

Issue 131 | Spring 2017



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poster
inside

Alara Cereals

**Would chickens
work for you?**

**Spring/summer
events 2017**



www.permaculture.org.uk

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**Permaculture
ASSOCIATION**

“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), Cindy Stott, Graham Wood, Jennifer Lauro, Sandy James.

The Permaculture Association would like to thank: Eric Toensmeier, Maddy and Tim and the team at Permaculture Magazine, enCircle, Chris Penrose, James Pullein, Rhiannon, Ferdy, South West Convergence steering group, all our new members and renewers, teachers, 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 to communicate@permaculture.org.uk for the next issue by 9 May for publication June 2017.

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: Hull city of permaculture: Musician Liza Carthy visits Lausanne (left) at Constable Community allotments

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Letter from the Coordinator

Andy Goldring, Coordinator / CEO

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

One of my favourite Bill Mollison principles is “the yield of the system is unlimited, or only limited by the information and imagination of the designer”. When balanced with the best advice in the Designers’ Manual – “start small, get it under control and gently expand the perimeter” – it reminds us that with persistent and thoughtful action, we can do amazing things, and create wonderfully abundant places and relationships.

The dynamic permaculture network is reaching out to many other spheres of life in order to work for a positive future. Our shared vision - an abundant world in which we care for the earth, each other and future generations, whilst living within nature’s limits - is creative, positive, inclusive and possible. Our practice - ecological design and implementation of systems that meet our needs and enhance environmental well-being - is effective and transformative.

So it is with great pleasure that I can announce that we have recently secured a major grant (\$100,000) to upgrade our knowledge base* and make our information and imagination more accessible to more people (future co-designers). Alongside the Ambassadors project, which will help to reach many thousands of people with practical stories of how we can make positive change, the new knowledge base will bring together evidence based practical solutions that we can use now to make a healthier world together.

There has never been a more important time to learn about and do permaculture. This year, why not attend a course, visit a project or a LAND Centre*, take on a new practical challenge in your home, garden or community, invite new people to get involved or share your information and imaginative ideas at one of the many events* that are happening across Britain? The Permaculture Ambassador gatherings, London Permaculture Festival, South West Convergence, Scottish Convergence, Welsh Convergence, plus many more local events, will be a great way to enhance your skills, build your network and re-charge your permaculture batteries.

I know that sometimes things can seem dark and hopeless. Let me assure you, with our collective intelligence and imagination, we can change the world!

May your garden grow big, bright and bushy in 2017.

Andy

*www.permaculture.org.uk for the knowledge base, event and course listings and a map of LAND Centres.

Join the conversation

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

facebook: facebook.com/permacultureassociation

Network news



Hull city of permaculture: Musician Liza Carthy visits Lausanne (left) at Constable Community allotments.

Hull - city of permaculture

Hull is of course the UK City of Culture 2017 and the local permaculture group are hoping to shine a light on the permaculture and transition activities. At the Diploma Gathering in February, Lausanne and Ellen progressed their design for an event celebrating Hull as a city of permaculture. There are lots of ideas and planning has started for an event in late summer at Constable Street Field.

If you would like to join the team planning and promoting this event please contact:
Lausanne Tranter lausannet@yahoo.co.uk

20 years of permaculture in Brighton

It all began in 1996 with the first Permaculture Design Course taught in Brighton. This led to the Brighton Permaculture Trust being formed in 2000. They are now running up to 40 courses a year!

“The fact that most of our team have done a Permaculture Design Course has been one of the most powerful ways of building the organisation. Permaculture gives us shared ethics and a shared way of working... Without a doubt, it has been our practical projects that have been beneficial in building partnerships with local authorities and organisations. Our community projects have given our work a much wider appeal and really made a difference.”

brightonpermaculture.org.uk

London interactive permaculture project map

The London Permaculture network has launched a map of permaculture, and permaculture-friendly projects in London. Go to **www.londonpermaculture.com/map** to see it. Use the map to guide yourself around the projects in your local area, and the whole of London.

This map is still being developed, and we would love your project to be included! If you would like your project added to the map please contact:

info@londonpermaculture.com



Artists drawing of Pennerley Forest Garden proposed houses and workshops.

Pennerley Forest Garden planning success

When Louise came to assess us as a LAND Centre in 2010 she asked us what we were going to do with our redundant farm buildings. After much thought we decided they truly were surplus and the only way to turn this waste into resource was to attempt to develop.

We spoke to our local councillor and our neighbours who were all supportive and encouraging and so started the long process with the planning authority.

3 years later we have **full** planning permission to build three houses with workshops. We described this as a live, work, grow concept in our application – we have more land than we need for growing food, so we are happy for each unit to have an allotment.

A friend of a friend who is a small private developer said that 3 years was quite normal from initial concept to full permission.

Aire Valley Permaculture Network - local connections

Working on our permaculture smallholding is wonderful, I feel lucky every day for the privilege. I do however find it quite isolating. The internet and facebook are great for research but not relevant to my bioregion.

I find the tea breaks at permaculture gatherings as productive as the workshops, so I set about designing a way to harvest this, a local permaculture social. Nothing prescriptive such as having a speaker or watching films, but actually chatting with others from my local area, the Aire Valley, in West Yorkshire, which stretches from Malham up in the Yorkshire Dales right into the City of Leeds. We discuss what grows well in our short season, how to design for steep slopes, of which there are plenty along the valley. We share stories, information, plants and food. I have discovered there are permaculturalists all around me, I just needed to shout that I was here too.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The next dates are 21 March and 18 April. At Fern Cottage, Steeton, BD20 6QR from 7pm, bring and share food.

Facebook group: **Aire Valley Permaculture Network**

Sandwell and Birmingham permaculture group find a new base for community activities

The group have been on the look out for a new base and Bleakhouse library have just had their garden developed by countershade www.countershade.org, who are ready to handover to a local community group.

Holding social events for all will play a big part of new plans, as will activities for children. A small monthly farmers market is something else that may happen there. Plus it will be host to the group's community seedbank. Have you seen the group's website? Their wider aims and objectives are set out there sabpermaculturgroup.weebly.com

Join the launch at Bleakhouse library, Bleakhouse Rd, Oldbury B68 9DS on 8 April 11am-3pm.

25 years of Permanent Publications

2017 is the 25th Anniversary Year of our partners *Permaculture* magazine. Their Permanent Publications have published

countless classic permaculture titles, from introductions to practical solutions.

Ordering direct from Permaculture's Green Shopping online store is the permaculture equivalent of 'buying locally' and helps keep revenues in the permaculture community. www.green-shopping.co.uk All print and digital magazine subscribers can read the entire library of back issues for free online.

Brake the Cycle - Adventures in new ways of living

Brake the Cycle is an adventure bike tour company about the changing scenery within as well as the landscape viewed from the saddle.

Open to all abilities, the rides combine physical adventure with conscious lifestyle choices. The permaculture inspired UK tour visits a number of inspiring projects such as Pentiddy, Landmatters and Findhorn.

Using adventure to inspire and empower, Brake the Cycle is a great way to see and connect with people and places. To find out more: www.brakethecycle.xyz



Brake the Cycle connect with John O'Groats.

Association news

Welcome new team members, thanks to applicants

Welcome to our four new members of staff!

We are considering staff away days for our quarterly meetings, as the office is going to be a bit cramped at whole team meetings now with 17 members of the team!

Thank you to everyone that applied, we had scores of very high quality applications. There is a lot of talent in our network.

By conducting interviews using Skype we estimate that we saved hundreds of pounds in travel costs, and saved an estimated 0.52 tonnes of CO2e.

Free energy saving LED bulbs from Ecotricity

Ecotricity are promoting a limited time offer of LED bulb kits when you switch.

The bulb kits are worth £30 and have the potential to save you up to £65 per year on your electricity bill.

Switch to Ecotricity by visiting the link below and following the instructions, and Ecotricity will also donate up to £60 to the Permaculture Association!

www.permaculture.org.uk/ecotricity

Complete local groups survey

What work is happening in communities across Britain? We know there are millions of people working towards Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Shares. What other groups are you involved with or work with in your area?

Complete the survey at:

www.permaculture.org.uk/groups-survey



Diploma Gathering participants had a weekend of learning, sharing and fun.

Diploma Gathering

Over 50 Diploma Apprentices, holders and tutors got together at the Bilberry Hill Centre near Birmingham last month for the first of this year's Diploma Gatherings. It was a fantastic weekend of inspiring workshops, tutorials, great conversations and delicious food.

The only thing missing from February's Gathering was an Accreditation presentation. If your portfolio is nearing completion, why not aim to accredit at the next Gathering? It will be taking place on 25-26 November (venue tbc).

Sarah Spencer is aiming to accredit at Whistlewood Common, Melbourne, Derbyshire on Sunday 29 April. If you would like to be on her peer review group please email her. It's an opportunity to support Sarah in the final step of her Diploma journey and it's a role that offers deep learning for both potential and current Diploma Apprentices.

Research update

Chris Warburton-Brown, Research Coordinator

Looking forward to the next two years

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the Association's research work is now guaranteed until March 2019, due to a combination of the EU funded GROW soil observatory and the permaculture solutions to climate change project (see below).

Securing these two substantial funding streams is a testimony to the hard work of so many people over the last eight years, to get the Association's research role properly established and credible. In addition, we hope to be able to make an announcement on the funding for the proposed journal Permaculture Research very soon!

Lush Summit

The Lush Summit was held in London on 8 February. This is an annual event for Lush Cosmetics staff to learn about the ethical and practical underpinnings of the business. Because Lush have funded PIRN through their Sustainable Lush (Slush) Fund, Ryan and I were invited.

It was great to have such a strong reminder of the broader global issues that connect to permaculture, such as animal cruelty, refugees, human rights and poverty, and to see such an amazing company and its dynamic staff so committed to helping tackle them. Lush's commitment to source its products from permaculture farms was strongly reaffirmed by Lush Director Simon Constantine. Videos at: player.lush.com/summit

Work starting soon on new Permaculture Solutions to Climate Change website

Just before Christmas we got the very exciting news that the VK Rasmussen Foundation had granted us \$100,000 (£80,000) to build a Permaculture Solutions to Climate Change website.

By 'us', I mean an international collaboration of 9 different organisations coordinated by the Permaculture Association. Work will start on developing the website in April.

We hope to adapt the existing Permaculture Knowledge Base with a huge range of new climate change focussed material. We believe permaculture has many innovative solutions to climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration and we will be engaging many international experts in the field of permaculture and climate change to create the new web content.

Our intention is to create a unique and exceptional online resource which can really make a difference globally.

New website to support permaculture enterprise

A new website, permaculture-enterprise.org, has been launched to support anyone interested in starting their own permaculture enterprise or business, or expanding an existing one.



Grow observatory members.

Calling all experienced growers!

We are a partner in the GROW Observatory, a European-wide project engaging thousands of growers as citizen scientists. We will learn together, using simple tools to better manage soil, while contributing to vital global environmental monitoring.

If you are taking practical steps to regenerate the soil for future generations, GROW provides a great opportunity to develop and share your knowledge and skills. In year one of the project, we are looking for committed, experienced growers who can help us create our network, test our tools, and understand what will excite and engage growers in future stages of the project.

We would like a strong permaculture presence in the project. If you are interested, please sign up using the online form at growobservatory.org and select campaign 1.

The GROW project is funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, under grant agreement No 690199.



The future direction of the Permaculture International Research Network

There has been a lot of thinking a lot recently about the future direction of PIRN and how we can create a more engaged and collaborative network. The infographic opposite sets out our current thinking about PIRN and its future possibilities.

PIRN - FUTURE
PIRN's current funding ends on 31st March, and the Permaculture Association (Britain) is keen to share hosting with the international permaculture community. Here are some future possibilities for PIRN.

- A steering committee or stewardship council
- Currently inactive research sub-groups either need reinvigorating or closing down
- A better membership database that includes details of members' locations and interests
- A truly international knowledge base for permaculture, built by PIRN members
- A social media platform that allows members to link up and work together
- A shared manifesto or vision for permaculture international research
- More funded research projects by collaborations of PIRN members
- Shared hosting and leadership across several international organisations
- Better ways for members to share their completed research

Individual member spotlight

Tom Merrill

How I came across permaculture

I didn't find permaculture, it found me. I was busy with my gardening business when my friend introduced me to it.

I have to be honest, at first I just thought it sounded like gardening, yet it appeared more chaotic. I didn't really understand it. However, I was intrigued, the 'seed had been set'. The further I investigated, the more the pieces of the puzzle started to fit together. I began to realise that this wasn't just a tool I could apply to my job, but to my entire life.

Why permaculture is important to me

Permaculture has joined up the dots for me, it has brought many of the seemingly unrelated parts of my life together and given them direction. I have always been an unconfident person, believing that in life you have to become very skilled in one particular subject.

Permaculture has made me realise that this is far from the truth. In actuality diversity is the key, most importantly the willingness to just try. And ultimately not to be afraid to fail, as failure gives us a great opportunity to learn.

What I hope to gain from being apart of the permaculture network

One of my greatest lessons in life has been the strength of community, and this is what I feel a part of with the permaculture network. You can be anywhere in the world and still feel connected to this amazing movement of people.

I have decided to jump in the deep end, and now my life has become a practice of



Top: Tom Merrill.
Bottom: Tom's land in remote Spain.

permaculture, on a remote piece of land in the mountains of Spain.

With our new project, semillayogapermaculture, my partner and I want to share our experience with others. We want to plant seeds of inspiration, and give people the confidence that permaculture has given us. It appears that with the permaculture network, people really are becoming the change they want to see in the world.

www.semillayogapermaculture.com

Permaculture works

Group member spotlight

Alara Cereals

Alara Cereals is one of the oldest standing cereal manufacturers in the UK, having manufactured in the heart of London since 1975. In its 42 years Alara has made several exceptional achievements; the first muesli to be certified Organic (via the Soil Association), the first to be certified Coeliac (via Coeliac UK), becoming a zero waste food manufacturer and of course becoming The Most Sustainable Food Manufacturer on Earth in 2016.

The title of The Most Sustainable Food Manufacturer on Earth was measured against four fundamental foundations of sustainability; good governance, social, financial, and environmental.

In regard to Good Governance, Alara offers transparent audits. This means that any independent audit carried out at Alara's manufacturing site is made readily available on their website to anyone wishing to see it. This evidences Alara's commitment and belief in their high quality health and safety standards.

In considering the Social foundation Alara hosts two exceptional parties every year, their Wassail and their Harvest parties. Both of these free parties bring together stakeholders, our team, resident and business neighbours, customers, suppliers, local government and NGOs. They are wonderful evening events providing free food, drinks and entertainment to up to 1000 individuals.

Alara ensures that it pays all of its suppliers as soon as the couriered foods are unloaded. This cash upon delivery system is Alara's financial measure. It demonstrates their valuing food and their suppliers above all, including money and keeps in line with their



Top: Alex Smith.
Bottom: The Alara range of cereals.



ethical and Fairtrade beliefs and actions in regard to sourcing.

The final measurement is environmental, which Alara measures via carbon in. Alara takes responsibility for the embedded CO2 equivalent for all products we sell. To ensure this is done correctly the company has internally developed a bootstrapping carbon calculator tool. Nonetheless, as producing zero-carbon food is near to impossible Alara has chosen to offset any additional CO2 via supporting the Rainforest Saver Charity.

Having gone to great lengths to achieve this title over the past several years, Alara's mission is now to promote sustainability.

www.alara.co.uk

Education

Joe Atkinson, Learning Coordinator

Educator Membership Launch

From early April we'll be offering a new membership type for educators!

This will give them more value, as well as helping us to support them more effectively and sustainably. Benefits of this new kind of membership include:

- Access to a group insurance scheme.
- Monthly educators' ebulletin with news, research briefings and early access to teaching job opportunities.
- Educators' web profile linked from course listings.
- Educator members' area of the website for sharing teaching resources etc.
- First refusal on funded training opportunities.
- Access to educators' events, training and webinars.
- Dedicated office support from the new Education Network Coordinator.
- A published code of practice to give educators guidance on expectations, and students peace of mind and recourse.

Find details of how to join on the website www.permaculture.org.uk/join



Photo © Karoline Nolsø Aaen.

Personnel changes

At the end of March I'm stepping down from the learning coordinator role. It has been an incredible eight years in the post for me; an honour and an inspiration to work with so many passionate and committed people.

I will continue to work for the Association as the IT coordinator and will stay engaged in the education network as a teacher and tutor - and as an educator member!

At the time of writing we're recruiting the new Education Network Coordinator, who we hope to have in post at the start of April. Their role will be slightly different, with their main focus being on supporting the education network (i.e. educator members) and delivering the member benefits described above, as well as marketing and promoting their courses.

Community-building..



THE STORY OF HENNY-PENNY and FRIENDS

by Ann and Steve Pole

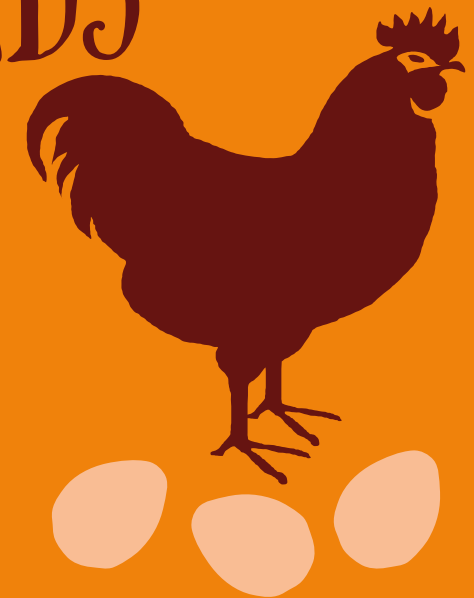
Every permaculture garden has to have hens, right?! Not necessarily, it all depends on what you want them to do...

What do we need?

Eggs would be nice; and it would be great for the veg beds to have a really good de-bug after the growing season. Some poo would be good, and a thorough weed and seed eradication session.

Before we rush out and get hens we need to weigh up the pros and cons. For starters, we've no idea how to look after them.

Obviously, they need daily attention. What happens if they become unwell? How much will all this cost? What happens when we go away? How will the hens impact on our food growing? Will they restrict us in our other choices? They need space to roam in, or at least a reasonable cage for when they cannot free roam. Will the neighbours complain?



"Before we rush out and get hens we need to weigh up the pros and cons. For starters, we've no idea how to look after them."

PMI table for hens (or other fowl)

POSITIVE	MINUS	INTERESTING
Pest management	Absent weekends	Hen co-op?
Soil fertility (poo)	Know nothing about them	Education
Soil cultivation	Predation	Grow what they eat
Eggs	They may snack on our food	Self medication plants
Entertainment	Cost of food	Finding a space for them
Heat (hen house seed tray warmer)	Vet care/end of life Pests & diseases (red mite) Fear of having them & getting it wrong	

Time to think beyond hens. This web of connections shows how each option is linked with positive (green) and negative (red) considerations. It has 3 sections – considerations, outputs, and different elements that could achieve our functions.

PMI table for hens (or other fowl)

ELEMENT	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
Hens	Land management; pest control; fertility building; eggs; rescue birds.	When we are away; getting it wrong; noise; prob. financially unviable?	Learning exercise; integration with other systems.	Legal; predation; end of life care cost?
Ducks	Pest control; fertility; eggs.	When we are away; getting it wrong; even noisier; end of life care; cost?	Learning exercise; integration with other systems.	Legal; predation; end of life care cost?
Rabbits	Quieter; fertility building.	Miss out on eggs & pest management; still need care when we are away; cost?	Integration with other systems; would be about to get rid of the lawn mower...	Legal; predation; end of life care cost?
Manually do these tasks	Do them in our own time; no obligations or worries; maybe can borrow a hen or two when needed.	No eggs; getting around to doing these jobs.	How about a good source of free manure? What else eats bugs?	Fowl would keep on top of the job, pests keep on coming.
Pond and other wildlife	Self maintaining; interesting to watch, natural pest management; water management, no time/costs needed to maintain.	Would still need to manually weed & fertilise beds (or borrow a hen); quite hard work to make a pond, and needs quite a lot of pre-planning.	Yes, very.... Integration with other systems.	A pond would need to be very carefully planned to be able to cope with our water table.

Permaculture works



Decisions, decisions

Realistically, other soil fertility building would better suit our system

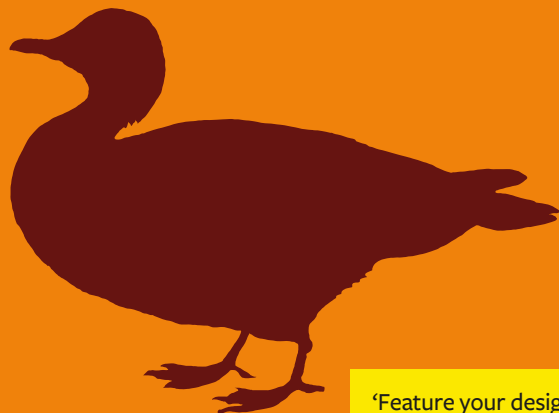
We do this anyway. Depending on the crop, we add compost, farmyard manure or a green manure at the end of the growing season.

A wildlife pond

Having decided that one of the main reasons for wanting hens is for pest management, and that amphibians take MUCH less looking after than hens, a wildlife pond is next on the agenda. We already have this planned, but have not progressed with the plan as there are other factors needing consideration, primarily that our land floods in heavy rain. Whilst raising up the ground and paths will help, it is a lot of hard work and takes time to do. I have planned a tutorial with Tomas Remiarz soon to see if we can come up with some kind of integrated water management system.

Encouraging hedgehogs and insect eating birds

Whilst it is not ideal for hoggies to eat slugs, they will do so if they want to. They also eat beetles and worms, which we would actually rather they didn't, but a few juicy grubs would be well consumed.



‘Feature your design here or on our blog – email Ryan with your idea for an article communicate@permaculture.org.uk

It would be good to get birds to have a good root around too. So having spent most of the year discouraging them from the veggie area, we now want to attract them... They do seem to like a good root around in compost, so adding some to the top of the chosen bed may help. Maybe a few mealworms scattered would do the trick. We will experiment with this next year.

Borrowing hens

The one we borrowed to clear a veg bed did a good job but we were worrying about her all day. I have spoken to someone who suggested hen swapping, as they do with dogs when they go on holiday. When we are in a position to consider this, we will look into it.

If we do choose to have hens, they can be added at a later date

At this stage, all we will be doing is earmarking a suitable area. Then we can continue with the other garden designs – primarily the forest garden – knowing that hens are potentially factored in.

Wales

wales.permaculture.org.uk

A slow food journey

“The founder of Dusty Knuckle, one of Cardiff’s home grown food pop-ups, is trading his way to the home of pizza in Naples to raise money for not-for-profit food education organisation Slow Food International.

Phil Lewis started the wood-fire pizza company in 2014. He launched his journey from Cardiff to southern Italy with an event on the 1 of February.

Starting off with just one sack of flour, a case of tomatoes, and a box of cheese, he will then use the pizza sales from each day to progress to the next location and add any profit to the final total.”

Read the full article at:

www.slowfoodsoutheastwales.org.uk.

Coppicewood College

Every permie knows that trees matter. So we plant them, they grow and then what? If a hedge is laid it becomes a natural stock proof boundary, which can yield food, fodder, firewood as well as space for wildlife without the need for any further spending or fossil fuel inputs. Maintained it is almost immortal.

Trees in zone 5 can be coppiced to give fuel and timber for construction and crafts but by coppicing them we increase their productivity. One place to learn these skills from expert tutors is Coppicewood College near Cardigan in West Wales. They offer a range of short courses and a longer, comprehensive one, using traditional methods and hand tools.

Visit www.coppicewoodcollege.co.uk



Permaculture Gathering at Henbant, North Wales.

Friends wanted for the more beautiful North Wales we know can exist

We have just held the first North Wales Permaculture Gathering at Henbant. The day was more successful than we could have hoped with over 40 people and sunshine in attendance.

We had a brilliant diversity of experience and characters with a common theme being enthusiasm. We looked into how we go forwards with skill shares and work parties in between quarterly seasonal gatherings. We will be building on this strong start so please get involved if you want to make your world a better place.

Henbant is a holistically managed farm and campsite between mountain and sea.

Email: matt@henbant.org

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

Scotland

scotland.permaculture.org.uk



Permaculture Scotland Gathering 30 June–2 July 2017

This year's Permaculture Scotland gathering will be hosted by The Hidden Mill (ScotLAND Learner) in Dumfries & Galloway. A minibus will collect people from Ayr train station (only 50 minutes from Glasgow), or Castle Douglas.

The ticket includes workshops, music, dancing, fire-gazing, children's activities, full catering (with local and organic food), camping and much more!

There will be lots of talks, demonstrations and workshops focusing on positive solutions, for example:

- Love your weeds
- Outdoor learning
- Forest gardening
- Green building
- Traditional crafts and
- Pedal-powered machines.

scotland.permaculture.org.uk



Scotland Gathering 2016.



The ScotLAND Network welcomes new Learners!

We are very excited to welcome The Concrete Garden and Black Isle Permaculture and Arts as our latest ScotLAND Learners.

The Concrete Garden in Glasgow are a community food growing project that works alongside local folk to grow food, reduce waste and learn to live in ways that are good for people and planet.

Black Isle Permaculture and Arts in the Black Isle is a 2.5 acre permaculture smallholding, garden and woodland in northern Scotland combining sustainable eco-tourism, food, and cottage industries.



Concrete Gardens © Lusi Alderslowe.

ScotLAND Centre Group Visit Scheme

As part of ScotLAND we are excited to announce the opportunity to take part in our Group Visit Scheme, especially aimed at groups experiencing disadvantage who would like the opportunity to learn more about permaculture in practice, meet new people and gain new skills. scotland.permaculture.org.uk/group-visit-scheme.

How does it work?

Step 1

Choose a ScotLAND Centre. scotland.permaculture.org.uk/scotland-centres

Step 2

Gather a group of 12 people (minimum).

Step 3

To arrange a visit contact ScotLAND Centres directly or scotlandworker@permaculture.org.uk

Step 4

Claim your travel expenses. Each group will be allocated £150.

Step 5

Provide us with simple feedback.

What are you waiting for?

International

international.permaculture.org.uk

The Permaculture CoLab is a collaborative and experimental framework to help connect permaculture people and organisations around the world and make it easier for us to work together in the areas we are most passionate about.

It is an ambitious project to make the most of our global connections, and to put our shared knowledge and effort to best effect to make positive changes in our local communities and on the global stage. We are committed to doing this whilst working within the ethos and culture that defines permaculture.

The CoLab builds on years of work to understand what permaculture people and organisations do and need, and how these can best be supported. We have recently appointed an international engagement and communications coordinator to support this work. We were overwhelmed by applications of the highest quality.

There are so many incredibly talented, multi-skilled people in permaculture! People with amazing and diverse professional experience and qualifications. People with passion that is put into action in so many positive ways. People who work around the globe, in multiple languages and multiple arenas to make the world a better place. People who have been inspired by the goals of the CoLab.



I feel humbled by this talent. I also feel exhilarated at what we can achieve together. It is almost impossible to select one person to take on this key role. We need a system in permaculture that embraces all of you amazing people out there. That helps you to find rewarding and meaningful work within permaculture. That recognises the diversity of interests and proficiencies you hold. That recognises the value you bring as a person. That helps you to work with other like-minded people with complementary experiences and knowledge so that together we achieve great things. That, in truth, is the purpose of the Permaculture CoLab!

There are many ways to join in the CoLab – email Naomi if you'd like to know more.

international@permaculture.org.uk
international.permaculture.org.uk

Children in Permaculture

Free case studies – learn from others' successes (and mistakes)

We are delighted to announce that we have created some beautiful and informative case studies which are (shortly to be) available to download for free from our website: childreninpermaculture.com

The case studies cover a range of settings including a non-profit NGO working with 317,000 children and 100,000 adults every year, kindergartens, forests, schools, and parenting.

The case studies are from each of the five partner countries of Czech Republic, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and UK. The consistent format enables the reader to understand the process of engagement, and to learn from the author some great top tips (sometimes startlingly honest) and highlights from the process. What better way to learn than from someone else's mistakes and successes? We hope you enjoy them!



The Children in Permaculture team meet in Leeds

The lovely Leeds office team made seven people from around Europe feel very comfortable despite the January darkness. Whilst we were discussing curricula, learning objectives and activities, other key members were busy in Italy ... giving birth! Welcome Remi!

Creating session plans and activities

Lots of fun has been had by children and permaculture practitioners as we created and tried out session plans and activities for engaging children in permaculture. A set of pedagogical guidelines and two session plans are currently being read and tried out by a range of educators to receive feedback, before they will be freely available on our website. Watch this space!

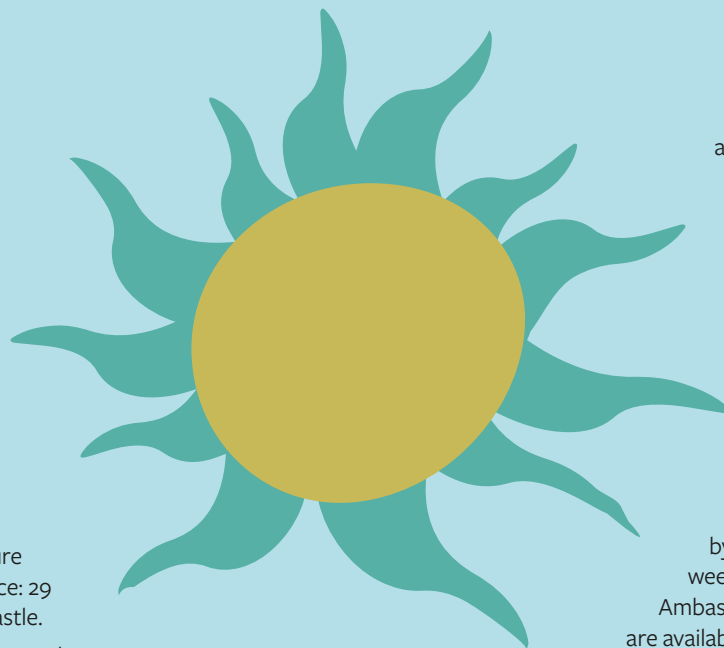
With thanks to the European Commission support for the Children in Permaculture project. The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects only the views of the authors.



Photos – Top: CIP_meetingJan17 – Welcoming the new baby Giacomo (now known as Remi) into the world. Bottom: Children diving in to learn about mapping ©Lusi Alderslowe.

Events

Spring into summer



Coming up in this summer of permaculture

We're working with our members and Ambassadors to build an inspiring and informative events programme across the Spring and Summer of 2017. You can expect to see the Permaculture Association popping up at events across the length and breadth of the UK over the coming months. Keep an eye on what we're up to via our events portal: www.permaculture.org.uk/events

- North East England Permaculture Convergence: 29 July, Newcastle.
- London Permaculture Festival: 30 July, Camden, London.

We're looking forward to seeing this list grow further as part of our strategy over the years to come, bringing more events to more of our members right where you are. Tickets for all these events are or will be available via our website:

www.permaculture.org.uk/events

Regional gatherings

This year we are launching the new South West Regional Convergence to join the already impressive and growing list of regional gathering popping up across the Isles. The aim of this event is to seed a thriving South West permaculture network to complement the already existing local groups working across the region. The current calendar includes:

- Yorkshire Permaculture Gathering: 27-28 May, Huddersfield.
- South West Regional Convergence: 9-11 June, Exeter.
- Welsh Permaculture Gathering: 16-18 June, North Wales.
- Permaculture Scotland Gathering: 30 June-2 July, near Castle Douglas.

Ambassador gatherings

As well as the regional gatherings, our Permaculture Ambassadors programme is now taking shape with plans for regional meet-ups across the country between now and 2018. The first such meet-up took place in Worcestershire on Friday 10 February and is to be followed by the inaugural Ambassador Conference this April.

The Permaculture Ambassador Conference takes places at The Impact Hub in Birmingham on Friday 21 April with 90 places available.

The event offers practical opportunities to learn and share skills in subjects such as media

and design; project planning and management; group facilitation and processes; and personal resilience.

There are 90 places available and the event will be followed directly by a training weekend for 20 Young Ambassadors. Tickets are available from £22 per person.

Find out more and book your place: www.permaculture.org.uk/permaculture-ambassadors-conference

The next scheduled Ambassador events are:

- Somerset Ambassadors Gathering, 11 April, Westfield Farm, Somerset.
- Permaculture Ambassadors Conference, 21 April, Birmingham.
- Young Ambassadors Training Weekend: 22-23 April, Birmingham.
- Wales Ambassadors Gathering, 29 April, Bethel, Caernarfon.
- Scotland Ambassadors Gathering, Date and Location TBC.

We welcome interest from local permaculture groups and individuals in staging local or regional Ambassador Gatherings.

Get in touch with Ryan: communicate@permaculture.org.uk

Sell your event tickets with the Association

Are you organising a permaculture event and need a reliable, ethical platform to sell your tickets through? Do you want access to the Permaculture Association members and networks? Do you fancy supporting the work of the Association without direct cost? Then perhaps consider selling your event tickets with us.

We offer an event booking service via our website, with low commission rates and a personal, friendly service. To find out more contact Harriet in the office:

office@permaculture.org.uk
or visit our Events Portal to see our FAQs: www.permaculture.org.uk/events



Permaculture Ambassadors

Each element performs multiple functions



Jerusalem artichokes © Paul Fenwick Shared under Creative Commons Attributions-ShareAlike license

By Ruth Robinson

A chicken is not just a chicken in a permaculture design. It has hidden talents, (well, functions really). A chicken is an oft-used element in a land-based/food growing design (unless you are vegan).

Depending on where you place your chickens in your design: they can help control slugs and other garden pests, they eat your food waste and some of your ‘weeds’ - goosegrass for example. They can warm up your greenhouse at night, provide fertiliser for your soil and, of course, lay eggs!

What is an element? As Looby MacNamara says in *People in Permaculture*, an element is ‘a building block of your design’. We select the elements in our designs for a reason. When we apply this principle, we can ensure the elements of our design, ‘earn their keep’.

Graham Bell in his book *Permaculture Way*, advises at least 3 uses for each element, but preferably 5. He says ‘looks nice’ doesn’t count but I think that is really up to the designer!

So if your elements have 3 to 5 functions each, those functions will occur several times in the system. This provides stability, should one or two of the elements fail.

Jerusalem artichokes are a big hit in permaculture gardens and not to be found in many supermarkets! They reliably yield interesting knobbly tubers for us to eat, have lovely sunflowers for bee forage, provide a screen for sunny gardens or a windbreak. Don’t use as mulch on your veg bed however, as they are said to inhibit growth of other plants.

This principle helps us appreciate the yields of things that we may normally take for granted, for example, washing up. An element in our daily lives, a chore, not very interesting, sometimes mounts up to daunting proportions, you might think. Or, it could be an activity that gives us a break from heady screen time, grounds us in something simple and repetitive, easy to achieve, a bit of peace and quiet from the rest of the household perhaps and gets our hands nice and clean!

I love this principle as it illustrates the abundance, robustness and perfection of a natural system.

Discover more permaculture principles at knowledgebase.permaculture.org.uk/principles