

Attendees: MAC (treasurer), Caroline McNair (Chair), Lindsey Theobald (secretary)

Agenda:

Informal agenda – confirm this being the temporary committee to start moving the group forwards, a general discussion about projects and money we still have left. And a look at what we want to do this year.

Key aspects to discuss:

- Official change of committee, roles confirmed – it's on OWL website.
- Brief discussion about purpose of group – for adult leaders rather than families
- OWL Scot network event – all 3 booked on and covering a range of workshops and good to link in with others, all local groups very different.
- Majority of info for group is in onedrive/Hotmail (but also have a google option)
- Current status:
 - o Lost Words project
 - o ENVA cameras (tablet purchase?)
 - o Other funds (Admin, CPD, network event)
- Ideas for workshops/network event this year – previous survey
- Ideas to keep group momentum – consider how to do 2 official meetings and an AGM.

Details:

Lost Words Project – still a small bit of funding left. Potential for a CPD session and or more equipment – MAC suggests a tablet could be useful, and use money from ENVA too. Caroline – potential option to have Deobrah do a CPD session about nests as the last Lost Words workshop around Easter. People are starting to use equipment. MAC trying to work with WDC education to spread the word about the group more.

ENVA – 6 cameras, have had some issues but MAC has mainly sorted and is looking to get some teachers to test out. Best to put up in school grounds that can be locked to save them being stolen. Still some funds left which could be used to help buy a tablet – already have some USB microscopes etc. that could use with it. Also good to highlight nature apps for ID and citizen science.

Other funds – general OWL Scotland support – have some of this still. Some of Admin fund has been used to pay a monthly fee for the bank account. Potentially look into a non-fee account in the future.

*All agreed a tablet would be good for the group even just to highlight how tech can be used with nature rather than as an item to loan out. Could be useful for use with cameras too.

Hard to get people to connect with the group and come to workshops – MAC will continue to try and link in with education for ideas.

There's been some recent issues with sending emails to the mailing list – potentially a Hotmail issue. There was a brief discussion that onedrive/Hotmail may not be the best platform – google might be

better. A google account is already set up for the group and we can look to see if we want to change this later this year.

Workshop ideas:

MAC mentioned when there was a survey a few years ago to see if people still wanted the group - a lot of the feedback was wanting sessions to revise FS skills but also nature connection and ID.

- Tool/music workshop
- Tools/fire workshop
- Foraging
- BSBI plant workshop?
- Deborah – jewellery, **nest making** – link to Lost Words last weekend of easter hols?
- Barbara – bird lantern workshop – working with MAC to decide if this will be done through OWL group or in another way - could do for a network day (autumn time)
- Shuna – bubbles – network day?
- Kilmartin museum (stone carving etc.)

Follow Up:

- MAC to get all official paperwork in order to share with others in committee about OWL Scotland and look at the paperwork to complete to make an official temporary committee again.
- MAC to share onedrive with others
- MAC to look at finances to see how much exactly we have left in each section/project.
- MAC to look at options for tablet to use rest of ENVA and some Lost Words money to use with cameras, and USB microscopes and bat detectors etc. that are available through the countryside ranger service.
- Caroline to find out more info about cost and timings for Deborah sessions and a potential foraging contact (MAC also has some contacts for this)
- MAC to feedback on any progress with education team.