

## **JOHN COOTE'S STATEMENT FOR ELECTION AS TRUSTEE**

To stand for election as trustee feels like a natural succession from my involvement with BPT that started with Intro and Design courses in 2006.

It will also be a learning experience, because while I believe there is much that I can bring to the role, the legal responsibility of being a trustee will be new.

I also want it to be a challenge. An important motivation is the desire for the permaculture community to respond to the rapidly changing landscape of our environmental crises.

### **So there is a vision that I'm bringing to the role...**

Firstly, the rigour of permaculture design is vital: we don't have time to get this wrong. We need to show how small-scale, incremental solutions are part of the response to the scale and urgency of our environmental crises.

We need to do more of what we already do well; to contribute to the Permaculture Association's ambitious goals to accelerate permaculture learning to reach over a million people by 2030.

We need to listen to and engage with climate strikers and rebels. I believe that we need them to trigger radical change. Permaculture solutions will thrive if we are working towards a genuinely regenerative future rather than struggling to mitigate business-as-usual.

And of course, to do any of this, we need to match our capacity and resources to the ambition.

### **And a diverse set of skills and experience...**

Most of my recent work with BPT has been on our orchard projects. Behind the scenes I have been contributing to reviews of our financial and volunteer strategies. In the past I have taught on the Intro course, worked on the plot, and supported courses and events.

I'm a campaigner for sustainable transport as a volunteer for Sustrans; I am an active member of 5 community energy Co-ops; and was on the teams that set up the first Eco Open Houses and Seed Swap events in Worthing. In previous careers, I have managed IT projects and tutored environmental studies & social sciences for the Open University.

And not least, I carry the sense of hope that was generated by a day on Waterloo Bridge during the Easter Extinction Rebellion.