

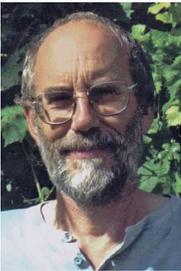
## 2014 UK Convergence: Workshop Descriptions & Speaker Profiles

Name	Workshop Title	Synopsis	Biography
<p>Adrian Lovett</p> 	<p><b>Biochar for beginners!</b></p>	<p>Biochar (charcoal to use in the soil, instead of to burn) can boost soil fertility and crop health as well as put excess atmospheric carbon back into the soil. Find out about its history, properties, production and uses; and about a new local Biochar Network for Yorkshire.</p>	<p>Adrian Lovett is a retired NHS Manager, and an armchair permie for nearly 20 years. Biochar really caught his imagination at the 2012 Green Gathering and he has been trying to build networks around it ever since.</p>
<p>Alan Thornton</p> 	<p><b>How can we help the International Permaculture Convergence next year be the best, biggest and most diverse permaculture gathering ever</b></p>	<p>The world of permaculture is coming to this site next year. Up to 1000 permaculture practitioners will be flocking to the International Permaculture Conference &amp; Convergence this city is hosting in September. This is an amazing an opportunity for our local networks to be enriched by the passion and expertise from our global movement. But we need lots of people to help make it amazing – starting today!</p>	<p>Alan works with permaculture demonstration projects across Britain to show off permaculture to the world. He lives in a cohousing coop in Leeds and is at the convergence with his young family.</p>
<p><b>How your permaculture project could become a LAND Centre</b></p>	<p>LAND Learners are projects that are working towards showing off permaculture to the world. LAND stands for Learning And Network Demonstration. LAND Centres get more profile, visitors, volunteers and course participants. This workshop will explain how being a LAND Learner can help your project develop your permaculture design, become a LAND Centre and flourish.</p>		

<p>Alice Gray</p>	<p><b>Rebuilding hope in Gaza and the essence of international permaculture: a discussion with Alice Gray</b></p>	<p>Permaculture has the capacity to empower people: even (and perhaps especially) under the harshest of circumstances. Both political strife and climate chaos present people (particularly in the Global South) with enormous challenges. Gaza is a prime example of this, where the dire situation of its 1.8 million residents cannot be separated from the geopolitical context that has created and maintained an ongoing military occupation and economic siege, punctuated by severe bombings; and climate chaos is destabilising the situation yet further. What is the role of permaculture in this context and how can the international permaculture community support people in the Global South who are dealing with the fallout from industrial societies?</p>	<p>Alice Gray is a permaculture teacher and consultant who has just spent 8 years working in the Palestinian Territories and Israel, where she helped set up several permaculture centres and designed and implemented a number of development initiatives using permaculture design principles. She is now attempting to spearhead a project to Rebuild Gaza Sustainably, bringing together some of the leading talent in ecological building design and construction with a team of international volunteers in a citizen funded development project coupled with a humanitarian aid convoy/ solidarity delegation. Alice will outline her experiences in Palestine and the plan for the rebuild in Gaza with a view to (hopefully!) kick-starting some participation from within the community and spring-boarding into a discussion on the essence of international permaculture.</p>
<p>Andy Goldring</p> 	<p><b>Permaculture and Enterprise</b></p>	<p>Let's Get Enterprising. We are good ecologists, Andy argues we need to be great economists too. In this session, Andy will outline some initial work the Association wants to carry out to understand permaculture enterprise in Britain, and find out from you what are the key challenges and opportunities facing practitioners. Time permitting, we will have a quick glimpse into the future and consider what benefits a flourishing permaculture economy might have for people and planet.</p>	<p>Andy Goldring is the Chief Executive of the Permaculture Association, and an active teacher. Andy is mostly applying permaculture design to social and organisational challenges, and is currently learning more about enterprise, regional scale solutions and ants.</p>
<p><b>Reaching Communities - a collaborative permaculture proposal</b></p>	<p>The LAND project reached over 35,000 people and engaged over 100 projects. How can we develop this work further? The Association is about to start writing a major new proposal to the Big Lottery Fund and we want to get your support to imagine, develop and deliver it. A proposal</p>		

		<p>with the full backing and involvement in the network has a huge chance of success, and will make the most difference. Andy will outline the process and get your views on key elements to include. We haven't written a single word yet, so here's the chance to be a founder member of our next big project!</p>	
	<p><b>Open discussion with the Chief Executive</b></p>	<p>Andy will be available to members to hear feedback, comments, suggestions, proposals. Interested to get views on the International Conference and Convergence next year, Association aims and projects, future work, and supporting local groups and projects. If you want a private discussion pop in early to arrange a time.</p>	
<p>Angie Polkey</p> 	<p><b>Soil for the Soul workshop</b></p>	<p>Come and join me for a fun-filled exploration of the ethical aspects of soil. Discover why the mistreatment of soil affects us all – and how permaculture principles are part of the solution. Finally, find out what happens when Cynthia the soil particle meets Billy the bacterium!</p>	<p>Angie began her permaculture journey in urban Sussex before moving to Wales with her partner in 1997, where their small acreage includes forest gardens, wildlife habitats and hard working chickens! Her background in ecology and conservation ensures that natural patterns and processes are integrated into all of her teaching and storytelling.</p>
<p>Anna O'Brien</p> 	<p><b>Projects people want to be part of - what works?</b></p>	<p>Come and discuss what you've learned in your projects. We'll be taking a whistle stop tour round issues of communication, decision making processes, meetings, theories of change, expectations, planning, group agreements, power, equality, inclusion, privilege, burnout, kindness, conflict, culture and evaluating impact. Bring your questions, confusion, down right irritation and despair, and your experience, ideas, energy and learning.</p>	<p>Anna does facilitation and training with environmental groups and provides individual support to key people in them to think through how they can make things work better in their projects. She is involved with Transition Town groups in London, is part of the London Roots Collective of trainers and facilitators and pays the bills via her work in the NHS.</p>

<p>Aranya</p> 	<p><b>Your Smart phone as a Design Tool</b></p>	<p>Following on from his successful book: <i>Permaculture Design - A Step by Step Guide</i>, Aranya has been busy developing smartphone apps to aid permaculture designers. Come and find out more, try his apps and explore other ways you can use your phone as a tool for designing.</p>	<p>Aranya first came across permaculture in the late 1980's, and has been designing, teaching and writing about permaculture ever since. He has acted as a trustee for the Permaculture Association and has been very actively involved in the development of the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design. He is currently working on mobile phone apps to complement his book.</p>
<p>Cath Marsh, Jan Mulreany, Jo Homan:</p>	<p><b>Course Accreditation Surgery</b></p>	<p>The permaculture Association is a member of an Ofqual-licensed awarding body, Certa. This means that we are able to formally accredit courses run by groups whose staff hold certain qualifications, and whose procedures meet certain standards. This workshop aims to demystify the process and answer questions from teachers and groups hoping to run accredited courses.</p>	<p><b>Cath Marsh</b> is the Education Administrator at the Permaculture Association and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the accreditation system. <b>Jan Mulreany</b> designed the accreditation system and acts as the Association's Accreditation Consultant and Internal Verifier. <b>Jo Homan</b> designed and runs an accredited forest garden course in Finsbury Park, London.</p>
<p>Cathy Fowler</p>	<p><b>Diploma presentation</b></p>	<p>A presentation of a selection of designs from Cathy's diploma and some reflections on her learning journey.</p>	<p>Cathy completed her PDC in 2007 and has since been applying what she learned in a variety of settings. Notably she has been working with a school in Bradford, West Yorkshire to grow food and teach children about permaculture and environmental issues. She wrote a case study of her work for the European Edition of <i>Outdoor Classrooms</i>, which was published in 2013.</p>

<p>Chris Evans</p> 	<p><b>Designs on the Roof of the World - An Exploration of Himalayan Permaculture</b></p>	<p>Discovering the adaptation of permaculture by grass roots communities in remote, high altitude areas of the Himalayas, this slide presentation follows the development of the Himalayan Permaculture Centre as it works with thousands of farmers in the villages of Western Nepal</p>	<p>Chris has worked with subsistence farming communities in Neal since 1985, starting the Jajarkot Permaculture Program in 1988, and currently is advisor to the Himalayan Permaculture Centre. Chris has taught permaculture in Asia, North America and Europe and is currently a director of Designed Visions, a UK-based permaculture design and training consultancy. He is a diploma tutor and author of the Farmers' Handbook.</p>
<p>Chris Southall</p> 	<p><b>'Bee friendly' Bee Keeping</b></p>	<p>An open discussion about Keeping bees without the need for unnatural feeding with sugar, using observation instead of constant inspections and following the bees natural instincts.</p>	<p>Chris runs EcoDIY Land Centre in Essex with his partner Rosie Dodds. Chris has been a beekeeper for 47 years and keeps his bees in a 'bee friendly ' way. His bees have so far avoided the winter losses experienced by many beekeepers across the world in fact he has increased his colonies and passed on 32 stocks to new beekeeper over the last three years. See <a href="http://www.ecodiy.org">www.ecodiy.org</a> for information about EcoDIY land center</p>
<p>Chris Warburton Brown</p> 	<p><b>DIY Permaculture Research</b></p>	<p>"Research" can be a scary concept, bringing to mind lab-coated figures staring at test tubes. In truth, however, if you are doing permaculture, you are doing research. So why not formalise your research so it produces results others can use? And why not collaborate with others to test what you have discovered? The Permaculture Research Handbook provides a simple SADIMET approach to conducting your own research, and the Association is currently running several research trials for members. There has never been a better time to do your own permaculture research.</p>	<p>Dr Chris Warburton Brown is the Permaculture Association's Research Coordinator. He has led numerous research projects for The Association, edited The Permaculture Research Handbook, holds a PhD in urban studies and has had research published in both popular and academic press. He has worked in farming, organic retailing, community development, anti-poverty work and as a teacher of history and archaeology. He lives in Newcastle with his wife and two daughters.</p>

<p>Deano Martin</p> 	<p>Designing Grain Polycultures for Food, Fertility, and Fun</p>	<p>How complex mixtures of grains, pseudograins, legumes, and other crops can be grown to feed us and our soils. The talk will include details of the full range of crops that I am growing, including uncommon grains, and legumes, how they effect the fertility of the soil, and how they can be used in multi-species mixtures to meet specific needs.</p>	<p>Deano is a smallholder, permaculturalist, and apprentice soil geek who is currently occupied (almost) full time with searching for an answer to the question 'How do we feed ourselves and build soil fertility at the same time, whilst using the smallest possible space?'</p>
<p>Debbie Simmonds &amp; Kerry Lane</p> 	<p><b>Discussing Looby Macnamara's Design Web</b></p>	<p>Deborah Simmonds and Kerry Lane will be holding the space for a discussion around using Looby Macnamara's Design Web. With lots of their own experimenting and learning through the Design Web, they look forward to hearing the experiences and questions you have to share.</p>	<p>Kerry and Deborah are both over halfway through their Diploma's in Applied Permaculture Design with Looby Macnamara as their tutor. They both come from a 'People Care' background, including Transition Towns and nursing and enjoy exploring the huge potentials of permaculture in designing people-based systems, as well as connecting with the land and its yields.</p>
<p>Duncan Law</p> 	<p><b>Moving Beyond Burning - A close look at Biomass</b></p>	<p>The majority of the new renewable energy coming on stream that we fought so hard for is not wind, solar, tidal, but foreign forests burned in giant power stations at ~38% efficiency releasing more carbon than the coal it replaces. The talk will expose the dangers and ask how permaculture can take a lead in moving beyond burning. Discussion will throw up some answers we hope. <a href="http://biofuelwatch.org.uk">http://biofuelwatch.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Duncan did his PDC in 1998/9 and set up Transition Town Brixton in 2007. It has produced the Brixton Pound, Brixton Energy, Community Draught Busters, Remakery Brixton and more. He now works part time for Biofuelwatch.</p>
<p>Gary Finch</p>	<p><b>Tai Chi</b></p>	<p>I will lead some Yang style Tai chi and its appropriate Chi kung exercises in the early mornings at the convergence. I will not be teaching, but can guide people through the chi kung before doing short Yang and/or long Yang, Sun style, Hao style.</p>	<p>Gary is a diploma holder and the dynamo behind Tatnam Organic Patch, a LAND Centre near Poole, Dorset</p>

<p>Graham Burnett</p> 	<p><b>Towards a Fourth Ethic - Is there a case for a 'vegan permaculture'?</b></p>	<p>Permaculture is an approach rather than a belief system, a useful framework for positive action whatever our lifestyle choices. Yet the recent Vegan Permaculture Design Course led by Graham Burnett and Nicole Vosper, as well as other recent discussions, have highlighted a compassionate concern for non-human animals perhaps best expressed as an ethic of 'do least harm'. This workshop is about beginning a conversation that explores what this might mean, as well as the role that 'ecological veganism', or plant based 'vegan permaculture' might have to play in future energy descent scenarios. All are welcome to attend and voice their ideas in a spirit of positive mutual respect.</p>	<p>Graham Burnett is the author of Permaculture: A Beginner's Guide and The Vegan Book of Permaculture. He teaches runs permaculture courses, including the UK's first Vegan PDC, and is the founder of Spiralseed, an ethical organisation based around the three principles of permaculture, Earthcare, Peoplecare and Fair Shares.</p>
<p>Graham Stevenson</p>	<p><b>An Introduction to The Soil Food Web and Composting</b></p>	<p>An introduction to soil microbiology and how it affects fertility. An overview of various composting techniques and how to make good quality, small and medium scale compost. The use of compost as a soil inoculant - either by applying directly, or by making a or by making compost tea.</p>	<p>I have been involved in agriculture for many years but for the past 18 years have been living and working with small scale conservation farming and livestock projects in Tanzania, where I did my PDC. In 2013 I went to the States and studied the Soil Food Web at the Rodale Research Institute, and have been using this knowledge to promote, measure and teach about soil fertility on the PDC as well as to small scale farmers and gardeners.</p>
<p>Guy Miklos</p>	<p><b>Diploma accreditation - designs for rural Portugal and urban Arizona</b></p>	<p>A presentation of a selection of designs from Guy's diploma and some reflections on his learning journey.</p>	<p>Guy is an experienced designer and teacher available for courses and site design. He is based in Portugal.</p>
<p>Hannah Gardiner</p>	<p><b>Discussion: 'The manifesto of art in permanent culture'</b></p>	<p>Existential angst often leads me to question why am I doing art when I could be doing something more useful such as planting a tree, then later - but isn't planting a tree a creative act? I am not the first and am sure I'm not the only one to ponder this so I am trying to reach out to interesting like-minded or contra-minded people to explore these questions and try to understand better what is the place of art within a permanent sustainable society. This open discussion session is part of an ongoing research project.</p>	<p>Hannah Gardiner is dreamer who sometimes makes art, creating diverse work from satirical cabaret to socially engaged community projects. She has been learning about permaculture through volunteering and workshops for the last two and a half years, travelling to different sites around Latin America.</p>

<p>Hannah Thorogood</p> 	<p><b>Update on the Inkpot: Permaculture Regenerative agriculture &amp; natural building</b></p>	<p>Come along and hear how things are going at the Inkpot, an 18 acre 4 year old permaculture LAND project in South Lincs, home to Hannah Thorogood and family. We'll be discussing updates about our timber frame build, piloting the permaculture internship scheme, hosting courses, raising livestock and the day to day trials and tribulations of living and growing a large scale project...</p>	<p>Hannah has a BSc Environmental Studies from Manchester University &amp; an MSc Organic Farming from Scottish Agricultural College. Hannah has had her fingers in many Permaculture pies (or rather cakes). She is a senior diploma tutor and lives with her family on a permaculture smallholding – The Inkpot - in Lincolnshire.</p>
<p>Helen White</p> 	<p><b>Yoga</b></p>	<p>Come along and have an early morning stretch! Suitable for everyone. Please wear baggy cloths, and bring a mat or blanket if you have one.</p>	<p>I've been teaching Iyengar yoga for more than 10 years, in many different settings. I've been working for the Permaculture Association for 6 years, and have taught on our local PDC.</p>
<p>Hervé Boisson</p> 	<p><b>Food Forest Design for Optimum Nutrition</b></p>	<p>Have you ever wondered how to balance your food forest design to offer the optimum nutrition all year round?</p> <p>Can design for a healthy human diet contribute to a richer and more diverse ecosystem?</p> <p>This workshop wants to challenge new thinking around what is a natural diet for the human species and how correct dietary guidelines can assist in designing a more sustainable food forest for less effort.</p>	<p>Hervé Boisson is an engineer physicist who has intensively researched permaculture, nutrition and holistic health for the last 5 years. He graduated from university of Paris-Sud in 2004, got his PDC in 2011, completed an Introduction to ecosystems with the Open University in 2013, and is currently studying towards his diploma in applied permaculture.</p> <p>Hervé is also writing a book combining permaculture, rewilding, paleoanthropology and integrative medicine into a cohesive sustainable pathway.</p>

<p>Ian Lillington</p> 	<p><b>THE CASTLEMAINE MODEL - how permaculture and transition have combined in a special mix in Castlemaine, Central Vic.</b></p>	<p>This project called Growing Abundance, is a mix of social enterprise, volunteering and grant funded work to increase local food supply. It appeals to traditional farmers and what we call 'tree-changers' - people looking for a life on some land with no cash and some who are quite wealthy. This workshop will also take a broader look at community food initiatives, and how permaculture plays a role in the sustainability movement around Australia.</p>	<p>Ian began teaching permaculture on a Permaculture Design Course in 1992 (In Manchest) and then moved to Hepburn Springs in Australia to work with David Holmgren (co-originator of the permaculture concept). Ian then designed and built a demonstration house in Willunga, South Australia, where he also helped establish community gardens and a farmers' market.</p>
	<p><b>PDCs - NEW APPROACHES TO MAKE SURE THAT IT'S "MORE THAN GARDENING"</b></p>	<p>Using the Holmgren 7 domains as a way to organise permaculture teaching. The "Land and Nature", and "Built Environment" domains are the traditional places where permaculture is applied, but as Holmgren's 7 Domains become more widely known, we are using them as the way to structure our design courses. That ranges from a visit to an Ashram to experiments with printing our own money, touring intentional communities and increased use of adult learning techniques. Find out more in a discussion-based workshop.</p>	<p>Now living in Castlemaine, Central Victoria, Ian is active in a town where re-localisation is well underway, with an active sustainability group. He is employed as a project manager to assist with the development of small-scale housing clusters and other sustainability initiatives.</p>
<p>Ian Solomon Kawall May Art (Maat)</p> 	<p><b>Using hip-hop and food to grow communities</b></p>	<p>In this workshop we will explore the way that music has been and can be used to empower and grow communities and tackle climate change. Through discussion, presentations, beat-boxing and rap we will look at some examples of hip-hop artists and other musicians and the role they have played in activism and social change, our own experiences of stereotypes and discrimination, and how to organise an inclusive and empowering event using music. This workshop is for anyone interested music, climate change, and how to organise more inclusive and empowering events and campaigns using music.</p>	<p>The workshop will be facilitated by KMT Freedom Teacher. KMT is an exemplar for social change. DJ/M.C and Trainer (Workshops, Project Manager and Lecturer), since 1999 using the arts, in particular Hip-Hop, for social awareness and cohesion. <a href="http://www.3kmt.co.uk">www.3kmt.co.uk</a>. He is also the Co-Founder of May Project Gardens Food Community Project in South London <a href="http://www.mayproject.org">www.mayproject.org</a></p>

<p>Jan Martin</p> 	<p><b>Diploma Presentation</b></p>	<p>A presentation of a selection of designs from Jan's diploma and some reflections on her learning journey.</p>	<p>Jan is an academic with a background in ecology. She is also a champion knitter and keen blogger on her journey into permaculture, and in particular, her diploma pathway.</p>
<p>Jennifer Lauruol</p> 	<p><b>Creating A Permaculture Livelihood Using Entrepreneurship &amp; Marketing Tools</b></p>	<p>In this workshop participants will learn about the LEAN entrepreneurship model. Using current mainstream marketing tools attendees will design a start-up for a permaculture livelihood and create a draft marketing plan. A hand-out with further resources will be available to take away.</p>	<p>Jennifer Lauruol is a garden designer and adult trainer. She has run her own permaculture design business Carpe Diem Gardens since 2000, trading as a private limited company between 2007 and 2012. She served as a Trustee of the Permaculture Association for 4 years, and is now a Permaculture Ambassador. She is particularly interested in business and entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>Jo Homan</p> 	<p><b>Forest Gardening: where do we go from here?</b></p>	<p>A lightly-led conversation between forest garden types who want to: share experiences, good and bad, of producing food in a forest garden; hear or share winning plant guild combos; and perhaps discuss the merit and method of measuring yields.</p>	<p>Jo Homan is a self-taught forest gardening teacher who is based in Finsbury Park, London.</p>

<p>Klaudia van Gool</p>	<p><b>Permaculture observation through nature connection</b></p>	<p>Exploring some techniques from deep nature connection for observation in permaculture. You will be guided through practical activities and a brief reflection.</p>	<p>Klaudia Has been teaching permaculture since 2007 and currently chairs the Education Working Group. She is particularly interested in People Care, personal design, use of nature connection practices and ceremony to accelerate our learning. She also works with businesses as an environmental consultant and is a diploma tutor.</p>
<p><b>The Work that Reconnects</b></p>	<p>Developed to support people who work for this beautiful planet. Gives us active hope through expression and connection practices.</p>		
<p><b>Permaculture Teachers Gathering</b></p>	<p>A facilitated discussion of teachers of permaculture in the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Main subject: Quality, guidance for teaching &amp; cpd</li> <li>· Supporting/encouraging a vibrant community of teachers</li> <li>· Collective marketing</li> <li>· Process between teachers and the association; incentivise teachers to sell membership</li> </ul>		
<p>Lauren &amp; Phil</p> 	<p><b>Permaculture Pilgrimage: Two years discovery in Central and South America</b></p>	<p>Travelling overland through Central and South America Permaculture People (Lauren and Phil) went on a journey into permaculture and sustainable communities. Having recently returned they've continued their explorations tapping into the pulse of permaculture back home visiting 37 projects across the UK.</p>	<p>Documentary film producer Lauren produced the award winning independent Just Do It - a tale of modern-day outlaws with noted director Emily James. Studying Media Practice &amp; Theory at Sussex University she combined activism and film in her successful Food for US film campaign that questioned the university's food procurement system. Currently, Lauren is an associate producer for documentary film A Dangerous Game.</p> <p>Communicator, collaborator, connector Phil is passionate about media. A former staffer at the Ecologist Magazine, he writes for Permaculture Magazine UK and blogs at <a href="http://www.permaculturepeopleuk.tumblr.com">www.permaculturepeopleuk.tumblr.com</a></p>

<p>Looby Macnamara</p> 	<p><b>7 ways to think differently book launch</b></p>	<p>Permaculture can be defined as a way of thinking differently. Looby has characterised this into 7 ways that shift us away from destructive mainstream paradigms into a more life enhancing culture. They can bring us to a place of health, real wealth and productivity as individuals, communities and for humanity as a whole.</p>	<p>Looby Macnamara is author of People and Permaculture, the first book to directly explore the translation of permaculture principles and design to people based systems. Looby is a permaculture teacher and consultant with Designed Visions and a senior diploma tutor. www.loobymacnamara.com</p>
<p>Marc Hudson</p> 	<p><b>Activist Skills &amp; Knowledge</b></p>	<p>When your group meets, how can you quickly find out who is a secret ninja at skills your group needs? How can you help match experts and novices so everyone becomes a more enthused (and effective) member of your campaign. A workshop for anyone who wants their group to gain in skills, numbers and cohesion.</p>	<p>Marc Hudson has been an environmental activist and health care professional for longer than he wants to admit. He is editor of Manchester Climate Monthly, and believes that social movements have to get (much) better at welcoming "new" people and also at valuing and using the time, energy and talents of everyone who wants to help, whether they can come to meetings or not...</p>
<p>Marina O'Connell</p>	<p><b>Large Scale Permaculture ? A community based farm in Devon</b></p>	<p>The Apricot Centre has been invited by the Biodynamic Land trust to take on a 36 acre site near Totnes in Devon, to grow food and fuel and demonstrate large scale permaculture methods coupled with Biodynamic methods. The farm is currently being bought by the land trust and community share issue. Marina will explain the process the team have gone through to get to this point and the visions and proposals for the project.</p>	<p>Marina O'Connell is a member of the Apricot centre team, she is a horticulturist, and runs a 4 acre organic permaculture designed orchard, the produces is sold in London weekly. Marina is also a Permaculture tutor, and designer. She particularly likes working with children on her site introducing them to the world of food. The Apricot centre is based in North Essex.</p>

<p>Michael Sheppard</p> 	<p><b>Communication of environmental issues to young people via biochar and Citizen science</b></p>	<p>Workshop aim - to raise awareness of the potential of biochar in environmental education and hopefully interest others in this field. Using home made apparatus I demonstrate how soil erosion and water retention is affected by organic matter and biochar addition. Topic can link into ideas about water management and climate change. I leave a simple project with a few pots and a small quantity of biochar</p>	<p>Michael is semi-retired, working part time as a home tutor and also as a member of the Co-operative's local area committee. His remaining time is taken up with voluntary work supporting local environmental organisations and projects. These include the local Transition Town movement (TransitionMK), the Youth Education Programme run by Friends of the Earth, the Wolverton Urb Farm, the MK Food Bank, West Bletchley Neighbourhood planning forum and of course Milton Keynes Green Party.</p>
<p>Naomi van der Velden</p> 	<p><b>Permaculture's Next Big Step</b></p>	<p>After 30 years and thousands of successful PDCs (Permaculture Design Courses), has the initial mission of permaculture not been admirably achieved? So where do we go next? Come along to help design and inform this international network project to determine the future of permaculture all across the earth!</p>	<p>Dr Naomi van der Velden is a plant ecologist with an interest in plant communities that has evolved towards food-producing plant communities and, naturally, to the human communities around them. She has worked with the Permaculture Association to develop trials of veg mixtures and is part of the Research Advisory Board. She works as a Lecturer in Ecology and Sustainability at the University of Cumbria and has recently joined the Permaculture Assoc. team to work on the development of an international permaculture network.</p>
	<p><b>Academics and permaculture</b></p>	<p>Are you on the cutting edge of permaculture research and learning? Would you like to be? Come along for a discussion of the interrelationships and potential collaborations between universities and permaculture.</p>	

<p>Nicola Graham</p> 	<p><b>The National Permaculture Library</b></p>	<p>The National Permaculture Library is being launched at the Convergence. Based in Leeds, the library is a unique reference collection of over 1,000 titles related to permaculture, from best selling introductions to rare titles unavailable elsewhere. This talk will introduce the library and how you can use it, as well as explaining the exciting online knowledge resources provided by the Association.</p>	<p>Nicola Graham is a final year student in the Department of Peace Studies, Bradford University. For the last year, she has been an intern at the Permaculture Association working on the online Knowledge Base and library, creating the National Permaculture Library. She is passionate about the importance of permaculture for the future of humanity, and wants to see it better established in academia. She lives in Leeds with her two sons.</p>
<p>Nigel McKean</p> 	<p><b>Holistic goal setting - a decision making process.</b></p>	<p>How do we keep the ethics of permaculture firmly embedded in our lives? Using the Holistic Management process we can maintain integrity in our solutions.</p>	<p>Nigel has spent the last few years training in farm-scale permaculture, encompassing - broadscale design, holistic management as a decision making tool, fertility farming and soil sciences.</p>
<p>Peter Cow</p> 	<p><b>8 Shields - Designing Regenerative Culture</b></p>	<p>An informative and experiential workshop - The 8 Shields Network gathers and shares cultural practices as seen in indigenous communities around the world. Patterns and tools such as gratitude, mentoring, nature connection, storytelling, grieving and singing can be used in our lives and communities to help us connect more deeply with, and regenerate ourselves, our communities and the world around us.</p>	<p>Peter is an international Permaculture teacher, designer and mentor, with a passion for social and personal regenerative design. He leads PDCs, People and Permaculture courses and Nature connection events around Europe and Central America.</p>
<p>Pippa Chapman</p>	<p><b>Designing polycultures</b></p>	<p>Explore how to design and grow your own mix of herbs, vegetables and fruit as a diverse community of plants using a permaculture design process. A simple step by step method to design annual, perennial and mixed polycultures and plant guilds.</p>	<p>Pippa Chapman is a horticulturalist, permaculture practitioner and teacher. She runs a permaculture smallholding and plant nursery in West Yorkshire with her husband and two children.</p>

<p>Pippa Vine</p> 	<p><b>Nurturing nature &amp; wooing wildlife</b></p>	<p>Fostering and photographing wild creatures in the garden – alongside growing food – is great fun and very satisfying. Of course, some of the myriad feasting creatures are more welcome than others, so I love creating nooks and crannies for habitat from the unlikeliest of resources, both to encourage welcome visitors and to discourage the gate-crashers, where I can...</p>	<p>My passion for permaculture began only a stone's throw from Gilwell Park, in my childhood home on the edge of Epping Forest. Making use of whatever came to hand – to solve problems and create exciting new opportunities – form some of my happiest memories. A career in publishing, a committed daily kriya yoga practice, rewarding community involvement near Cambridge, and two delightful daughters who absolutely 'get' sustainability and resilience, round out my life now.</p>
<p>Rod Everett</p>	<p><b>River restoration - slowing the flow in the uplands. Understanding water flow</b></p>	<p>Flash flooding leads to erosion, structure damage, pollution and loss of fertility. Identifying the patterns of damage in the upper catchment and the underlying causes, help us to look at ways we can start to restore the uplands so that they can slow, spread and sink heavy rain. We will look at the multiple benefits of restoration.</p>	<p>Rod Everett has lived by the River Roeburn for 55 years and has seen the massive changes that go unnoticed in this river. Rod is farming Backsbottom Farm using permaculture principles and teaches the design course around Europe.</p>
<p>Ryan Sandford-Blackburn</p> 	<p><b>Launching the IPC in London using guerilla art</b></p>	<p>Ryan will introduce first himself, then some creative and inspiring examples of guerilla campaigns from across the world. The aim is to germinate the idea of a public, artistic launch for IPC, the stage: the streets of London. International Permaculture Day in May 2015 seems the perfect time to do this, what can we do on the day, who can make it happen, how can we prepare now?</p>	<p>Ryan is the Strategic Communications Coordinator at the Association. He has experience of working in third sector communications and facilitating higher education student campaigns. He is ready to take on the challenge of IPC and wants to work with members to make it a great success.</p>

Sean Gifford



**Rooftop Gardening**

This session will explore the exciting results of Sean's rooftop gardening work so far and look at some of the challenges of growing food in extremely inhospitable places.

Sean is an organic urban farmer that has been pioneering a system of rooftop food growing in central London over the last 12 months. Using permaculture principles he has been growing high value salad crops on top of luxury hotels and law firms with the aim of increasing the amount of food grown in city centres.

Simon Watkins

**The Business of Permaculture**

In this interactive workshop we will be exploring how permaculture principles might inform the shape and direction of a new business, whether relating to permaculture design or other sustainable activities. We'll also consider particular challenges in running a business with permaculture ethics at its heart. Whether you are experienced in running a business or are thinking about setting one up, your contribution will be valued.

Simon Watkins is a landscape architect who encountered permaculture in 2010 and has been progressively infusing his professional work with its principles and methods since. He started Watkins Design Associates - a landscape consultancy - in 2014, is a student in Food Security and agroecology at Coventry University and is currently working towards the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design.

Stefan Geyer



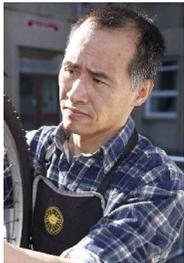
**Mindful Permaculture**

Permaculture is.... Thoughtful action not mindless reaction. Get a taster of how mindfulness may be useful for your permaculture designing. Protracted and thoughtful observation, rather than protracted and thoughtless action. Deepen your observation skills and revolutionise your permaculture design using simple & inspiring Mindfulness techniques.

Stefan Geyer hosts the '21st Century Permaculture' radio show ([www.Mixcloud.com/21stCenturyPermaculture](http://www.Mixcloud.com/21stCenturyPermaculture)). He occasionally teaches, and is currently Chair of the Permaculture Association.

<p>Teresa Belton</p> 	<p><b>Book Launch - Happier People Healthier Planet</b></p>	<p><i>Happier People Healthier Planet</i> covers a huge range of material, from climate change to attachment theory, showing how the minutely personal is globally ecological, and it incorporates specially undertaken research with people living relatively modest material lifestyles in Britain that they find satisfying. It discusses how we can encourage willing modest consumption and enhanced wellbeing. We will be considering two of the questions posed to the 'modest consumers' in the study that lies at the heart of the book: What do you value and what has influenced your life?</p>	<p>Teresa has had a concern for the environment since her 1970s undergraduate days, and is currently taking the PDC course in W. Norfolk. When her children were young she was involved in Play for Life, a charity concerned with promoting the kind of play that nurtures children's social, emotional, cultural and spiritual development. This led to doctoral research into the influence of TV on children's story-making, and then fifteen years working as an educational researcher. Her book <i>Happier People Healthier Planet: How putting wellbeing first would help sustain life on Earth</i> has just been published.</p>
<p>Tracy Oldfield</p> 	<p><b>Integrating Rabbits into a Permaculture System</b></p>	<p>Rabbits can be a very beneficial to the right permaculture system, reproducing quickly, generating delicious nutritious meat on a largely natural diet and a very high quality manure. This workshop will looking at a rabbit tractor and colony system that are highly efficient and labour saving.</p>	<p>Currently studying for a Diploma in Permaculture Tracy and young family took over a bare field 16 years ago and lived in a caravan whilst developing their small farm and building their passive solar house. The smallholding is home to her rabbits, forest garden, and aquaponics (amongst much more) all part of their developing permaculture education centre. <a href="http://www.DorsetForestGarden.co.uk">www.DorsetForestGarden.co.uk</a></p>
<p>Ute Kelly</p> 	<p><b>Resilience - What Does it Mean to You?</b></p>	<p>The idea of resilience has inspired and energised many people (including permaculturists and the transition movement). Increasingly, however, it is also being criticised for fitting too neatly with neoliberalism and detracting attention from structural, political critique. Using a 'conversation cafe' dialogue process, this session is an opportunity to reflect together on the meanings and uses of 'resilience', and the difference it makes to everyday practice (or not).</p>	<p>Biography: Ute is a permaculture diploma apprentice and a lecturer in Peace Studies. She is currently engaged in a small piece of research that explores what difference resilience makes to people's thinking and practice and has already generated interesting responses from people across the world.</p>

Yim Lo



**Basic Bicycle Maintenance Workshop**

Our workshop is aimed at basic bicycle maintenance, to give people confidence to carry out simple repairs. It will include tips on removing rear wheels, puncture repairs and brake and gear adjustments. If you would like to bring your bike along - please do. After the workshop, I am happy to cover more complicated subjects or share our experience of setting up our business.

**Dr Bike Clinic**

Rather than run another formal teaching session, we are holding a drop-in bike clinic. Pop in to talk about bikes. If you cycled here, bring your bike along for Yim to check over. Get advice on repairs, maintenance or learn from our experience of setting up our mobile bicycle repair business. This is an informal session.

I am passionate about all aspects of cycling, from riding to tinkering with bikes. Five years ago my partner and I combined my passion and work, by setting up our mobile bicycle repair business in Shropshire. We repair bicycles, attend events as "Dr Bike" and run cycle maintenance classes with the local council.