

Permaculture

works

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www.permaculture.org.uk



Outdoor learning at Rippledown in Kent – see p. 7. What course would you like to attend this summer? For listings see p. 22–23

Local Food Fund boosts LAND Project

The Permaculture Association submitted bids to the Local Food Fund for the 'Supporting Change' and 'Supporting Impact' grants, which have recently become successful.

£10,000 of funding from 'Supporting Change' and a further £71,999 from 'Supporting Impact' will support another twelve months' development of the highly successful permaculture Learning and Network Demonstration Project.



The LAND Project was officially launched in September 2009

Continued on page 8 ...



Board of Trustees: Stefan Geyer (chair), Philip Blandford (treasurer), Jay Abrahams, Sophie Christopher, Rebecca Harris, Jennifer Lauruol, Tomas Remiarz and Ed Sears.

Staff: Andy Goldring (Coordinator), Chris Warburton Brown (Research), Debbie Jones (Web), Harriet Walsh (Office), Helen White (Finance), Joe Atkinson (Learning), Jay Ashton (Communications), Louise Cartwright (LAND), Joanna Dornan (Diploma), Nichola Bell (Admin).

The Permaculture Association would like thank: Hannah Whelan, Richard Morris, Philip Blandford, Karl Naylor, Celia Ashman, Dr. Naomi van der Velden, Peter Cow, Anna Schmidt, Forest Garden folk, and everybody in the Welsh, Scottish, research, diploma, LAND advisory and education working groups.

Newsletter: Jay Ashton, Richard Honey and all contributors to the newsletter.

Funders: Big Lottery Fund, Local Food Fund, Esmee Fairburn Foundation.

Staff, trustees and all our suppliers.

All members, supporters and donors.

We invite contributions from members. It's your material that populates these pages, so please keep your articles and news coming. Please send any contributions to Jay by 17 August for publication on 18 September.

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

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Letter from the Coordinator



Andy Goldring, Coordinator / CEO

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

Welcome to the summer edition of Permaculture Works. Since the last edition, we've had some great funding news, held some excellent events and membership is growing.

This edition has a wide range of courses that will suit both beginners and old hands, and includes a full listing of LAND projects that you can visit and volunteer at.

The Mixed Vegetable trial results are out now, and we've included a summary here for you to read with a full report online.

A big thanks to the 50 members that took part and the University of Cumbria for their support in analysing the results. It's the first participatory trial we've run and we're very excited to do more.

There is huge expertise within the network and we are keen to see how we can develop new ways to learn from each other.

By sharing our skills and knowledge we can help more people to design and create beautiful productive wildlife friendly places to live, work and play in. To further this work we've now appointed a Research Coordinator who will be helping us develop our knowledge base and engage members in research.

If you've picked this newsletter up at one of the many events hosted by the permaculture network this summer, or downloaded it from our wonderful media partner – Permaculture Magazine – then an especially big welcome.

With the recession scraping along, water restrictions in place and fuel prices on an ever upward path, there has never been a better time to learn about and use permaculture.

We hope you'll get involved, link up with a local group or project and join the Permaculture Association.

Have a great summer!

Contact the Association

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Diploma update and gathering

There is lots going on behind the scenes with the diploma this year. The Diploma Working group is working hard to bring you an updated, improved and revised Diploma Guidebook that will hopefully be ready by the Convergence.

We've been continuing to develop and refine the new diploma system and we've had some really good feedback too – so thank you to everyone who fed back to us.

We are also developing the tutor training pathway for anyone wanting to be a Diploma tutor, and we will be publishing a Diploma tutor manual in August too, and if anyone is interested in becoming a diploma tutor please contact Joanna. The training will be later on in the year.

This year's National Diploma Gathering is now confirmed for Fri 30th November – 2nd Dec 2012 and the venue will be Harbourne Hall in Birmingham (www.harbornehall.co.uk)

Please note that this is a change of date from the date previously advertised. We have put it back one week, so anyone who had it already in their diary please amend this.

There will be a diploma tutor CPD (continuous professional development) training day on the 30th Nov from 9–5.30pm. Accommodation is available on Thursday evening for staff and any tutors wanting to arrive then.

Arrivals for the main event are on Friday evening from 4pm onwards. Dinner on Friday eve will be an option when booking. The main Diploma Gathering programme will take place from 9am Sat 1st Dec until 4pm on Sunday 2nd.

For information on booking please contact Joanna (details on page 2) or click on the event listed in www.permaculture.org.uk/events

Geoff Lawton visits UK

We have just heard that Geoff and Nadia Lawton, who both work for the Permaculture Research Institute based in Australia, will be travelling to the UK in July for 1 week.

We are working with them to organise a series of talks and workshops. Details will be announced via the e-bulletin and website as soon as we have them.



Permaculture Association's part-time staff and interns. L to R: (rear) Joe (permaculture learning), Chris (our new research co-ordinator), Harriet (office/membership/volunteers), Louise (LAND project co-ordinator), Nicola (trainee office assistant), Andy (CEO/strategy/funding), Jay (communications) (front) Joanna (diploma), Celia (farming intern), Anna (research/international intern), Debbie (web) and Helen (finance)

Thanks to our amazing interns!

Celia Ashman will shortly leave us, back to university. Over the last year she has helped with farming proposals and events, forest garden research and the mixed veg trials. She has made a real difference to our work and is a valued member of the team.

Anna Schmidt has recently joined us and is working on the international research survey, making it available in 5 languages! A very big thank you to both of them.

If you are interested in a short (3 month) or long (6–12 month) internship with the Association, contact the office to discuss opportunities.

Anniversary next year

It will soon be time to dust off those old photos and diaries, and share the story of this amazing network's development.

Next year will mark 30 years of the Permaculture Association and regardless of funding decisions about the archive project, we will make sure we celebrate the anniversary and use it to record some of our history.

If you would like to be part of a team to develop plans for next year's anniversary, please do get in touch.

Knowledge base

Welcome to Chris Warburton Brown, who has now joined the team as Research Coordinator. One of his early tasks is to organise and develop the knowledge base area of the website, and we need your help to do it. All members will receive an email inviting them to contribute from their own area of knowledge and expertise – a collaborative effort to create an important shared resource!

Exhibition pack for sale

Due to last year's interest in the exhibition packs, we have made more available. An 8 panel, A3 pack costs £15 including postage. For groups with more space and money, an A2 version is available at £70. Email Nicola (details on page 2) to place an order.

Futures project archived and archive project is a possible future!

We didn't quite pull off the 'permaculture futures' project, so have mothballed it for a few months until we hear about whether the archive project proposal developed in partnership with Brighton University is successful.

If it is we will brush off the futures project and run alongside the archive work.

Annual appeal update

Last issue we asked for £10,000 towards our research work, and incredibly, we got it!

One very generous and anonymous donor has single handedly helped us meet the target. But that shouldn't stop you from donating!

The working groups are developing fast, but don't receive any external funding – the money we get from membership fees has to cover all the costs (as well as the office, staff, bills etc!) – and that means we have a very tight budget.

For example, a new farming group is keen to meet, but will need modest expenses covered to do so.

These working groups are the seeds of new permaculture networks that will connect us to new people and create new opportunities to spread permaculture thinking and practice.

If you can help the working groups to work, please send a donation to the office, donate online, or call Andy to discuss.

International research survey

We have had an incredible response to this survey so far with 160 responses in English and 20+ in German, Italian and French.

If you are a practitioner doing research, or a researcher studying permaculture, or can help connect us to other international permaculture networks, go to www.permaculture.org.uk/international-permaculture-research-project to find out more.

Visit from India

Many thanks to Dr Laura Rival for supporting Narsanna Koppula of Aranya Agricultural Alternatives to come over to Oxford University for a month to share his experience with students, local permaculture groups and our Research Advisory Board.

We held a very successful day looking at how we can help practitioners monitor and develop their sites. Narsanna's insights were invaluable, and will help us in our work developing an international permaculture research protocol.



Permaculture Scotland motivators

Scottish General Meeting

70 permaculture enthusiasts met on a rather foggy day (the haar!) in Edinburgh in March to share skills and knowledge and move Permaculture Scotland forward.

The Permaculture Scotland Management Group was elected and they continue to meet online and in person to develop proposals for the LAND project in Scotland.

An excellent day with good connections made. Many thanks to James and Jenny for organising it.

www.permaculture.org.uk/scotland

Cuba IPC11 2013

The dates for IPC11 have now been announced:

Design Course 11–24 Nov, Conference 25–27 Nov, Field trip to urban sites 28 Nov, Convergence 29 Nov–3 Dec at Los Cocos (campsite by the sea), at which Day 1 – Island permaculture, Day 2 – climate change, Day 3 – urban perspective. Country wide tours 4–6 Dec.

In order to ensure that the event has maximum strategic benefit and is truly representative of the worldwide permaculture community, we are again seeking sponsorships to support delegates from low income countries to attend.

If you would like to help us do this and be part of a fundraising team, please contact Andy (see page 2).

Permaculture Cymru needs you!

If you live in Wales, and want to help develop the Welsh network, the Welsh working group would love to hear from you. In particular we need someone with time to organise the teleconferences and dates of meetings.

There is a lot of great experience and skills in the team and someone focussed on keeping the process on track could really enhance the work. Contact Andy if you have 3–4 hours a month to spare and love to organise!

AGM date and venue

The AGM will be held in Bristol on the 10th November, and will be packed with workshops, networking opportunities and wonderful food.

An evening celebration will mark the end of the first phase of the LAND project and on Sunday, LAND participants will look at the next stage of the project.

Full details and a booking form in the next issue, but save the date!

Forest gardens research

There is a lot of interest in this work. We are now working with Schumacher College to link research students to gardens and have some excellent support from very qualified practical academics.

To engage more groups, we are considering running a Forest Garden weekend gathering early next year, but would need people to help organise it.

A small budget is available to do this. Interested? Call Andy.

The Permaculture Convergence 2012

Join other permaculturists – experts and beginners – at this year's convergence.

What is it? Every two years, 350 people who are interested in or are practicing permaculture come together to network, have fun, eat wonderful food and learn from each other. Workshops and presentations fill the day with entertainment by night to let your hair down!

When? Friday 24th to Sunday 26th August

Where? Coed Hills Rural Art Space in South Wales

How do I find out more information

and buy a ticket? Go to www.permaculture.org.uk/convergence2012

Tickets for this year's convergence are selling fast – we have sold a third of all tickets in record time. If you don't want to miss out on the most exciting permaculture event of the year, book your ticket today via the above website.

In order to get a good grasp of numbers for planning purposes, we'll be closing ticket sales by the end of July – so please book before then!

The workshop programme for this year's permaculture convergence is filling up nicely with lots of exciting workshop offers, ranging from design work and yoga to even knife making and forge work!

Thanks to all who have offered to run a workshop, give a presentation or a talk so far. We'll be finalising the schedule by July 1st so if you would like to run a session please tell us by that date by emailing Nicola (see page 2).

We've got some great speakers confirmed including Aranya, who will be giving a couple of workshops relating to his new book *Permaculture Design – A Step-By-*

Step Guide as reviewed in the last issue of *Permaculture Works*.

Looby Macnamara will be exploring some of the concepts raised in her book 'People and Permaculture' as reviewed on page 27, and Maddy Harland, editor of *Permaculture Magazine* will be talking about various issues raised in their recent publications.

Also, back by popular demand after last year's AGM, Steve Smith has offered to lead another workshop on Changemaking (see *Permaculture Works – Winter 2011*) focusing on approaches to achieve behavioral changes in individuals and groups towards commitment to sustainability.

Hannah Thorogood, Witchhazel Wildwood, Chris Evans, Peter Cow, Stefan Geyer, and others will also be on the bill. Keep a look out on the convergence web page (see above) as the final line-up is announced during July and August.

There are a few key elements we're reaching out to you for, that will help make this convergence better than ever. Please read below to see if you can help us:

- Can you recommend a local (to the Cardiff area) ceilidh band to whip us into circle dancing frenzy?
- Structures – yurts/domes/marquees – we are looking for two to four medium sized structures. If you are able to donate the use of a large structure for the weekend we will give you a free ticket.



- Cabaret acts. Do you have a song, a poem, an interesting 'thing' you feel the urge to do in front of 300 people?
- Equipment – flip charts, projectors, screens, permaculture signs
- Budding videographers with kit – we would like to document as much as possible on video, but there will be various workshops happening simultaneously. To maximise coverage, we are looking for crew to take filming shifts and we will also need multiple video cameras.
- Bring a cake for the cafe
- All terrain wheel chairs
- Diploma accreditations – will yours be ready by August?
- Suggestions and other offers

If you can help with any of these please contact Louise Cartwright our convergence co-ordinator this year – email network@permaculture.org.uk

Don't forget that part of our entertainment will include an auction!

As so many of you make such lovely things, it would be great if you could bring something along to be auctioned. We'll also be holding a raffle, so all donations welcome.

Leeds Permaculture Network

We've had a great run of monthly socials this year with great attendance (nearly 50 people!) and some very interesting workshops and speakers.

Persistence seems to have paid off! A recent development is that we've been invited onto a new initiative called 'Feed Leeds' where the council is saying it wants to make some of its 4000Ha land assets available for community growing projects.

If you live in or around Leeds check out the new website for details of upcoming events:
www.leedspermaculturenetwork.org

Ragmans Lane Farm

A LAND Project skill share event Sat 26 May 2012

The sun shone down brilliantly on Ragmans Lane for their second Skill Share event – we had sun screen provided for us, together with jugs of water and their lovely home produced apple juice.

Almost 50 people turned up for a stimulating and interesting day which included tours of the farm, willow weaving, a herb walk, aerated compost tea, one person's journey in setting up a community bakery and lots more! The only 'complaint' was that there was too much to choose from!

The 60 acre farm is set in the Forest of Dean, near the Wye Valley. The farm uses permaculture as a guiding design principle and is primarily about educating and employing people to work the land sustainably, opportunities to 'learn on the job', as well as producing shiitake and oyster mushroom logs and delicious apple juice.

The farm tour took in the solar panels, ceramic stove (which will keep hot for 24 hours on one firing!), apple pressing equipment, the mushroom inoculation room as well as their acres of apple trees.

There is a huge pond, built partly as a swimming pool / partly as a wildlife habitat and also used to irrigate an area used for growing vegetables. At each stage, we could see how the permaculture principles had been used.

The day concluded with a networking session where people could talk about their own projects and plans.

Many thanks go to Matt, Freya, Angie and Pete for all their enthusiasm and knowledge about Ragmans Lane, and for running a fascinating day for us all.

Helen White



People gathering at Ragmans Lane for the Skill Share event

Streetbank – sharing for a more sustainable future



Tomato seedlings acquired at a Streetbank event

At the heart of permaculture practices lies an understanding that working in harmony with nature is fundamental to a sustainable future. Inevitably, the design of – and interaction between – communities is key to making this possible.

But what makes communities thrive?

Streetbank believes that one answer is sharing. Streetbank was started by social entrepreneur Sam Stephens two years ago, founded on the straightforward belief that sharing is a simple but highly effective way to bring communities together.

It's based around the website www.streetbank.com to give neighbours the opportunity to lend, give away or offer items and skills to anyone living within one mile of their home. It works a bit like a giant garden shed, toolkit, fancy dress chest, DVD library and skills bank all rolled into one!

Streetbank users have lent one another everything from bikes to batman costumes, given away everything from sofas to freshly baked bread, and helped one another to move house, speak French, hula hoop and more!

If you're green-fingered, Streetbank is full of opportunities for people to share excess produce – or the tasty things made from it – not to mention those additional tomato seedlings taking over the greenhouse after some reckless seed sowing a few weeks ago – and share growing skills.

There's currently over 13,000 members and is growing rapidly, helping communities from Watford to Washington become more resilient in the face of ecological and economic tough times.

By putting communities at the centre of everything it does, Streetbank aims to enable people to make the most of the abundant skills and resources on our doorsteps, helping ensure a more sustainable future.

Tess Riley. Email: tess@streetbank.com

On 20th June, Streetbank will be coordinating 24-hours of Sharing as part of the New Economics Foundation's 'Festival of Transition': www.festivaloftransition.net

Project focus:

A Permaculture alternative to Center Parcs?

Rippledown is set in 3 acres of land with woodland, lawns, a pond, two straw bale buildings, a forest garden and many other features to aid environmental education. It is close to the White Cliffs of Dover, and since 1977 has welcomed close to 50,000 young primary school children from Inner London, Kent and other parts of the South East.

Run by the Bay Trust – an environmental education charity – Rippledown hosted its first permaculture design course (PDC) in 2011. Two will run this year – the first being a residential in August and the second over four three-day weeks through the Autumn. There will also be two Introduction to Permaculture courses.

The courses are also part of the Bay Trust's staff training programme, with six staff having already completed either a PDC or an Intro course. As a charity which owns a number of properties and with plans to expand its activities in education for sustainable living, permaculture design is increasingly embedded at the heart of the trust's land, buildings and organisational development plans.

The Trust has at least seven design projects either on the go currently or in their formative stages, ranging from the management of three acres of open canopy woodland (including the building of a number of eco-lodges) to the design and establishment of a community farm plus further incremental improvements to the beautiful and well established 6 acre Pines Garden.

From August 4th to 19th we will be hosting a family eco-holiday fortnight for permaculturists and other 'staycationers'.

The two week stay offers activities for children, adults and families as a whole. Optional courses during the fortnight include an introduction to sustainable building (theory and hands-on practicals), with Mark Saich of Green Building Solutions, a two



A tour of Rippledown takes in the forest and straw bale buildings

day Wild Writing course with eco-author and playwright Simon Lys and lots of bushcraft and survival skills activities, games and craft workshops.

There will also be plenty of time to relax or play, to go to the beach just three miles away, watch a range of inspiring DVD's, play music around the fire pit or visit Dover Castle.

A family-friendly permaculture design course will also run in parallel to the holiday fortnight, integrating with some of the courses and activities being run concurrently. So if you've a family and have done a PDC course but your partner hasn't and wants to, here's the ideal opportunity!

The Bay Trust's permaculture activity is also linking into other activity across east Kent, particularly through Jo Barker's inclusion in the permaculture tutor team, as well as through its strong community and social enterprise links in Kent.

The Trust will shortly be applying to become a LAND Learning Centre.

For more information on the eco holiday fortnight or the courses visit www.rippledown.com/permaculture-courses/

Steve Charter

Sylvan Project reborn

In Summer 2011's issue of *Permaculture Works*, we reported on the news that with Mick Greenwood moving to France, the Sylvan Project was being put on hold.

It's now being brought back to life with a half-acre veg garden including a polytunnel in which a forest garden will begin. There are also three cows, three pigs, a few geese and chickens, with sheep about to join the fold.

Our town operates a community composting scheme that provides a good supply of free compost!

The future is one of endless opportunities to really get into permaculture research and designs, along with a forest garden we have been seriously considering and researching the possibilities of a wetland forest garden.

Mick Greenwood

Email address supplied.

In brief:

Lampeter held a successful seed swap weekend in March that also helped to raise £100 for local sustainable projects. Thanks to all who supported and came along.

Of Plums and Pignuts, a new forest garden blog, has celebrated its first birthday, meaning that it now contains a whole year's cycle of posts on the joys of maintaining and expanding an allotment-scale forest garden. The blog draws on ten years of experience of forest gardening in the north-east of Scotland and can be found at: www.scottishforestgarden.wordpress.com

...Continued from page 1

Successful funding bid boosts the LAND Project

Back in 2009, the Learning and Network Demonstration Project (LAND Project) was born to create a publicly accessible network of active permaculture projects that can receive visitors who are keen to learn more about permaculture and associated skills.

The LAND Project's current funding by the National Lottery's Big Lottery Fund, the Local Food Fund and Esmeé Fairburn Foundation expires at the end of 2012.

The 12 months of extra funding will enable us to review our work, share learning, promote achievements and design and implement a long-term strategy so that the network can run long into the future.

We are still looking for capital to continue certain aspects of the project including the Group Visit Scheme (see separate story below) and the skill share events.

Supporting Change

This grant will run from July until December 2012 to refocus the LAND Project to the needs of new projects and support more learning by:

1. Developing the 'LAND Learner' scheme. Workshops with existing LAND Learners and tutors will evaluate what works and how we can develop the system. Eventually there will be a costed learning support programme that any group can purchase to help them incorporate permaculture.
2. Reducing the overall costs of the LAND Project by training diploma tutors to become regional assessors for new applicants and as tutors in the new LAND Learner scheme.
3. Developing links with the Open College Network (OCN) and LAND Centres so that the Association can offer accredited training via a network of registered trainers and centres.

Supporting Impact

This will allow us to evaluate the work we did in Supporting Change and engage 10 disadvantaged groups to pilot the new Land Learner Scheme.



The LAND Project has helped thousands of people to learn about permaculture

Support for the existing network will focus on initiatives and activities that increase opportunities for the LAND Project network to be self-organising and self-financing, with funds also allocated for two national events.

We will know more clearly how this will all work out when we have completed the Supporting Change work.

LAND Project Skill Sharing Events

There are four exciting and inspiring skill sharing events at LAND Centres scheduled for this summer that are sponsored by the LAND Project.

These events are a great opportunity for you to meet LAND Centres and Learners, learn new skills and see what's happening permaculture-wise in your area.

The following events have been confirmed but there's lots more going on this summer, too. For a full list of planned events please visit the website www.permaculture.org.uk/events

- Karuna Skill Share, 7th July
- Leeds Skills Share, 21st July
- Rifleman Cottage Skill Share, 22nd July
- Brighton Permaculture Skill Share, TBC

The Group Visit Scheme to be suspended

With six months to go, we've already exceeded our target for number of visits so as of May 18th 2012, the group visit scheme – part of the LAND Project – has had to be suspended.

We're still looking for funding to continue the scheme, but until we've found it, we have no option but to put it on hold.

What does this mean for LAND Centres?

- Any visits that have been arranged and applied for before May 18th 2012 will be honoured.
- Any applications received after the 18th of May will be declined.
- No expenses will be paid retrospectively (i.e. where an application for funding has not been sent in advance).

What does this mean if you are a group and want to visit a LAND Centre?

- Applications received prior to 18th May 2012 will be considered.
- Applications received after the 18th May 2012 will be declined.
- No expenses will be paid retrospectively.
- You can still contact a LAND Centre and ask to visit, but we can no longer pay them to host you.

Thanks to all who have helped to make this a success so far. Loads of people have learned about and experienced permaculture in action that perhaps would not have otherwise.

Let's try and keep the momentum going!

LAND Projects

As the sun shines on another summer season, 2012 is set to be a record year for people getting out and about, engaging in permaculture. This is in part thanks to the LAND Project, but mostly to all of the hard work put in by the permaculture network – the LAND Centres, the LAND Learners and their workers and volunteers.

If you, dear reader, want to get out and about and enjoy the sunshine, then why not visit a LAND Centre? You will leave inspired, energised and most likely full of fantastic food!

Just please do book your visit beforehand. For contact information, visit www.permaculture.org.uk/LAND

What is a LAND Centre?

LAND centres are permaculture projects who can show, explain and describe to volunteers, visitors, and interested public, how the principles and ethics of permaculture are applied to their project.

They have gone through an application process and have been certified by a panel of permaculture experts as excelling in practicing – and being able to explain – permaculture principles and techniques.

Abbey Physic Community Garden

Faversham, Kent

A community based charity run by garden members, which places emphasis on the therapeutic benefits of horticultural and craft activities.

Abundant Earth

Durham, County Durham

Smallholding near Durham managed using a permaculture approach. Owned and managed by a coop of 2 families.

Backsbottom Farm and Middlewood Trust

Lancaster, Lancashire

Organic and Permaculture farm with education centre. Woodlands, alternative energy, heritage apples, forest garden, wildflower meadows and woodland crafts.

Brighton Permaculture Trust

Brighton, East Sussex

Brighton Permaculture Trust are involved in several initiatives that encourage the growing, harvesting and eating of local food, whilst increasing diversity. Brighton Permaculture Trust are a local community food initiative.

Earth Heart Housing Co-op

Ashbourne, Derbyshire

Earth Heart Housing Co-operative is a housing co-operative in a traditional farmhouse and barns on 20 acres of organic land.

EcoDIY

Clacton on Sea, Essex

Sub-urban family project working towards self-reliance using organic, permaculture principles and low cost DIY construction, using recycled materials.

Ecoworks

Nottingham, Nottinghamshire

To promote the interests and personal development of people who are socially disadvantaged by delivering activities connected with conservation, restoration and enhancement of the environment.

Edible Cities

Leeds, West Yorkshire

Permaculture demonstration, research and capacity building.

Edibles (Paddock Farm)

Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire

A working permaculture farm growing food for sale locally; training people to



For a project's contact information – and for more information, visit:
www.permaculture.org.uk/LAND

grow food and establishing an edible plant nursery.

Forest Farm Peace Garden

Ilford, Essex

Enhancing the health and wellbeing of the local community through forest gardening, food growing, bee-keeping, composting, crafts and more.

Forest Garden at Alara Wholefoods

London

Peaceful forest garden hidden in the urban sprawl of King's Cross – we removed 50 tonnes of rubbish to create it!

Harehope Quarry Project

Bishop Auckland, County Durham

The Project aims to demonstrate a more sustainable way of living through its events programme and the regeneration of the quarry.

Harpsbridge House

Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire

Acre site integrating a retrofitted semi-detached house, animals, food growing, and sustainable technology, demonstrating permaculture ethics and principles in family life.



Holt Wood

Holt Wood

Great Torrington, Devon

Holt Wood is an agroforestry project designed to offer a sustainable source of medicinal and other non-timber products.

Ivy Cottage

Taunton, Somerset

A smallholding based in Blagdon Hill, near Taunton Somerset.

Karuna

Church Stretton, Shropshire

Karuna is a unique inspirational educational project demonstrating the benefits of diversity, observation, food growing, celebration, creativity, low impact living, renewable energy 'a sense of place' and much more.

Kate & Andy's Microholding

Midhurst, West Sussex

Aiming towards self sufficiency and sustainable living in a suburban terraced cottage with 125m² garden using permaculture principles and design.

Keveral Farm

Looe, Cornwall

Keveral Farm is an organic farm, and a community of 15 adults and eight children.

Kippax CSA

Leeds, West Yorkshire

Members based organic veg box scheme providing seasonal vegetables, herbs, salad and fruit for 44 weeks of the year.

Lambourne End

Essex

54 acres of opportunity. Offering food, farming, environmental and adventure activities. Helping young people develop skills and an understanding of the world around them.

Landmatters

Totnes, Devon

Land based coop committed to using land in accordance with permaculture principles.

Margaret's Plot

Bedford, Bedfordshire

One person's attempt to be self sufficient in fruit and vegetables and also produce a surplus for sale.

May Project Gardens

Morden, Surrey

Educating and inspiring communities through ethical food growing techniques, low impact living, collective action and sustainable development.

Monkton Wyld Court

Bridport, Dorset

We are a community that is striving towards becoming a centre for sustainability.

Oak Tree Farm

Wareham, Dorset

A long established organic based small holding with the aim of providing a self reliant sustainable life style.

Offshoots Permaculture Project

Burnley, Lancashire

The Offshoots project is a community permaculture project.

It is managed by Groundwork East Lancashire along with its own committee consisting of all local people who are actively involved with the project.

Old Sleningford Farm

Ripon, North Yorkshire

A forest garden, a good way of growing a lot of food with minimal maintenance.

Organic Lea

Chingford, Greater London

The project is developing 12 acres of disused Local Authority plant nursery (including 1/2 acres of glasshouses) as a community food growing enterprise.

Food and plants are grown sustainably using organic and permaculture principles.

Organics Evolving Systems

Bridport, Dorset

A PC demo lifestyle and debt free self sustaining business.

People's Community Garden

Ipswich, Suffolk

Community garden in allotments; diverse users; disabled access and compost toilet; herb spiral; forest garden, polytunnel; vegetable, fruit and flowers.

Pudsey Land Share Enterprises (Efforts) PuLSE

Leeds, West Yorkshire

urban permaculture, home scale, supporting community food growing through living examples and activities involving education, food and fun

Ragmans Lane Farm

Lower Lydbrook, Gloucestershire

Ragmans is a 60-acre organic farm incorporating permaculture principles. We run and host course on sustainable living, and produce apple juice and mushroom logs.



Margaret's Plot



Station Road Permaculture Garden

Rifleman Cottage

Faversham, Kent

Rifleman Cottage is a 6 acre small holding operating to permaculture principles. We aim to be as self sufficient and sustainable as possible.

Station Road Permaculture Garden

Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

A small ex council house garden 80ft x 40ft that had been developed as a permaculture garden.

Stream Walk Community Garden

Whitstable, Kent

A new community garden project encouraging people from all different backgrounds to work together and grow organic food.

Tatnam Organic Patch

Poole, Dorset

A community garden run by volunteers following strict organic principles, providing food, learning opportunity and a burgeoning wildlife population.

The Apricot Centre

Manningtree, Essex

The Apricot Centre is set in a 4 acre organic and permaculture designed garden growing fruit, flowers and salad for sale and food and fuel for the centre and home. It runs courses on the farm and outreach work into schools

The CountrySOLE Project

Hereford, Herefordshire

The CountrySOLE Project is a green tourism and educational centre. The project aims to create a sustainable living

system, utilising natural and recycled materials and working with natural cycles.

The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm

Ipswich, Suffolk

We grow vegetables, fruit, flowers, herbs and firewood with using no artificial fertilizers or pesticides, reducing our carbon footprint to an absolute minimum.

The Triangle Community Garden

Hitchin, Hertfordshire

A community garden, created and cultivated by people of all ages and abilities, and promoting community, growing and sustainable living.

Trevalon

Liskeard, Cornwall

Organic certified community owned veg box scheme, orchard, soft fruits and pigs.

Trevecca Home Garden

Liskeard, Cornwall

A home garden Permaculture design.

Vallis Veg

Frome, Somerset

Small mixed permaculture farm, producing food and other farm product for local use.

Well End Permaculture International

Borehamwood, Hertfordshire

A Centre of Excellence for various cutting edge environmental technologies.

Visitors/parties accepted by appointment to view our 3 acres of woodland down to our one acre micro-farm, part of the 120 acre High Canons Estate, within the green belt of north London.

Westfield Farm Forest Garden

Chew Magna, Somerset

Westfield Farm Forest Garden is a sustainable permaculture forest garden project with an interest in the growing of local, natural and hedgerow food.

Wildgoose Rural Training

Holt, Worcestershire

A rural training centre for all, especially those with disabilities, incorporating permaculture principles in areas of earth and people care.

Willows Permaculture Garden

Mortimer, Shropshire

A sustainable production of food, wood and wood fuel in a semi natural garden setting.

Wolds Woodland Farming Project

Hagworthingham, Lincolnshire

An evolving Forest Garden, specialising in trees and plants for bees, incorporating annual vegetables. And a tree nursery.



Vallis Veg

LANDLearners

LAND Learners are permaculture projects who are receiving assistance from a permaculture expert to become LAND Centres.

Whilst they can still receive visitors and are inspiring places, the project may not be as advanced as a LAND Centre.

Bedford Fields Community Forest Garden

Leeds, West Yorkshire

Bean Stalk Market Garden

Todmorden, West Yorkshire

Bio Dynamic Agricultural College

Forest Row, East Sussex

Braziers Park

Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Brook End

Compton Dundon, Somerset

East Lodge Sustainability Centre

Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Farmeco Community Care Farm

Nr Bingham, Nottinghamshire

Five Acres

Downe, Kent

Frodesley Forest Garden

Frodesley, Shropshire

Green Peppers Orchard and Forest Garden

London, Greater London

Growing with Grace

Lancaster, North Yorkshire

Haye Farm

Bewdley, Worcestershire

Hinton Harvest

Hinton St George, Somerset

Lower Shaw Farm

Swindon, Wiltshire

Oak House Permaculture Project

Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Oakwood Denbury

Denbury, Devon

O Bee Community Interest Company

Stowmarket, Suffolk

Pam's Pools

Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Pennerley Permaculture and Forest Garden Plot

Pennerley, Shropshire

Pestalozzi Permaculture Project

Sedlescombe, East Sussex

Sacred Earth CIC

Lewes, East Sussex

Seize Garden

Bideford, Devon

Silverhill Primary School

Derby, Derbyshire

Stepney City Farm

London

Talbot Gardens Family Forest Garden

Ilford, Essex



The Attwood Project

Kidderminster, Worcestershire

The Green Backyard

Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

The Hillside

Ashbourne, Derbyshire

The Meadow Orchard Project

London

ThosePlantPeople

Steeton, West Yorkshire

Trust Links

Westcliff on Sea, Essex

Tuppenny Barn

Southbourne, West Sussex

Wooldale Woodland Garden

Holmfirth, West Yorkshire

For a project's contact information – and for more information, visit: www.permaculture.org.uk/LAND



Trust Links

Becoming a LAND Learning centre recognises you as a place that visitors and volunteers can learn about permaculture and opens doors to a national permaculture network. This can raise your projects' profile and stature whilst also enjoying the following benefits:

- Free publicity via our website, newsletter and in the office through enquiries

- Free attendance to our LAND skill sharing and training events (which normally include food and accommodation)
- Access to our 'Teachers Pack' which includes session packs and lesson plans
- Access to exhibition materials explaining permaculture
- 5 hours of free design support from a qualified tutor through our LAND learner scheme.

The application process is quick and simple. Once you have completed an application form (by following the link on the Permaculture Association website www.permaculture.org/land) Louise will contact you to arrange a visit. The visit will be reported as part of your application along with photos and sent to our advisory group. Louise will contact your project as soon as a decision has been reached; it's that easy to get involved.

Recommend a Project

If you have been to visit or volunteer at a permaculture project and think that it is a great example of permaculture, then tell us about it! We are looking for our membership to recommend projects to us, as there are many projects in the network that we don't know about. This is your opportunity to see your favourite project become a recognised LAND Centre, so do get in touch. The LAND line: 0113 230 7658 or (0)845 458 1805

Email: network@permaculture.org.uk – Louise Cartwright, Network Coordinator

Permaculture in Panama: lessons from a lazy farmer

My friend and I recently reunited in Panama; being the romantic, she had just spent three months volunteering on an orchid conservation farm but now, faced with my nebulous plant philosophy of 'eat it, heat it or beat it', we were in search of edible plants.

Looking for an organic farm to volunteer at, we came across 'The Lazy Man's Farm'. It was only 2 hours away but the name concerned me, is the owner lazy? Will we need to work tirelessly in order to pick up his slack?

In reality the owner, John proved to be an inspirational character despite regularly claiming ignorance and laziness. Whilst there, he hosted tours to a range of people from various countries and backgrounds; including local farmers looking to learn the secret to his productive garden and curiously large vegetables.

The farm, set on 25 acres is primarily intended to inspire and educate local people about growing crops organically. Within his first two years of ownership, John had an extensive list of edible, medicinal and beneficial plants growing on his property.

This wasn't achieved without setbacks however, battling unrelenting grass, torrential rainstorms and Houdini-trained chickens.

The momentum appears unstoppable. The government is now sending coach loads of people to the farm! He will soon be starting gardens in the local state prison and he often travels off-site to schools, teaching them about permaculture principles and organic gardening. Not bad for one lazy farmer.

... the owner, John proved to be an inspirational character despite regularly claiming ignorance and laziness. Whilst there, he hosted tours to a range of people from various countries and backgrounds; including local farmers looking to learn the secret to his productive garden and curiously large vegetables."

The Problem in Panama?

Panamanian farmers commonly clear the land of debris and weeds, thus leaving soil bare and exposed. The apparent reason for this is to minimise pests and diseases, keep the farm tidy and it follows the neighbouring trend.

The waste is then discarded, often burned or thrown away, and the remaining soil is vulnerable to erosion. With wind and rain, soil washes from the land and into the water ways. After one storm, I witnessed the effects – the river had turned a thick brown. The soil was destined for the ocean.

Plants looking to cover the modest soil will then need eliminating, probably through use of chemical sprays. The feasting pests will also need destroying. And the naked soil could quite likely be lacking some nutrients. Well, there is a bottled quick fix for that too.

The Solution?

John has a secret, which he broadcasts to anybody who listens. It has now become a farm slogan and is preached continuously.

"The secret is in the garbage". I'll hear him say the words again, tens of metres away and the only phrase I understand in Spanish. He means 'organic matter' but this term doesn't jingle like 'garbage' does.



John and visitors with his Magic Circle

By valuing the organic matter available, farmers will understand the need to return these nutrients to the soil and thus, the circle of 'life and decay' can continue.

"Nature has all the answers and by copying this system, there'll be less work for me" he chuckled whilst showing us how to perfect our machete swing. We were apparently working; chopping balo (a nitrogen fixer which grows like willow but quicker) and using it to mulch fruit trees.

Zoning out, into a world of machete swings and jungle adventure, I was soon brought back by his voice. "Don't bend down to move the cuttings, it is too much effort, just flick them under the tree with the machete. Think lazy".

Another key aspect from the farm, one readily accepted and implemented by Panamanians, is a 'Magic circle' design whereby a hole is dug and the soil is placed around this creating a doughnut shape. Plants are grown in the doughnut and organic matter is thrown in the hole. As this 'garbage' decomposes, it feeds the surrounding plants, the waste is contained, the farm is tidy and the Panamanians are happy.

Although we originally debated over concerns about the farm, our stay extended to over a month. Any idea for an experiment was welcome and so we consequently found ourselves making raised beds with banana stalks, bamboo canes and balo cuttings, sowing seeds in charcoaled rice husks and testing different compost tea blends.

One lazy farm. One lazy farmer. And one never-ending list of jobs.

Rebecca Huntley

The Wolds Woodland

The Wolds Woodland Farming Project is a 3.75 acre (1.5 Ha) smallholding set in the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The design was carried out from Summer 2008 to Spring 2010, with some implementation during Winter 2009/2010 after we had lived here for eight years.

The aim of the project is to meet all of our needs in a post peak oil world. It must...

...provide food and fuel for two people, with the flexibility to increase food production for additional family members and friends.

...provide bee forage to sustain my bee colonies, which are part of my food production, and my business.

It should...

...improve soil quality (currently predominantly clay).

...increase the number of ecological niches, in order to attract more wildlife.

...provide a venue for social gatherings and parties.

Observation and analysis

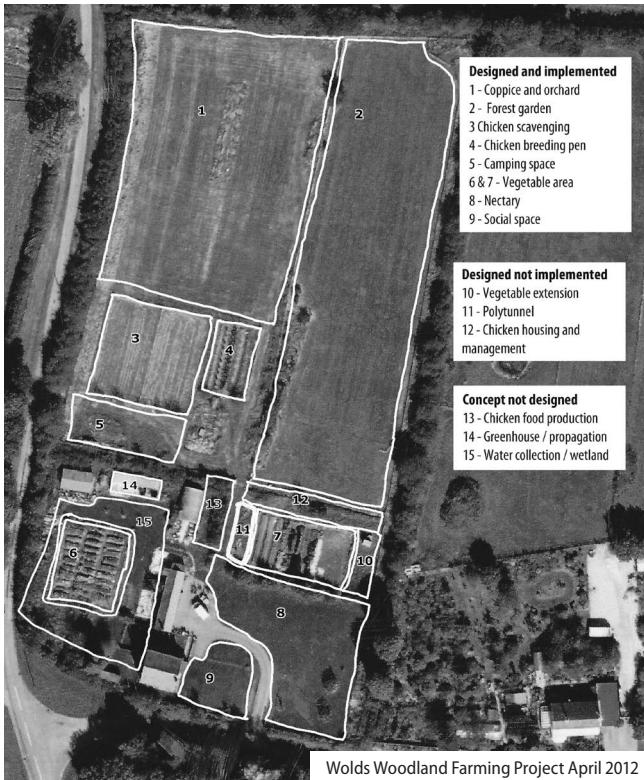
Rainfall is low, with an annual average of 600mm – we can regularly go six weeks or more without significant rainfall. Wind is predominantly from the SW, and the stronger winds are almost always from this direction.

Hedges and trees to the West provide a degree of shelter as due to the proximity to the North Sea, we get extremely damaging cold winds from the East, and North.

Frost can be present as late as the first week in June and as early as late September. Frost pockets are at the bottom edge of both fields and the whole of the lower section of a property that sits on the South facing side of a hill, close to the top.

This slope increases the intensity of sunlight falling on the fields, helping to reduce the frost.

The slope makes it useful for fruit production. With photosynthesis increasing with temperature, the aspect increases the intensity of sunlight in the afternoon when temperatures are higher.



Wolds Woodland Farming Project April 2012

Looking at the property set in the wider environment is an example of the principles **design from pattern to detail, and design in wholes**.

We are the **edge** between grass and arable. Missing from the area is any sizeable woodland and a lack of standing water.

The use of either/both of these in the design would increase the number of ecological niches by increasing diversity. It would also add a number of 'edges' to the wider environment, namely grass/trees, arable/trees, that were not present before. Standing water would increase this again.

The use of deep rooted plants, perennials, trees and shrubs would be more resilient to the low, erratic pattern of rainfall as shallow rooted annual vegetables are left vulnerable if no mains water were available for irrigation.

Bee forage is best concentrated either side of the main agricultural forage sources, oilseed rape (April/May) and field beans (May/June).

Most of the local nectar sources are early – elements that have a flowering

groundcover component will be needed. Grassland, wild flower meadows, some trees, and some annual vegetable crops would help to fulfil this function.

A forest garden will add to food and increase bee forage whilst also providing some wood for fuel and assist with soil improvement and water retention.

Swales (and contour ditches) and ponds will be essential not just to store water but to aid in the establishment of trees. If the pond(s) retain water all year round, then it would be possible to widen and deepen the swales, and use them for aquaculture.

The elements chosen and their functions are shown in the table opposite.

Using a table like this made it really easy to check that **every function** was fulfilled by **more than one element**, and that **every element** was able to provide **more than one function**. It also makes it easy to see if there are any unmet functions, or any elements that are not delivering additional functions.

Each tree species that I considered for planting was scored for each function that it met and a 'scoring' table drawn up.

“

Looking at the property set in the wider environment is an example of the principles *design from pattern to detail, and design in wholes*.

”

Farming Project

Placement

Using **zoning**, the coppice and forest garden needed to be placed furthest away from the house. It would have been good to combine the functions of both, with the coppice furthest away, blending into forest garden closer to the house, and then annual vegetables etc.

However only one of the fields had rabbit fencing, and was rabbit free. With a greater emphasis on a productive ground layer, it made sense to use this for a forest garden, which left the other field for the coppice.

This placement also helped with the pollination and fruit set of wind pollinated plants as the prevailing wind blows through the coppice towards the forest garden – **establishing beneficial relationships through relative location**.

For positioning the swales, I designed from a fixed element – the existing orchard. Rather than run swales through relatively expensive trees, I chose to survey swales above and below the orchard, and one level with the centre of it, not digging in the area of the fruit trees.

With two small wildlife ponds close to the house, the pond is at the bottom of the forest garden and located at a keypoint on the slope, along the lower swale.

This allows the swale to collect water that had reached the bottom of the forest garden and use it to keep the pond topped up.

As there was a strip of land between the fences and outer hedges I chose to leave this as a wildlife area (zone5).

The nectary was placed right in front of the main gate, so that anybody coming in would be assaulted by the flowers.

Placing it close to the house meant that I could see the plants most frequently. This allowed me to enjoy them more and use it as a test area (**observe and interact**), watching which plants were preferred by bees – using that observation to propagate more of the best plants.

Implementation

Getting trees into the ground was my priority so I concentrated initially on the tree planting, shelterbelts, swales and pond. To date, more than 3,000 trees have been planted.

These are maintained by mulching with scythe-mown grass and the 'chop and drop' method as described by Geoff Lawton in his 'Establishing a Food Forest' DVD.

Evaluate

The swales are working well with the areas immediately below them noticeably wetter than further downslope. The same is true at the bottom of the swale ditch, where the organic matter retains moisture for a significant amount of time after rain, never drying out completely.

There needs to be better collection and storage of water in and around the

vegetable growing areas. This should be linked with elements of grey water collection, sewage processing, mulch production, and duck forage – scheduled to be done by 2013.

The chickens are not properly integrated into the overall design so some of their harvestable outputs are not being harnessed and outputs are not fully benefitting the chickens. A poultry scavenging design is in progress – as is a soft fruit area to be used also as a chicken breeding pen.

A polytunnel is to be sited next to the secondary vegetable area; located relative to the poultry housing design and linked to the production of worms, azolla, and comfrey for poultry feed.

If I was starting from the beginning, I would have started with rabbit proof fencing for the whole project.

And whilst wanting to avoid using fossil fuel, would rotovate and establish a benign groundcover as the extra time and effort has been significant. Only then would I dig swales, ponds and start to plant trees.

The Yeomans Scale of Permanence was an excellent tool to use for the overall design. It forced me to think 'pattern' and 'wider landscape/setting' first, rather than focus on the detail within the property.

The use of my own design process (Egadime) and my own design method (Function-Element-Component-Process) – as written in the last issue of Permaculture Works – worked well for me and this design.

Designing a project for myself allows me to design over a longer time frame and without the need for an instant result. It allows the use of simple and slow solutions and allows me to observe and interact with my disturbances, learn from them, and then use that knowledge to refine the design, and my methods.

This is a huge benefit, and one that I am taking full advantage of.

Deano Martin

www.deanom.wordpress.com

Table Of Elements and Functions

| | Elements | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|--------------|---------|
| | Coppice | Forest Garden | Shelter Belts | Annual Vegetables | Swales | Ponds | Nectary | Social Space | Camping |
| Functions | | | | | | | | | |
| Food | A | P | A | P | O | O | | | |
| Fuel | P | A | A | | | | | | |
| Bee Forage | A | A | A | A | O | O | P | A | O |
| Water | A | A | | | P | P | O | | |
| Shelter | A | A | P | | | | O | | |
| Soil Building | A | A | A | | | | | A | A |
| Wildlife | A | A | A | I | A | A | A | I | I |
| Social | | | | | | | A | P | P |
| Aesthetic | I | I | I | I | A | A | A | O | O |

Key.

P Primary Function A Additional Planned Function
I Incidental Function O Option Available

Mixed vegetable polycultures

'Mixed veg' can mean so much more than a quick-fix packet from the freezer. For 50 people around the UK last year, it took on a new meaning – a new way of growing vegetables all mixed up together.

In association with

UNIVERSITY of
Cumbria



A trial layout. High-diversity plot is in the foreground, and behind it the low-diversity plot. © C. Atkin

Rationale – Learning from nature?

Plants naturally form communities of several different species growing together. These communities can be more productive than any of the individual species could be. Can growing different food plants in a mixture (a "polyculture") also be a more productive way to use land?

We conducted a participatory study in the 2011 growing season to compare low and high diversity mixes.

We wanted to find out if more diverse (12 species) vegetable mixes were more productive than less-diverse (3 species) mixes?

How did we investigate this?

We chose common vegetables from a range of plant groups. 50 sets of seeds, kindly provided by four seed companies were sent to households around Britain.

Everyone made two plots – a smaller one for three species and a larger one for the more diverse mix. Harvests were weighed by species and other information like the time spent tending to each plot was recorded.

24 participants were able to complete the study and return their data.

We measured productivity of the edible plant parts (the bits you'd buy), by looking at:

- Weight harvested per square-metre
- Weight harvested per hour of time spent on the plot

Most people who joined in did have some experience of growing veg before (just 1 beginner out of 31 people). However, the level of experience of growing vegetables, or of growing polycultures (including companion planting and intercropping), didn't show a significant relationship with the amount of food

What's in the plots?

Low diversity:

Peas, radish and perpetual spinach (beet).

High diversity:

As above, plus onions, lettuce, beetroot, sweet corn, coriander, runner beans, kale, marigolds and rocket.

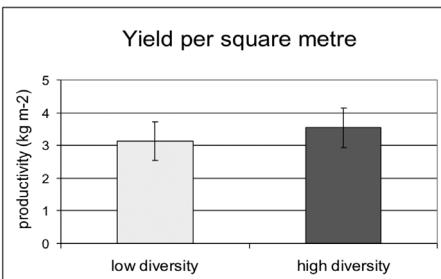


Figure 1

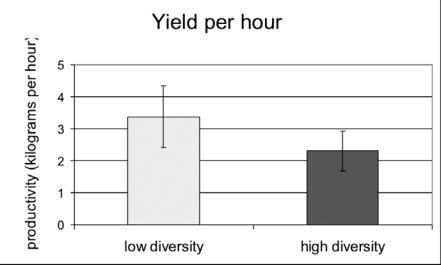


Figure 2

people produced from either type of plot. This suggests that anyone can give it a go and get results!

Overall, the plots were quite productive – up to 10.6 kg of food from one square metre of ground! There is a lot of variation though...

What grew?

In the low diversity plot – Peas and spinach were successful for most people and gave high yields. Radish also produced reasonably well (given it is small!).

In the high diversity plot – Well, rocket grew vigorously. This was meant to be a cover crop that we pulled up and ate early on to give room for other things ... but it's so tempting to just cut a bit off and keep

harvesting it. Kale, onions, and beans also harvested well for most people.

Spinach, peas and radish grew for most people, but didn't yield much. Yields for all three were much lower in the more diverse mix than in the less diverse one.

What didn't do well?

Sweet corn, beetroot, coriander, and lettuce really didn't grow for many people and even those who got a harvest didn't get very much.

An average of 3.5 kg was produced in the high diversity plot and 3.1 kg in the low diversity plot. These slight differences are not significant because there is a lot of variation in how much was harvested by different people.

There is not much difference in productivity between the two types of plot when we account for area and time. This may be because of the crops chosen – for example, rocket grew quite prolifically in the high diversity plot.

To give some context, 3.5 kg per metre-square works out at 35 tonnes per hectare! UK wheat yields are about 7-8 tonnes per hectare and that's on the best growing land! Mind you, it'd take quite a lot of time to harvest a hectare (that's an area 100 by 100 metres) using this method!

Different combinations and types of vegetable species might give very different results – there's still a lot which isn't known about polycultures!

We should also be cautious about drawing too many conclusions from a relatively small number of plots – any one grower can have a large influence on the overall results. We'd like to repeat it again with hundreds of people joining in to get a real feel for what is happening!

Time seems to be quite important. For both plots the more time people put in, the greater their harvest tended to be. Was the yield worth the effort? Overwhelmingly, people thought so, especially with the lower diversity plot.

The low diversity plot was more productive for the effort – on average, 3.4 kg were harvested from a square-metre of the low diversity plots for every hour of effort put in, and the high diversity plots yielded 2.3 kg.

Although this difference is quite large, it is not quite statistically significant. It should be noted that people tended to record time to the nearest 5 minutes, so the amount of time spent on the low-diversity plot might have been over-estimated.

It would be great to have more information about plant mixes that you've found successful – let us know what has

worked for you, or try some things out this summer and let us know how you get on – research@permaculture.org.uk

As well as learning more about polycultures, we've learnt a lot about running participatory trials – another really important result!

More information at: www.permaculture.org.uk/research

The polyculture research team:

Dr Naomi van der Velden (Plant ecologist at the University of Cumbria); Andy Goldring, Tomas Remiarz, Roz Brown, Ian Fitzpatrick.

Acknowledgements

Big thanks to Celia Ashman for all her help in co-ordinating the trials and all the data collection. A big shout out to **Garden Organic, Edwin Tucker & Son Ltd., Beans and Herbs, and Chase Organics** for supplying the seeds for this trial. Thanks to **Chris Evans** for advice on appropriate plant mixes for polycultures. To **everyone who participated**, and especially those who completed the trials, many, many thanks – we couldn't have done it without you!



In this column, Uncle Joe endeavours to answer your burning questions... Do you have a problem or query that Uncle Joe could help with?

Email: communicate@permaculture.org.uk

Q: "What is the minimum amount of land required to sustain four adults with all the food they would need?"

A: Luckily, Uncle Joe's job was made easier by the Scottish Permaculture Forum – as Graham Bell contributed much to the answer...

"This is a difficult question to answer" says Graham. "Issues like diet (e.g. vegan, vegetarian, omnivore), whether you are going to abandon exotics (no oranges, bananas, pineapples...) all need to be considered."

"How much money do you have to invest? Polytunnels and glasshouses, poultry runs and housing can all increase productivity significantly, but they all cost money or time and effort if you are creating them from scratch."

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, 0.17 acres/person is the minimum, assuming a vegetarian diet and excellent land or 1.2 acres/person for a typical western diet.

The allotment (0.06 or 1/16th of an acre) was decided as the amount of land that could provide a family of

four with a 'good proportion' of their vegetables and salads, but doesn't cover all their fruit, or any milk or meat. From a permaculture perspective, we might want to look at it another way. Instead of self-sufficiency, we aim for self-reliance.

The question then is how much can we produce with the resources we have. From that point of view, whatever land you have is enough to make a start, and when that is fully productive, you are better skilled to take on new opportunities with others.

It also implies cooperation and finding collective solutions to how we meet our needs.

Is there anything you'd like to add? ... help Joe out!

communicate@permaculture.org.uk

A positive response to localism



Will the Localism Act mean we will see more projects like LILAC (www.lilac.coop) get off the ground?

The Board of Trustees for the Permaculture Association get together every three months for a weekend of meetings. At each weekend we reserve a few hours for a major discussion topic, such as how the Association could become more accessible for those with disabilities, or how the Association and the Board of Trustees could harvest the knowledge of its members, through creating a Board of Advisers.

As the newest member of the Board, I was eager to volunteer myself to create a presentation for our March 31st meeting, on the Localism Act and what the Permaculture Association's role should be.

The Localism Act is coming into effect right now and could have a massive impact on our communities. The short version is that:

- Communities will have the right to bid to take over important local buildings, such as a shop, pub, library, etc.

They will also be able to bid to take over a local authority service.

- Communities will be able to create their own development plans, to decide where new homes and businesses should be built, what they should look like and to make orders granting planning permission for small-scale development. They will not be able to decide how much development there is – this is still decided by government.
- Councils will have more control in managing their social housing.
- Local Councils will have more control of their development and services.

This can't be considered without also considering the National Planning Policy Framework. The NPPF has just come into effect, and although there is more power being given to local communities through the Localism Act, they must still adhere to the NPPF guidelines, which includes how much growth a community must have.

A community can choose to have more growth, but not less.

You can read more about the Localism Act and the NPPF online at: www.bit.ly/fruFMM

So the question brought to the board was: What role should the Permaculture Association take? How can we creatively use and respond to this change?

We looked at what the government was saying and at what everybody else had to say about it, both positive and negative.

It feels like a big uncertain future and there is a huge concern that the new laws could be taken advantage of, that poorer communities could end up with more homeless and more unsustainable development.

However, the government are allowing councils a budget to help support their communities come together to create their own town plans. Some councils are already providing workshops, and holding meetings for the public to attend and get involved.

As we moved into the analysing stage of the process, we thought: What if we could shape the new development to actually be sustainable? What if we could tap into the knowledge and energy of our membership, our diploma apprentices, and other ecological and sustainable groups and allies, and create a Planning Policy Template that had the permaculture principles at its heart?

What if we could help and support as many of our members to get involved in creating a planning policy for their community, armed with this permaculture template?

Communities all over the country could end up with plans that say that all new development should be energy producing rather than consuming. More developments could be low impact, with on site composting schemes, and community growing spaces ... the scope is huge.

We decided what our next steps should be. Firstly, that I should write this article to let our members know about the Localism Act, and how to get involved.

Call your local Planning Office to ask them about the Act, and what is going on in your community, that you could get involved with.

Letters

We want to find out who out there has a keen interest in Planning and Sustainable Development, and create a working group who could help to create a Planning Policy Template, to support anyone who wants to get involved in their local community, so please contact Andy (contact details on page 2) if that is you.

We want to organise a workshop at the Convergence in August to provide a space where this can be discussed and worked upon. Please tell Andy if you would be interested in facilitating this.

Eventually we will need as many people as possible involved, to hopefully reach every community in the country. If you have any ideas for other groups or

individuals who would be interested, please let them and us know.

The Localism Act has opened a big kettle of fish – let's use it and respond to it with Positive Permaculture Planning!

Rebecca Harris

Letters

Send any letters for publication to Jay: communicate@permaculture.org.uk



Alan Carter's forest garden

This was spotted on the Scottish Permaculture forum (see www.permaculture.org.uk/scotland) and thought we would share Alan's wisdom!

I'm planting some fruit trees in my garden and would like some advice on beneficial plants for under the trees. I've touched on the medicinal plant called comfrey but I'm unsure what variety or if this is suitable in the west of Scotland.

Thanks

Gary

It all depends on what you mean by beneficial.

Firstly, there is benefit to yourself in terms of gaining an extra yield with little loss to the trees.

I grow wild garlic, sweet cicely, dog's tooth violets, hedge garlic, ground elder, solomon's seal, Turkish rocket, Good King Henry, pink purslane, pignut, shallon, raspberries, Hamburg parsley, orpine, wood violet, common mallow, wild

strawberry and ostrich fern under my fruit trees for their edible yields.

Many more will tolerate a little shade and some leaf crops, like sea beet, seem to be more tender and productive with a little shade than with full sun.

Then there are things you can grow in order to benefit the trees in terms of attracting beneficial (aphid-eating) insects and confusing pest insects.

This is the thinking behind the 'smelly orchard' approach to forest gardening pioneered by people like Robert Hart, with lots of highly-scented, wildlife-friendly plants such as tansy and mints.

The extent of the benefit to the trees is disputed, but this approach will certainly give you a pleasant garden full of wildlife.

However it won't give you much of an extra yield and it is worth noting that a lot of the productive plants that I listed are very good for wildlife too when they flower.

This is a major difference between annual and perennial agriculture: the perennials get to flower and play their part in the ecology with little loss of production. If an annual flowers the whole yield is usually lost.

Then there is benefit to your trees in terms of feeding them. This is the thinking behind growing comfrey, which has very deep tap roots that are said not to compete too much with the fruit tree roots as they occupy different levels of the soil.

The comfrey brings nutrients up from the lower levels of the soil and makes them available to other plants, including your fruit trees, when it dies down in the winter.

In particular it is said to be a 'dynamic accumulator' of potassium (which your trees need for fruiting) and if you have a rich nitrogen source (such as urine) comfrey is a great way of 'trading' the nitrogen for potassium.

Nitrogen-fixing plants like lupins also help to feed your trees. There are plenty native vetches which fix nitrogen.

I'd suggest that the best way to get the appropriate ones for your area is to go on a forest walk at the time of year when they are seeding and collect seeds from any that are managing to grow in some shade.

The best species of comfrey is Russian comfrey and the variety 'Bocking 14' has been bred for high yields and not to self-seed. Avoid the native tuberous comfrey at all costs: it is far too good a spreader.

All the best

Alan

The Big Bog Challenge (or a stitch in time)



Biodegradable 'berms' act as dams to prevent further erosion and vegetation re-establishes in the stabilised peat

Permaculture and UK water catchment management

By Victoria Dewhurst, Community Engagement Officer, Ribble Rivers Trust

The moorland areas above Burnley and Cliviger are the source of the River Calder. Like many moorlands in the UK this has been severely damaged over the years partly by the action of 'grip' digging to drain the area to increase water supplies to meet a growing demand.

The result of action taken for a short-term increase in water supply has resulted in a significant and long-term loss of water holding capacity of our moorlands.

One section of moorland now resembles a dry riverbed. The peat used to be over 5 feet deep – now it is a scar in the landscape over 7 meters wide. The loss of thousands of cubic metres of water holding capacity is mirrored by the loss of this once thriving moorland habitat.

The eroding peat becomes a contaminant in our water supply. It is expensive to clean the brown peat out of our water. Yorkshire Water is now the single largest user of electricity in the country because of the electromagnets used to remove the peat from the water!

How can permaculture help a repair process?

Peat is exposed following the loss of its protective climax vegetation (heather) and cotton grass is recolonising the edge. On level ground this may be enough to enable the moor to recover but on a

slope the peat is continually washed away before the cotton grass can secure it.

The native cotton grass species to be planted in this area is *Eriophorum vaginatum* L – commonly known as Hare's-tail Cottongrass, Tussock Cottongrass or Sheathed Cottonsedge.

Seed is collected from the area to be propagated by local volunteers through the Offshoots Permaculture Project – a project familiar to regular readers of Permaculture Works.

The cotton grass plugs are planted on the moor in the areas of exposed peat – before it is washed away. This is the first step in ensuring that the moorlands can continue to act as a sponge; soaking up heavy rainfall and thereby reducing the risk of flooding downstream.

Increasing the water holding capacity of the moorland will also ensure that there is a steady supply of fresh water for our use and to help maintain water levels in the rivers and water courses.

Thousands more metres of exposed peat slopes have been secured by jute sacking and seeded with heather brash together with bags of pelleted lime and grass seed mix for a short term solution to stabilise large areas of exposed peat as quickly as possible.

Let us consider how the impact of deforestation and over grazing on our uplands, soil erosion and the lack of organic matter in our soils, loss of vegetation of all kinds including degraded hedgerows and the loss of heather and peat on our moorlands is reducing the capacity of the UK to store water.

As the Community Engagement Officer for The Urban River Enhancement Scheme co-ordinated by the Ribble Rivers Trust with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), I am working to develop a wide range of partnership projects to involve local people in the enjoyment, appreciation and physical enhancement of the river network in Burnley, Lancashire and are currently developing a professional training course in river habitat management.

We are also helping to create jobs and provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in practical improvements that will physically improve the river habitats in the Ribble Catchment including the regeneration of our moorlands.

If you would like to get involved or for further information please contact Victoria. Tel: 01200 444 452 Email: vic@ribbletrust.com

Permanent Publications Publishers of Permaculture Magazine

Maddy & Tim Harland

We began as a book publishing business in 1990 in a spare bedroom in our cottage. We wanted to produce practical books to help people take control of their lives. Maddy co-wrote the first two books; one about using homoeopathic remedies for acute illnesses, and the other on how to run complementary medicine practices.

Then we discovered permaculture and started publishing titles like *Permaculture in a Nutshell*, *Plants For a Future* and *How To Make a Forest Garden*. We were planting a forest garden at the time and had to work out the design and plantings from various sources, some sub-tropical. We wanted to make things easier for people in the northern hemisphere in temperate climates.

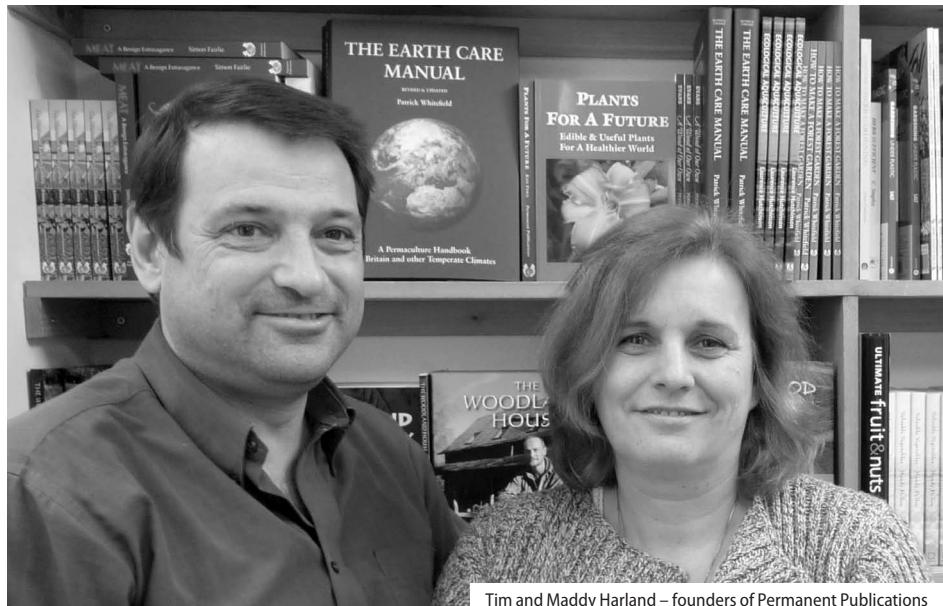
We fell in love with permaculture in the garden and in our local community, setting up a LETSystem first and then helping co-found the Sustainability Centre (www.sustainability-centre.org) in 1995. Our offices are now based at the centre and Maddy recently became the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

We set up *Permaculture Magazine* with the Permaculture Association newsletter pages in the centre of the publication in 1992 and our first website launched in 1995. 20 years on, we continue to produce the printed version of *Permaculture Magazine*, but we now also produce as a digital edition plus an iTunes App.

Our back list of 40+ permaculture book titles are gradually being released as Kindle, iTunes, Kobo and PDF downloads.

We have three websites: *Permaculture Magazine* on www.permaculture.co.uk, *Green Shopping* and *Permanent Publications*.

www.permaculture.co.uk is entirely free and often gets over 50,000 visitors a month from 150 countries. It is our way of reaching out to the world and telling people about permaculture.



Tim and Maddy Harland – founders of Permanent Publications

We also release YouTube clips and full-length films on DVD. Plus – as well as our own Permanent Publications books, we have free eBooks on Green Shopping.

Social networks like Twitter and Facebook get the word out about our work as well as indie and mainstream media. We have appeared on BBC2 twice in the last three years and attend events and festivals.

Permaculture completely changed our lives and opened our minds to a new way of seeing the world. We want to share the inspiration and practical ways of applying the ethics and principles with as many people as possible, hence our multi-media approach.

Permanent Publications was originally designed with the three ethics at its core and with Mollison's permaculture principles: to produce no waste (no waste collection so 99% is reused, recycled or composted), resource locally when possibly and ethically all the time, use renewables to heat and light our office, meet vital needs from more than one source and so on...

We have now integrated Holmgren principles and are constantly evolving what we do. Permaculture design is our bedrock. Some could say it has been our obsession for over two decades!

Our aspirations are not confined to our business; we see ourselves as designers of transformational media and part of the revolution in consciousness that must occur if humanity is to stabilise the global climate and survive.

Permaculture should be a key force in a new cultural narrative that places the Earth and people first, to nurture and preserve both ecosystems and communities. Inevitably how the world does business will have to change. We want to contribute to this changing world and do what ever we can to promote peaceful, sustainable and practical solutions.

**Permanent Publications,
The Sustainability Centre,
East Meon, Hampshire GU32 1HR**
Phone: 01730 823 311
(+44 1730 823 311 international)
Email: info@permaculture.co.uk
Magazine: www.permaculture.co.uk
Books: www.green-shopping.co.uk/books/pp.html



www.permaculture.co.uk

Courses

Introductory Courses

Typically 2 days in length, introductory courses are a good starting point and will give you a good overview of permaculture.

Well End Permaculture, Hertfordshire

21 Jun 2012
Contact: Richard Higgins • 07983 439 171
rhiggins@suaglon.co.uk • www.suaglon.co.uk

Earthship Brighton, East Sussex

23 Jun 2012 - 24 Jun 2012
Contact: 07746185927
www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk

Farmeco Community Carefarm, Nottinghamshire

23 Jun 2012
Contact: Kevin Mascarenhas • 07866 181797
<http://naturalflow.biz>

Stepney City Farm, Greater London

30 Jun 2012 - 1 Jul 2012
Contact: Ros Bedlow • 020 8556 0885
www.stepneycityfarm.org

The Biodynamic Agricultural College, East Sussex

14 Jul 2012 - 15 Jul 2012
Contact: Nir Halfon • 07815 035262
halfonwood@gmail.com

Karuna, Shropshire

27 Jul 2012 - 29 Jul 2012
Contact: 01694 751374
merav66@hotmail.com • www.karuna.org.uk

Maiden Croft Farm, Somerset

3 Aug 2012 - 7 Aug 2012
Contact: Patrick Whitefield • 01458 832317
www.patrickwhitefield.co.uk

Kingston Environment Centre, Surrey

1 Sep 2012 - 2 Sep 2012
Contact: Liz Darley • 07960804969
<http://growsouth.wordpress.com/>

Stepney City Farm, Greater London

11 Sep 2012 - 12 Sep 2012
Contact: Ros Bedlow • 02085560885
www.stepneycityfarm.org

Big Shed, Tombreck, Perth and Kinross

15 Sep 2012 - 16 Sep 2012
Contact: jame@bigshed.org.uk • 07766 566935
<http://www.bigshed.org.uk>

Sutton Community Farm, Surrey

22 Sep 2012 - 23 Sep 2012
Contact: Liz Darley • 07960804969
<http://growsouth.wordpress.com/>

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion

3 Oct 2012 - 5 Oct 2012
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Spitalfields City Farm, Greater London

6 Oct 2012 - 7 Oct 2012
Contact: Claire White • 07899 843061
www.clairewhitegardens.co.uk

Earthship Brighton, East Sussex

6 Oct 2012 - 7 Oct 2012
Contact: 07746 185927
www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk

Friends Meeting House, Devon

13 Oct 2012 - 14 Oct 2012
Contact: Rebecca Harris • 07942 344801
www.thehouseofjam.org

Full Design Courses (UK)

The Permaculture Design Course (PDC) covers the core permaculture curriculum over at least 72 hours' teaching. Contact organisers for further information.

Penninghame House, Dumfries & Galloway

1 Jul 2012 - 14 Jul 2012
Teachers: Ludwig Appeltans, Lusi Alderslowe
Contact: 07760 142495 • info@earth-ways.co.uk
www.earth-ways.co.uk

Pleasant Rise Farm, Alfriston, East Sussex

6 Jul 2012 - 22 Jul 2012
Teachers: Jillian Hovey, Peter Cow, Steve Charter
Contact: Mel Chambers • 01326 251302
www.designedvisions.com

Rifleman Cottage, Kent

7 Jul 2012 - 21 Jul 2012
Teachers: Aranya and Jo Barker
Contact: Mel Chambers • 01326 251302
www.designedvisions.com

Keveral Farm, Cornwall

13 Jul 2012 - 29 Jul 2012
Teachers: Bryn Thomas, Klaudia van Gool and Bill Knight
Contact: WEA Cornwall office • 01872 320036
www.klaudia.co.uk

Five Acres, Downe, Kent

27 July 2012 - 29 July 2012
Teachers: Chris Dixon
Contact: Nicci del Rio • 01689 854196
www.fiveacresdowne.org.uk

Edibles, West Yorkshire

28 Jul 2012 - 12 Aug 2012
Teachers: Andy Goldring & Niels Corfield
Contact: Rosie Lonnon • 01484 844764
www.edibles.org.uk • Rosie@edibles.org.uk

Monimail Tower Project, Fife

2 Aug 2012 - 7 Aug 2012
Teachers: James Chapman
Contact: 07790 265883
www.jameschapman.org.uk

Rippledown House, Kent

5 Aug 2012 - 18 Aug 2012
Teachers: Steve Charter, Jo Barker, Nir Halfon
Contact: 07990 778581 • steve@sc2.org.uk
www.rippledown.com • www.sc2.org.uk

National Botanic Garden of Wales, Carmarthenshire

Advanced design course
13 August 2012 - 19 August 2012
Teachers: Looby Macnamara and Chris Evans
Contact: Kay Bailey • 01558 667150
www.designedvisions.com

Organiclea, Chingford

31 Aug 2012 - 15 Oct 2012
Teachers: Nicole Freris, Sean Hearn & others
Contact: courses@organiclea.org.uk
020 8524 4994 • www.organiclea.org.uk

Haye Farm, Worcestershire

1 Sep 2012 - 15 Sep 2012
Teachers: Tomas Remiarz, Klaudia van Gool
Contact: klaudiavangool@hotmail.com
07816 841129 • www.klaudia.co.uk

Ragmans Lane Farm, Gloucestershire

2 Sep 2012 - 15 Sep 2012
Teachers: Patrick & Cathy Whitefield & others
Contact: 01458 832317 • ka.tonga@virgin.net
www.patrickwhitefield.co.uk

Middle Wood, Lancashire

7 Sep 2012 - 18 Sep 2012
Teachers: Rod Everett
www.lowimpact.org/middlewood_permaculture.html

Rippledown House, Kent

7 Sept 2012 - 9 Dec 2012
Teachers: Steve Charter, Jo Barker, Nir Halfon
Contact: 07990 778581 • steve@sc2.org.uk
www.rippledown.com • www.sc2.org.uk

Steward Community Woodland, Devon

15 Sep 2012 - 29 Sep 2012
Teachers: Aranya, Peter Cow & guests
Contact: 01326 251302
www.designedvisions.com

Underhill, Llanymwynch, Powys

29 Sep 2012 - 31 Mar 2013
Teachers: Steven Jones, Richard Stephenson
Contact: 01691 780180 • steve@sector39.co.uk
www.sector39.co.uk

The Sustainability Centre, Hampshire

6 Oct 2012 - 20 Oct 2012
Teachers: Aranya with Ben Law & Tim Harland
Contact: 01730 823166
www.sustainability-centre.org

International

Casalinho e Escabelado, Portugal

30 Jun 2012 - 7 Jul 2012
Teachers: Josh Gomez and Rosie Stonehill
Contact: +351 2355 12171
info@casalinho.com • www.casalinho.com

Permaculture Eden, France

1 Jul 2012 - 13 Jul 2012
Teachers: Steve & Fiona Hanson
Contact: Steve Hanson • (0033)0254064523
www.PermacultureEden.com

Use your log in information to post courses for FREE at www.permaculture.org.uk/courses

Courses

Gravsta Gard, Sweden

5 Jul 2012 - 19 Jul 2012

Teachers: Richard Perkins, Maria Svennbeck
Contact: Richard Perkins • 07539 973170
www.integralpermanence.org

Gastwerke, Kassel, Hessen, Germany

15 Jul 2012 - 29 Jul 2012

Teachers: Tomas Remiarz, Monika Frank
Contact: Vera Hemme
<http://gastwerke.de>

Gastwerke, Kassel, Hessen, Germany

Permaculture, Art and Society in Europe

15 Jul 2012 - 5 Aug 2012

Teachers: Tomas Remiarz, Monika Frank
Contact: Vera Hemme
<http://gastwerke.de>

Tacomepai, Thailand

15 Jul 2012 - 28 Jul 2012

Teachers: Sandoz Sukkaew (Thailand) &
Martijn Ballemans (The Netherlands)
Contact: mballemans@gmail.com
www.tacomepai.com

Kitgum Uganda

23 Jul 2012 - 5 Aug 2012

Contact: elin@pri-kenya.org

Le Cluzeau, Vendoire, France

4 Aug 2012 - 5 Aug 2012

Contact: Gaiaveda • www.gaiaveda.co.uk
morton@gaiaveda.co.uk • 01865 724251

Speciality Courses

Sheep Husbandry - Sheep Shearing

23 Jun 2012

Braziers Park, Oxfordshire
Contact: admin@braziers.org.uk

Build & Bake - Cob Ovens

24 Jun 2012

Edibles, West Yorkshire
Contact: Rosie Lonnon • 01484 844764
www.edibles.org.uk

Natural Beekeeping Intermediate

29 Jun 2012 - 1 Jul 2012

Embercombe, Devon
Contact: 01647 252983
www.embercombe.co.uk/bees

Forest Gardening

30 June 2012 - 1 July 2012

Brighton, East Sussex
Contact: 07746 185927
www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk

Sustainable Beekeeping

Organiclea, Chingford

7 Jul 2012 - 8 Jul 2012

Contact: 020 8524 4994
www.organiclea.org.uk

Yoga & Permaculture Course

14 Jul 2012 - 15 Jul 2012

Springhill House, Oxfordshire
Contact: morton@gaiaveda.co.uk
01865 724251 • www.gaiaveda.co.uk

Willow Weaving - Willow for the Garden

15 Jul 2012

Offshoots Permaculture Project, Lancashire
Contact: Joe Gregory • 01282450270
www.offshoots.org.uk

Designing a Community Garden

16 Jul 2012 - 20 Jul 2012

Get-Growing, Newtown, Powys
Contact: steve@sector39.co.uk • 01691 780180
www.get-growing.org.uk • www.sector39.co.uk

Discovering Bumblebees

16 Jul 2012

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Gardening with Herbs

19 Jul 2012

Fern Cottage, West Yorkshire
Contact: thatplantgirl@hotmail.co.uk
07704178585 • www.thoseplantpeople.com

Introduction to Edible Forest Gardening

21 July 2012

Old Sleningford Farm, North Yorkshire
Contact: Rachel Benson • 01765 635202
www.oldsleningford.co.uk

Preserving the Harvest - Berries

28 Jul 2012

Old Sleningford Farm, North Yorkshire
Contact: Rachel Benson • 01765 635202
www.oldsleningford.co.uk

Cobbing Work Week

Landmatters Permaculture Project, Devon

29 Jul 2012 - 5 Aug 2012
Contact: 07833 938536
www.landmatters.org.uk

Introduction to Forest Gardening

3 Aug 2012 - 5 Aug 2012

Cambridge Sustainability Centre, Cambridge
Contact: 07801 719823
www.cambridgesustainability.co.uk

Fruit Tree Grafting in Brighton

4 Aug 2012

Contact: 07746 185927
www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk

An Introduction to Understanding Bats

10 Aug 2012 - 12 Aug 2012

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Scything in Brighton

11 Aug 2012 - 12 Aug 2012

Contact: 07746 185927
www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk

Extending the Season - Organic Vegetable Growing in Winter

18 Aug 2012

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Lots more courses are listed online at www.permaculture.org.uk

Preserving the Harvest - Vegetables

18 Aug 2012

Old Sleningford Farm, North Yorkshire
Contact: Rachel Benson • 01765 635202
www.oldsleningford.co.uk

Wild Food Forage

19 Aug 2012

Offshoots Permaculture Project, Lancashire
Contact: joevankap@aol.com
01282450270 • www.offshoots.org.uk

Design your vision - from personal to broadscale

27 August 2012 - 2 September 2012

Coed Hills Rural Artspace, Vale of Glamorgan
Immediately after the convergence
Contact: Mel Chambers • 01326 251302
www.designedvisions.com

Introduction to Edible Forest Gardening

8 Sep 2012

Old Sleningford Farm, North Yorkshire
Contact: Rachel Benson • 01765 635202
www.oldsleningford.co.uk

Wool Dyeing with Natural Dyes

8 Sep 2012 - 9 Sep 2012

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Forest Gardening

14 Sep 2012

Fern Cottage, West Yorkshire
Contact: thatplantgirl@hotmail.co.uk
07704178585 • www.thoseplantpeople.com

Medicinal Tree Walk

14 Sep 2012

Offshoots Permaculture Project, Lancashire
Contact: 01282450270 • www.offshoots.org.uk

Make your own Pole Lathe

15 Sep 2012 - 16 Sep 2012

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Willow weaving - animal sculptures

15 Sep 2012

Edibles, West Yorkshire
Contact: rosie@edibles.org.uk
01484 844764 • www.edibles.org.uk

Patchwork Quilts

26 Sep 2012 - 28 Nov 2012

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Pond and Stream Invertebrates

28 Sep 2012 - 30 Sep 2012

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Ceredigion
Contact: mara@denmarkfarm.org.uk
01570 493358 • www.denmarkfarm.org.uk

Preserving the Harvest - Apples

29 Sep 2012

Old Sleningford Farm, North Yorkshire
Contact: info@oldsleningford.co.uk
01765 635202 • www.oldsleningford.co.uk

Groups & members

London

Call4Auction 60 Reform Street, London SW11 5AJ 07913 089979

Forest Farm Peace Garden 98 - 100 Ilford Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 2LD • 0791 308 9979 gareth@forestfarmpeacegarden.org

Growing Communities The Old Fire Station, 61 Leswin Road, Stoke Newton, London N16 7NX 0207 5027588 • www.growingcommunities.org

Hackney Community Tree Nursery and Edible Forest Garden c/o LBH Council Parks Department Hometon Road, Hackney Marshes, London E9 5PF

Organiclea info@organiclea.org.uk 07786 657713 c/o Hornbeam Environment Centre 458 Hoe Street Walthamstow E17 8AB

Victorian Grove Estate Tenants & Residents Association 14 Kingsfield House, Victorian Grove Estate, London N16 8EY francis_sikes@yahoo.co.uk 020 7 503 3145

South West of England

Earth Activist Training Address as Landmatters earthactivistraining@riseup.net

Gale and Snowden 18 Market Place, Devon EX39 2DR info@ecodesign.co.uk www.ecodesign.co.uk 01237 474952

Grow Changeford Westcott House, Chagford TQ13 8JF • 01273 726828

High Heathercombe Centre High Heathercombe, Manaton, Newton Abbot TQ13 9XE • 01647 221425

Keveral Permaculture Group Keveral Farm, St Martin, Looe, Cornwall PL13 1PA www.keveral.org bill@keveral.org 01503 250 343

Langford Environmental Education Project 20 Hornbeam Gardens, Bradwinch, Exeter Devon EX5 4NZ 01392 882 342 doris@cooptel.net

Nettlebury Project Orchard Farmhouse, Wonston, Hazelbury Bryan, Sturminster Newton DT10 2EE 01258 817980

Orchard Land Trust Ltd Trevalon, Herodsfoot, Liskeard PL14 4RS • 01579 326144 • www.trevalon.co.uk

Ragman's Lane Farm Ragman's Lane Farm, Lower Lydbrook, Gloucestershire GL17 9PA info@ragmans.co.uk 01594 860244

Steward Community Woodland

Moreton Hampstead, Devon 0845 4581926 community@stewardwood.org www.stewardwood.org

Tatnam Organic Patch 37 Johnson Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3HS, 01202 679 517 garyfinch10@btinternet.com

Turners' Field Permaculture 1 Homefield Close, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6NW morganannfox@yahoo.co.uk 01458 442192

South East of England

Abbey Physic Community Garden Abbey Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7BG abbeyphysic@btinternet.com

Braziers Park Ipsden, Petworth GU28 0JQ 01798 342758 • www.petworthcommunitygarden.org.uk

Brighton Permaculture Trust c/o 40 St Dunstans Road, Worthing BN13 1AB www.Brightonpermaculture.org.uk

Petworth Community Garden 3 Council Cottages, Heathend, Petworth GU28 0JQ petworthcommunitygarden@hotmail.co.uk • 01798 342758

Prospect Permaculture Community 75 Bosmere Gardens Faversham ME13 7BG • 07738161565

Trust Links 47 Fairfax Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9AG • 01702 213134

East of England

The Apricot Centre 83 Hungerdown Lane, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2LY • 01206 230425 info@apricotcentre.co.uk

The Green Backyard Thorpe Hall Workshops, Longthorpe, Peterborough PE3 6LW • 07834 815943 santonelli@hotmail.co.uk

Transition Cambridge Permaculture Group

c/o 124 Foster Road Trunpington Cambridge CB2 9JP cradle@globalnet.co.uk • 01223 840 602

Triangle Community Garden 23 Priory Way, Hitchin SG5 4 9BJ triangle.garden@ntlworld.com 01462 621585

Town & Bridge Project/ Ipswich Community Garden Project c/o I.C.V.S 1 Cornhill, Ipswich IP1 1DD susannah.robirosa@townandbridge.org.uk

East Midlands

Earth Heart Housing Co-operative Atlow Moat, Atlow, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1NS 01353 372124 • edsears999@gmail.com

Marshland Permaculture Interest Group Harpsbridge House, Harpsbridge Lane Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire LN12 1NL harpsbridge@phonecoop.coop • 01507 339179

The Haven Clump Hill Farm, Hainton, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire LN8 6LT • 07989 694 842 clumphill@yahoo.co.uk

West Midlands

Fordhall Community Land Initiative Fordhall Farm, Ternhill Road, Market Drayton TF9 3PS 01630 638696 • project@fordhallfarm.com www.fordhallfarm.com

North West of England

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Burnley Offshoots Project Townley Hall, Todmorden Rd, Burnley, Lancs, BB11 3RG 01282 450270 • www.offshoots.org.uk

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Middle Wood Ecological Trust Middlewood, Roeburndale West, Lancaster LA2 9LL bambi@mwood41.freeserve.co.uk

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The Stables Project 10a Nunmill Street, York YO10 4QD • 01904 675522 • thestablesproject.co.uk

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Urban Roots Initiative Toryglen Community Base, 8 - 34 Prospect Hill Square Glasgow G42 0LE 0141 613 2766 • www.urbanroots.org.uk

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Sunseed Spain Sunseed Desert Technology, APDO 9 • 04270, Sorbas, Almeria 0034 950 525 770 sunseedspain@arrakis.es

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Supporting people to learn about and use permaculture

"The Association is inspirational! It is a catalyst for change, positive and upbeat"

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- We started out in 1983
- A Company with Charitable Status
- Our rules are called the Memorandum & Articles of Association
- A Board of Trustees is elected at an Annual General Meeting and meets four times a year.
- 1250 members and growing!
- 10 part-time hard working staff are based in Leeds
- 2010 income was £207,590 and expenditure was £218,628
- We act as a key point of contact for people around the world
- The biannual 'convergence' is our main event, with regional events in England through the LAND project, and plans to extend this into Scotland and Wales.

We want to ensure that

- People have better access to advice, support, information and training about the theory and practice of permaculture
- Individuals, projects and partners are better able to share resources and practical solutions, and collaborate on projects
- Civil society, specific sectors and professions understand the value of the permaculture design approach in relation to their activities.



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I would also like to donate £..... to support your work I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to the 'Permaculture Association'.

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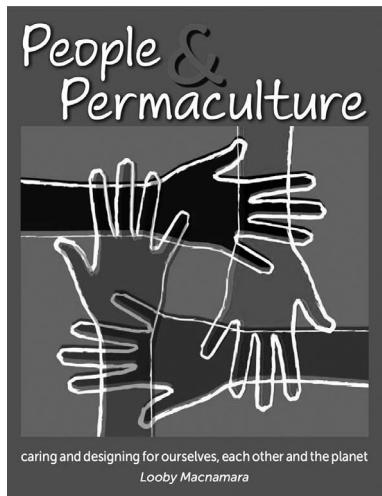
People and Permaculture

by Looby Macnamara

Publisher: Permanent Publications

Paperback: 304 pages

ISBN: 978-1856230872



When opening up People in Permaculture it's no surprise to see ringing endorsements from such luminaries as Satish Kumar, Joanna Macy and David Holmgren as this is a great work – and a book focusing on applications of non-land based permaculture is timely.

Many of the elders involved in the permaculture movement have for a long while commented that we have had all the techniques for earth remediation for sometime now, its the people in the system that need to catch up and actively change our scarcity culture to one of abundance.

People & Permaculture tackles this issue head on. It is a complex topic, but Looby maps it all out, breaking it into bite-sized chunks. The breadth of the work is quite staggering, no stone is left unturned – and all done in a way that gently inspires us to bring more awareness and design into our lives.

Through dealing with ourselves we can also affect the world around us. Some key insights are Looby's Design Web approach and her bringing in Ken Wilber's integral model into a permacultural context.

If you find yourself drawn to the people in your designs then this book is for you – I would also add that if you find yourself unable to fully integrate people into your designs then this book is for you too.

By Stefan Geyer

Radical Gardening

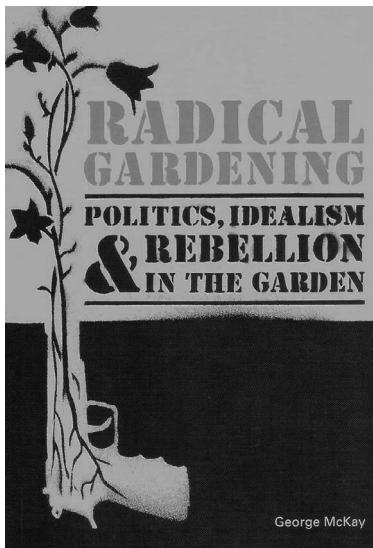
Politics, Idealism and Rebellion in the Garden

By George McKay

Publisher: Frances Lincoln

Paperback: 224 pages

ISBN: 978-0711230309



Radical Gardening, according to its blurb "weaves together garden history with the counter-culture ... an informing and inspiring new take on an old subject."

The author, George McKay, is Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Salford, and has been described in The Guardian as "an academic who specialises in the study of counterculture".

McKay has written extensively about alternative, radical and community cultures and he notes, "most of these things appear in gardens in some form".

In the five chapters of his book, McKay addresses what he refers to as 'the plot' through land, history and politics.

His exploration of these matters gives the current interest in 'growing your own' a timely historical perspective. He discusses how people have engaged in gardening as a social (and socialist) activity.

For example from the original Diggers, who squatted on and cultivated Common land in 1649, Diggers in San Francisco in the 1960s, through to the Hyde Park Diggers in 1970s, and ranges through many areas of interest to permaculturists.

The Garden City movement, organics, allotments, community gardens and not least, guerrilla gardening, all have their place.

McKay has given us a fascinating insight into the long and continuing history of gardening's influence on the economy and on politics.

This book makes new connections in familiar subject matter, and despite the slightly academic style is well worth reading.

By Justin and Evelyn Marsh of Lakeland Permaculture, offering permaculture design, advice and encouragement.

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Permaculture works with nature to make a better world for all. By observing the natural world we can see that there are a set of principles at work.

Permaculture design uses these principles to develop integrated systems to provide for our needs of food, water, shelter, energy and community in ways that are healthy and efficient. Through permaculture design we can improve the quality and productivity of our individual lives, our society and our environment. Permaculture has an ethical basis:

- Earth care – enabling all life systems to continue and increase
- People care – enabling access to the resources people need for a good quality of life
- Limits to population and consumption – to share resources for Earth care and People care.

Twelve permaculture design principles allow us to creatively re-design our environment and behaviour in a world of less energy and resources. They are universal – how they are applied vary greatly from project to project:

- Observe and interact
- Catch and store energy
- Obtain a yield
- Apply self-regulation and accept feedback
- Use and value renewable resources and services
- Produce no waste
- Design from patterns to details
- Integrate rather than segregate
- Use small and slow solutions
- Use and value diversity
- Use edges and value the marginal
- Creatively use and respond to change

Here, we spotlight:
Use and value diversity

Use and value diversity



"Don't put all your eggs in one basket"

Seems sensible enough, but what does diversity actually mean and how can we value and use it?



Gardeners at our Growing Ability project getting excited about growing potatoes

This all sounds wonderful doesn't it? But diversity can include elements that you didn't necessarily ask for and whose benefits you can't immediately see.

Sometimes it's hard to value the wildlife that makes lace of your cabbages, the kids that love the garden but pick your apples before they're ripe to throw at each other...

The hard thing is finding the balance between embracing diversity and being focussed, between appealing to everyone and being able to deliver, between responding to new opportunities and spreading yourself too thinly.



Children helping to sow wildflower seeds for pollinators

At the Triangle Community Garden in Hitchin, we try to embrace diversity at many different levels.

Over the last 12 years we have created and developed our small community garden on the edge of a public park, from a nettle monoculture to a biodiverse attractive wildlife-friendly haven.

It's packed full of different elements – a sensory garden, forest garden, willow maze, pond, bug hotel and a mini-orchard with different plantings to suit different conditions.

People of all ages are encouraged to tend and enjoy the garden and we run a social therapeutic horticulture programme for those with learning difficulties.

Generating income to support our activities includes the running a range of craft, food growing and wildlife workshops, hiring out our park pavilion building, running community events and hope to start a new park café/kiosk.

For me, this is one of the hardest principles to follow as it involves constant reprogramming of our natural instincts for self-interest and the old tendency to stick-to-what-you-know.

But used in conjunction with the other principles, in particular 'apply self-regulation and accept feedback', it can deliver wonderful and unexpected results.

I'm not sure how well we use diversity but it's certainly there and we do value it, trying to be ever open to new opportunities and fresh challenges, while keeping a wary eye on obtaining that occasionally elusive yield.

Vicky Wyer, Triangle Community Garden
www.trianglegarden.org

**Next issue's focus:
Use Edges and Value the Marginal**
Email Jay and be the next project focus!

