**West Coast OWL ‘Nest Meeting’ 16/09/2021**

Attendance: Susan Pettie, Rosamonde Birch & Judith Bullivant

Apologies: Heather Beaton

**Welcome**

**Agree previous minutes**

* Proposed: Judith & Seconded: Rosamonde

**Any outstanding actions**

* All completed for Launch, CPD session and Go Outside August posts
* Safeguarding – included in agenda
* Bank Account – Heather updated us in email

**Updates on steering group business:**

1. Funding and Accounts – Heather – Email update. Confirmation of funding received and that all providers and workshop leaders were reimbursed and paid for the launch event.
   1. Heather requested a second person for online banking – Susan happy to do and all agreed.
   2. Judith will be applying for the funds for the equipment and kit budget – confirmed to go ahead with orders.
2. Safeguarding Policy – Lynne
   1. Susan will catch up with Lynne.
3. Membership – Roz – 29 members since Launch event, additional two to be added from CPD session. Add Greg Dobson (Puppet Workshop leader) and NTS Volunteer in Balmacara.
   1. Membership – happy to continue organically. Offer events, spaces and activities across the geographical area, consider satellite groups under OWL to meet needs of areas.
   2. Merlin Planterose – Kinder Croft CIC – welcome to visit.
4. Upcoming OWL Scotland - bulletin/news - Judith/Roz
   1. Invitation to write something by 20th for OWL Bulletin?
5. OWL Networking Event - feedback and news – Judith
   1. Lovely weekend in Fife, great networking and collaborative workshops.
   2. Interested in a north based gathering of OWL – possibly happening May 2022. Judith mentioned Balmacara Woods as possible location – camping/campervans, woods and access to the sea.

**Reflections on Activities and Events**

1. Launch Event
   1. Thanks to Judith and Rosamonde for coordinating and bringing it all together.
   2. Considering weather – good turnout. Positive feedback from attendees. Shelters meant we could be adaptable on the day. Didn’t deliver all sessions – but flexibility to extend activities if more arrived. Due to small attendance the quality of experience was great for parents and children, additional activities would have extended on this. Presence of spaces to dwell and be around the workshops and activities. Great for adults/parents to chat and mingle.
   3. Consider for future: Experiences for early years/toddlers. Creating spaces of dwelling, experiencing the space and enjoying spending time together. Thinking about future events as a ‘festival’ with creative spaces, music and activities – inhabiting spaces and dwelling together.
2. Lost Words CPD
   1. Wonderful afternoon, hugely inspirational, creative and great to learn together in the woods. Great CPD delivery and Kat was excellent. Useful to run it through Eventbrite – official status to the CPD.
   2. Challenges: Hosted during a school day may have meant many couldn’t come – even with. bookings. Checked on the day that reminders and instructions were received – confirmed by attendees, but maybe had gone into Junk/Spam mail. Disappointed that many were not in contact to apologise for not attending.
   3. Consider for future: Ask attendees about why they couldn’t attend? Asking about requesting a deposit? Valuing ‘free’ sessions? (Possibly use returnable booking fee for future events through Eventbrite).
3. Daily Go outside
   1. Went well, thanks to Judith for the additional daily post content alongside Emma’s. People seeing the posts on our Facebook and through Climate Feis Instagram – well received and enjoyed by organisers of Climate Feis. Can be a resource for the future – already being spread further afield with other groups.

**Next Steps**

1. OWL Members Virtual Gathering - Larger geography means we can gather across areas. Gathering opinions to feed into plans and ideas for 2022.
   1. Satellite groups – geographical groups – Would members like this? OWLettes?
   2. Useful training/CPD - consult members via virtual meeting
   3. Socialising / Networking – self-selecting breakout rooms.
   4. Opening of a space on the steering group.

2. Skill Share (options and ideas)

a. Treehouse at The Hub Café, Lochcarron

b. Shieldaig / Woodland Trust with Caz – opportunity to collaborate and offer a November day? Liaise with Caz. Additionally, Caz is interested in a Family Woodland Day next summer.

4. Collaborations with SBS123 - October HT activities

a. Ask members if they would like to contribute any activities or workshops – Judith and Roz will curate and agree how to open invite members if possible.

b. Conversation with Joe regarding Safeguarding and what their processes and procedures will be. Who has responsibility of guardianship etc for children participating.

c. Donation of £100 available to cover costs for the day.

**AOB**

1. Joint event in Spring across North Highland OWL, WCOWL and South Highland OWL – Judith shared interest in this after her attendance at the North Highland OWL launch event.
2. Community Film – no further contact after the CPD opportunity. Susan will catch up.

**Next Meeting**

Members Virtual Gathering – Wednesday 27th October

**Actions**

1. Judith & Roz – Bulletin. Curating SBS123 day / contacting Joe about safeguarding. Drafting email news to members – re: Virtual meeting, possible skills share (Roz checking with Caz) and possible invite to deliver activities for SBS123 day
   1. Roz – catch up with Caz re skill share day on a weekend in Shieldaig
   2. Judith – emailing Joe re safeguarding and roles for activity day
   3. Roz – once dates and info collated will email members invitation to virtual gathering.
2. Susan – catching up with Lynne and Alastair (Community Film)
3. Susan – second online banking person.
4. Roz – follow up email on CPD Lost Words – contacting those that booked to find out what challenges there were for attendance and invite them to be members of WCOWL.