Wales Working Group Meeting
Thursday 17th June 2010

Lower Cwm, Llanyre, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6ET.

Attendees

- John Boshier **-** Newcastle Emlyn
- Martin Powdrill **-** Bangor
- Mervyn Tucker **-** interested in developing a site in Balkans
- Chris Evans **-** Bryn Amon, Nepal, teacher education
- Julie van Kemenade **-** Machynlleth
- Jane Powell **-** Organic centre Wales, Aberystwyth, interesting in working with schools
- Chris Dixon - Dolgellau
- Looby Macnamara - Bryn Amon, permaculture and people and teaching
- Roz Brown - Mid Wales Permaculture network, Rhayadr
- Janys Rees - Llandod
- Andy Goldring - National Association
- Steve Jones - Llanfyllin
- Sharon Girardi **-** Machynlleth
- Rhian Hill - Llandod
- Van Powell - Llandod. Wholefood shop
- Steve Evison - Llanymynych – farm interested in family nature holidays and working with people planning to work overseas
- Antony Mottershead - Llanymynych, Underhill farm
- Amanda Dean - Transition Towns, herbalist, Machynlleth
- Sarah ?

Agenda

11 am – 4 pm

- Welcome and domestics
- Go round of introductions
- What we want out of the meeting
- An update from Scotland and how the Association might help
- Lunch
- Open agenda all afternoon

What we wanted out of the meeting

- Information Sharing
- Permaculture Association Status
- Report on Scotland Working Group
- LAND Project – funding for Permaculture Association Sites
- Setting up a Wales Group

Report on Scotland Working Group

- Sally Wilkin, Scotland and Ed Tyler are interested in Scotland network. 38 people at first meeting 2010. Establish autonomous Scottish group, but still part of the national association. Provides a base for funding applications etc. for the region.
- Formation of working parties, research group, teacher education, diploma group etc. regional and bio-regional groups.

LAND Project

Funding for permaculture demonstration sites. In 2007 raised money for land project – moved up to 9 part time workers, but Land project is England only funding. Assoc in position to push forward – aim to build capacity of the networks. Compelling practical vision of what is possible. Improve quality of work and outputs.

LAND project is trying to set up 80 demonstration sites.. 26 current.

Additional Points Raised

- Wales has fund for education for sustainable development and global citizenship.
- Need to work with existing networks.
- Opportunity for joint networking events.

Open Agenda Items

These are what attendees wished to discuss during the day…

- Network structure for Wales, local regional and national
- Feedback from in Wales network
- Overview of current hubs
- Linkages with other groups, eg TT groups
- On going coaching and mentor for individuals and groups – follow up and on going development
- Need people/ names for working parties
- Survey of what is out there and how we might achieve that
- Wales central hub, give it a face and identity
- Identify next steps, with some clarity, volunteers and names

Visioning – Opportunities and Benefits

Visioning in the open circle, pre final agenda setting, on the lawn. Words from participants to sum up where we want to be headed...

Community
Direction
Sharing ideas
Abundance
Working holidays
Circles within circles
Trying things out
Practical support
Fun
Demonstration
Cultural exchange
History and culture
Best party in town
Families and youth
Apprenticeships
Inclusivity
Welsh farmers network
Rafforesting Wales
Wales energy descent plan
Stand at Royal Welsh Show
Royal permaculture show!
Emergence
Awakening
Eisteddfod
Regular regional events within networks
Collaboration
Friendships
Learning
Connected accessible networks
Big cycle trip
Knowledge and resource banks
Influence
Creativity
Resource for transition and WAG
Funding bids
Sustainable livelihoods
Strength in being united
Food security for Wales
Influence the establishment
Revolution disguised as gardening
Blending
Facilitating change
Nurturing
Informative
Challenging
Upskilling
Skill sharing
Developing expertise
Shaping funding streams
Directory of sites for WWOOFers
Research
Permaculture swap site for offers and requests

Objectives for the Wales Working Group

Short discussion on what we think the objectives of a Wales Permaculture group should/could be:

- Change consciousness on a bigger level.
- Build a frame work of what we are trying to achieve
- Task and finish group to decide frame work for working group SADIMET process for the group – need to form a proposal and establish a steering (task and finish group)
- Agree timescale
- Build a frame work we can communicate to outside groups
- Scotland – put forward a proposal as to how the Scottish network will move forward, identify what is happening already and what needs to happen
- Oversee the formation of responses to things that need happen
- Design the plan, draft design permaculture Wales

- Draw in more members.. identify who is out there and engaged in permaculture in Wales
- PAB can offer £1000 seed budget
- On line survey
- Newsletter, e-bulletin etc.+- communications

Three groups (for the afternoon)

We split up into three smaller workgroups for the afternoon, and spent an hour in the small groups, each group looking at one of the following:

- Plan of action for the steering group. - Task and Finish Group
- Survey Doing the work: – what is going on in Wales in and out of permaculture
- Visioning what do we want to happen, characteristics and activities

Task & Finish Planning Workgroup/Worksheet

Facilitator / recorder: Martin Powdrill.

Details
The worksheet captured our thoughts on what issues, items, and tasks the Task & Finish Group should consider, taking into account the how, when, and what. Bare in mind that the Task and Finish group is setup (with a time limit) to establish and define what needs to be done to move a Wales Group forward. It would be the role of a Wales Working Group to actually get this done. Below are the details of what was on the sheet (in no particular order):

- Survey implementation, how to use, what are member's needs
- What to do with information received
- Communications vehicles
    - Current newsletter
    - Diggers and Dreamers
    - Monthly newsletter
    - Directory
    - Two-way communication
    - Communicate ideas
    - Content of mailout
- Network and Local Nodes, and connections with other organisations
- Identify potential funding streams
- Different scales
    - Home
    - Local
    - Regional
    - National
    - Don't lose sight of small-scale local resilient systems
    - Fall-back positions if… gov't funding disappears, fuel prices, financial collapse
- How do we, or others who are interested, know where the opportunities for Permaculture Learning/Teaching are?
- Media Coverage
- Green map/GIS
    - A number of 'overlays'
    - Bioregional map of Wales
    - Biological resources
- Start/end date of Task & Finish Group
- Consider cultural/language blending
- Membership of Task & Finish Group
    - Timeline & priority of work
    - Resources and skills needed/available
    - Geographical membership
    - Not restricted by Political borders (eg: Mid Wales and Borders)
- Actual v's virtual meetings
- How to roll out and communicate within ourselves and other groups, public
- Annual Welsh Conference

Main Themes from Task and Finish Group activity
The following six main themes precipitated out of the information gathered on the Task and Finish group planning session:

- Task and Finish Group operations
  - Membership
  - Geographical coverage
  - Start/end date
  - Timeline and priority of work
  - Meeting cadence
  - Resources/skills needed/available within group
- Green mapping/GIS activity
- Connections with other organisations
  - Locally and nationally
  - Network and Local Nodes
  - Where are the Permaculture teaching and learning opportunities?
- Communication
  - Internal/external
  - Two-way
  - Channels
  - How often?
  - Survey
  - Media coverage
- Welsh Conference
- Funding Streams

Task and Finish Group (on-going) Members

Andy Goldring - PAB liaison
Chris Dixon
Roz Brown
John Boshier
Martin Powdrill
Sharon Girardi
Steve Evison
Chris Evans
Amanda Dean
Mervyn Tucker
Steve Jones

Survey Group Workgroup/Worksheet

Facilitator / recorder: Jane Powell

Details
Surveying what's in Wales, in and out of permaculture
Notes from the workshop on 17 June 2010

Permaculture contacts
(individuals and organizations who are strongly aligned with Permaculture)
Chris Dixon, Tir Penrhos Isaf
Tom Brown, Machynlleth
Workhouse, Llanfyllin
Lammas, N Pembs
Dyfed Permaculture
Coed Marros
Primrose Farm (Paul Benham, Brecon)
Mandy and Ann, Transition Training, near Machynlleth
Glynceiriog
Underhill Farm
Michele Fitzsimmons, Edible Landscapes
Coed Hills rural artspace, Glam
Mid Wales permaculture network
Lampeter permaculture group (Angie Polkey)
Bangor Forest Garden
Naturewise, Cardigan

also: all PC demo sites, PC groups, PC graduates

Potential allies
Organizations compatible with the PC approach who might be allies

John and Ann, Plas Einion
Mid Wales Food and Land Trust, Newtown
Cwm Harry Land Trust, Newtown
Ecodyfi
Moelyci, Bangor
Chickenshack
Menter y Felin Uchaf
Brithdir Mawr
RENEW (Dave Burridge, Rhayader)
Ynyslas CSA
Fresh'n'Local, Machynlleth
CAT, Mach
Ashfield Community Enterprise
National Botanic Garden of Wales
Earth Centre, Swansea
Green Valleys

Useful networks
for the dissemination of permaculture info in Wales

Growing Wales (see http://www.growingwales.org/: potentially the ultimate network for food and farming in Wales, but not quite up and running yet)
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens – around 200 members in Wales, very active
Transition Towns
Wales Youth Forum on Sustainable Development
Cynnal Cymru (Sustainable Wales)
Organic Centre Wales e-bulletin
WWOOF
Development Education Centres
Natur
Cylch
Planed

Others
Organizations which are not aligned with PC principles but it would be good to work with

Dyfi Biosphere, National Parks
FUW, NFU Cymru, YFCs, CCW and other statutory farming bodies
Environment Agency
National Trust
Wildlife Trusts
National Institute of Medical Herbalists
Welsh Timber Forum, Tir Coed, Forestry Commission
ADAS Wales
Learning Through Landscapes, Garden Organic (for school grounds)
local gardening clubs
Financial: ethical banking, Triodos, credit unions
Guides and Scouts
YHA

Resources
seeds, plants, research, training

Ian Sturrock, apples network Bangor
IBERS, Aberystwyth
Dyfi Seed Savers
BRASS, Cardiff Uni (social science)
Glyndwr University (horti training, food security research)

Visioning workgroup / worksheet

Facilitator / recorder: Andy Goldring. We decided to do a mind experiment where we imagined ourselves after five successful years of Welsh network development. What could we see happening?

Visioning: What do we want to happen? Activities and Characteristics

- Contact point(s) for Wales
- Connecting with wider / other groups and networks
- Outreach and exchange
- Working closely with Transition
- Information exchange – news feeds, blogs, forums
- Welsh face, flavour and identity
- Welsh language materials and trainers, seeing bilingualism as an advantage
- Strong management group
- Project workers
- Sustainable micro-businesses floourishing
- Businesses connected
- Places to visit
- Databases of skills, projects, places,
- Strategic demonstration sites (part of LAND project)
- Increased awareness of what permaculture means – in individuals and organisations
- A people's champion – Iolo Williams
- Regional and national events and convergences (inter and intra)
- Schools – information packs, local demonstration sites and projects, permaculture in schools in many ways.
- Youth involvement – skills camps and forest schools
- Intergenerational activity planned and developed
- A clear distinction of what working group does and what it facilitates (ie what it supports others to do)
- Practical support for projects – skills swaps, resources exchange (plants, materials, trees, seeds, tools), car share (all agree to use one online system? More hitch-hiking)
- Worknetting / perma-blitz – getting people together too support one project at a time – labour exchange
- LETSystem for permaculture
- Tackling disadvantage – communities, youth, social and economic disadvantage
- Traditional local communities embraced permaculture and incomers. Created new polycultures.
- Permaculture seen as an evolution of traditional practice, ie not new and different.
- Income generation and fundraising for national and regional projects – 'project support and development' and 'core funding' to keep overview and core services and functions going.
- Bursary funds for courses – regional funds and national pots too
- Adding value to other sustainability initiatives – helping develop capacity in other networks..
- Local and small scale approach

- Education and training – skills and capacity building, NVQ in permaculture
- Database of people and their skills – people that can do planning applications, designers, etc
- Nested connected networks
- More wild space
- Seeing real changes in landscape and spaces. Public realm – edible landscapes, new plants.
- Coaching and mentoring for – schools, farming, transition groups
- Research
- Apprenticeships
- Local community ownership of national projects – renewables etc.