

West Lothian 50+ Network

Minutes of Member's Meeting

Saturday 19th January 2019

1. **Welcome:** Convenor, Anne Webster, welcomed everyone, especially new members to the meeting.
2. **Speaker:** Joe Murphy introduced Jim Ferguson, retired Drum Major, to the members. Jim gave a very interesting talk about his life in the army, the police and as a drum major. He informed the members of the correct way to wear highland dress and how he was very particular about this when judging the highland dress of drum majors. In 35 years as an adjudicator, he only had two complaints about his judging, both of which were unfounded. Although he no longer judges in this country, he is still asked to do so in America. He also had a display of many items of uniform, photographs, postcards, magazines and a mace dating back to 1937 which was very heavy and could not be used today for that reason. Joe thanked Jim for his presentation.
3. **Lottery:** Lottery tickets were still available for November to May lottery. Irene was selling them during the coffee/tea break.
4. **Membership:** Liz took membership fees during the break.
The members were also informed that membership cards are now being issued to members on receipt of their subscriptions. This is because we are setting up a discount scheme and already have a couple of discounts available at the moment. It is hoped that the list will grow over the next few months. Members were asked if they had any suggestions or if they were able to ask any businesses if they would offer a discount price to 50+ members. Names should be given to one of the committee members.
Another reason for the membership card is that this year, as part of their conditions for our grant, West Lothian Council have asked us to be able to prove how many members attend the monthly meeting and other events. It would be appreciated therefore, if members brought their cards to each monthly meeting so that the cards can be scanned.
5. **Tea and Coffee Break**
6. **Raffle and Lottery Draws:** Both December and January lottery numbers were drawn.
December - £25 – Bertha Felton
£15 - Elsie Brodie
£10 – Mary Ferrie

January - £25 – Sheila Linscer
£15 – Anne Smillie
£10 – Alice McCulloch

Cheques were collected from Liz.

7. **Obituary:** The Convenor announced the sad news of the death of John Hailstone who died early in the morning of the meeting. He had been a faithful member of the 50+ and was in the NUYU and seldom missed a trip.
8. **Holidays and Outings:** There are 29 members going to Liverpool on Monday 21st January. The bus will leave Livingston at 9.30am and Bathgate old railway station at 10.00am.
9. **Theatre:** A few members went to see Beauty and the Beast pantomime and said it was excellent.
Wednesday 13th February – Les Miserables. Members should contact Sheila if interested in going to this show.
There are three future shows in the offing – The Solid Silver Show, Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and the Mousetrap.
There was no interest shown for the Solid Silver Show.
Joseph proved to be quite popular. The matinee is on at the Playhouse on 20th March and tickets are £30.90 each but might be a bit less if more than 10 people wish to go.
The Mousetrap interested a few members. This is on the 29th May at a cost of £27.50
10. **Trips:** The bus trip to the V & A Museum in Dundee is on 27th January. Members may bring a friend if they wish. The cost is £12, and the bus will leave the old railway station at 9.30am.

The trip on 24th February is to Cambo Estate in Fife to see the snowdrops. Followed by a visit to St. Andrews. Names will be taken in the office. The cost of the trip is £23 which includes, coach, entry to the Cambo Estate and tea/coffee on arrival. The bus will leave Bathgate old railway station at 9.30 and will arrive at Cambo at approximately 11.30am. After tea/coffee, members will have time to walk around the grounds to see the different varieties of snowdrops and then the bus will take them to St. Andrews where they will arrive at about 1.30pm and can have lunch there. Places are available – names to office if interested from Wednesday 30th January.
11. **Gift Vouchers:** These are available in two forms. The first is an annual membership gift voucher and the second is a voucher which can be exchanged for an activity to the value of £20.
12. **25 Years Celebrations:** Several events will be planned to celebrate this. Any suggestions from members would be very welcome. If any groups are planning to do something to celebrate please let the committee know. EG some of the walking groups have suggested a sponsored walk or similar. Ideas to the committee or to the office, please.
13. **Groups:** Network Singers is open to new members. This will be until 3rd March. From then till after the concert in October no new members will be included. This is because the choir will be well into the rehearsals for the concert and it would be difficult for new members to join at that stage. The list will open again after the concert.

Art Group 2 is open to new members. They meet on alternate Tuesdays in the Partnership Centre from 1.45-3.45pm. They have a tutor at the moment. Anyone wishing to join the group should give their names to Fiona in the office.

The Weekenders group now has 55 members. The list of activities they offer includes, bowling, bus tours, etc. Names to office if interested in joining this group. They meet on the second Sat. in the month in Rosemount Gardens. E mails are sent out to members with relevant information.

- 14. Fiona Leaving:** Fiona is leaving us and her last day of work will be Wednesday 30th January. She is going to work in Whitburn Academy where the hours will be more suitable for her family. There will be a small tea and coffee event on 30th January in the office for anyone who wishes to say goodbye and thank you to Fiona. We all wish her well in her new position.

Tracey is taking over from Fiona and will work Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only. The office will be closed on a Monday and Friday. We wish Tracey all the best in her new position.

- 15. Committee Members:** There are still a few months to go till the AGM. At that meeting 2 of our Committee members come off due to rotation. Any member with skills using the computer, Word, Excel and e mail who would like to join the Committee please put your name forward. We also need people who will help with raffles, tea making, setting up events, organising trips, etc. The Convenor will chat with anyone who is interested and wishes to know more. Speak to Anne, anyone on the Committee or give you name to the office.

- 16. Help:** Not everyone is interested in being on the Committee so help is also being sought from members who would be willing to assist either in the office or with ad hoc projects. Again, anyone with Computer skills, Word, Excel, Email and people skills would be very welcome. There is also a need for someone to help out with scanning and cataloguing photographs into the computer. There are hundreds of old photos which are not easily accessible when they are needed. Again, please speak to the Convenor, others on the Committee or give your name into the office.

- 17. AOCB:** Date of next meeting is Saturday 16th February. This will be the first social meeting of the Network so look forward to a fun day!