectives on designing kindergartens and schools, and promote better outdoor learning experiences for children.

You can sign up to receive our newsletter at **www.childreninpermaculture.com**.



Resources required!

Our first next big task is to research resources which people are using to share permaculture with children, e.g. lesson plans, websites, videos, case studies, and write a research paper on our findings. Please share with us anything you think we may find useful.

Email: children@permaculture.org.uk or Facebook: Children in Permaculture.

Top tips for organising a permaculture event

Children are the future of our planet, our species, our movement. At permaculture events, please aim for children to be happy, included, respected, empowered and learning the basics of earth care, people care and fair shares. Here are some tips on how:

- Always have an outdoor (as natural as possible) space for children to be in.
- Set up a cosy, interesting, fun space for very young children (o-3 years) and parents to hang out in – toys, storybooks, nappy changing equipment, cushions, blankets, and parenting magazines! Set up systems to enable parents to swap child-care.
- Make sure the kids catch a bit of the international, experienced educators vibe by inviting different people to lead workshops aimed at young people. We called it Facilitating Understanding of Nature – Permaculture Inspiring Kids and Educators (FUN PIKES). Check out how we did this in the CiP newsletter www.childreninpermaculture.com and www.ipcuk.events/article/fun-pikes.

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Permaculture diploma

Diploma accreditations at IPCUK

Huge congratulations to Deborah Simmonds, Joe Atkinson, Karen Noon, Katie Shepherd, Katy Fox and Kerry Lane, all of whom accredited at IPCUK. Well done all! Some truly inspirational designs were shared, a very small sample are shared on the following pages.





culture works

PTMD

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Diploma Working Group update

The Diploma Working Group (DWG) is made up of PDC holders, Diploma Apprentices and Diploma Tutors, plus Association staff. Its main function is to shape, steer and drive forward the British diploma system in applied permaculture design.

The key elements the group has progressed this year are supporting the design of a new website; updating the tutors contract and the peer review form; researching the barriers and enablers to the diploma system; and a new design for national diploma gatherings.

Our focus for 2016 will be on implementing the diploma gatherings pattern and design; implementing the marketing strategy; launching a new website; and scaling up the number of diploma apprentices.

We are looking to gather and share peoples stories about their diploma journey. Whether you're just about to sign up, currently an apprentice, or completed your diploma some time ago we'd love to hear from you. The DWG doors are always open and if you would like to become part of the group please email **Cath diploma**@

Barry Jones, member of the Diploma Working Group and diploma apprentice.

New tutor training

We are delighted to announce we now have another 11 tutors to add to our register. The latest round of tutor training took place earlier this month and, as a result, there are now new tutors in London, Norfolk, Shropshire, Yorkshire, Wales, France, Ireland and Spain.

Permahaus design

by Joe Atkinson



Last year I was invited by a local architecture practice to join a team to submit an entry in the Sunday Times British Homes Award. I provided the permaculture & landscape design and 3D artwork. The brief called for holiday accommodation built to passivhaus standards for which the architects wanted to integrate permaculture ideas.

This design only includes Survey, Analyse and Design (SAD) as only the competition winners would be required to develop their design to implementation. However, the project was instructive due to using a range of new design methods and tools for designing & collaborating.

Ideas for all aspects of the design (landscaping, permaculture, building form, fabric, materials) were proposed at meetings, through shared online documents, 3D models etc. These proposals would then be explored and interrogated by the team and gradually the final design emerged.

Due to the nature of the design, the analysis was virtual and mainly performed using software tools. The team spent a great deal of time working on the Presentation (a further fourth stage after SAD) producing drawings, diagrams, 3D artwork and creating a narrative with photographs to convey a sense of the possible lived experience of the imagined future occupants.

For many permaculture designs, with their focus on practical outcomes, it seems hard to justify this investment. However, when entering a competition, or if selling ideas to a client, community, or planning authority, being able to present design work professionally can make the difference between gaining acceptance and support, and failing to. This insight and new skills I developed were key outcomes of this project for me.

What went well?

- Working in a team of professional designers & use of massing modelling, mood boards and Base Camp as a collaborative tool.
- Using "A Pattern Language": a powerful tool for informing design and communicating ideas.
- Creating 3D images in short time frames.

What was challenging?

Working with time constraints, without having visited the site and on a virtual/undecided site.

What next?

- Promote professional Presentation skills (3D modelling & rendering) within the permaculture community.
- Write a blog post about the design & experience.
- Use social media to publicise the design.
- Run 3D modelling workshops at National Diploma Gathering(s).

Joe's Diploma portfolio: www.joeatkinsonpermaculture.com

New permaculture to

LAN LAN Permaculture Demonstration Net

As part of the International

Permaculture Edge Events offering the following LAND Centres shared their demonstration site with visitors from around the world. You can visit too, details of over 100 Centres and Learner sites at www.permaculture.org.uk/land

SEPNET

First up, the highly entertaining Pam Yuille (host Pam's Pools) showed us round her 50 acre site, which she has developed for wildlife as well as food production. Pam is self-sufficient in fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, eggs and honey; uses her own wood and water and generates more electricity than she can use. Great examples of permaculture practice were interspersed with high praise of WWOOFers. Originally published by WWOOF UK www.wwoof.org.uk/news/ permaculture-convergence-edge-events

WWOOF OK www.wwoof.org.uk/news/ permaculture-convergence-edge-events ScotLAND Tour

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Not a bus full as we had hoped but my car full (five of us) plus a few others who dropped in along the way. As we went along it became obvious how much our hosts were also part of the tour. Garden Cottage, Darius' place in Bonnyrgg, Tombreck Farm on Loch Tayside, Boreland Farm where we stayed a night, the Fortimgall Yew, the Scottish plant explorers' garden at Pitlochry. Then over the top at Glen Shee ski centre to Tap O'Noth Permaculture. Onwards to Findhorn and back via Urban Roots project in Glasgow to our starting point.

Two Australians, one Glasgow person, one from Edinburgh, and the driver from the Borders. Amazing scenery, great projects, great company. We should repeat this. It





Visitors enjoy the ScotLAND tour

deserves to be a busfull next time. Thanks to our hosts: Darius, Sue, Tober, Harry, James, Arianne, Les and all their compadres who also helped out. Last words to Chris from Edinburgh: "From a small suburban garden to ambitious farm holdings, all offering different designs in how to live a more sustainable life. Thanks to Graham for being the Organiser and Guide, enriching the tour with an incredible depth for social, cultural and natural appreciation."

"The post-conference tour to the ScotLAND sites was fantastic. The permaculture sites were very varied and each one was really inspiring. I loved every moment of it." Susan, Melbourne



Transition Edge event visitors in Totnes

Totnes

Building on the experience of Transition Tours it was possible for a small group to put together a 3-day programme and offer it to the world, or at least to the 1000 people coming to the UK for IPC 2015. Nearly 60 people accepted the offer.

What did this achieve?

- Educating and inspiring permaculture activists from around the world, vital since none of what we are doing makes sense unless others learn from, emulate and improve on our experience.
- Learning and being inspired by what our visitors have been doing and by their interest in our achievements.
- Bringing almost £20,000 into the local economy.

"Thanks so much for an amazing Edge event. It was truly transformative!"

Thanks to all the people who helped make this event happen but especially Hal, Nicola, Anne-Marie, Dee, Theresa, Maria and Chris.

www.transitiontowntotnes.org/2015/10/ international-permaculturists-visit-totnes



Transition Edge visitorstake to the River Dart in Totnes

Brighton

82 people enjoyed tours of: Earthship Brighton, currently crowdfunding for new energy and water systems; the straw bale Fruit Factory that will process fruit from gardens and local orchards; productive and biodiverse traditional orchards; the national collection of 30 Sussex apples; a developing forest garden at 'the plot'; schools with forest gardens and shelter belts; new 150-tree council estate orchards; edible plantings in parks; and a permaculture demonstration front garden.

Membership O

Give the gift of Permaculture Association Membership

How did you find out about permaculture? A majority of our existing network members found out about the transformative solutions permaculture provides via their friends and family.

Help strengthen permaculture in the UK and give someone positive inspiration throughout 2016, with the gift of Permaculture Association membership!

Visit www.permaculture.org.uk/ gift-membership,

email **membership@permaculture.org.uk** or give the office a call **0113 230 7461**. *Please order before 17 December to allow for postage before 25 December.

Many hands make light work – membership health check

We have had a steady flow of new members throughout 2015 and a loyal ~60% of you renew and continue to make our fantastic network what it is. Membership has remained oscillating at around the 1400 mark, but we haven't quite broken free of this number in order to grow to 1500.

With more members, the job of co-creating a better future is shared even further, so let's make that our goal for 2016!

Here are some ways to help:

- Start a permaculture group and spread the word about permaculture!
- Give the gift of membership.
- If you're a teacher, let your students know about the Permaculture Association, and better still include membership as part of your course fee.
- Share our news online on twitter, facebook, your blog, your website.

Individual member spotlight Allan Howard – Community Development Worker

I first came across permaculture while living at the Findhorn community in Scotland in the 1980s. The community gardens continue to be grown along permaculture principles and the community has evolved into a thriving ecovillage. I was fortunate to meet Declan and Margrit Kennedy while there and have since followed their work with permaculture at the Lebensgarten ecovillage in Germany.

In the 1990s I worked on the Permaculture Development Programme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The programme was designed to work with international aid agencies and was the first attempt to utilise permaculture in formal development work.

The programme resulted in the creation of the Marda Permaculture Centre in the West Bank and the Khiza'a Permaculture Centre in the Gaza Strip. Both projects were closed down by 2000 due to the surrounding political situation and today individuals from each project continue smaller permaculture projects in the areas.

My interest in permaculture has always been from a community development point of view, particularly how the permaculture framework works well for participatory development in disadvantaged communities. With the current refugee crisis developing in Europe I am interested how permaculture might assist settling these groups into new communities.

After many years away from permaculture, working with the Union of International Associations in Brussels and their Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential, I decided to get back involved by studying urban permaculture systems as they could be used in the cities such as Brussels.

Contraction of the second seco

I have set up a website and blog on urban gardening, based upon my own little garden. My intention over the next year is to document a season's growing in the garden (as a basic manual on vegetable growing in the city) and to visit and explore the numerous new initiatives under way in the city promoting communal gardening and urban agriculture.

I have joined the Permaculture Association in order to draw upon the wealth of ideas and initiatives taking place around the UK for use in Brussels. I invite you all to visit the website and contribute any ideas or example from the UK that might prove useful here in Brussels. **kitchen-garden.be**

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Group member spotlight

The Koanga Institute

The Koanga Institute has spent over 30 years New Zealand heritage food plants, and has New Zealand's largest collection of edible biodiversity (Much of which originally came from the UK).

Over this period we came to understand that it is the nature of industrialised agriculture which has lead us down the path of losing our cultural biodiversity, and much more. We came to understand that if we wish to build a regenerative economy and ecology, then we have to address the issues of regeneration within all aspects of our society.

in the coalmine' - a challenge to understand the depth of the inherent flaws in the industrialisation of our society and ecology, and how we might design our way out of it.

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'Saving the seeds' has become our 'canary

Thirty years after doing our first permaculture design course, we are still inspired by the message that Bill Mollison and David Holmgren and others passed to us. We are also inspired by the works of the Weston (A Price Foundation), and Allan Savory (Holistic Management) and we are actively gaining a deep knowledge in Biological Agriculture and Appropriate Technology.

As we gather this knowledge we increasingly build belief and confidence in our ability to use permaculture design to transform our lives, and be the change we wish to see in the world. Our fields of endeavor include:



- and fruit tree production.
- Urban gardening.
- Biointensive agriculture.
- Nutrient dense food production.
- Forest gardens (from home to farm scale).
- Appropriate technology for autonomous housing.
- Developing a self-reliant village of 30 40 families (12 so far).

We invite you to find out more, and consider joining us then sharing the knowledge with your family and community. To find out more see www.koanga.org.nz.

IPCUK

The International Permaculture **Conference and Convergence were held** in London on 8-9 September 2015. What follows is an excerpt of the rich culture that we are able to share with you beyond the event.

Thanks to the Learning working group's design and work before, during, and after the events there are many resources online. There are full audio recordings, photo albums, and celebratory and insightful videos for you to enjoy and share. www.ipcuk.events signposts to these resources.

Climate change statement

One key output, presented at the General Assembly at the convergence, was the formation of the Permaculture Climate Change Solutions group, emerging from the Next Big Step strand. A group of practitioners convened by Starhawk presented permaculture's statement on climate change, with a strong sense of urgency. From the statement: "Permaculture ethics direct us to create abundance, share it fairly, and limit overconsumption in order to benefit the whole. Healthy, just, truly democratic communities are a potent antidote to climate change."

The full statement is available to read and share at www.ipcuk.events/ article/permaculture-climatechange-statement



The world on my doorstep

I dithered about booking my ticket for IPCUK... and then I finally realised that this was my one chance. That this was my opportunity to meet people from all over the world - people 'doing' permaculture in all sorts of circumstances.

So, I booked my ticket and prepared to have my mind expanded. And what a way to do it. Whilst there were many exciting talks and workshops, what I really enjoyed was sharing experience over food or a drink. During the week I had breakfast with people from Hong Kong, India, Australia, Germany, South Africa and England. Other meals I ate with folks from Malawi, Zimbabwe, New England, California, Pennsylvania, Ireland, Holland, New Zealand, The United Arab Emirates... and more.

I talked to someone who described their experience as a soldier in the East German army in Berlin when the wall came down; I heard what residents of Hong Kong think about China; I discussed apartheid with someone who lived through it in South Africa; ... it was an interesting week.

It is an eye-opener to hear about events, lives, politics and even permaculture from a real person with direct experience.

Plus I met up with many old friends and sold lots of hats... all round an amazing week filled with hope and friendship.

Jan Martin



Photo © April Sampson-Kelly

The Next Big Step in permaculture ecosyste

Our evolving permaculture ecosystem

Since IPC Cuba in 2013, permaculture people have been working together around the world to understand how we can become even more effective. The Next Big Step project began a global conversation in 2014. Hundreds of people have shared their views and needs through workshops at national convergences, online surveys, and face-toface conversations.

We have found that permaculture design:

- Helps change people's lifestyles to become more sustainable and regenerative.
- Offers practical whole-system solutions to global environmental and social issues.

To be more effective there is, amongst other things, a call for:

- More practical examples, shared locally.
- Developing a credible evidence base for permaculture through effective research.
- Sharing knowledge and learning resources widely, including in mainstream (school) curriculums.
- Supporting permaculture organisations to improve fundraising and develop viable options for long-term success.

During the IPC this September, skilled facilitators from three continents offered a supportive structure to help emergent groups to develop their shared passions. Over 500 people contributed to this over the convergence.

A mass workshop on a sunny Sunday afternoon brought us together in a world map of people in geographic regions. [insert photo of folks working together in sunny groups] Here we developed plans to include others and strengthen our local networks. We considered what would be the next key thing to achieve for our region.

Next we came together in thirty topic areas that had emerged from the global conversations and our scholars. The diverse topics covered key aspects of permaculture like water, education, climate change, women, urban permaculture, refugees, and research. Groups considered "How could we be more effective at this?" and "What do we need?"

Several groups really got into the design and planning process and worked together over five days to consider, "Where are we now?", "What can we do to increase coherence and effectiveness?" and, "How can we make it happen?"

Together, we made some amazing progress and commitments that were presented and celebrated at the General Assembly, including:

- To develop an International Permaculture Education Network (IPEN).
- To create an International Journal of Permaculture Research that is accessible to practitioners as well as academically rigorous (for more, see Research pages).
- A statement on climate change that was adopted by the General Assembly. Read it at http://ipcuk.events/article/permacultureclimate-change-statement.
- To create a community of practice around social permaculture to enable the transition from egosystem thinking to ecosystem thinking.
- Understand and develop permaculture in enterprise and enterprise in permaculture.
- Create a supportive facilitation group that enhances the overall efficacy of local, bio regional and global networks.

We already have some resources to help these groups and topics develop further and are planning to expand on this soon.

> Photo: Sagara, licensed under a Creative Commons attribution



We invite you to:

- See what is being done: international.permaculture.org.uk
- Propose new topics, methods, and ideas that you would like to work on and check in at IPC India in 2017: email Naomi at international@permaculture.org.uk.

Permaculture Scotland

www.permaculture.org.uk/scotland

Permaculture Scotland Gathering 2016 – 3-5 June Coldstream, Scottish Borders

We are excited to announce our 2016 gathering, to be held in the beautiful border town of Coldstream in June. Home to the inspirational ScotLAND Centre, Garden Cottage – the oldest intentional Forest Garden in Britain (there will be tours)! Camping will be near to Garden Cottage and if you prefer a bed, please book one of the great facilities in town (more details on our website).

There will be inspirational and thoughtprovoking workshops galore – from Friday afternoon through to Sunday afternoon, as well as the Scottish Annual General Meeting. Contact **scotland@permaculture.org.uk** if you are interested in hosting a workshop.

Our evenings' entertainment will include a ceilidh (with band) and a home-grown ceilidh (open-mic), which will be held in the beautiful old community centre. This renowned venue is well-known on the ceilidh circuits for its excellent acoustics – a great place for a knees-up with friends. And what better opportunity to visit than when so many interesting permaculture people will be here, attending workshops, sharing delicious, nutritious food straight from the forest garden, and good craic!

Special opportunity

Early bird tickets available until Hogmanay at the reduced price of £55. To buy yours, please go to: www.permaculture.org.uk/scotland





Planting a tree at Tombreck at our June 2015 Gathering

New members and volunteering opportunities

We held stalls at various events including Eden Festival, Green Party Conference, Small Holders Association AGM, and have been glad to spread the permaculture word further and welcome members to our mailing lists. We are always looking for volunteers for various tasks – please see our website for details.

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Permaculture Design Network – ScotLAND

We are delighted to have been promised funding from the Robertson Trust of $\pounds_{5,500}$ per year for 3 years, on the condition that we raise the same amount from elsewhere. If you are able to help raise funds towards the target (in cash not contributions in kind) we would be delighted to hear from you.

Paramaethu Cymru Permaculture Wales

wales.permaculture.org.uk

Growing permaculture in Wales

Daeth tua 35 o bobl at ei gilydd i drafod paramaethu yng Nghymru fis diwethaf. It was a busy weekend for Permaculture Wales at the recent gathering hosted by Lampeter Permaculture Group, seen here busy apple pressing after the discussions were over.

Now we are working on a plan for Welsh permaculture, and we'd love to hear from you. We want to develop the website, make permaculture more visible, do better outreach, use the Welsh language more, design a bioregions approach, develop education programmes and organize more gatherings – so if you can help, please get in touch. Paid bod yn swil – don't be shy!



Bed at Garth Hillside Organic Garden



Iaith gwaith – a working language

At the gathering, we had many discussions about deep engagement with Paramaethu – the Welsh term for Permaculture – through the Welsh language. Of the many linguistic and cultural connections we found, one that stood out was that 'dysgu' means both 'to learn' and 'to teach'.

Cawsom ni drafodaethau diddorol, yn cynnwys sôn am natur bersonol iaith (unrhyw iaith!), a sut i annog ein gilydd i ddefnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg trwy gydol ein gweithgareddau. Rhannwyd syniadau am sut i fod yn agored a pharchus, sut i archwilio a darganfod (yn hytrach nag efengylu) er mwyn i ni arbrofi ac ymestyn syniadau Paramaethu yng nghyd-destun Cymreig. Sut fedrwn ni dynnu ar y cyfoeth diwylliannol, hanesyddol a chymunedol Cymru fach i wneud ein Daear fach yn gartref cynaliadwy? Thema'r penwythnos: dysgu, o bob ongl i bob ongl.

Courses in north Wales

Garth Hillside Organic Garden near Llangollen is planning some exciting new courses for the New Year and would like to hear from people who are interested in getting involved. They include composting, herbalism, hedgelaying, coppicing and wood and straw-bale roundhouse building. They also have regular volunteer sessions on Thursdays. Please see the news item on our website, call Jude on **01691 718127** or email **garthorganic@gmail.com.**

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Community projects

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Five Acres North End Lane, Downe BR6 7HL

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Robert Millar Gardens • www.robertmillargardens.co.uk T4 Sustainability 1A Manners Court, Manners Avenue, Manners Industrial Estate, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 8EF

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Education

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The Bay Trust Pines Garden, Beach Road, St Margarets Bay, Dover CT15 6DZ • 01304 851737 • julie@baytrust.org.uk • baytrust.org.uk

The James Hutton Institute Invergowrie, Dundee DD2 5DA • caroline.crighton@hutton.ac.uk • www.hutton.ac.uk

Publications

Permaculture Activist Post Office Box 5516, Bloomington 47407, USA • www.permacultureactivist.net

Permanent Publications The Sustainability Centre, Droxford Road, East Meon, GU32 1HR • 01730 823311 • www.permaculture.co.uk

PIP Magazine PO Box 172 Pambula, NSW, 2549 Australia • 0408375991 • www.pipmagazine.com.au Positive News 5 Torrens Street, Islington, London EC1V 1NQ • office@positivenews.org.uk

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Food Forestation Ltd Tavistock Enterprise HUB, 4 Brook Street Tavistock, Devon PL19 oHD • andy@foodforests. eu • www.foodforests.eu

Want others to find your organisation's name here? Contact Nicola and find out about all the benefits of a group or business membership: membership@permaculture.org.uk

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North Lane, Welwick, Hull HU12 oSL

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 www.gourmetmushrooms.co.uk
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Organiclea c/o Hornbeam Environment Centre, 458 Hoe Street, Walthamstow E17 8AB • info@organiclea.org.uk • 0208 558 6880 • www.organiclea.org.uk

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NORTHERN IRELAND

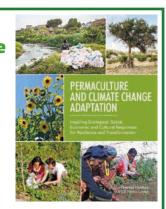
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How permaculture can provide alobal solutions to climate change

Permanent Publications have launched their latest book, Permaculture and Climate Change Adaptation: Inspiring Ecological, Social, Cultural and Economic Responses by Dr. Gil Penha-Lopes of the centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environment (cE3c) Lisbon University, and Dr Thomas Henfrey, of cE3c and the Schumacher Institute, in the run up to COP21.

In collaboration with Good Works Publishing Cooperative and ECOLISE, and with funding from the EU research project BASE (Bottom-up Climate Adaptation), Permaculture and Climate Change Adaptation shares clear examples of how permaculture

contributes to the global response to climate change. This ground-breaking book draws upon a range of case studies from all over the world, demonstrating the efficacy of permaculture design applied to land-based and community projects. It also includes many ideas and examples from ecovillages and the Transition movement. http://s.coop/climate http://s.coop/climate



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Use small and slow stolutions

Soil building for fertility – Heal the Soil CSA, India

"Heal the soil" is one simple solution to tackle our social and environmental challenges. If we take care of our soil, our natural resources and manage our water use, we will get back our green planet. At HTS we do not wait for governments, policy makers, huge organisations or big companies to initiate such projects. We can do it 'One seed at a time, One house at a time'. Small and slow.

"Small and slow systems are easier to maintain than big ones, make better use of local resources, and produce more sustainable outcomes." David Holmgren

Our approach with HTS is to create self sustaining environments where low income, rural families can be self sufficient when it comes to basic needs, and if they get good at it they will earn extra income.

This is how we do it!

With the help of organic farming experts, community leaders and volunteers, we help start-up small vegetable gardens in village homes, provide organic seeds and training to local people, which enables them to grow their own organic veg, medicinal plants, herbs and fruits in their own premises using permaculture methods.



Heal the Soil experts and volunters Tamilnadu, India

This method does not need extra water, extra land or extra energy inputs, in fact the beauty of this concept is that it uses all the organic waste like kitchen waste, grey water, dry leaves and such things which we find around any settlements. Here the waste becomes precious and waste management becomes a benefit rather than a liability.

Fresh, organically grown food is more nutritious, it saves money as these families do not have to buy everything from the market, and by using permaculture methods, plants are produced in abundance with less and less labour input down the years. This extra harvest also earns extra income with co-op sales, farmers market, or selling produce to nearby towns and cities. For remote locations, most of the produce can be sun dried slowly using home made sun dryers (another small and slow solution!) This dehydrated food can be packed and stored for a much longer time.

Would you like to 'Heal the soil'?

Heal the soil is registered under creative commons and is an open source platform to share and learn. Please feel free to adopt, adapt, improvise and implement similar concepts in your local area. **www.healthesoilcsa.org**.