

West Lothian 50+ Network

Minutes of Members Meeting – Saturday 18th May 2019

1. Convenor, Anne Webster, welcomed members and in particular, new members.
2. **Obituary:** John Bolonkowski, who only joined in March this year, died recently. He was a member of the Mah Jong group.

3. **Update:** The members were informed of recent funding received:

National Lottery Awards for All	£9,460
Queensberry House Trust	£5,500
Linlithgow Round Table	£ 500
West Lothian Councillors	£1,400
Total	£16,360

Including a grant from the Bathgate Partnership Centre and Harry Cartmill, both of which came before 1ST April this year, the total received is £1,800. We have still to hear from the Robertson Trust.

Visitors from the Queensberry House Trust visited the office this week and were very impressed by the work the 50+ Network do and may fund us for another year.

The members showed their appreciation of such a good result. There were no questions asked regarding the funding.

4. Anne Webster handed over to Willie Webster to chair the AGM. There are separate minutes for the AGM.
5. **AGM:** See separate minutes.
6. **Committee Members:** There are three committee members standing down – Irene Calder and Vanda Collins have served on the committee for 9 years and Joe Murphy for one year. All were thanked for their work on the committee and Irene and Vanda were given bouquets of flowers.
7. **Groups:** Allan Dungavel informed the meeting that Agnes Keenan from the Craft for Enjoyment group has left after 8 years as leader. She was thanked for her work with the group.

Judith Hannah and members of the Quilting Group gave the Convenor bunting to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Network. This was greatly appreciated.

8. **Holidays:** Heather Waddell has agreed to organise some holidays for the membership. She is planning a visit to Chester Christmas Market in November (22nd – 24th) for three days/two nights at a cost of £129, dinner, bed and breakfast and staying the in Cumbria Grand Hotel. There are a limited number of single rooms. There is a lift to all floors and there is also free portorage.
Deposit of £30 to be paid from Tuesday 28th May. Final payment by Thursday 10th October. As this is not a 50+ only trip, the bus will be shared by others. By next month Heather hopes to have a bespoke trip planned for next year.
9. **Charity Jar:** There is £175 which has been rounded up to £200 raised to donate to West Lothian Young Carers.

There were several ideas for this year's charity. Namely; Nightstop, Smile, West Lothian Bike Library and Soldiers of the Street. After a vote was taken Soldiers of the Street was the most popular charity.

10. **25 Year celebrations:** We had our first event, a cheese and wine evening last night and a great time was had by the 80 or so people who attended.

The next event is the Newlands Day Procession on 1st June. There will be 25 bikes in the procession. We are looking for a volunteer in a wheelchair to be carried on a wheelchair adapted bike.

There will be gazebos in the park and members are urged to come and visit. In the gazebos will be a Tombola stall which could be a good fundraiser. Any donations should be handed into the office.

Volunteers are needed to take things from the office to the park on Saturday morning. We need to be set up before the roads close. Please let the office know if you are able to help.

11. **Trips:** Sue Bedford-Visser informed the members that there are a few tickets left for the Loch Katrine and Callander visit on 26th May.

On 30th June, there will be a trip to Alnwick Castle. There are four payment options for this trip.

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| a. Bus only | £13 |
| b. Bus and Castle | £25 |
| c. Bus and Gardens | £23 |
| d. Bus, Castle and Gardens | £33 |

On 28th May the numbers for the Enchanted Forest on 23rd October have to be finalized. The cost of the bus is £35 and if you would like high tea the cost will be £50.

There is a trip planned to Berwick on Tweed in July and one to Floors Castle in August. Names are not being taken yet.

12. **Publicity:** The Convenor informed the meeting that she had been to Tesco with a view to making use of their notice boards. We can have them on the third and fourth weeks of June. We can also have a table set up one day each week from 10am to 4pm. The two days are 18th June and 26th June. We will sell books and DVDs. Any donations of these can be handed into the office. Volunteers are also required in three, two hourly sessions to man the tables and promote the 50+ Network. If you are able to cover any of these sessions, please give your name to the office.

13. **Tea and Coffee:** During the break greetings cards were on sale as were tickets for the coach trips and the Beetle Drive social evening on Thursday 30th May.

14. **Speaker:** Ruth McNamara gave a very entertaining and interesting talk on How the West was Won. She gave us an insight into some of the film stars and the characters they portrayed in the cowboy films. We were also informed that some of the historical 'facts' in the films were not always accurate. As rewards for answering some of her questions, members were given Wagonwheel biscuits.

15. **AOCB** Date of next meeting is Saturday 15th June when the Polar Academy will speak.