**West Coast OWL Virtual Member Gathering Meeting 27/10/2021**

Attending: *Susan Pettie (Chair); Rosamonde Birch (Secretary); Judith Bullivant (Public Liaison);* *Megan McInnes (Torgarve Community Woodland); Thomas O’Halloran (Shieldaig & Kinlochewe Primary / Forest School); Lucy Salter (Dunvegan Primary / Forest School); Anne Macrea (Wester Ross Biosphere - Education Sub-Group).*

*Apologies: Kat Martin and Fiona Matheson*

**Agenda:**

1. **Welcome**
2. **Introductions – brief introductions from new and existing members**
3. **Updates from Steering Group:**
   1. Overview of the West Coast OWL Journey for new members
   2. Activities so far (Launch Event, CPD and first Skill Share)
   3. Update on OWL Scotland Funding – Admin funds, CPD Funds and Start Up Kit funds.
   4. Outdoor Kit inventory will be available soon – all WCOWL members can book and use kit that has been ordered by Judith.
   5. Membership at 34.
4. **Invitation for someone to put themselves forward to join steering group**
   1. Open to attendees with no offers. Ongoing interest in mailing list notifications and involvement with OWLette’s emerging. Invitation to members via briefing email TBC?
5. **Proposal: OWLette’s across Wester Ross & Skye? Shieldaig Skill Share:**
   1. Overall positive interest in proposal. Skill Share at Shieldaig will be chance to explore this with teachers and outdoor practitioners for an OWLette to emerge for mid to north Wester Ross Area. If possible then steering group could explore OWLette’s for Lochalsh and Skye as a model similar to [Argyll & Bute OWL Group.](https://www.owlscotland.org/local-groups/north_and_west_argyll_cluster)
   2. Date provisionally agreed with Caz is Saturday 27th November 11:00 – 15:00 (Bring Your Own Lunch)
   3. Can chat at Shieldaig about February 23rd 2022 INSET date for a CPD session and if possible for teachers to attend (not being used as a directed day from TCH?)
   4. Feedback from Skill Share in Winter members briefing email – include 2022 meeting dates
6. **Next Steps – CPD** 
   1. Possible Options proposed:
      1. Request for training/learning outside of formal education
      2. Lost Words CPD (Kat?) – a good one to engage with teachers through literacy and the outdoors, especially for teachers just emerging with their outdoor learning practice.
      3. Storytelling Workshops – links well with “2022 as Scotland’s Year of Stories”
      4. Natural Musicians Days
      5. Tracks, signs, animals and birds
      6. Natural Crafts
      7. Animals and Habitats – interconnectedness workshop
   2. Lost Words and Storytelling top choices
      1. Lost Words for Feb INSET? (Venue not associated with school due to COVID restrictions)
      2. Storytelling late Spring? Perhaps weekend session?
   3. Best times for CPD suggested – Twilight Sessions, INSET days and Weekends. Very hard for anyone to get cover at the moment and challenges with COVID restrictions.
7. **AOB - None**
8. **Next Meeting – Wednesday 19th January 2022**

**Actions:**

* **Skill Share** – Roz emailing promotional materials by Friday 29th Oct with Thomas, Megan, Anne and Judith to share amongst their contacts in Wester Ross. Checking with Caz to confirm date still okay with her.
* **Lost Words CPD** – need to check Kat’s provisional availability? TBC
* **Kit List –** Judith drafting and will share will members in next briefing email
* **Storytelling CPD –** Judith looking at her contacts and options
* **Steering Group Position –** Invitation open to all members.