Quality Development - small group discussion, Wednesday
Looby, Klaudia, Kate, James (Scotland), Niels

1. Looked at a draft template for teachers giving each other feedback, developed by Looby. Made a few changes to get a balance of affirmation and critical feedback, and to prompt feedbackers to make some concrete suggestions for improvements and development. Looby will revise and share the template.

2. Reviewed what had been generated on day 1 through using the Design Web to answer the question 'how do we improve the quality of permaculture teaching?'. See below for themes emerging under each heading, what we drew from this and some tentative design ideas for addressing quality development...

3. Considered the post-PDC survey and minor tweaks needed (following the earlier run-through of Pippa's report on key findings so far). Specific points emerging:
- The question on 'how did the PDC change your life' needs a tick box requesting people's permission that we can use their responses in our publicity and communications materials
- The question on whether people are doing the diploma needs breaking into two categories: a) already registered on the Diploma, b) intend to do so
- Klaudia agreed to make those changes in the survey monkey questionnaire (along with one or two others?)
- Patrick Whitefield agreed at the last meeting (Convergence) that he will do the analysis of the next 6 months' worth of data.
- This group's recommendation is that the survey goes out to PDC graduates a reasonable period after they've completed the course. The simplest mechanism we could come up with was for the Association to send out the survey to all new PDC graduates every six months, in time for the results to be fed into the following teachers' meeting.
- We need to follow up the suggestion of asking teachers to share best practice/different experiences of doing the design activity on a PDC, in the light of multiple comments from students on this aspect of the course.

4. Looked at the need to share information from pre-, mid- and end-course evaluations that teachers already carry out on their courses, to supplement the post-PDC survey. This might include elements of both course evaluation and evaluation of students' learning/progress.
- Quality Development group needs to think further about this and develop a proposal to bring to the next meeting.

Themes/ideas we felt emerged from inputs generated during the Design Web exercise:

Vision
Becoming a mutually supportive, dynamic network, knowing each others work more.
Progression, succession.

Pulls
Time and money, credibility, getting paid well enough
Resistance to change?

Pushes
Doing what we do is affirming for us
Lots of experience and skills
Demand

Pause
Time out in nature for students and teachers

Principles
Yes! Basically: let's use them

Momentum
CPD, cross-pollination between us, being reflective practitioners (action learning, guilds, journals...)
Focus on the change that's really needed. (For us this seems to be around two things: managing our energies and efforts around teaching through mutual support and ongoing development, and ensuring that students are enabled and encouraged to take their permaculture forward through the Diploma. We found it interesting that the post-PDC survey may suggest that 'improving our courses' is, on the whole, not a big win area because students are already overwhelmingly happy with them, therefore maybe less of a priority for our collective attention than dealing with the other two things.)

Reflection
Yes! Use post-PDC survey

Appreciation
We have achieved a lot.

Action
Action learning, reflection, developing ourselves

Patterns
We're active together, not when we're not

Ideas
Yes, lots of good ones. Be careful about language around 'standardisation', 'branding'...

Integration
Design ideas coming from all of this:

Functions/brief	Systems	Elements	Action/Timeline
Course reflection	Student feedback	Post PDC survey	tweak questions promote it - when, who
		Pre, mid, end evaluation	design online form to submit summary
	Tutor reflection during course	The course	
		Student's progession	

Keeping courses fresh, relevant and up to date	CPD - prefer to call it 'ongoing action learning pathway'	Teaching guilds	
		action learning pathway	
	Course development		
Supportive network		Sharing resources	
		Teaching with other/different tutors	
		online forum for exchange	
Sustainable teaching for us			