

Issue 132 | Summer 2017



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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:** Nigel White, Rianne ten Veen, Topper, the team at Permaculture Magazine, enCircle, James Pullein, Rhiannon, the South West regional 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](mailto:communicate@permaculture.org.uk) for the next issue by 1 August for publication September 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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## Letter from the Coordinator

**Andy Goldring, Coordinator / CEO**

**e:** [andyg@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:andyg@permaculture.org.uk) **t:** 0113 230 7658

## Working together to make difference

What an amazing network! Since the last newsletter I’ve talked to members setting up city farms, incredible edible plantings in schools and parks, public forest gardens, community events. There are members running

crowdfunders for new smallholdings, submissions to national policymaking forums, developing children’s education, rolling out permablitzes, putting up draught-proofing and solar panels, and designing a whole host of exciting new projects. All of them based on collective action for a better future.

Meanwhile, the Permaculture Association has been bringing together children’s educators, organising ambassador gatherings, and supporting regional groups, international networks and working groups to make their next steps. We’ve also moved to an online office with 10 out of 16(!) part-time workers now working beyond Leeds, using new collaborative tools. We’ve got a great team with fantastic skills, and some pretty advanced systems.

Now we need to bring them together better – practical grassroots action and effective strategic networks. As David Holmgren says, “Top Down Thinking, Bottom Up Action”. But it’s not me that needs to do the top down thinking (like typical CEOs do), it’s all of us.

Over the next three months I want to co-edit a new strategy for ‘member led activity’. So far this has been supporting the work of working groups like Diploma and Permaculture Scotland, but I think we can do a lot more. Let’s identify how we can best work together on common challenges and support each other – help me write the plan. Send me an email to get involved, or look out for the link in the next members’ bulletin email.

The basic equation so far is: Permaculture + online tools + dynamic participatory processes = more earth care, more people care, more fair share, more fun (profound, satisfying work and enjoyment).

Have a great summer.

**Andy**

PS. Really, please do let me know how we can best support members to work together, thanks.

## Join the conversation

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

[facebook: facebook.com/permacultureassociation](https://facebook.com/permacultureassociation)

## Network news

### Ecological Land Co-op create new smallholdings

At time of writing, the Ecological Land Co-op have pushed well over their minimum target of £120,000. Huge thanks to all of who have invested, helping with the creation of new ecological enterprises. Reaching the maximum target would enable the Ecological Land Co-op to develop their third and fourth sites fully. Find the latest updates at [ecologicalland.coop](http://ecologicalland.coop).

### An inspiring day at Foxfield House

An open day at Foxfield House, LAND Centre, on 27 May welcomed visitors to network and learn. On site there is solar power, wood burning cooking, an electric car and various projects such as a self-watering polytunnel, no-dig vegetable garden, mini reed bed, a new wildlife pond just completed, and the start of a new strawbale roundhouse construction. Thanks to Alison at Foxfield House for raising money for us, with donations from the cake sale!



Foxfield House, LAND Centre

### Ragmans Lane Farm share the teachings of Jairo Restrepo

The work of Jairo Restrepo, long recognised in South America, is relatively unknown in the UK. There is plenty of material on the internet of him teaching in Spanish, but very little in other languages, so Ragmans Lane Farm filmed an interview with him last summer and have edited it for release.

Jairo is a leading teacher and practitioner in the application of technologies such as bokashi, biofertiliser, native microbe ferments and the use of trace elements for soil bioremediation. These enable farmers at any scale to produce the fertility they need within their own farms and gardens. He teaches at Ragmans once a year in the summer, leading students through the science of his techniques, and also making about 15 different preparations.

Watch the video and learn more about Jairo's work in the blog post at [blog.permaculture.org.uk](http://blog.permaculture.org.uk).



Westfield Farm

### Monthly meetings and learning at Westfield Farm, Somerset

We had a great evening on 11 April so thanks to all those of you who made it and contributed so generously in so many ways! The gathering was supported by the Permaculture Ambassadors project.

The Mad Hatter's tree party on 14 May was great fun, raising funds to plant more trees (it's always time for trees)! £100 of what was raised went to Chew Valley Twinning so we will have helped to plant a few more trees in Tamil Nadu, India!

There will be monthly meetings at Westfield Farm this year for anyone that would like to join in, on the 2nd Tuesday, 6-9pm every month until 10 October; there will be some jobs in the garden if you'd like to, and a chance to meet and chat with others.

### Eleven orchards planted or expanded last winter

From Bryn Thomas – Brighton Permaculture Trust CEO and Orchards Manager

Last winter Brighton Permaculture Trust planted 85 fruit trees with local partners at eleven locations in Sussex.

Orchards we have helped over the years vary in size from just a few trees to over 200. Locations include schools, parks, housing estates, country estates and even a pub!

[brightonpermaculture.org.uk/orchards](http://brightonpermaculture.org.uk/orchards) has more details on the orchards and how you can support by donating your time as a volunteer, or some money to pay for trees.

### Tomas Remiarz's new book, Forest Gardening in Practice

For three decades experimental forest gardens have been planted in temperate cities and rural sites, in households, neighbourhoods, community gardens, parks, market gardens and plant nurseries. Forest Gardening In Practice is the first in depth review of forest gardening with living, best practice examples. It highlights the four core skills of forest gardeners: ecology, horticulture, design, cooperation.

[green-shopping.co.uk/forest-gardening-in-practice.html](http://green-shopping.co.uk/forest-gardening-in-practice.html).



Forest gardening in practice. Photo © Tomas Remiarz

## Internship opportunity at The Grange

The Grange, Norfolk are offering internships of between 2 and 6 months. for individuals or potentially for a couple. Interns live in our beautiful yurt in the meadow and all food is provided.

It is extremely rewarding but also does require the ability to be involved in some quite physical work, and the sensitivity to work alongside people who have survived trauma and might currently be living in very difficult circumstances.

Through the internship programme you will have the opportunity to get a very rounded understanding of the work we do with refugees and asylum seekers, permaculture and building resilience.

We are particularly looking for people with some experience in food growing who would be happy to spend time developing the permaculture garden at The Grange.

[thegrangenorfolk.org.uk/get-involved/internships](http://thegrangenorfolk.org.uk/get-involved/internships)

Email [thegrangenorfolk@gmail.com](mailto:thegrangenorfolk@gmail.com)

## Thank you from all at Steward Community Woodland

Dear friends, we would like to thank everyone who signed our petition. We got a whopping 5306 signatures by the time we delivered the petition. 150-200 people joined us on the procession to deliver the petition. Please have a look at our report on the event. We also got coverage in The Western Morning News, The Moorlander and The Mid-Devon Advertiser.

If you would like to be kept up to date, follow us on Facebook [facebook.com/StewardCommunityWoodland](https://www.facebook.com/StewardCommunityWoodland).

## Youth in permaculture project taking root

Youth In Permaculture (YIP) is a new initiative to support and empower young people to create resilient, fulfilling and fun lives inspired by permaculture.

Encouraged by Children in Permaculture (CIP), young people involved in permaculture and leaders from the permaculture community gathered, creating a team from over eight countries to begin this exciting project.

We have a web page with resources, tools, opportunities, networks, youth projects and voices. We've begun the planning stage of organizing events, activities, workshops and exchange programs and will send out surveys to people interested in supporting this project. [youthinpermaculture.org](http://youthinpermaculture.org).



The first meeting of the Youth in Permaculture project, in Barcelona, April 2017, houses and workshops.

# Association news



Children in Permaculture project group, who work together using sociocracy.

## Exploring Sociocracy, an approach to include everyone

Inspired by work in the Permaculture Scotland working group, the Children in Permaculture project and Paramaethu Cymru, the Board of Trustees had a recent major discussion topic on Sociocracy – the dynamic participatory governance approach – led by Les Moore.

As a result, the Board will be exploring further and looking for opportunities to fund training and support to enable wider adoption in the network. It fits well with our participatory approach and is also being adopted by other networks like Transition and the European Permaculture Network, which will help wider collaboration on shared projects. See wikipedia for a good overview of Sociocracy.

## IPC Crowdfunder raising funds to help people across the world

Please help delegates from across the world attend IPC India! Watch out for information in the e-bulletin or go to [bit.ly/2rZ1xSK](https://bit.ly/2rZ1xSK).

## Join the Board!

People often think of a Board of Trustees as being a slightly dull and bureaucratic. Not us. We love our Board, and they do a vital job. We have an innovative approach (called Carver Governance) and were featured in the Guardian and at the recent Losing Control conference.

The Board are 'servant leaders' working on behalf of members to ensure the staff are delivering the best possible service and support. Our Board is forward facing, strategic and always keen to hear from members. We need both people with professional skills and active practitioners passionate about permaculture.

Interested? Email Sandy on [cmaj@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:cmaj@leeds.ac.uk) or call Andy at the office.

## Online training hub launched to help you develop skills for sharing permaculture

As part of the Permaculture Ambassadors project, people are forming around ambassadorial activities. They will bring together a webpage of top resources per topic, and in the future will be supported to run online courses and webinars.

You can use the hub to plan what you'd like to learn about, access learning resources, and keep track of where you are on your learning path.

Logon to your online account at [www.permaculture.org.uk](http://www.permaculture.org.uk) to access and start benefiting from this new resource.

## International Permaculture Convergence, India

The next IPC takes place in India this November, and looks set to be an amazing event. Andy Goldring will be going representing the Association and as previous IPC host. Are you going too? We will create a list and put people in touch with each other in advance so that we can support each other. Contact the office to let us know, and visit their website for more information [ipcindia2017.org](http://ipcindia2017.org).

## Bring people together where you are

Local gatherings are important in helping to create networks of people taking action to create thriving communities. We are supporting the formation of new local permaculture groups as part of the Permaculture Ambassadors project. If you would like support to organise and publicise your local meeting or event, see [www.permaculture.org.uk/ambassador](http://www.permaculture.org.uk/ambassador) or email Ryan [communicate@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:communicate@permaculture.org.uk).

## Permaculture Ambassadors

### Conference success

Thanks to all those who came along to help make the Ambassadors Conference in Birmingham such a great success in April. We were all buzzing with ideas and energy afterwards and excited to take this on to the next level – no mean feat after a long day of workshops!

The information-packed day consisted of sessions on effective group working, with Maria Franchi of Rhizome Co-op; engaging your community to crowdfund for your project, with Laura Winn of Dynamo PR; and how to avoid burnout and sustain personal wellbeing, with Kathryn Tulip of Navigate.

A potential problem of not enough food for lunch was creatively solved, and even resulted in a spontaneous visit to a nearby community garden as well as some extra support for a fantastic independent café neighbouring the project. All in all a great day, made all the more so by the amazing ambassadors of permaculture we were fortunate to have on board.

# Research update

## Chris Warburton-Brown, Research Coordinator



Black Isle Permaculture and Art.

### New research tour of projects

Julie Deconchat is currently undertaking a research tour of permaculture projects in Scotland, in partnership with the Permaculture Association. She is combining traditional WWOOF type activities with an ethnographic study of the relationship of politics and permaculture in these projects.

Julie is considering the role of politics in the permaculture movement, and how (if at all) we might imagine a permaculture paradigm within our capitalist society. Can permaculture, without an overt political platform, ever go from a marginal movement for the few to a mainstream model of society?

You can read Julie's blogs at [blog.permaculture.org.uk](http://blog.permaculture.org.uk)

### Goodbye and many thanks to Rhiannon

Rhiannon Leach has been our Research Intern since September, on a sandwich year from her degree in Peace Studies at Bradford University. By the time you read this she will have returned to her degree studies. Her main task has been the permaculture briefings series introducing topics like Permaculture and Disaster Relief, Natural Flood Management, and Permaculture and Community Gardens.

Rhiannon has also been compiling a list of European permaculture farms and smallholdings, and has found over 300 so far! We hope to make this list public in the near future. Thanks Ree for doing such a great job.

We still have space for short term interns over the summer, but are not currently recruiting for a full time intern for the autumn.



## Information for Action on Climate Change

The Permaculture Solutions for Climate Change working group is a collection of practitioners, educators, researchers and organizers from all over the world. We have the shared goal of promoting and supporting integrative, whole-systems solutions to the climate crisis.

Led by the Permaculture Association, the group has secured £80,000 from the VK Rasmussen Foundation to gather together the critical information that can lead people to direct action on climate change. The core intention is to produce a website that will set out a clear path to return atmospheric carbon levels to 350 parts per million. Currently we are 404.

Project goals

1. To help people understand their personal role and power in tackling climate change.
2. To collate permaculture based solutions to climate change in one online Knowledge Base.
3. To promote these solutions to new audiences.
4. To inspire action through the adoption of these solutions and increased education.
5. To contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation and carbon sequestration.

### How you can help

There are four things you can do to help.

1. Read this article: [greenbiz.com/article/technology-isnt-our-sole-salvation-tackling-climate-change](https://greenbiz.com/article/technology-isnt-our-sole-salvation-tackling-climate-change) or this book: [green-shopping.co.uk/permaculture-and-climate-change-adaptation](https://green-shopping.co.uk/permaculture-and-climate-change-adaptation). They set out some of the thinking we would like to develop on this project.
2. Share your expertise. If you are an expert in any area of climate change solutions, or if you know of an original solution to climate

change, which is proven to work, please get in touch.

3. Help us fundraise. The VKRF funding is enough to build a great website, but we also want to create a range of supporting educational resources, and publicise the website very widely.
4. Help us with publicity. Although the website won't be ready for a few months, we are keen to start developing a publicity and promotion network. If you or your organisation can help us spread the word, please let me know.

## GROW Observatory news

We are excited to be a partner in the GROW Observatory, a European-wide project engaging thousands of growers as citizen scientists. The project is an innovative approach to creating a community of citizen growers, gardeners, small scale farmers, scientists and policy makers.

This community will work together to learn from each other, provide growing and policy advice and contribute data on local soil conditions, to help validate climate change adaptation models generated by satellite.

We are still in the early stages, but the first three week online course From Soil to Sky was delivered in May to over 1,300 students! If you missed it don't worry, more are coming up and the first course will run again early in 2018.

Over the summer, GROW participants can take part in simple experiments, learn more about soil, weather and growing, and get to know each other in GROW's online community. Keep an eye on GROW's social media and sign up to be part of GROW on the project website [growobservatory.org](https://growobservatory.org).

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



## Education

### Jemma Dixon, Education Network Coordinator

#### The new Educator Membership launch

We are offering a new membership type for educators. This new educator membership will encourage and value diversity while supporting the educators' common needs.

It's about educators identifying areas that they feel they need support or help in, and us providing that. It includes the launch of a valuable educators portal, with a wealth of new features to support you as an educator.

#### What is the Educator Portal?

In a nutshell, the educator portal is an online facility to help you teach permaculture. Here you'll find useful resources, advice and help with many aspects of your work, such as:

- Marketing
- Innovation
- Certification
- Best practices

You will also have easy access for communicating with the new education network coordinator, Jemma.

With your feedback, we'll work to improve the membership and online portal, to meet your needs. Find details of how to join on the website [www.permaculture.org.uk/join](https://www.permaculture.org.uk/join).



Jemma Dixon

#### Introducing Jemma

Hi, I'm Jemma, your education network coordinator. My role is to promote permaculture education to the public and support educator members to grow, animate and cohere a truly awesome Permaculture Educators Network.

I'm passionate about Innovating Education in Permaculture. It's an exciting opportunity to extend the reach of permaculture education in the UK. Supporting educators to access opportunities, maintain their livelihoods & provide the resources they want.

I have a Psychology degree and a background in management, with extensive administrative, marketing and communications experience. My recent experiences working with permaculture educators; coordinating and co-writing successful and exciting new project bids, which have widened the reach of permaculture education into the mainstream, will support me in this role.

I'm here for you. Please contact me at [education@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:education@permaculture.org.uk) about the educator's membership, the certifying teacher's register or any other education queries, ideas or projects you have.

I'm looking forward to working with you.

## Diploma

### Huge congratulations to Sarah Spencer, our newest Diploma holder

Sarah's diploma accreditation event was held on 30 April at Whistlewood Common, a community-owned social enterprise in South Derbyshire, creating a permaculture project on ten acres of land. Her diploma journey started in land-based designs for my own smallholding and then for Whistlewood, but, like so many people who discover the potential of permaculture, she moved into people-based design.

Using a design framework and principles, she designed the organisation's governance. This has led to the next phase, which is seeing shareholders help fund a strawbale roundhouse workshop and event space. They have designed the organisation to be sustainable, both ecologically but also financially, hence the community-owned share model. Whistlewood has shareholders around the UK who support their permaculture ideals.

In addition, building on her own health recovery design, Sarah has created a course entitled "Think Like a Tree", which uses permaculture principles to lead people through a design for their own life. So, her permaculture diploma journey set out on one path, but is continuing on another incredibly exciting journey. Sarah can be contacted via [admin@whistlewoodcommon.org](mailto:admin@whistlewoodcommon.org).



Diploma accreditation

### Diploma Gathering

Now is the perfect time to make plans for winter. What better way to spend a weekend in November than to immerse yourself in all things Diploma-related in the shadow of Snowdonia?

The next Diploma Gathering is happening on November 24–26 in the beautiful medieval town of Conwy, North Wales. Don't miss it!

£99 will get you two nights' accommodation in the recently refurbished Conwy Youth Hostel, delicious seasonal local food, and a weekend jam-packed with workshops, inspiring conversations and accreditations.

Tickets are available now – you can pay in full online or call the office and set up a direct debit to pay three monthly instalments of £33.

If you'd like to offer a workshop or are thinking about accrediting at the event, please drop Cath a line as soon as possible.

## Individual member spotlight

### Peter Simon

I'm Peter and I'm from Hungary, here's my story. I came across permaculture last autumn. I had heard the word before but never really knew what it was about, so I googled it.

Then my brain exploded with this whole new world of knowledge, which resonated with me and my values more than anything ever before. The more I learned, the more interested I got, which was a whole new feeling.

I came across a Patrick Whitefield video about composting, which led me to his website and his courses, his legacy. There I found a part-time evening course held in a small town called Totnes I knew nothing about.

I figured it'd be a really cool way to learn more about permaculture and planned to do the 3 month part-time course whilst WWOOFing around Totnes, thus keeping the costs down. WWOOFing allowed me to learn even more than the course provided. The part-time nature of the course helped me to be able to absorb all the precious knowledge and in many cases I was able to apply what I learned right away.

I visited 5 places in total, ranging in scale from smallholdings to big farms. The course was amazing, I gained a lot of practical knowledge through design work and I was brimming with ideas for my own garden by the end of it.

After finishing the course I headed back to Hungary and jumped on the work of transforming my veggie garden right away. I built a tiny garden pond, terraced the garden with a semi-raised (hugel) bed, covered the veggie patch with compost, built an experimental deadwood hedge as a wildlife



Before and after Peter Simon's permaculture transformation.



habitat, and started collecting water off of roofs. I planted the garden with more perennials and a variety of flowers. I'm also planning to extend my veggie garden and incorporate a small forest garden.

The transformative effect of permaculture doesn't stop at gardening, I'm making the switch back to public transport, trying to use less water and on the 'people level' I'm starting a permaculture group in my hometown to meet like-minded people, share knowledge and seeds, and spread the word!

We'll see how it all comes together, but one thing's for sure: permaculture had a profound effect on my life in a very short amount of time and I don't mind it, not one bit!

## Group member spotlight

### Barmolloch Farm, Lochgilphead, Argyll

#### Permaculture meets healthcare

At Barmolloch, our special focus is to make an even stronger link between earth care and people care. We are healthcare practitioners as well as permaculture practitioners and see clearly how industrial farming not only injures the land but also how the industrial diet injures our personal health.

#### Earth care at Barmolloch

We are actively exploring the transition to a sustainable way of life appropriately for our farm. Though we are in a remote glen on the west coast of Scotland, we believe that the principles and thinking behind our work will be a practical demonstration to help many others make their own transition, whether in a city garden or on a large, industrial farm.

Some of the farm's features:

- Rare breed Boreray sheep.
- Geese, ducks, hens; a large pond and river.
- 10 acres of mixed hardwood planting.
- Organic and Biodynamic fruit and vegetable gardens.

The most recent development has been the Forest Garden area. We love the low-input, abundant yields which can be achieved in this earth friendly, resilient way.

#### People care at Barmolloch

The core business of the farm is to provide space and facilities for courses, events, retreats and residential treatment, both in the fields of healthcare and of sustainable living



Left: Barmolloch Farm polytunnel cultivation. Below: some of the Rare breed Boreray sheep.



patterns they follow in their relationships with others and achieve better balance in their lives.

As the inspirational Geoff Lawton says, "You can solve all the world's problems in a garden."

# Permaculture design

Liz Cussans managed to combine a lifelong love of canal boats with the valuable skills she picked up from a Permaculture Design Course.

## Bringing PERMACULTURE to boating on the canals



The beauty of the British countryside seen from a canal boat. This is the river Avon in Worcestershire

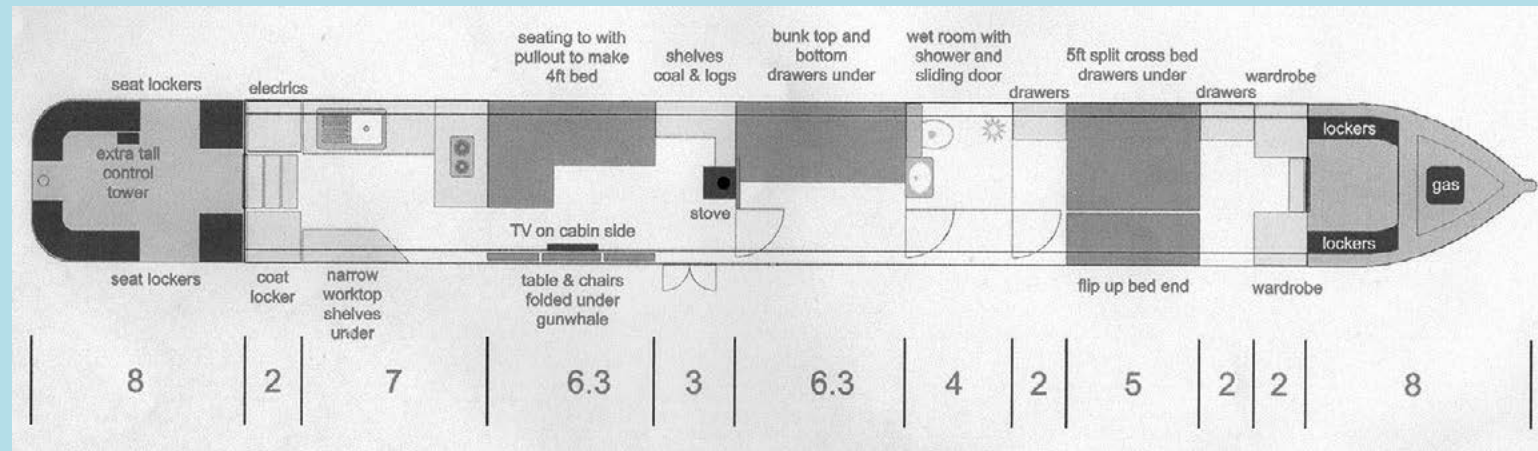


# Permaculture design

use and enjoy the canals, including walkers, joggers, cyclists, families, commuters, dog walkers, anglers, and boat watchers (fair shares). As canals run through most of the major conurbations of the country, travel to a boat holiday centre can be done easily by train or a relatively short car journey.

There are some downsides from the

dividing the ownership of a boat between a number of households, usually 12, so that the purchase and running costs are shared equally and everyone gets 4 weeks a year of boat holidays. The spare 4 weeks are in the depths of winter and are mostly taken up with maintenance to keep the boat in good condition.



The plan of the intended boat to show the layout. It sleeps up to six people but best for four.

Taking a holiday can be fraught with ethical dilemmas for permaculturists. Flying is frowned upon, driving is fossil fuelled and the consumerism of lavish hotels/resorts lies uneasily with the environmentally conscious. Boating holidays on the canals and rivers of Britain better fits with the permaculture ethics.

The boat licence fee funds the Canal and River Trust; they manage and maintain all the canals and many of the rivers to be beneficial to wildlife, preserve the canal infrastructure and heritage, and reach out to as many canal users as possible (earth care and people care).

The Canal and River Trust are committed to encouraging as many people as possible to

permaculture point of view in that boats almost exclusively run on atmosphere polluting diesel and have their cooking and heating fuelled by propane gas. They also produce waste in the obvious way, as boats are by definition a self contained system.

Toilets on a boat usually flush their contents into an on-board holding tank which has to be pumped out into the sewage system at the end of, (and often part way through), the holiday.

Over the past 20 years my partner and I have had a boating holiday of one kind or another every year. 3 years ago we came across the idea and practice of share boating (people care and fair shares again)! This involves

most of my adult life had a name and that was permaculture.

The idea of applying the design principles to a shared holiday boat took root, culminating in the prototype design of an eco-narrowboat. Here's a brief summary.

### Observe and interact

- My observations during 3 years of boat sharing enabled me to see the advantages and disadvantages of a 'normal' boat design. My design tries to mitigate the disadvantages.

### Catch and store energy

- The boat will be powered by a hybrid diesel/electric engine and motor with large battery bank plus 9 solar panels – using half as much diesel as a conventional boat or even less in summer.
- There will be electric cooking with microwave/grill, induction hob, thermal cooker or wonderbag, single cup water boiler (not kettle) – no propane gas. The idea is to minimise power use within the boat to reduce strain on the batteries.
- Heating will be by multifuel stove plus back up diesel warm air system for when the stove is not lit. The intention is to use sustainable compact logs but smokeless fuel is burnable if logs can't be obtained.

### Use and value renewable resources and services. Produce no waste.

- Hot water is produced by engine heating when running and 'overflow' electric charge from solar panels to an immersion heater
- The bathroom will be a wetroom (for accessibility) with dry composting eco toilet. The solid waste is dried to a smell-free powder by a small electric fan and emptied infrequently to a plastic bag and taken home to be added to our compost heap!

We bought a share in our current narrowboat and have had three wonderful years enjoying our holidays on a range of different canals and rivers. The cost is far cheaper than hiring or full ownership and it suits us very well. Again, there is a downside for us in that my partner has a mobility problem so the design of the boat is a little awkward for him at times.

## Designing a shared eco-narrowboat

Last year my life was revolutionised when I took the Permaculture Design Course in Leeds. I learned that the ideas I had been struggling to implement and practice for

# Permaculture design

## Make the least change for the greatest possible effect

- The whole design is meant to be a prototype for all new canal boats of the future. There's no need for it to be any more difficult to build than a conventional boat and the changes from 'standard' are minimal but delivering big improvements environmentally, especially if all boats were like this!
- All this goes a few steps further towards making canal boating a more 'permaculture' activity and reducing its impact on the precious environment of Britain's waterways.

## Use and value diversity, value the marginal, the problem is the solution, integrate rather than segregate

- We are also planning to make the boat as disabled-friendly as possible by having a larger bed and more spacious bedroom than usual to make getting around easier on board and we are looking into including a wheelchair ramp and lift.

As I have always intended that the boat should be a shared holiday boat I am now looking for 10 sharers (we want to keep two shares) to join us in having the boat built so we can all enjoy it and also blaze a trail for the future of boating on the waterways. If anyone wants to find out more, have a look at my design on [ecocanalboat.blogspot.com](http://ecocanalboat.blogspot.com).

Liz Cussans

[canalboatlizzy@gmail.com](mailto:canalboatlizzy@gmail.com)



The spiders were busy last night! wildlife makes use of the boat to catch its own breakfast.



Feature your design here or on our blog – email Ryan with your idea for an article [communicate@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:communicate@permaculture.org.uk)

# Scotland

[scotland.permaculture.org.uk](http://scotland.permaculture.org.uk)



The Hidden Mill.

## Progress at the Hidden Mill (ScotLAND Learner)

[thehiddenmill.com](http://thehiddenmill.com)

email [lorraine.ishak@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.ishak@gmail.com)

The Hidden Mill is a 15 acre land learner centre in South West Scotland. It's a beautiful site of so called unproductive land, yet it has more edge than many much larger farms. There is a public road and a river running through, pasture, bog, woodland and a mill pond. Absolutely perfect for permacultural experimentation!

Through the Permaculture Association we were able to make a successful funding bid with the Tesco Bags of Help Fund. After a round of in store voting we were awarded the maximum £12,000 to build a children's permaculture forest garden.

The design includes a greenhouse with solar powered underfloor heating, compost loo,

a round wood shelter, hugel beds, a willow sculpture a herb spiral.

Despite it being arguably over scaled we have almost pulled it off with help from some superb volunteers and Uula's homemade frankencrane. The last bit of the equation, the willow structure will be build live by Trevor leat a local willow legend at the 2017 Scottish gathering.

Our hope is to act as an educational resource for groups and individuals interested in permaculture, especially children. Whilst building the project we have already hosted over 400 people and hope to meet even more wonderful folk in the coming years. We are especially excited about hosting the Scottish Permaculture Gathering this year and hope you can all make it.

The Permaculture Scotland Gathering takes place 30 June–2 July, at the Hidden Mill. For more info see:

[scotland.permaculture.org.uk](http://scotland.permaculture.org.uk)

## Wales

[wales.permaculture.org.uk](http://wales.permaculture.org.uk)

**Cara Wilson, Paramethu Cymru  
Network Coordinator**



### A slow food journey

Farming Connect at Wales' national gathering this summer

At Tyddyn Teg farm we have had a great experience with Farming Connect support, and are selected as a Focal Site for organic horticulture practice, focusing on green manure strategies for soil fertility building. We will incorporate this into our practice using funding under this government funded program. Free advice from Iain Tolhurst himself thrown in!

Farming Connect will talk in our 'Increase the Edge' session Saturday afternoon.

Interested? Come and find out more [permaculture.org.uk/noticeboard/event/convergence/paramaethu-cymru-national-gathering-2017](http://permaculture.org.uk/noticeboard/event/convergence/paramaethu-cymru-national-gathering-2017)

### Gardeners are connecting to learn Welsh language

A new initiative has been set up to help connect gardeners and permaculture practitioners who use or are learning Welsh.

Geirfa Garddio, literally 'Gardening Vocabulary', includes Gair yr Wythnos ('Word of the Week') a to encourage sharing of photos and observations about seasonal growing via social media.

"Even if you're not yet a confident speaker, you can show enthusiasm for – literally – growing a sustainable future by using one word a week," says founder Eirlys Rhiannon.

Send in resources in the language or contribute to the list of links to 'partners' – any growing project or organisation which wants to take part. [geirfagarddio.cymru.pridd@geirfagarddio.cymru](mailto:geirfagarddio.cymru.pridd@geirfagarddio.cymru).



The first West Wales Regional group meeting at Sue Laveracks on 14 May.

### Growing Welsh regional groups

Since I started as Wales' coordinator last June we've had an exciting time building Wales, network. Four new volunteers committed to starting a group in their area – in West, South East, North West and North East Wales.

We now have at least seven groups across the country with lots of local get-togethers, skills sharing and a general buzz of excitement.

In Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion I have had over 50 recruits to our email list in 3 months and the programme has offers for every session until the end of 2018. We are looking to our first session sowing wild flower meadow seeds, sorting a new hedge and making a pond.

## International

[international.permaculture.org.uk](http://international.permaculture.org.uk)

International Permaculture Day (7 May) was recently celebrated in many countries and cultures. Permaculture gardens and projects from the Australia to the UK were open to visitors. Events included permaculture and tropical agriculture in Peru, and mindfully creating a garden in Japan. People ran repair cafes, celebrated women, shared seeds, and even learned how to 'permaculture your body'!

Now we're looking forward to the International Permaculture Convergence (IPC) in India in November. [ipcindia2017.org](http://ipcindia2017.org). IPCs are a wonderful chance to connect, share with, and learn from people around the world. They are a source of great inspiration and much fruitful activity.

But what if we could make these connections all the time? If we could meet with, plan with, work with like-minded people from anywhere in the world? What could we achieve if we shared our energy, skills and enthusiasm? What would our world look like then?

What if permaculture organisations from many countries coordinated on key issues? Perhaps to make key education resources accessible in their languages. Or to support their members' enterprises. Or even to make

a shared statement to the world – like the one on climate change.

The Permaculture CoLab, of which the Permaculture Association is a key member, aims to make it easier for people to work together using simple online tools. It is a collaborative enterprise to experiment with the possibilities offered, and make them widely accessible to people everywhere. To enable networks and organisations to work together on the areas that matter most to them.

To help with these ambitions plans, we recently recruited Philipp Grunewald to a key role focused on engagement. He has brought a wealth of experience and ideas to the team. Lachlan McKenzie (of the Tropical Permaculture Guidebook fame) has also joined us from Australia as a volunteer.

What do you think we could do together?

Share your ideas with:

**Naomi:** [international@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:international@permaculture.org.uk)

**Philipp:** [colab@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:colab@permaculture.org.uk)

**Lachlan:** [internationalvolunteer@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:internationalvolunteer@permaculture.org.uk)



# Events Summer into autumn

As you read this, we will have already begun our summer season of attending convergences, conferences, festivals and other events. Thanks to our extremely active membership and movement in general, there's an ever-increasing number of permaculture-inspired events popping up across the country throughout the year, as well as increasing interest in integrating permaculture into larger events.

## Regional gatherings

We have just finished hosting our first South West Regional Convergence down in Exeter, Devon, as well as the latest Welsh National Gathering organised by Paramaethu Cymru. We've also recently been in attendance at the maiden Yorkshire Permaculture Gathering.

Over the Summer you'll also be able to find us participating at:

- Permaculture Scotland Gathering, 30 June–1 July
- Inkpot Summer Skill Share, 7–9 July
- North East Convergence, Saturday 29 July
- London Permaculture Festival, Sunday 30 July
- London Permaculture Festival: 30 July, Camden, London.

Yorkshire Gathering 2017.  
Photo © Steve Smith.

Looking ahead to 2018, we're looking to launch a new regional gathering in an area not recently visited. This could be the South-East, East Anglia or the North West as examples. If you think your area might benefit from the support of the Permaculture Association in organising a regional convergence, please let our events coordinator, Dan Hurring, know: [events@permaculture.org.uk](mailto:events@permaculture.org.uk).



## A Progressive Future

The Permaculture Association is proud to be partnering with a group of progressive organisations to produce what we think will be a groundbreaking event this coming October.

Preliminarily titled Shifting Power: Co-creating an action plan for a progressive English future, the event aims to bring together activists, organisers and entrepreneurs – thinkers and doers. A 2-day summit will develop a shared agenda to shift power, from Westminster and multinational companies to people and communities across England. More on this soon.

## Promoting Permaculture Products

We're reviewing how we approach promoting permaculture at events and in doing so better supporting our members. We're building up a set of kits with which we can go out to conferences, festivals, fairs and other such events and better promote our own services and those of our members.

To help with this, we're looking to display products that have been produced using permaculture design and which have a story to tell. If you have something small, non-perishable (sadly, no books) and which you'd like to use to help promote yourselves and permaculture in general, please get in touch and we'll see if we can include it on our stalls.

See the new materials at national gatherings and other events over this summer. We'll be using this experience to gather feedback, before rolling out further, making it easier to tell many more people about permaculture!

You can request existing materials to help share information about permaculture and the Permaculture Association at your local events.

**Permaculture ASSOCIATION**

[www.permaculture.org.uk](http://www.permaculture.org.uk)

**A network of people designing thriving communities**

# Every important function should be supported by many elements



A ploughed field near Ludlow, an example of monoculture © The Kindling Trust.

## By Wilf Richards

I think it would be fair to say that not every function is essential or important, so I give a particular emphasis on this principle with those functions and needs that are essential to our survival such as water, food, warmth, livelihood and shelter.

If we are to rely upon only one source of support, one element, for each of these important functions and if that one source should fail then we will find it hard to survive or maintain that system.

So, whenever it is possible we must have multiple elements to support each important function, this is the heart of a resilient system. When one source is eroded, another is still in abundance, the system can be maintained and we can survive. This is not only having a plan B but also a plan C, D and E.

So, to know that we can water our crops we need extensive rainwater storage as well as

spring water, river water and mains water. To feel reassured that we can feed ourselves we need to grow a diversity of crops to cope with a range of weather conditions but also know where to trade our crops and where to buy what we cannot grow.

To provide ourselves with a steady income we must not be dependent on a single source but have a few income streams from several skills and many resources. Ten years ago at Abundant Earth we merged our many individual income streams (elements) into a workers co-operative thus providing a collective poly-income (function) giving us a stable financial situation for us to develop.

This principle gives us and our systems hope and security to cope with sudden changes.

Wilf Richards, from Abundant Earth is a permaculture teacher, diploma tutor and member of the Diploma Working Group and can be contacted via the website [abundantearth.coop](http://abundantearth.coop).

Discover more permaculture principles at [knowledgebase.permaculture.org.uk/principles](http://knowledgebase.permaculture.org.uk/principles)