West Coast OWL Meeting 10/05/2021

Attending: Susan Pettie (Chair), Rosamonde Birch (Secretary), Isabel McLeish (Public Liaison), Judith, Lynne, Katy, Lucy, Emma, Sheila, Helen, Caz, Kat, Angus & Matt (but lost signal)

Apologies: Heather Beaton (Treasurer)

Agenda:

1. Check-in and Introductions: Brief introductions from all members, background, projects, expertise and interests in West Coast OWL.
   1. Susan – Chair of West Coast OWL. Artists and Entrepreneur. Interested in setting up an alternative school
   2. Isabel – Public Liaison for West Coast OWL. Artist and Forest Bathing practitioner.
   3. Roz – Secretary of West Coast OWL. Secondary Teacher. Learning for Sustainability and Climate Justice Education. Outdoor Learning. Countryside Ranger for Highland Council.
   4. Lynne – Steering Group of West Coast OWL. Children’s Social Work. Safeguarding expertise. Health & Safety / Risk Assessment and Benefit. Passionate about outdoor learning for children’s wellbeing.
   5. Sheila – School Teacher and interest in outdoor learning.
   6. Judith – Outdoor Learning lead for West Coast OWL. Background as Countryside Ranger and Forest Schools practitioner. Outdoor Learning and Wellbeing Officer with Kyle and Lochalsh community Trust at The Plock.
   7. Angus – Skye Eco Museum and Forest School learning for Skye
   8. Emma – Forest School Leader and Early Years Practitioner
   9. Kat – Living Landscapes project and outdoor educator
   10. Helen – Youth Worker at Portree Youth Club and Pupil Support Assistant at Portree High School
   11. Lucy – Primary Teacher and Forest School Leader
   12. Katy – Primary Teacher and Outdoor Educator – attending the Wild Things Training from Findhorn.
   13. *Heather – Treasurer of West Coast OWL. Background in ecology and conversation. Plock Ranger with Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust.*
2. West Coast OWL Overview – history, journey so far and where we are with opportunities for funding, CPD, Skill Sharing, launch event ideas and Climate Feis.
3. Skills Share and meeting up outdoors:
   1. Proposal – Contact Matt at ACE (Isabel) to check if we could gather together in Portree for our first meet up in person for a skills share. Confirmed that we could gather in a group socially distancing of up to 30 based on health walk and outdoor activities guidelines. Possibility of bringing children and dogs if we are meeting on a weekend – personal choice but will check with Matt. Use our gathering together as a way to scope out ideas for a launch event and ways to support one another.
   2. Isabel checking if a weekend is possible at ACE. If Matt is up for it, Roz will email a doodle to everyone to check dates & include the funding overview for everyone to know what funds can be used for and support ideas for launch event planning
4. Launch event – Judith introduced her ideas of replicating NTS events she’s previously run at Balmacara woods. Range of activities – physical, artistic, wellbeing focused. Thumbs up this would be a great way of offering taster sessions and engagement with the wider public and more members.
   1. To be discussed further at the skill share sessions
5. Climate Feis – Roz proposed that we could post one activity a day on the West Coast OWL Facebook page. Also, possibility of seeing if one of Kat’s workshops could be used for the August festival as CPD for teachers?
   1. Judith offered ideas from her Little Books of Spells and to look at Wildlife Trust’s – 30 Days Wild (June).
   2. Everyone welcome to share ideas with Roz if interested in contributing
   3. Roz will liaise with Kat about CPD opportunities.
6. Angus from Skye Ecomuseum – request for support and ideas to help develop an outdoor learning programme. Roz and Judith happy to connect to help.
   1. Roz will set up a separate email to collaborate.
7. Kat’s offer of CPD – Roz connecting.

ACTIONS:

* Isabel – contacting Matt about using ACE for our WCOWL meet up
* Roz – Doodle and share funding info. Confirm next meeting and email everyone.
* Roz and Judith – connect with Angus
* Roz – catch up with Kat about CPD