

About the Accommodation

Stones Centre currently has two adjoining holiday cottages, each with two large bedrooms and en suite bathroom/ wet room. Each of the cottages is a former agricultural stone barn that has been converted using traditional and environmentally friendly building methods to create a peaceful and soothing living space. We have used lime mortars and vegetable based paints, varnishes and natural materials. All bed linens and towels are provided and all are made from organic cotton.

The water for the cottages comes from a bore hole and is clean and fresh and has been tested safe for drinking, a solar water heating system is used for hot water and each cottage has a log burning stove for heat. Green electricity is used in the cottages to power the low energy lighting and energy efficient appliances are used throughout.



The rooms are large and comfortable with enough space to have a private study area and most have views across the fields to Garn Fawr and the sea. Each cottage also has a comfortable sitting and dining area, one of which will be used for you to eat and relax with the other students on the course, the other being used as a workshop where the indoor portions of the courses will be taught. There is also a fully equipped kitchen in each cottage where you are able to make drinks and snacks as you desire.

The cottages are located on Llandruidion smallholding. You are free to wander the grounds, say hello to the animals and if you like even try your hand at milking a goat. The cottages also have their own private garden and there are other outdoor sitting areas around the cottage where you can relax and watch the views and the spectacular sun sets. Our aim is to make your stay as comfortable and relaxing as possible.

Each bedroom comfortably sleeps two people in either a double or twin beds so if you would like to bring your partner or a friend this can also be arranged.



Course Costs

The full cost based on one person to a room is £825. If you wish you can bring a partner or friend to share the room at a small additional cost whether or not they wish to participate in the course. The course is fully catered, please call to discuss any dietary requirements. We can provide vegetarian, non-vegetarian and vegan meals. We also offer this course as non-residential, please call for course costs and availability.

Please call Dot or Brian on 01348 891286 or email us at the following address: courses@stonescentre.co.uk.

Stones Centre, Llandruidion, Pencaer, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire. SA64 0JQ.

STONES CENTRE
- ECO-FRIENDLY HOLIDAYS -

Sustainable Garden Design Course



The Sustainable Garden Design Course teaches the basics of garden design with the aim that you will produce a quality design and planting plan for your own garden. Your teacher Shani Lawrence, a professional Garden Designer and a winner of the Hampton Court Gold Medal for Best Small Garden, will take you through all the stages of garden design. The course will concentrate on sustainable methods including organics, complimentary planting and wildlife gardens.

WWW.STONESCENTRE.CO.UK

Sustainable Garden Design

Course Overview

The Sustainable Garden Design Course is aimed at people who would like to produce a garden design with a professional quality for their own garden or the garden of a friend or relative. This course guides the students through the entire design process. On booking you will be sent a pack which will explain how to do a basic survey of the garden that you will be designing. You will also bring a soil sample which you will then analyse during the course enabling you to select suitable plants for your garden. You will learn how to produce a design that will both be aesthetically pleasing and sustainable. You will learn which plants compliment each other to produce a garden that works for you by allowing nature to work for itself.



The course is run over five days and includes accommodation and home cooked organic meals. This course is also offered as non-residential. The day will start with a full or continental breakfast with the course running from 10am until 4pm with an hour for lunch. The evenings are free for you to explore the local countryside and coast, socialise with the other guests or visit the towns of Fishguard or St David's. An evening meal is provided. You are welcome to arrive on Sunday afternoon and to stay until Saturday morning. We would be happy to pick you up from Fishguard or Haverfordwest train stations should you wish to use public transport. An evening meal and breakfast can be provided on the day of arrival / departure for your convenience.

Course Outline

Day One

We will begin the course with a brief introduction to garden design and design history. We will explore concepts such as edible, productive gardens and sustainable, wildlife friendly design. This will be followed by an analysis of your garden site. We will look at aspect, soil, proportions, gradient and microclimate; so discovering the assets and limitations of your chosen area. We will also establish what you would like to achieve and change by your design.

Day Two

The second day will be a practical day where you will start to draft out layout plans of your garden site under the direct supervision of Shani. We will explore use of shape, style, functionality and sustainable product choices during this process. All drawing equipment is provided.

Day Three

We will then have a day out to explore gardens in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. We will gain inspiration from historic gardens such as Aberglasney and new experimental gardens such as the National Botanic Gardens of Wales and possibly visit local smaller gardens. The choice of gardens will depend on opening times of individual attractions and may be subject to change.

Day Four

We will spend the morning working on the final design layouts and in the afternoon we will discuss organic planting, wildlife encouragement as well as colour, texture, scent and structure options.

Day Five

Our final day will be devoted to creating planting plans for your garden site.

Shani Lawrence Garden Designs

Shani studied Garden Design at Merrist Wood Agricultural College while joining Woodcote Green Nurseries Ltd in the outdoor plant department. Woodcote Green Nurseries is one of the UK's most successful and progressive nurseries, obtaining awards such as 'Retail Nursery of the Year 1999'. Shani now runs a full time independent design consultancy undertaking domestic, community and school grounds designs for a wide range of customers. Shani also works for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority as an Education Officer leading nature walks and teaching environmental art.

Shani Lawrence Garden Designs was originally established undertaking contracts in London & the South East and has now expanded to include projects throughout Southern England & Wales after relocating to Pembrokeshire in 2002. As the main designer Shani currently divides her time between Wales and London with much of the creative design work undertaken at the Pembrokeshire office.

Shani Lawrence Garden Designs was established in 1997. Shani read Environmental Science at University and worked for two Environmental Consultancies before deciding to combine her interests in ecology, horticulture and the outdoors with a love of creativity and drawing.

In 2000 Shani designed an award winning garden court 'Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder' at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show for Woodcote Green Nurseries. In 2001 Shani designed 'The Princess and the Frog' garden court. It was awarded 'Best small garden in show' and the RHS Gold medal.

Shani Lawrence Garden Designs likes to promote gardening to encourage wildlife by habitat creation and good plant choice. The use of organic principles in maintaining gardens is also recommended and where possible sustainable product sourcing is encouraged for the creation of the garden.