

**WEST LOTHIAN 50+ NETWORK
MEMBERS' MEETING HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2020
IN THE BRITISH LEGION, BATHGATE**

1. WELCOME

The Convenor, Anne Webster, wished members a Happy New Year and welcomed members to the first meeting of 2020 as well as extending a welcome to any new members to their first meeting.

2. WILLIE MACFARLANE – ACCORDION PLAYER

Lesley Martin welcomed Mr MacFarlane to play and entertain us with a selection of Scottish music. He was accompanied by his friend Jessie, who sang for us. The members were entertained with old favourite songs which was enjoyed by all. When he and Jessie finished, Lesley thanked him on our behalf and invited them both to stay for a cup of tea.

3. NEW STAFF

Anne welcomed and introduced our two new members of staff who will be our Hub administrators. They are Teresa Doyle and Suzanne Greig. This now means that the hub will be open every day from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 2 pm from February. One of them will also attend the monthly Members' meeting to take payment for all activities which are ongoing.

Tracy is taking up the post of Development Officer and will commence this role on 3rd February. We wish her well in this new role. Until then she is currently training the new staff.

4. DURING THE BREAK

Anne advised members that during the coffee break there will be the usual greeting cards for sale. We are also taking payment during the break and at the end of the meeting (and in the future before the meeting starts) for the following:

- Membership fee now due (£20)
- January Coach Trip
- February Coach Trip
- Deposit for Lincoln Holiday
- The balance for the Skye Holiday
- Pledge payments to Soldiers off the Street

5. GROUPS

Willie Webster reported on several new Groups starting:

- **Chess for Fun** – This group will meet starting this Wednesday 22nd January from 10 am to 12 noon in The Ballencrieff, Hopetoun Street in Bathgate. The group will be led by Tommy Doyle and will meet weekly.
- **Coffee Club Livingston** – This group started on Tuesday 7th January and meets every Tuesday at 10 am in the Lime Kiln Pub Restaurant, Almondvale Boulevard, Livingston. There is free parking behind the Lime Kiln and many of the buses stop at the bus station opposite the Designer Outlet. The group is led by Jane O'Donnell and Theresa Burton.
- **Sing Your Heart Out** – The initial meeting is on Tuesday 21st January at 6.45 pm to approximately 8.30 pm and will take place in the Glenmavis Bowling Club, Torphichen Street, Bathgate. The group will be run by Kate Blake and Liz Wyroslawska. The group will initially meet monthly but could be more frequent subject to demand. This will be group singing.
- **Table Tennis** – The first meeting for this group will take place on Wednesday 22nd January at 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm and will meet weekly in the Dance Studio, Regal Theatre, Bathgate. The

group will be led by Maggie Wills who will be emailing every member who has expressed an interest in the next few days.

- **The Cycling Group – Introducers** – This group will be run by John and Maggie Matthews in collaboration with the West Lothian Bike Library. The first meeting is on Wednesday 5th February in the afternoon and this will be a full assessment/familiarisation meeting. Thereafter the group will meet weekly on Tuesdays from around 7th April onwards. Maggie will be emailing all members who have given their names to the Hub.
 - **Games (Veni, Lusi, Vici)** – This new group will start on Thursday 23rd January and will meet weekly in The Ballencrieff, Hopetoun Street, Bathgate. This group will be run by Katie Ellam. There are currently 29 games, the majority of which are classical board games, but other types of games are open for discussion and agreement within the group. Games played by other groups within the Network such as Canasta, Mah Jong etc will not be played by this group.
 - **Miles and Smiles** – This is a new Walking Group which will start on Tuesday 4th February with one walk per month initially with the possibility of walking more frequently as the weather improves. The leader of this new group is Ian Beck who is a very experienced walk leader and walk leader trainer. The walks will be between 5-8 miles in length. Details of each walk will be given in advance. Ian will arrange to contact everyone who signs up and agree their suitability for group membership before undertaking the first walk. This is the second recent new walking group bringing the number of groups to seven.
 - **Photography Shooting and Discussion Group** – This group will have its first meeting on Wednesday 19th February when it will meet from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm in the Hub at 46G Linbar House, Bathgate (adjacent to Royal British Legion). The group leader is Robert Thomson. The group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.
 - **Once Upon A Time in Hollywood** – This group will also meet on the third Wednesday of every month and will show old black and white movies. The group will also meet in the Hub after the Photography Group. The first meeting will be on 22nd April at 6.30 pm to approximately 8.30 pm. The group will be led by Frank Ellam who has an extensive library of black and white movies. An interaction between like-minded enthusiasts at the Group Leaders' Lunch yesterday has resulted in an even wider selection of the films available. Emails to members who have expressed an interest will be sent out nearer the time.
- Pilates** – The two existing groups are not accepting any new members. Offers of places have been sent out to members on the waiting list. Willie is still trying to source a physio led tutor for a new class and there are currently two lines of enquiry on this.

Jim reported that the two current Tai Chi classes continue in Rosemount Gardens from 10 am to 11 am and 11 am to 12 noon. A third class will start in the Regal Theatre, Bathgate in the first week of April at 11 am. The class will be in eight-week blocks. Names to Teresa and Suzanne in the Hub.

Jim also advised that the Men's Group is visiting Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian and that there are currently six seats available on the minibus at a cost of £10 if any ladies wish to go. The minibus will leave from the old railway station, Bathgate at 09.45 am.

Vanda said that the Network Singers are now open to new members, and in particular are asking for male members.

The choir is doing a repeat of the October concert in Boghall Church on Monday 24th February at 7pm. This is a fundraising event for the church. Tickets are £5 and while they will not be on sale in the office, anyone wishing to go to the concert should put the money for the number of tickets they require in an envelope with their name on it. This will be picked up by one of the

choir members and returned to the office with the tickets. It is a good opportunity for anyone who's missed the October concert to see and hear what they missed.

6. TRIPS

Sue reported on trips.

(1) JANUARY 2020 – Sunday Lunch at Kelso and Visit to the Restoration Yard, Dalkeith Country Park.

Members can still sign up for this trip until the end of this meeting. The cost is £28. The bus will leave from the bus stop at the old railway station, Bathgate at the later time of 10 am due to the wintertime.

(2) FEBRUARY 2020 – Peebles and Dawyk Gardens

Again, we will depart at the later time of 10 am on Sunday 23rd February and head down to Peebles for a specified time and lunch if you wish. We will then proceed to Dawyk Gardens for a led tour plus time to admire the snowdrops. The cost of this trip is £17 and can be paid for at today's meeting or at the Hub during opening hours.

7. HOLIDAYS

Heather advised as follows:

(1) Lincolnshire Holiday

This holiday is now open to family and friends. Deposits can be paid today or at the Hub during office hours. There are no double rooms left. The single supplement is £15 pppn (total £60). The balance will be due by 24th July.

(2) Skye Holiday

Please note that the balance for this holiday is due by 20th February. Please make your payment if you are booked to the Hub if you have not already done so.

8. 2020 EVENTS

Anne advised that we have not had any suggestions for 2020 events and that she can only assume that the membership is happy with those that we have run. We are happy still to receive suggestions for the following:

- Speakers
- Trips
- Holidays
- Social Events

Please give your suggestions to the Hub.

One event already in the diary is a Daffodil Tea to be held in the Glenmavis Bowling Club on Sunday 15th March in the afternoon.

9. OFFICE HUB

- **Opening Hours** - As a result of the funding recently received, we are now able to open the Hub from 10 am to 2 pm, Monday to Friday from February and we hope that this will be of benefit for our members.
- **Volunteers in the Office Hub** – Many people have volunteered to help in the office with admin tasks since our last appeal and we are very grateful for your support. At the moment, we have new staff in the office and as they undergo training and familiarise themselves with the role, we have had to put a hold on volunteers in the office. It is partly due to space as there are three in the office now and partly that we don't know exactly where we need help until the new staff settle in and we see which tasks we need help with. Once our new staff are bedded in, we will be back in touch to let everyone know where we still need help. This doesn't

include our Friday members drop in where member help is still needed and greatly appreciated.

- **DVDs** – As these are no longer proving popular and hardly any are ever sold, we are therefore stopping selling them. We will keep selling books as they always prove popular. Instead we are going to start a Jigsaw Swap. These will be free if you wish to swap one or £1.00 if you take one.

If anyone has any jigsaws to donate, please hand these into the Hub.

If anyone would like some of the DVDs before we donate them to another charity, you are very welcome to come into the Hub and choose some free of charge.

10. CLOSING DATES FOR EVENTS

Anne advised that we struggle sometime to get numbers for our trips in time to allow adequate planning. We are therefore going to close the opportunity to purchase seats/tickets for the events one week before the event. This will obviously be different for holidays where a closing date will be given as this is usually made by the operator/travel agent. This will allow us time to give numbers for catering and to assess whether an event is viable. We find that people hold off until the last week before booking and it makes it impossible to inform the venue of the numbers in time. We very much appreciate it if you can book as early as possible.

We have to be realistic that we can only run events if the members support them and without that support we may have to cancel.

11. NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is Saturday 15th February 2020 when our speaker will be Heath Brown who will be talking about the Shale Oil Trail which some of you may already know is a new walking trail being set up in West Lothian.

In March, our speaker will be West Lothian's former local history librarian and published author Sybil Cavanagh who will be talking about the Lost Villages of West Lothian.