

Issue 133 | Autumn 2017



Permaculture works

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**Research:
GROW
Observatory
Nepal children's
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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 Laurol, Sandy James.

The Permaculture Association would like to thank: enCircle, the team at Permaculture Magazine, James Pullein, all our new members and renewers, teachers, and working group members.

Newsletter: Ryan Sandford-Blackburn,
Richard Honey at dg3 design, with thanks to all contributors.

We invite contributions from members.
It’s your material that gives life to these pages, so please keep your articles and news coming. Please send contributions to communicate@permaculture.org.uk for the next issue, by 19 December for publication mid January 2018.

Small print: The views expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Permaculture Association. Opportunities, events and courses are listed for your information, so please check with the appropriate contact to verify details. We don’t take responsibility for any courses listed herein..

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Letter from the Coordinator

Andy Goldring, Coordinator / CEO

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Shaping the flow of events

I'm passionate about governance. The simplest definition I've seen is 'the ability to shape the flow of events'. The results of poor governance are all around us – unhappy people and degraded ecosystems. As I write this, North Korea is stamping its feet and causing an earthquake. Poor governance is stressful for all concerned.

On the other hand, good governance, which from a permaculture perspective we might describe as 'the ability to shape the flow of events towards greater Earth Care, People Care and Fair Shares' can be amazing! Thriving forests and streams where deserts once lay, happier, healthier people living in connection. Good governance is transformational. It takes us from where we are now, to where we want to be.

What about the Permaculture Association? We have a design for the way that the Board of Trustees works, and our trustees are members with direct knowledge of the needs of local groups and practitioners. We are developing an online reporting system that makes the actions of staff and volunteers, projects and support services more accountable. Soon we'll have a fully accessible strategy and action plan that you can help to shape. We're paying attention to governance and we want you involved.

It is in this context that we announce that this year we are trialling an online Annual General Meeting. It's not about the technology. Yes we will use computers and cables, webcams and microphones and stuff, but that's not the point. The point is that we are trialling a way to get members, wherever you live, engaged in the work of the organisation, at very low cost. We want you to hold us accountable, feel excited about what's happening, and feel motivated to get involved.


So please do come along and help us take this small step forwards. If we can get better at 'shaping the flow of events' together, we can make more of the really good stuff happen.

Andy

Join the conversation

 **twitter:** @permaculture_uk

 **facebook:** facebook.com/permacultureassociation

 **instagram:** permaculture_uk

Network news

Capital Growth's urban harvest

From harvest parties to hands-on workshops, an annual vegetable show to volunteering, there were many ways to celebrate London's edible gardens and enjoy the city's harvest on 16 September.

capitalgrowth.org/opengardens

Celebrating plans at Karuna Insight Design

We are very pleased to inform you of a new stage unfolding in the story of Karuna Insight Design. Planning permission has been granted for:

- Erection of an educational building.
- Six glamping pods for student/visitor accommodation. So that more people can access this specially designed piece of land.

We have been working on this phase of the project for some years with numerous, lovely, supportive committed people getting involved by supporting in different ways, at different stages.

Next? If you have ideas about how we could now apply for, or access funding, or would like to assist in organising funding to help make the project become a physical reality, please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

See this issue's poster for a spotlight on Karuna Insight Design.

Karuna.org.uk

Apple Day Brighton

Apple Day in Brighton gets bigger each year – Brighton Permaculture Trust continue to work hard to find enough apples (and pears) for all the juice that gets drunk! There are teams of volunteers scrumping fruit from around the city and picking the apples from the orchards.

Forest Gardening in Practice inspires in Edinburgh

At this free event in Edinburgh in July, two of the UK's most distinguished forest garden designers came to speak about their experience in creating food forests. Graham Bell brought a 'glocal' perspective to the evening, putting his own home and ScotLAND Centre, Cottage Garden, in the context of global agricultural crisis. Tomas Remiarz came to speak about his recent research, culminating in his new book *Forest Gardening in Practice*. It was hosted by The Permaculture Community Classroom, Edinburgh's hub of permaculture-minded folk, with over 60 people attending.

facebook.com/edinculture



Graham and Tomas speaking at Forest Gardening in Practice.

OrganicLea make headlines

OrganicLea were featured in the Guardian in August, in a well rounded article that focused on the workers' co-operative's work over the past nine years; "We are one of many responses to a broken food system, that exploits producers and harms consumers... Our purpose is to demonstrate what can happen if groups of committed people with ideas are given space to nurture and grow."

theguardian.com/voluntary-sector-network/2017/aug/17/carrots-communism-allotments-sustainable-food-revolution-organic

Whistlewood Common funding success for community build

Whistlewood Common successfully raised over £70,000 through community shares, with 180 new members. This helps with plans to build a strawbale roundhouse – a new venue for the community in Melbourne, Derbyshire. Tracks and parking areas will help facilitate year-round activities on site.

whistlewoodcommon.org



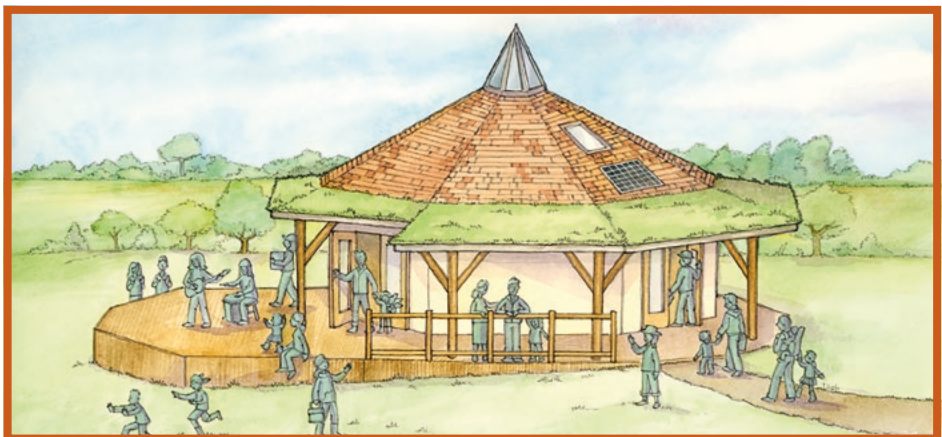
Foxfield House and Garden roundhouse.

Foxfield house and garden LAND Centre roundhouse build

This summer at Foxfield house and garden has seen the construction of a strawbale roundhouse. The roof is taking some time to get just right and there's lime plastering to go on but it's all coming together.

A group of Permaculture Design Course students from Stroud will lend a hand in October. Like the facebook page to keep posted on progress.

facebook.com/foxfieldpermaculture



Whistlewood Common plan for a strawbale roundhouse

EcoDIY Open Day showcases permaculture in Clacton

We had a successful open weekend in early September, the weather stayed reasonable until mid afternoon on Sunday and 73 people came and visited. There were many enthusiastic responses on our feedback sheets such as ‘excellent visit’ and ‘the combination of house and garden was genuinely inspiring’. Thank you to all our visitors for making the days a success.

ecodiy.info

Lush Cosmetics’ new UK farm

Lush Cosmetics have just recruited for a Farm Manager to manage their UK Farm. This a project with big scope as Lush want to takes things into their own hands and produce seasonal materials to supply their Poole based manufacturing sites, where their innovate cosmetic products are beautifully crafted by hand.

They will transform degraded pastures into productive land as well as creating opportunities to restore and support wildlife corridors. They will also offer agricultural internships opportunities. We are excited about Lush’s enthusiasm for ecological farming techniques including permaculture, agroforestry, agroecology, and biomimicry. We’re looking forward to working together and connecting with the new farm team.

River Roeburn Remembering Restoring Festival

Backsbottom Farm hosted a special commemoration for the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Wray Flood. The village of Wray, nestling on the northern edge of the Bowland Fells in Lancashire, suffered epic devastation. Over 14 homes were destroyed or damaged beyond repair. The event was spread over several sites around the wooded slopes of Backsbottom Farm, with art exhibitions, archive film and photographs, live music, poetry, and a riverside picnic. Underpinning this community event were the displays of techniques to “Slow the Flow” around the hillside, gills and the River Roeburn itself.

The walk on the upper slopes showed how various methods are being used to retain the water on the hillsides and to reduce its erosive power. There are a series of swales, lined with trees to collect and spread the flow of water down the hillside. On the steep slopes surrounding the river are numerous apple trees, over 200 varieties, as part of the project to assess which varieties will thrive in this wet, cloudy location.

Dorian Speakman



River Roeburn: swales, lined with trees collect and spread the flow of water. © Dorian Speakman.

Association news



Garnens of Sanctuary project.

Gardens of Sanctuary

Gardens of Sanctuary is a new partnership project from the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, City of Sanctuary, The Grange and the Permaculture Association. It's a pilot project to support community gardens to develop the skills and understanding to work confidently with asylum seekers and refugees.

We're really keen to hear from groups across the UK in this research phase of our work. What have your experiences been working with this often marginalised and vulnerable group of people? Even if you don't think your group has ever worked with refugees and asylum seekers, we'd still like to hear from you. We've put together a short (5 minutes) survey:

surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GardensofSanctuary

Permaculture life cycle

We are delighted to announce the success of two European partnerships that we are involved in. The Mother Nature project will look at support for young mums to learn and use permaculture in their parenting and family life. Plus, the Youth in Permaculture project is a pilot to see how we can better support the wonderful but often under-supported 16–25 age group to use permaculture for their own projects. Both are just announced, so details are still to be confirmed, more news coming soon!

With the Children in Permaculture project and so much provision already for adults, we just need to focus on the elderly to have the full life cycle of support. Is there anyone working on permaculture and the elderly?

Thriving Communities – getting started

We know that permaculture can transform lives and communities. Following feedback from members, over the next year we will be exploring how permaculture is already being used in disadvantaged and marginalised communities, to ensure that we do everything we can to help create Thriving Communities across the UK.

This work is funded by an Awards for All grant and is led by Ben Margolis from The Grange in Norfolk; Ben runs a permaculture smallholding offering retreats and courses for asylum seekers and refugees. He is keen to hear from anyone who can contribute to the research or who would like to be involved in any way.

Email ben@thegrangenorfolk.org.uk

Member benefit – mediation

Situations sometimes arise that make it challenging or painful to get along, but members of the Permaculture Association can access a free mediation service. Paul Sandford is an experienced mediator, the director and founder of Albert Square Mediation Limited. Paul is offering voluntary, pro bono, online (Skype) mediation for permaculture-related things like:

- A run-in with your allotment committee.
- Feeling ripped off, disappointed or ill-treated by customers, clients, trainees, landlords, or public authorities.
- Issues with another member of the Permaculture Association that aren't getting resolved.

If you'd like to use this service please contact Harriet Walsh office@permaculture.org.uk with a brief outline of the issues and your contact details. The confidentiality of all concerned will be respected.

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 permaculture.org.uk/ambassador or email Ryan.communicate@permaculture.org.uk

Andy goes to India!



IPC India..

Andy Goldring (CEO) has been in post since July 1999 and we've decided to let him leave the office for three months to see the world outside. From 20 November, he'll be attending the International Permaculture Convergence and Conference (ipcindia2017.org).

Andy will be meeting delegates to talk about next steps for the Permaculture International Research Network and Permaculture Collaborative Laboratory – experimental spaces for international collaboration. He's also having time off to visit projects in India and hopes to do some yoga and visit wild spaces with his wife. If he isn't eaten by a tiger, he aims to be back at the desk by early February.

Research update

Chris Warburton-Brown, Research Coordinator



The GROW Observatory – have you signed up yet?

The GROW Observatory is 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.

Over the summer, GROW participants have been taking part in mulching experiments, learning more about soil, weather and growing, and getting to know each other in GROW's online community. Each month GROW takes a different theme for its focus, and in September the theme is 'GROWers'.

Sign up to meet inspiring growers from Cornwall to Greece, share your personal growing story, and maybe learn how to improve your own growing practices.

October's theme will be Harvest, so sign up if you want to boast about the wonderful produce you have grown, or be amazed by other people's!

Sign up to be part of GROW
growobservatory.org



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

The Permaculture Research Digest celebrates five years!

The Permaculture Research Digest was one of the first things I created when I became research coordinator, and it's still going strong. It provides summaries of newly published permaculture-related research, with all items linked to the original publication. It is now approaching its fifth birthday.

The Research Digest has no use for birthday cards but if you were to stop in for a quick online visit that would make it very happy. Of course, while you're visiting you could also learn about the links between soil health and human health, see a map of the countries at the greatest risk from climate change, read a classic essay on agroecology, or read any of the 830 other items posted over the last five years. That averages more than 3 items a week, so by the time you read this there'll be some new posts there too.

permaculture-research.blogspot.co.uk

Would you like to set up your own permaculture business?

Last year we partnered with Kingston University to research the nature of permaculture businesses in the UK. We found that a lot of permaculture people would love to set up their own business and make a living out of permaculture, but often they weren't sure where to begin.

We created the online Permaculture Enterprise Guide to help. The guide includes advice from successful permaculture entrepreneurs, case studies of existing businesses, toolkits to help plan your business, and links to sources of support.

permaculture-enterprise.org



An example of integrated practical solutions at Prickly Nut Wood - London Permaculture used under CC Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license.

Information for Action on Climate Change

This project is now the main focus of my work. The plan is to develop the existing Knowledge Base knowledgebase.permaculture.org.uk to highlight the many practical solutions to climate change, developed within and for the permaculture community across the globe. Adaptation, mitigation and sequestration solutions will all be included.

The project launch meeting was held on 13 June in Leeds, with 9 partner organisations attending. The atmosphere was great and some key decisions were made. The main one was to develop a series of 'cards', featuring key features of climate change solutions.

Education

Jemma Dixon, Education Network Coordinator

The Education Working Group

In recent months, the working group have become better connected, establishing new ways of working together. Welcome to the new people who have joined the group. It's an exciting time for permaculture education.

New Educators membership – including dedicated portal

A better connected, more collaborative educators network is here!

The developments in the new Educators membership over the past 3 months have been staggering. It's been really inspiring listening and responding to the needs of our educators.

Your commitment to education networking is instrumental to the growth and saliency of permaculture education, so thank you for your continuing support.

More time dedicated to educators has seen an increase in members on the Certifying Teachers Register. Certification ensures that teachers offering Permaculture Association certified Permaculture Design Certificate courses have the experience required to deliver the courses effectively.

Please let me know if you would like any help applying to join the register, or if you have any other education support needs.

We have developed an excellent online repository for educators' learning needs. Within the portal, educator members can build a new updated profile to better advertise courses, templates & teaching resources are



available to download, and there are details about teaching practice and policies.

Some of the developments in the membership's pipeline include:

- Support to find new avenues, in marketing.
- A leadership programme with a focus on innovation in education.

Joining as an Educator member now means you will have your say in the direction of the membership: permaculture.org.uk/join.

A call for more research briefings

Research briefings are intended to help Educators stay up-to-date with subject knowledge in various areas. We are looking for more volunteers (preferably degree, phd, masters level) to write further research briefings. If you are interested please contact education@permaculture.org.uk for more information.

Diploma

The Diploma working group needs you

The Diploma working group is looking for new members. We are a voluntary group made up of tutors, diploma holders, apprentices and Permaculture Association staff. We guide, tweak and develop the diploma system.

This year we are exploring the use of sociocracy within the working group. We have clear roles and responsibilities, including marketing, documents, feedback and staff liaison. I'm Wilf Richards, the internal communications coordinator and one of my roles is recruitment. If you are interested in finding out more about joining the Diploma working group then please email me at **wilf.abundantearth@gmail.com**.

We currently have a vacancy in tutor liaison. You can also join as an Observer or Buddy for an existing role. We also have design ideas every now and again and these would be ideal for apprentices. If you think you have a design that could help the whole system then please let us know. We are currently developing the feedback system design and a marketing design.

Diploma Gathering

A reminder that tickets are on sale for the next Diploma Gathering, which is happening 24-26 November in the beautiful setting of Conwy, North Wales.

£99 will get you two nights' accommodation in the recently refurbished Conwy Youth Hostel, six meals of delicious, seasonal, local food and a weekend of workshops, inspiring accreditations and conversations. Current apprentices, Diploma holders, plus those that have completed a Permaculture Design Course and are interested to learn more are all welcome.

Tickets are available from the website or call the office if you'd like to pay in three monthly instalments. Don't miss out, book today!

permaculture.org.uk/diploma-gathering-nov-2017

Please remember to drop Cath a line as soon as possible if you're planning on offering a workshop or are hoping to accredit at the event – we'd be pleased to have you.



Diploma Gathering spring 2017

Individual member spotlight

Lyndon Forster

My first introduction to permaculture came about 12 years ago whilst working as a Countryside Ranger at Hengistbury Head in Dorset. I had always been a keen gardener, having had a great teacher in my late Grandfather. My fascination with ecology and the intricate balance of creatures in their natural habitat was sparked at a very young age.

Discovering permaculture put so many things into perspective for me. My wife Laura and I, after getting married in 2012, took a working honeymoon in New Zealand. We spent 6 months learning practical organic growing techniques on 8 different projects and intentional communities. 2013-14 I worked as Farm Manager with GroCycle for their innovative Urban Mushroom Farm in Exeter city centre, recycling huge amounts of waste coffee and using it to grow beautiful oyster mushrooms.

Since 2014 I have worked as a Horticulture Facilitator at Seale Hayne, near Newton Abbot, running horticulture sessions for adults with the full spectrum of learning and physical disabilities. I run a beautiful 2 acre organic growing project where we grow over 250 varieties of fruit, vegetable and companion plants, with a focus on berries. Our chuckleberry social enterprise have supplied the New Lion Brewery in Totnes with fruit for their White Label 'Berries on Brett' beer. I also recently completed a Permaculture Design Course with Caroline Aitken and am hoping to enrol on the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design soon.

Around the same time that I discovered permaculture, I began playing West African



The gardens at Seale Hayne.



Fresh produce from the gardens.

percussion, and also had my first encounter with a Hang/handpan.

I eventually managed to acquire one of these amazing instruments a couple of years back and now have 3!

I have just recorded my first solo EP using handpan and Japanese Taiko drums. The EP is entitled Tsuchi Dango in honour of one of Masanobu Fukuoka's techniques of seed bombing. The EP is intended as a musical seed bomb. I would love it if others would take the tracks and 'grow' them however they feel best. I want to share it freely and hope that others will too, so it is available as a free download, or pay as you like. All proceeds from the digital copy go directly to the Permaculture Association.

You can find it here:

www.lyndonforster.com/music

Group member spotlight

Sol Laug Havens

Sol Laug Havens is a fulfilment of purpose for us – Samuel and Natasha. Our personal stories have fuelled our passion to make it happen. With the help of volunteers from all over the world we are creating a community farm based in Moulton, Northampton. Our vision is in line with the three ethics of permaculture, with people and mother earth at the centre of all we do.

The aim is to connect homeless and vulnerable souls together with mother earth, providing a world of nourishment and rejuvenation through permaculture led ecotherapy. This improves people's mental and physical wellbeing. Offering steps up so others can help themselves and grow, evolve and believe in themselves; to blossom, so we can all live in harmony with each other and nurture the planet we live on.

We work closely with the Northampton Hope Centre for the homeless, providing training on cooking and budgeting which allows people to gain confidence and social skills. We nurture and grow vegetables, herbs and flowers which are used to create beautiful handcrafted natural vegan skincare products, donating 10% of all sales to the Hope Centre.

Our membership of the permaculture network is important; a way of connecting us with like-minded people and widening our vision of what is possible. It gives something that is far greater than just ecological farming: it helps us stay connected to our hearts with ideas and systems, building a wider community.



Left: A sustainable build - the shape helps with creating chi in fengshui.

Below: In the gardens where a local group meet monthly



We are currently developing the site, learning resources and work experience programs, with the guidance of permaculture designer Jeff Poole, while utilising as many recycled materials as possible that have been gifted to the project. We organise a monthly permaculture meet-up group for anyone interested in gardening, outdoor community, or permaculture, for anyone wanting to learn and share knowledge.

slhavens.co.uk

facebook.com/sollaughavens

Group and business members offer more opportunities to engage with and support permaculture activity – see the listings at permaculture.org.uk/business-members

Permaculture design

Diploma
Apprentice
Zachary Barton
shares an overview
of his design for
a sustainable
children's home.

Caring for the children of prisoners in Nepal



Children planting peas at Nepalese children's home.

Permaculture design

I am a Canadian who has been living in Nepal for the last 14 years and am currently taking my Diploma with Chris Evans from Designed Visions and Himalayan Permaculture Centre as my tutor. This design offers a practical example of People Care and I hope it inspires others working in the field of development to use permaculture design to truly help communities in becoming self-sustaining.

Getting schooled

I came to Nepal in 2003 to volunteer with an organisation called Prisoner Assistance Nepal (PA Nepal), which works in the prisons and cares for the children of prisoners. My intention was to help and teach these kids but, in the end, I'm the one who got schooled. I design and run programmes in Nepal helping different communities become self-sufficient, especially focusing on building their capacity to care for children.

A more sustainable food system

PA Nepal cares for hundreds of children across the country in a variety of different children's homes. I founded the Kamala Foundation in 2005, it has supported PA Nepal in its development, especially focusing on its food security through sustainable agriculture. This has translated into a series of programs buying food directly from farmers, encouraging them to grow food in sustainable ways and providing our partner with healthy, local food to feed the children in their care. In 2009 we developed Nepal's first self-sustainable children's home caring for 11 children whose parents are in prison. The



Zac Barton and Shova at Almost Heaven Farm
© Martin Stringer.

children's home and permaculture farm grows 75% of its own food, produces 50% of its own energy (biogas, solar lights and firewood), has its own drinking water source and runs an income generation program to pay for things like staff salaries, school fees, clothes, etc.

Co-designing after earthquakes

After the earthquakes of 2015, the Kamala Foundation received funds to develop a second sustainable children's home for our partner PA Nepal. With eight years of experience observing the first home and many lessons in permaculture design under my belt, I took on designing the second home with the hopes of creating an environment even more care-centred, efficient and sustainable.

In a design like this where children in care are involved you have a lot of different government bodies involved and there are a lot of regulations to be taken into consideration. A high level of professionalism is needed so I decided to go with SADIMET

(Survey, Analyse, Design, Implement, Maintain, Evaluate, Tweak) as the design process and to involve as many stakeholders in as many steps along the way as possible. Actually, given the scale of this project I decided to include Bijay Waiba, a fellow permaculturist who is also doing his diploma from here in Nepal. So this children's home project was co-designed.

I also decided to break it into two designs, one focused on the overall project and land development and one relating to the house being built. The need to build a structure which was both earthquake resilient and incorporated elements of earth-based building presented a unique opportunity to me as a designer and I wished to make it a separate design.

This design includes everything except for the buildings on the land.

Growing food year round

The land is just over 1.5 hectares and is located in the hillside of the Eastern Himalayas just south of Kanchenjunga Himal, the third highest mountain in the world. The area is famous for tea production and boasts a unique balance of tea gardens, jungles and farmland. At an elevation of 1650 m (5000 ft) it is still considered 'sub-tropical' but the categorisation of cool humid might describe it better. We can grow food 12 months a year although there is a small 2–3 week window in the winter where a light frost may come and kill off some of your more tender crops.

The land which was about 70% covered by tea has now been redesigned to include 5 large terraces to grow food for the home; a large trellis system to grow food to sell and to take advantage of marginal land; a large playground for the kids which can double as a community event space; food forests; and a guest house for volunteers and guests, which will operate as the main income generator.

Financial sustainability

The Kamala Foundation, who funded this home believes in one-time investment in projects like this, meaning that 100% financial sustainability must be part of the design. This children's home has the capacity to generate enough income per year to continue to run itself, without needing further assistance from donors. By renting rooms at the guest house and selling tea and excess produce, this project will generate the US \$6000/year (approx. £4000) it needs to operate.

Permaculture offers us the opportunity to care for children in practical ways that improve their lives and the greater community. The land and project will be developed slowly over the next few years. I will continue to evaluate its progress and hope that one of the measurable outputs will be happy, healthy permaculture kids!

Kamala Foundation: kamalafoundation.org

Zachary Barton



Kids having Momo party © Martin Stringer.

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

Scotland

scotland.permaculture.org.uk



Judy Martin receiving her diploma. © Lesley Anderson.

Permaculture Scotland Gathering 2017

The Hidden Mill in Galloway hosted this year's Gathering over the weekend of 30 June. More than 200 attendees came from all over Scotland and even as far as Australia!

An amazing range of workshops were enjoyed from practical things like blacksmithing, horse-logging, peg-looming, scything, green building, and lacto-fermentation to presentations on problem solving in communities, low carbon trading, and sociocracy. It was also a chance bring together some of Galloway's green talent. The evenings were filled with music, song and dance both home-grown and with the wonderful bands Samson Sounds and The Hoolits.

The Forest School area was particularly vibrant, with over 50 children! The event also marked the completion of the Tesco Bags of Life funded project "Children's Permaculture Forest Garden" which enabled the Hidden Mill to receive their ScotLAND Centre status.

Judy Martin also accredited her Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design, with tutor Ed Tyler. Congratulations Judy!

Do you want to take permaculture to the next level in Scotland?

Email scotland@permaculture.org.uk to find out about our next meetings, and how you can get involved.

New ScotLAND project worker

I'm Finn, the new outreach worker for Permaculture Scotland. I will be continuing Beth Ramsay's great work in supporting and developing the ScotLAND project as well as enabling hard-to-reach community groups to engage with permaculture through the Group Visit Scheme. I also organise and facilitate The Permaculture Community Classroom in Edinburgh.

Are you involved in a permaculture-inspired project of any scale? Interested in joining a network of active practitioners? Email Finn scotlandworker@permaculture.org.uk for more information on the ScotLAND project.



Finn, ScotLAND project outreach worker.

Wales

wales.permaculture.org.uk

**Cara Wilson, Paramethu Cymru
Network Coordinator**



Rethinking food in Wales

As the Assembly held a consultation on 'Rethinking food in Wales', what does Paramaethu have to offer?

Permaculture design goes beyond the novel land uses for which it is best known, and draws on traditional wisdom and historical experiences of social change to propose new approaches to modern challenges. Let's integrate policy areas, use renewable resources, value the marginal, accept feedback and above all think deeply and stay open to creative responses. Remember, the problem is the solution.

A Paramaethu collective response can be read in full at wales.permaculture.org.uk/articles/rethinking-food-wales.

One Planet Development: a low impact planning policy embracing permaculture principles

One Planet Development is a Welsh planning policy – it would be great to see it UK-wide! Emerging from a grassroots movement, it was adopted by Welsh Government in 2011. Following a challenging start for applicants and planners, there are now 24 One Planet smallholdings across Wales, ranging from individual sites to small hamlets.

The policy enables people to build, live and work sustainably on agricultural land. They must increase biodiversity and bio-capacity of a site, build a zero-carbon home using

natural materials, generate their own energy and meet 65% of the household's basic needs from their land – including at least 30% food.

See the full article at
wales.permaculture.org.uk/articles

Paramaethu Connect

Paramaethu Cymru has fundraised £15000 so far to support better resourcing for the PA Wales network until summer 2018.

The project will support:

- Local projects using permaculture, helping them open their (virtual or actual) doors to the public.
- A social justice element, involving disadvantaged groups on project visits.
- Bilingual training events, especially in sociocracy decision making.
- Regional member groups to develop their own bilingual exhibition kits for use at local events.
- The development of bilingual website facilities.
- An extra 6 months of the paid coordinator in Wales.

To get involved in our work please contact Cara at
paramaethucymru@permaculture.org.uk

International

international.permaculture.org.uk

Let's start by celebrating the initiation of the Permaculture Collaborative Laboratory (CoLab). Based on the work we did in the Next Big Step project the Permaculture Association and our international collaborators have been able to attract funding to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of the international permaculture movement.

We are setting out to do that by facilitating the emergence of an ongoing international collaboration where permaculture organisations and networks come together to learn from each other and run projects that benefit everyone. To do this is challenging. Modern technology allows us to do marvellous things; however, barely ever seeing each other makes working collaboratively just that bit harder. We are experimenting with good ways of doing this – we called it a laboratory for that reason!

We are now more than six months into the project and have passed a major milestone: we are looking for the initial stewards of the CoLab. We imagine a diverse group of international permaculture leaders that bring the experience and motivation to support the movement as a whole.

The Permaculture Association is in a position to co-lead efforts at the international level and due to the grant we received for the project we are developing the capacity to serve the network as a secretariat. We will be coordinating a large group of volunteers that support the CoLab so that the stewards and the network of permaculture practitioners that will gather around them can focus on mission critical stuff.

If you have always wanted to connect with permaculture enthusiasts at the international

level this group might be an option for you! There will be lots of free training, inspiring conversations, and movement building to engage with. If that sounds like the sort of thing you are interested in, please email Philipp colab@permaculture.org.uk.

International Permaculture Convergence and Conference, India 2017

We are getting ready for the International Permaculture Convergence. One of our amazing volunteers, Lachlan, has been doing a great job bringing together people and ideas to make a significant contribution to the convergence in India later this year. The CoLab will be represented by an international group of permaculture practitioners and facilitators. They will be working with participants on some of the big issues the movement confronts.

Some more information about our current work can be found on

international.permaculture.org.uk.

or email Naomi

international@permaculture.org.uk

or Philipp colab@permaculture.org.uk.



Collaboration at ipcuk, 2015. © Axel Minet

Children in Permaculture

Lusi Alderslowe, Children in Permaculture coordinator

Permaculture school trip to Romania

Nineteen children and four adults embarked on a trip of a lifetime to learn about permaculture in Romania. The headteacher, John Riley, who has been teaching for 28 years, described it as “The best school trip I have ever been on”.

John was amazed with the variety of experiences from riding on a homemade cart pulled by a pony, visiting a monastery which grows most of their own food, and eating freshly made warm sheep’s cheese with mamaliga (a maize meal like polenta) at a shepherd’s hut.

The trip offered a fantastic opportunity to learn about permaculture in action in so many different ways. The children and adults all had really deep learning experiences.

The permaculture principles lent a framework which enabled fascinating conversations, such as about poverty, waste, happiness and meeting our needs. When asked “Should children learn about permaculture?” Mr Riley replied that the 3 ethics of ‘earth care, people care and fair shares’ are so simple, yet encompass so much, which permaculture presents so powerfully. A video of the school trip made by participants will be found on childreninpermaculture.com.



A horse and cart ride was the highlight of the trip for some children.

Update from the Children in Permaculture project

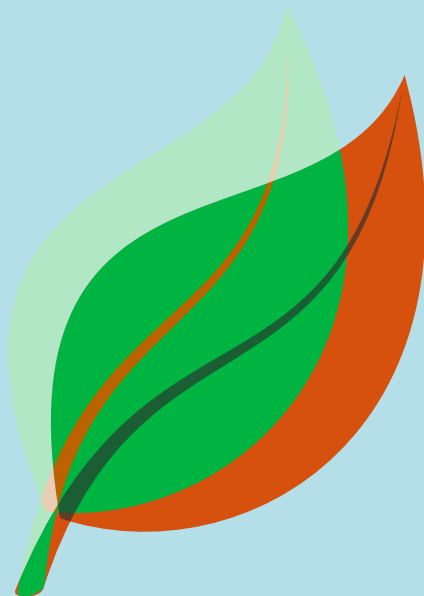
After the resounding success of the school trip to Romania, a transnational project meeting enabled us to meet with the other members of the team. We continued work on the curriculum, session plans, activities and manual.

As this newsletter goes to print we are running a six-day ‘Advanced training in engaging children in permaculture’. This is peer-to-peer training, taking place in Gatehouse of Fleet, Galloway, Scotland.

The Children in Permaculture project is now entering the third year and final year of the current project funded by Erasmus+. Look out for an international conference in the Czech Republic on 4–5 May 2018, publishing a manual for engaging children in permaculture, and two day training courses in several countries.

Events

Review of Summer 2017 and regional permaculture events



A boost to the permaculture network in the South West of England

June 2017 saw a successful first for us with the organisation of the South West Regional Permaculture Convergence. The event saw more than 150 people enjoy a menu of practical sessions, delicious food, and a surprise performance; the excellent Seize the Day contacted us to say that they wanted to come and play to give something back to the permaculture community who had supported them so much over the years!

As ever, the event was supported by some amazing volunteers. Particular gratitude to Roxy Piper who is taking forward the South West regional network and planning a follow-up convergence for 2018.

You can view some great quality images from the event on our Flickr account:

[flickr.com/photos/permaculture-association/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/permaculture-association/) and watch a video of the convergence: vimeo.com/226035123.

Stay connected by joining the South West Permaculture Google Group:

<http://s.coop/swpermaculture>.

Permaculture events for people to network and learn in all regions

Summer 2017 also saw the holding of both Scotland and Wales National Gatherings, as well as the new Yorkshire Permaculture Convergence, the second North East Convergence and the ever present London Permaculture Festival.

We were delighted to be involved in or attend all these events and are keen to facilitate their ongoing development as well as the growth of more events like them. To begin this process we hosted a conference call with event coordinators from across Britain during September.

If you're interested in hosting or co-organising a regional convergence in your area, please get in touch with me. These events can be big or small depending on the demand and facilities available. Email Dan.events@permaculture.org.uk for more information or to put your name and region forward for the next event!

England's Future?

Brexit has certainly got people thinking and we thought we'd help stir the pot too. To develop an event that can have a good think about the kind of future we want and need, a group of grassroots, social change organisations have been meeting for the past 8 months to establish the vision, aims and objectives for a new initiative.

Initiated by the Permaculture Association, our collaborators include: Transition Network, REconomy, Solidarity Economic Association, Shared Assets and The Alternative.

Originally titled 'English Futures' the initial aims are to host an event where organisations can meet and network; share ideas, policy and practices, and establish better collaborative processes in our work.

The concept is to envision a better England – more earth care, people care, fair shares. A new vision that is based on shared values and positive and pragmatic responses to the many challenges we face. As opposed to being fixated on the past and dominated by nationalistic rhetoric.

The event will take place in Wigan in March 2018, one year to the day of triggering Article 50, with one year to go...

The next team planning meeting is in October 2017 and we'll announce full details soon after.

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 9 November 2017

Our annual general meeting will be in November 2017. For the first time we will be holding this as an entirely online event. Members will be able to interact with the Board, Chief Executive and other members of the team.

The AGM is a great opportunity to hear what's going on behind the scenes and have a voice in the current and future plans for the Permaculture Association. By going online this year, we hope to:

- Make the meeting accessible to more people.
- Lower our environmental footprint.
- Learn some new skills!

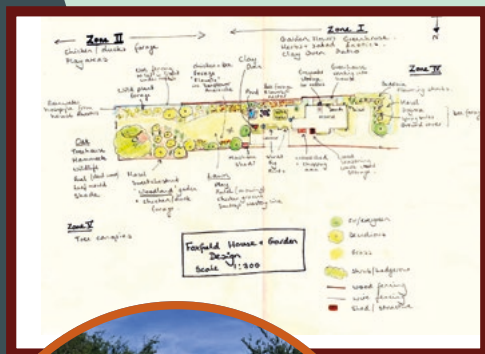
All members will receive an email update on plans for the AGM and how to participate.



Efficient energy planning: zone, sector and slope

“Those components needing very frequent observation, constant visit, work input, or complex management techniques must be placed very close by, or we waste a great deal of time, effort, and energy visiting them.”

Mollison and Slay.



Above:
Foxfield House
and Garden
Design, 2008.
Left:
Ecoworks shed

Good design puts things in the right place, efficiently using resources and space. Zoning is a useful tool to help us think about where elements are best placed in the system.

At Foxfield house and garden permaculture LAND centre, Gloucestershire, the house sits at zone 0. The approximately 1 acre garden and paddock was largely lawn with some perennial shrubs prior to Alison Ensor's design and implementation. Now, in zone 1 there is a patio and garden, with salad, herb and flower beds, and a clay oven. Zone 2 includes a forage area for chickens and ducks and no-dig vegetable beds. A forest garden and willow coppice comprise zone 3. Zone 4 includes a 'minimal maintenance' wildlife pond, allowing self-seeding plants and creating essential wildlife habitats.

Read much more detail on this design and find current updates on Alison Ensor's website permaculture-alison.co.uk

Sector planning addresses wild energies and forces that pass through the land, for example: wind, fire, rain, sunlight, shadow and frost.

By planning, you can organise what elements will be placed where, to create maximum advantage, or shelter, from those natural flows.

Ecoworks community garden is within St Anns Allotments, Nottingham. Their straw bale super shed with green roof was a community build, and they think the first straw bale build in Nottingham! The building is designed to account for the movement of the sun in different seasons; in Summer, when shelter from the midday heat is important, the angle of the window means that direct sunlight doesn't flood into the building. In Winter, the lower arc of the sun means sunlight does come through the window, providing welcome solar heat gain.