

# IPC-UK

# Report on the 12th International Permaculture Conference and Convergence

May 2017



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Whole group photo of Convergence attendees (Flickr: Sagara)

## Introduction

In September 2015, the culmination of three years effort and cross-continental collaboration resulted in a wave of permaculture activity in the UK and beyond:

- the **12**<sup>th</sup> **International Permaculture Conference**, held in the Friends Meeting House, London, September 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>
- an **International Research Day** held in the Friends Meeting House, London, September 10<sup>th</sup>
- the International Permaculture Convergence held in Gilwell Park, just north of London,
   September 10<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>
- multiple "edge events" organised all around the UK and further afield in Europe both before and after the Conference and Convergence.

"It feels like Permaculture is going through a step change, and I hope all this energy can truly translate into an upscaling of action." Conference attendee

#### Conference

In two intense days in the centre of London, 650 people from over 70 countries gathered for the biggest permaculture research event ever held.

The theme "Designing the World We Want" framed the 109 programmed talks, led by professors (Tim Lenton and Kristín Vala Ragnarsdóttir) frontline permaculture practitioners (Pandora Thomas, John Nzira, Rowe Morrow), founders of inspiring social movements (Cathy Debenham and Rob Hopkins), and internationally known speakers (Jonathon Porritt and David Holmgren). The inspiring and sometimes provocative keynote speeches complemented by book launches, film screenings, and space for entrepreneurial amongst us to sell their wares.



Full house in the main Conference hall (Flickr: Ana Sany)

Day one focused on Practice, covering the latest research evidence and showcasing outstanding case studies. It aimed to answer the question: what are the inspiring practices of today that need to become normal soon? The second day focused on Process, exploring the transformational processes that can help bring about necessary changes. The range of topics covered demonstrate the breadth of permaculture's applicability as a design approach and philosophy; from farm scale design to the detail of healthy soil, from innovation in teaching to conducting quality research, plus developing our understanding of well-being, from new approaches to criminal justice to sustainable mental health.

The full programme and many of the talks from the Conference can be found on the IPC-UK website at <a href="https://www.ipcuk.events/conference/programme">https://www.ipcuk.events/conference/programme</a>

### Research Day

The need for better online networking and the development of collaborative international research projects came out as top priorities to take permaculture research to the next level. This consensus was drawn from the 70+ permaculture researchers who attended the Permaculture International Research Network's (PIRN) first research workshop on 10th September 2015 during the IPC-UK.

Researchers from a variety of backgrounds gathered for a day to focus on how to further peer-reviewed research practice within permaculture. A great diversity of ideas emerged from discussions, which took place in smaller groups around the themes in the Holmgren Flower. Attendees worked on developing actual collaborative research projects that the network could deliver, including forest garden polycultures and making a livelihood from permaculture. Contact <a href="mailto:pirn@permaculture.org.uk">pirn@permaculture.org.uk</a> or see <a href="https://pirn.permaculture.org.uk/">https://pirn.permaculture.org.uk/</a> for more information.

"I have never been in the presence of so many people actively creating a better future. I am inspired."

Convergence attendee

## Convergence



'Early bird' camping at the Convergence (Flickr: Sagara)

While the Conference was under way, an international team of volunteers was setting up a pop-up permaculture village on the edge of the Epping Forest, at the headquarters of the UK National Scouts Association. Complete with neighbourhoods, village green and market street, the IPC-UK Convergence was a true coming together of global permaculture practitioners, with over 600 people from 65+ countries; one of the biggest International Permaculture Convergence to date.

The six-day event was packed with over 200 workshops, from theory to practice and back again! Alongside this were spaces available for attendees to break out for spontaneous discussions, meetings and strategic planning. And for those who needed a break from the inspiration and intensity of the workshops, there were plenty of spaces to go for a rest and reflection, including the wellbeing zone, memories space, kids area, cinema, creativity tent and swimming pool.

# **Edge Events**

Around the 'edges' of the Conference and Convergence in London, an additional series of events were held in the UK and further afield. The series aimed to broaden the IPC experience for delegates, as well as give more people the opportunity to encounter permaculture, through showcasing the wide range of permaculture activities taking place in Britain and beyond.

"Thanks so much ... for supporting the Edge Events. It helps some of us travelling from afar to make the most of our trip and ... share some of our gifts to an audience on the other side of the globe." **Robin Clayfield,** Australia.

"It was an incredibly transformational learning experience and a wonderful launch point for the next level of our lives as artful actionaries and activators." Delvin Solkinson, Edge Event participant

www.ipcuk.events/article/Transformational-Edge-Event

Altogether, over 30 events took place, ranging from courses, workshops and discussions to visits, tours and volunteer opportunities. Many were very successful and feedback from organisers suggests being part of the IPC-UK was a useful and positive experience.

"Being able to promote our event as a fringe event was a great boost to a small organisation with a limited PR budget. The process was straight-forward and open and inclusive." **Suzie Cahn** Carraig Dulra





Edge Event participants: Permaculture and Science summer school, Prague, August 2015

#### **Case Studies**

#### PDC in Czech Republic

Seventeen students and four apprentice teachers met for two weeks at the Sluňákov eco centre in Moravia with Tomas Remiarz, an experienced teacher based in the UK. We had a wonderful time full of learning, sharing and design practice. The weather was extremely hot and dry and we were lucky to stay near lakes and a beautiful nature reserve forest.

Sluňákov proved to be an ideal venue, providing us with environmentally friendly accommodation, tasty vegetarian and vegan food, very friendly local personnel, and a magical surrounding area with lots of wilderness to observe natural processes and with art structures to make us contemplate on the input of culture into nature.

"we have only positive feedback from this kind of co-operation" Katka Horackova, Czech Republic

#### **Tour of Totnes**

More than 60 people spent three days after the IPC-UK hosted by the incredible Transition Totnes. Taking in visits to a forest garden, CSA farm, mushroom project, housing project, college, local economy centre and of course Totnes itself, the tour was the epitome of diversity. From spending Totnes pounds on the high street to taking exhilarating walks in Dartmoor, the IPC-UK guests were treated to an awe-inspiring range of projects demonstrating permaculture in action. See the full write-up at <a href="https://www.transitiontowntotnes.org/2015/10/international-permaculturists-visit-totnes/">www.transitiontowntotnes.org/2015/10/international-permaculturists-visit-totnes/</a>

# "I am very impressed by the crew and the way people power powered everything ... there was a great inclusion of attendees in the running of the event" Convergence attendee



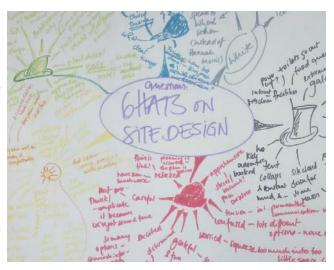
Convergence crew warming up (Flickr: Sagara)

# **Event Design**

The story of designing the IPC-UK began before the 10th IPC in Jordan. Based on discussions at the Permaculture Association between staff and Board, Andy Goldring made a proposal at the IPC. Initially Hong Kong won the process, but for a number of reasons decided to withdraw. So, three years prior to the event, a group of curious volunteers joined staff at the Permaculture Association in the very first planning meeting.

Early meetings sketched out the basic plan: when, where and who would need to be involved. By March 2014, with 18 months to go, Alan Thornton stepped into the role as overall coordinator, and many of the other Permaculture Association staff members took on at least one role (on top of their normal day jobs!).

The team was also joined by a collective of dedicated volunteers from around the globe, who both supported the staff and took on additional responsibility for other working groups, including Edge Events, Children and Young People, Language Support, Learning, and Welcome and Wellbeing. Representatives from all groups - "the Hub" - met monthly via skype to maintain momentum, spot gaps and overlaps, and opportunities for integration.



Notes from 6 Hats design tool

Permaculture Association trustees make proposal to host August 2011

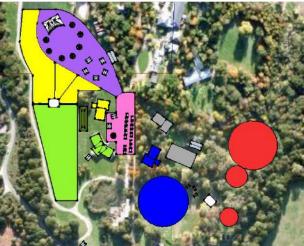
Hong Kong Pull out and UK confirmed as 12th host September 2011

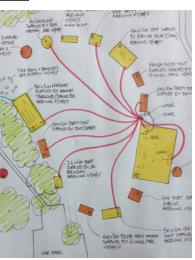
Survey of Cuba participants December 2013 Paid coordinator starts March 2014 Hub meetings were documented publicly online on a wiki site, to achieve transparency and responsiveness to attendees, and to provide a clear record of permaculture design for international events for the benefit of future hosts: <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/ipc2015learninggrp/home">https://sites.google.com/site/ipc2015learninggrp/home</a>. All working groups were also encouraged to document their individual design processes via this online wiki or through blogs posts.

One of the biggest and most complex designs was the Convergence site design, because it needed to integrate multiple layers of design elements and functions; balancing diverse attendee needs with practical and realistic options. These images capture some of the work that went on behind the scenes, and you can read full write-ups of the Convergence design process here:

https://www.ipcuk.events/article/convergence-site-design-part-one-surveying https://www.ipcuk.events/article/convergence-site-design-part-two-analysing https://www.ipcuk.events/article/convergence-site-design-part-two-design-options



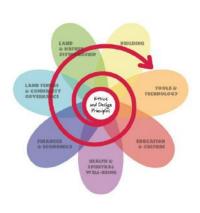




Convergence site design tools. From left: Aerial photograph, bubble design and map of structures

Within the overall event plans were smaller nested designs. These included designs focused on physical elements, such as infrastructure, technology and equipment. Equal attention was paid to design elements supporting people care and fair shares, including creating neighbourhoods, playing games to get to know others, the "pay it forward" scheme at the cafes, and encouraging a supportive Convergence culture.

Sample of the Convergence Neighbourhoods design: www.ipcuk.events/article/neighbourhoods-draft-1



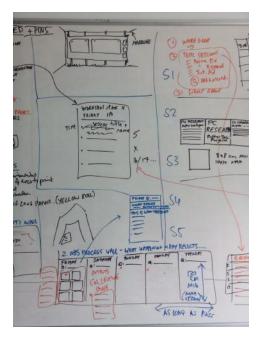




Tools used in designing the IPCUK programmes. From left: Holmgren's petals, timetable matrix, workshop icons

The other key designs for both Convergence and Conference were the programmes. Both needed to offer a diverse range of high quality talks and workshops for attendees to choose from. And for the Convergence there also needed to be a system for people to offer last-minute workshops via a "self-managed timetable". Two separate teams were formed to take on these two big projects. The Conference programme team spent the months running up September peer-reviewing over 180 submissions and preparing speaker guidance and presentations.

The Convergence timetable - featuring over 150 planned workshops, practicals and visits - came together over a five-week period, you can read more about how it was created in this blog: https://www.ipcuk.events/article/convergence-programme-design





From design to reality: the design of the Big Tent and the Next Big Step programme

Edge Events start to be offered using online form; Conference working group meet for first time January 2015 Site visit at Gilwell Park; Sponsorship brochure produced; Caterers confirmed February 2015

Start selling 2 & 4-day tickets June 2015 Crowdfunder raises £30,000 for 26 scholarships; Deadline for Conference submission April 2015

#### A note on feedback...

Everybody at the Permaculture Association sends their heartfelt thanks to those who helped make the event so successful and all those who took the time to give us feedback. It was a delight to receive so much positive feedback during and after the IPC-UK; ultimately, we just did our best, so it has been great to face this test and do ourselves proud. Of course, critical feedback is extremely useful as well. There is so much evaluation to pass on to IPC13 in India, and too much to include here. But this "PMI" gives a flavour of what staff, volunteers and attendees thought about the organising of IPC-UK.

#### **PLUS**

#### What went well...

Great team of people organising the events and lots of appreciation from the network.

Amazing support from the permaculture community to make the event so successful eg. the Scholarships crowdfunding campaign.

Open and positive atmosphere amongst an international group.

Lots of learning took place and captured for later.

Lots of people went home feeling inspired and energised.



#### **MINUS**

#### What was challenging, could have been better...

Challenges related to technical capacity and equipment available, eg. lack of wifi, having to use old and temperamental laptops.

Generally under-resourced, especially splitting staff and equipment across two events.

Some of the food on offer felt not to be permaculture enough (Conference). Cost of events too high for some people.



#### **INTERESTING**

#### What was interesting, surprising, unexpected...

1,200 registrations.

Hub and Spoke way of working didn't work for everyone in the organising team; in some cases we needed to be clearer about who was in charge of what.

With event design, we found that sometimes you simply can't please all people all of the time. For example, some people prefer longer workshops, others prefer shorter workshops, some like presentations, others prefer interactive... you just have to do the best with what you've got!

Expense - how to balance what is paid for and what can be offered for free... the design challenge (opportunity) is how to make IPCs financially accessible to more people.



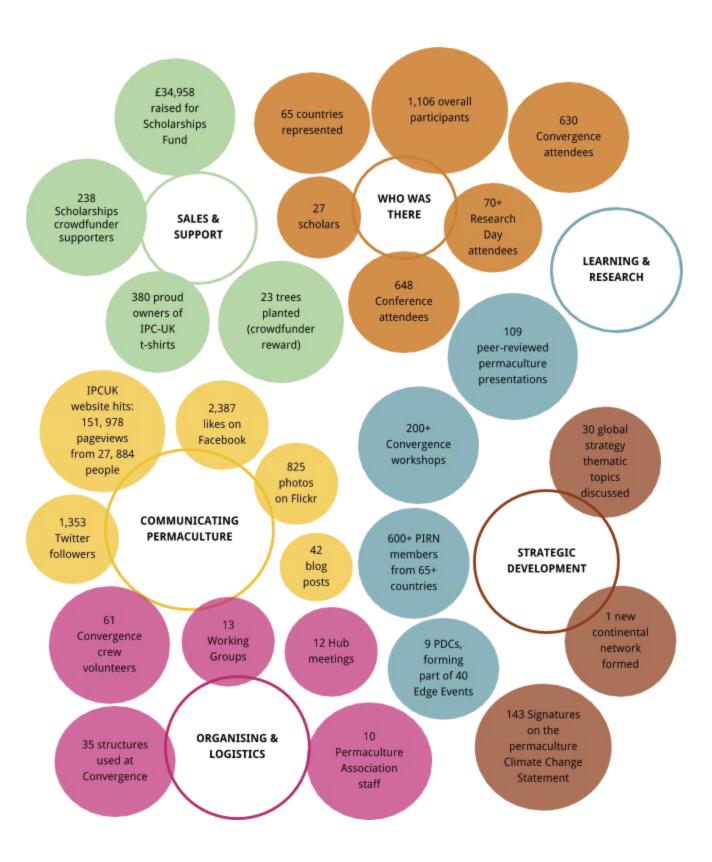
60 Scholarship applications received; Site visits at Conference and Convergence venues March 2015

Convergence Final site design; Conference stewards recruited July 2015

Brochures and programmes go to print; 40 Edge Events kick off August 2015

IPC comes to the UK!!
September 2015

# The IPCUK in numbers



"[I most enjoyed] feeling part of a community working for positive change. Connecting with old and new friends. I didn't expect to laugh quite so much..." Convergence attendee

# The Fun







Top: Traditional ceilidh dancing and Impromptu music making

Middle: Andy Goldring on the shared bike; Toddlers' Tent

Bottom: Happy hour at the Gaia University tent

(All photos on Flickr: Sagara)















Top: 3 Acres and a Cow: a history of land rights and protest through folk song and story (Flickr: Pippa Vine) Middle: social fire outside the Wizard's Nook bar (Flickr: Sagara), dancing at the "Alara Gala" (Flickr: Emily Gray) Bottom: free samples from the alcohol-free Cinebar and the Convergence sauna (both on Flickr: Sagara)

"Lovely to be aware of a truly international community of permaculture practice. Felt inspired by the wonderful people to do more for our global community." Convergence attendee



Marigolds (Flickr: Sagara)

# Seeds sown and harvests reaped

#### Launch of PIRN

The launch of the Permaculture International Research Network (PIRN) formed the centrepoint of the conference's opening session. The aim of PIRN is to further all aspects of knowledge and understanding of permaculture by enabling researchers and practitioners to easily collaborate and learn from each other. It will facilitate this by promoting knowledge exchange, providing peer group support, giving access to journals, books and literature reviews, developing collaborative action research projects and creating a place to access research and to share findings.

PIRN is being built entirely online, and will include monthly e-bulletins, a database of members and their research projects, an interactive map and the chance to join research projects. It has already attracted over 700 members in 70 countries and facilitated hundreds of new relationships. We have big hopes for PIRN and a big vision.

Membership of PIRN is open to anyone with an interest in any aspect of permaculture research. You can join by emailing <a href="mailto:pirn@permaculture.org.uk">pirn@permaculture.org.uk</a>.

PIRN's homepage: <a href="https://pirn.permaculture.org.uk/">https://pirn.permaculture.org.uk/</a>

#### **Research Journal**

Out of discussions at IPC-UK came the possibility of a dedicated International Permaculture Research Journal. The idea is being developed by a multi-institutional partnership including the Permaculture Association and FFCUL in Portugal, along with support from Permanent Publications, Central Queensland University and Coventry University. The first issue is aimed for release in 2017/18.

#### **Next Big Step**

IPC-UK was a real highlight of this project. Skilled facilitators from three continents helped emergent groups to develop their shared passions and share plans for the future. Hundreds of people from around the world got involved in 30 thematic topics and many regional groups to consider; "Where are we now in this area?" "What can we do to increase coherence and effectiveness?" and "How can we make it happen?"

We recognised the impact that permaculture is having, and can have, in areas including climate change, refugees, energy solutions, personal growth, and food security. We reflected on our own achievements and challenges in supporting aspects like education, research, farmers, women, young people, and our work across bioregions. We considered how we could be more strategic, enhance our collaborations and support enterprise and resilience.

The General Assembly saw some major commitments that people "jumped into", including:

- The African Permaculture Union formed
- To develop an International Permaculture Education Network (IPEN)
- To create an International Journal of Permaculture Research
- A statement on climate change that was adopted by the General Assembly <a href="http://www.permacultureclimatechange.org/">http://www.permacultureclimatechange.org/</a>
- To create a community of practice around **social permaculture**
- Understand and develop **enterprise** in permaculture
- Create a supportive facilitation group to **enhance the overall efficacy of local, bio regional and global networks** <a href="https://international.permaculture.org.uk/">https://international.permaculture.org.uk/</a>

We do amazing work! It is clear that permaculture can, and should, be a key part of the solution to creating a better, fairer world for all species and all generations. We want to share our work, skills, and knowledge as widely as possible to create the world we want. These needs were recognised by many of the 30 topic groups:

- Build communities and online and local networks for topics
- Improve access to key knowledge and resources
- Embed resilience and sustainability of practice (physical and social)
- Change the world (beyond our own boundaries)

#### **Climate Change**

The Climate Change Solutions Group presented their statement at the COP21 in Paris in December 2015 and are featured in Gil Penha-Lopes and Tom Henfrey's inspiring book *Permaculture and climate change adaptation: Inspiring Ecological, Social, Economic and Cultural Responses for Resilience and Transformation* (<a href="www.permanentpublications.co.uk">www.permanentpublications.co.uk</a>). At the time of writing, over 140 permaculture organisations from across the globe have signed their name to the statement, which clearly articulates how permaculture can and is contributing to tackling the challenges of climate change. Read more, check out the support, and add your name at <a href="http://www.permacultureclimatechange.org/">http://www.permacultureclimatechange.org/</a>

#### **Disaster and Emergency Relief**

Many discussions at the IPC-UK sought to answer how we can better support people around the globe survive disasters and conflict. Out of this, a new network was formed - Permaculture for Disaster and Emergency Relief. The aim is to be a focal point for collaboration on fundraising support, networking, development of permaculture solutions database, sharing useful contacts and education materials. Join the Facebook group and Google Group if you're interested in sharing knowledge, resources and taking discussions forward.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/745701238891740 https://groups.google.com/d/forum/permaculture-for-peace

#### **Education**

IPEN have started their baseline surveys to understand the current provision of education, availability of education resources in permaculture, and the needs of educators around the world.

#### Friends of IPC / The IPC Council

The work of the Friends of IPC has been clarified to focus on fundraising for IPC hosting costs and money for scholarships. The IPC Council has been created to support the hosts of future IPCs, manage the application process and promote them across the different regions of the Earth.

"IPC12 was a landmark event especially in terms of adding structure to our work. We can now move forwards more easily in our work and in our IPC process" Walter Mugove Nyika, Friends of IPC / Global Ecovillage / ReScope programme



Argentina being announced as the hosts for IPC14 (Flickr: Sagara)

Find out more and get in touch here:

Friends of IPC: http://www.inquiringsystems.org/portfolio/friends-international-permaculture-convergence/

IPC Council: http://internationalpermacultureconvergence.org/

"The networking, the atmosphere, the people, the sessions [all] furthered my practical knowledge, and [helped me to realise] that although the specifics might change, people from different nations share similar problems and can learn from each other." Convergence attendee

# **Learning**

With well over 350 talks, tours, courses and workshops spread across several weeks, the IPC-UK was one of the largest permaculture learning gathering to date. We aimed to capture and store as much of the knowledge and inspiration as we possibly could. Thanks to a dedicated team, we now have a treasure trove of audio, video, photos, presentations and literature covering the full diversity of the IPC-UK programmes.

Handily, all of these learning resources generated at the IPC-UK can be found in one place! www.ipcuk.events/article/learning



"[I most enjoyed] The practical workshops it's easier to learn when people demonstrate things."





deal and came away with many ideas and thoughts about action."



The workshops in the field of Social Permaculture reinforced my intention to go deeper there, trust my intuition and speak up when I feel that people are not cared for well, and to help shift the consciousness of this"







"[I most enjoyed] learning about regenerative businesses and then realising that I run one...!"

"The workshops on teaching, learning and community were really helpful and will inform my Diploma work."



"It has pointed me in directions to learn more about holistic thinking. Also taught me more about soil and how I may improve ours... and lots more."



Spiral of abundance: learning at the IPC-UK (All photos on Flickr)

Check out all the different forms of learning captured online! <a href="https://www.ipcuk.events/article/learning">www.ipcuk.events/article/learning</a>





# Research findings





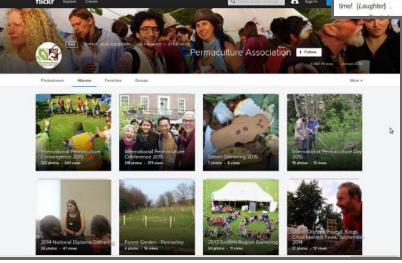
# A Baseline Survey of Temperate Forest Gardens

# **Presentations**

**Stories** 

ANDY GOLDRING: Very wonderful to see you all. Welcome to the 12th International Permaculture Conference {Applause}. For some of us this is the beginning of a ten day marvellous adventure, for some of you just here for aday or two days you are all very welcome. We have people here from 70 countries {Applause}. Which is fantastic, a really truly, international event. People have travelled really from literally from the Himalayas to the Brazilian rainforest, Hong Kong skyscrapers, it's, it's extraordinary.

So yeah, I'm Chief Executive of The Permaculture Association, I'm going to be hosting the plenaries and {rings the bell}, keeping everyone to time! {Laughter}.



**Photos** 

# **Transcripts**

"The most promising development for me was the emergence of co-operation, overcoming the competitive corporate thinking that rules most of the western world and building a new community of resilient, intellectual harmony" April

Sampson-Kelly www.permaculturevisions.com/postcard-from-ipcuk

#### Reflection

Every person will have their own individual reflections on the IPC-UK and permaculture more generally. We are still receiving thoughts from the network, some of which are included here. The quotes below are by no means comprehensive, but are simply an attempt to give a sense of the feeling expressed to us. If you've not had the time to stop and reflect for yourself, on the IPC-UK or life after, why not give yourself 10 minutes now. We like to use the "4 questions" to get us thinking:

- What's going well?
- What's been challenging?
- What are my long-term vision and goals?
- What are my next achievable steps?

### 'Inspiring, invigorating and humbling'

"Reinvigorated me, helped me find my centre and reminded me that there are a lot of really cool people out there all trying their best."

"Feel I've gained a wider perspective on permaculture practice around the world, see Permaculture practice in the UK now in more global context. Aware of our western privelledge [sic] and resources, and therefore responsibility"



(Flickr: Sagara)

"Inspired me, reminded me how much I love permaculture and how relevant it is everywhere, made me feel connected to a permaculture family around the world, made me want to get out there and apply permaculture everywhere. Also reminds me of our responsibility to actively make permaculture accessible to all"

#### Questions to the permaculture community

Reflective feedback from participants threw up some important questions for the global permaculture community to consider, for both future IPCs and more generally in terms of how we shape the permaculture movement going forward. Here are a few of the most commonly arising questions with some quotes from IPC-UK attendees. Food for thought for us all.

How can we best use our time together at physical gatherings?

"when we come together we have such potential to channel our collective energies into the combination of learning and delivering more practical sessions that we leave with a greater sense of knowledge and achievement. I think there is too much power point presentations and we could be so much more creative about how we come together and share - I think we would each leave with so much more"

How can we model truly inclusive movement building?

"I saw some lovely people there of course, but was also disappointed at the exclusivity of it - it was accessible but I didn't for instance see any noticeably disabled folk (why not?), and in terms of class distribution... well I'm not surprised it didn't appear to attract many UK based folk of genuinely limited means - apart from the price of the ticket, which is well beyond many, I expect most would have felt quite out of place and isolated."

How can we best work with those who do not call their work 'permaculture'? How can we ensure we do not behave as an 'elite' group?

"To be honest I was concerned by the general feeling that people who practice permaculture are a kind of elite who understand the real problems and are the only ones who can offer a solution."

#### **Final thoughts**

The IPC-UK was a landmark event for the Permaculture Association: one of the biggest projects we have ever undertaken and, we hope, a valuable one for everyone who took part. As we look forward to the next international gathering, IPC13 in India, we know some of you will be there, and many more won't! It's the nature of physical gatherings that the majority of people can't make it. That's why we were moved by Ava Klinger's words below, expressed in a blog post following IPC-UK. They are a reminder that however you are involved in permaculture, at the local level, international level, or somewhere in between, every effort matters.

"As I sit here reflecting on the convergence, I keep on coming back to one memory. It was meal time toward the beginning of the event and everyone was just getting used to seeing familiar faces in my dining hall. I remember getting my food and searching around the room to find a seat. I spotted one open chair in the middle of the room, next to people I hadn't met yet. When I sat down we all introduced ourselves and talked about the projects we were involved in back at home. At one point, I realized that all six of us – some young, some elders, some dark-skinned, others light-skinned, a perfect blend of men and women – were each from a different continent. But there we were, sitting at a table, sharing a meal, with a shared purpose and vision for the earth. It was a moment I will never forget because it reminded me that even though there is so much destruction happening on our planet, there are people everywhere that are doing small things to turn our world around. And like the mycelium network beneath the ground, we can't always see each other, but we know we're not alone and that is perhaps the greatest asset we have - each other."

Ava Klinger, Gaia University

http://www.gaiauniversity.org/gu\_blog/post/harvest-and-reflections-international-permaculture-convergence

#### **IPCUK Conference Poem**

This poem was written collectively at the IPC-UK Conference.

#### **Breaking All the Rules**

We cannot un-know what we know to be the truth;

The fear we hold,

This sweet life poisoned at the well.

Mother Earth cries out in grief

Our tears water the ground

Creation denied -

The hungry and the starving and the locked-in mindsets
The tree-less spaces and the swirling of the plastic waste.

No more, no more, no more.

#### Chorus

We're breaking all the rules
There's a revolution going on (repeat in many languages)
Empower the women, educate the youth,
For this is the time of the great Remembering,
Return again to the land of your soul
(And you can tell the riders from the apocalypse they can p\*\*s

off home!)

We are changing the story,
Hearts beating in rhythm with the Earth,
She is showing us her ways.
Earth is our Mother, Earth is our Lover
'Hear me, she cries, as I sing and laugh
Rising and falling in rhapsody
Who will hold my heart?'
For we are one, we are one.

#### Chorus

We're breaking all the rules
There's a revolution going on (repeat in many languages)
Empower the women, educate the youth,
For this is the time of the great Remembering,
Return again to the land of your soul
(and you can tell the riders from the apocalypse they can p\*\*s off
home!)

Oh this sweet life.

In the quiet hinterland of the spirit
A small light is shining, getting brighter,
Gaia's abundance is feeding us all,
The heritage of Africa has been restored
The rights of passage for the youth Oh this sweet life — four and a half billion years of it
And the circles we walk leave a gentle footprint to follow.

#### Chorus

We're breaking all the rules
There's a revolution going on (repeat in many languages)
Empower the women, educate the youth,
For this is the time of the great Remembering,
Return again to the land of your soul
For we are one, we are one, we are one.

# With grateful thanks to all the sponsors of IPCUK





























