

Permaculture Design Course Coldstream 2019. Instructor Profiles.

Graham Bell - Lead Instructor



Graham is the longest serving Permaculture teacher in the UK. Recognised by the founding father of Permaculture, Bill Mollison, in 1990 with both a diploma and the Permaculture Community Service Award he has been teaching the subject since then and has done so on five continents. His standing in the international permaculture community is second to none. He is Chair of Permaculture Scotland and of the British Education Working Group. He trained as an instructor with the Agricultural Training Board (today called Lantra) and went on to become a trainer of trainers with that organisation.

He lives in Coldstream in the Scottish Borders with his wife Nancy Woodhead. Their forest garden is legendary as the oldest extant intentional food forest garden in Britain, which attracts a thousand visitors a year and yields (through hand tools alone and without the aid of chemicals) at the rate of sixteen tonnes a hectare. Visitors are fed (as much as possible) from this bounty.

So, learning about permaculture here is a real experience in a real working environment offering hands on opportunities a-plenty, as well as theoretical understanding based on genuine experience.

Graham's two books: *The Permaculture Way* and *The Permaculture Garden* have been inspirational beginnings for many people on the pathway including many of today's best teachers and

practitioners. Besides this his website (<http://grahambell.org>) and numerous articles and public talks continue to enliven the upgrowing interest in intentional design and sustainable living.

Graham says: “Sharing our life’s experience with others is always an immense joy for me. It’s all about empowerment. We only seek to create the right environment in which people can empower themselves for that is the only way forward. These courses attract an amazing array of committed, visionary, intelligent people who simply wish to learn better how to care for themselves, their friends and family, the living earth and all who sail on her, and who wish to see those achievements crowned with greater social justice. The beauty of permaculture is it shows us how we can achieve all this whilst working a little less hard.

I am delighted to have Mark and Caspar teaching with me on this course – where we will discover (if we didn’t know it) that we are all teachers. Mark brings a wealth of experience complementary to my own, and Caspar the joy and energy of the next generation combined with a fantastic range of practical skills and deep understanding of the arts and their function in creating cohesive communities which respect the human spirit.”

Mark Shipperlee – Assistant Instructor



Mark Shipperlee trained in Countryside Management in the early eighties and has run a variety of small businesses often involving land management, focussing mainly on his passion for woodlands and trees. Having worked as a rural skills trainer/lecturer and as an enterprise coach/mentor, he enjoys sharing knowledge and skills – and in more recent years this has developed into the field of permaculture, and especially food-growing/small-holding management.

Constantly challenged by environmental issues such as waste, pollution and habitat destruction, Mark's work and teaching looks at real solutions to enable a more sustainable livelihood individually, locally and globally. There appears to be a greater urgency these days, with the major issues of climate change and limited natural resources finally coming to the forefront of the media – he believes that permaculture design and practices offer real and pragmatic solutions to these global issues.

Mark currently lives on Hadrian's Wall in an exposed location where he grows food, produces hardy fruit bushes and trees, and works to implement various permaculture design principles in his everyday life. He has previously worked overseas in a variety of locations, working on humanitarian aid and development projects.

“Having taught with Graham in Transylvania last summer, I am excited to join in again, with Caspar alongside – as we bring together differing expertise, and we can learn from each other as well, under the holistic banner of permaculture. The site at Coldstream is the result of dedicated permaculture work for more than a quarter of a century – so offers many examples from which we can all learn and creates a great base for teaching.”

See: Mark Shipperlee Green Man Enterprises <https://bit.ly/2Fev1gD>

Caspar Lampkin – Learning Instructor



Caspar Lampkin will be joining us as the learning instructor, his first teaching experience of the full design course. He has eight years of permaculture design and teaching experience since completing his Permaculture Course in 2010.

The majority of that experience has been through designing and implementing Tangleha Artists Collective, the land centre where he also lives. There he teaches small practical sessions such as Kombucha making, pruning and grafting, to residential community living and design experiences covering the full design process for different elements of the centre. Those recently designed and built were a chicken house, a bread oven rocket stove, an underground house and an edible trail through the local unfarmed land.

He went on to complete the Permaculture Teacher Training Course a couple of years ago and has recently started teaching Permaculture at Aberdeen University. You can find out more about him on his website. <https://artiststangleha.wixsite.com/caspar>.

“I am really looking forward to being on a course with some experienced teachers and I am excited about all the learning opportunities that will present themselves to our group. I am a keen musician and can also offer Polyphonic Singing workshops if anyone is interested.”

There will also be a number of guests on the course. Karen Birch and Anne Casey have been our long term work partners and have done fantastic work creating the charity Abundant Borders <https://bit.ly/2Feg9lj> & <http://abundantborders.org.uk/journal-2/> Their own (young) forest garden and house renovation are exemplary as is their journey into applying permaculture principles to lives full of great experience and learning.



Nancy Woodhead is Graham's wife and has been an equal partner in creating what we can see at Garden Cottage across the last 29 years. She is not teaching on this course but will certainly be around some of the time, and always has insights to share.



During the course we will also visit a number of sites showing different aspects of creating sustainable livelihoods which enhance the natural world and build community in many different ways. This will mean we meet many more interesting people.