

Using Wood in the Garden Hands-on Course, Saturday 21st of March 2026 9.30 - 4.00



This course is for those interested in expanding their knowledge of this fantastic material and how to use woody material from their own garden.

We'll be looking at the whole range of different uses of wood in the Nant-y-bedd garden, from tree sculptures to seating to gates & fencing, wood chip and charcoal.

The day will start with understanding the carbon cycle, loading and firing a simple Charcoal kiln, once that's in process we'll take a practical look at coppicing, pollarding and making dead hedges. Log walls and Habitat piles. Constructing a Hugelkultur bed.

In the afternoon participants will have a choice of making either a solitary bee hibernating post or a garden sign, (maybe it's possible to combine those two functions?) Examples will be provided but your creativity will be encouraged. We will be charring the bases of any posts to preserve them in the ground.

The day will end with quenching and opening the Charcoal kiln and looking at how to turn Charcoal into Biochar and the uses of wood ash in the garden.

Bring with you Sensible shoes and outdoor wear. You will also need snippers, secateurs or loppers and sturdy gloves, and pencil, measuring tape and penknife if you have them.

£110 inclusive of materials, tea/coffee and cake throughout the day. Maximum numbers 10. Lunch is not included.

About the Tutor:

Mick Petts is a landscape-based sculptor and garden designer with many years of experience working with natural materials. He has worked on projects large and small for both private and public sector clients. For those familiar with Nant-y-Bedd, Mick designed and built the natural swimming pond, Cedric and Hart's Rise tree sculptures, and most recently the 'Chaise Log' for our Silent Space. Mick had led an annual Garden Structures workshop here for several years (which is always fully booked).