



West Lothian 50+ Network
Minutes of Members Meeting – 20th November 2021

1. Convenor Anne Webster welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially two new members. She then introduced Collette Moran from West Lothian School Bank.
2. **West Lothian School Bank:** Collette gave a very interesting talk in which she described how this local charity works. She informed members of how families in need are referred to the School Bank and what assistance is given to them. The School Bank covers a broad spectrum of families in need, such as families with low income, homeless, experiencing domestic abuse, etc. Many children suffer bullying at school because they do not have the correct clothing. Donations of school wear are required – second hand as well as new. Donations can be handed in to the Hub.

During the coffee break a bucket was passed around the members for donations. A total of £84 was raised.

3. **Coffee Break:** Greeting cards were on sale as well as tickets for trips and raffle tickets. Livingston bid to become a City – information posters were displayed in the hall and members were asked to vote during the coffee break for, or against, whether the Network should lend their support to the move to make Livingston a city. Members can still vote by contacting the Hub.
4. **Groups:** Walking groups continue to be very popular and once again there are waiting lists for them. The Convenor appealed for any member who would be interested in leading a walking group. Current walk leaders are very happy to support any new walk leader and would also be happy to take them out on their walks to let them see what is involved. They would also be willing to share routes with any new leader if that would help. If you are interested, please contact the Hub.
5. **New Premises in 14 George Street:** The refurbishment is well under way and, while it will not be completely finished at that time, it is planned to move the staff into the new Hub over the weekend from Friday 3rd December to Monday 6th December. During this period the phones will be switched over and it is a possibility that there might be a delay while our providers are doing this. Members were asked to be aware that there might be problems getting through on the phone on Monday 6th December. Also, as it is a big move, it would be appreciated if members would try not to request too much from the Hub Co-ordinators for the first couple of days.

One of the members present at the meeting, Bill Collins, stood up and asked the group to recognise and appreciate all the hard work that all those involved had put in to the refurbishment of the new Hub.

6. Holidays and Trips:

Holiday – Isle of Skye and Plockton cruise – now sold out but a reminder was made for those going that the balance of £335 is payable to the Hub by Friday 25th February.

November Day Trip – Pentland Plants and New Lanark

Tickets went on sale from Wednesday 27th October.

Date of trip- Saturday 27th November

Cost - £22 per person.

Pick up – **NEW** railway station, Bathgate.

There are still some tickets for the coach only, priced at £15. There are no spaces left on the Poinsettia walk but members would be able to look around Pentland Plants and buy their own poinsettias if they wished. They would also have time to spend in New Lanark.

January DayTrip: Saturday 29th January 2022

Scottish Antiques and Art Centre, Abernyte, between Perth and Dundee

Lunch at Royal George Hotel, Perth and free time in Perth

Cost: £29 including three-course lunch at Royal George Hotel.
£15 coach only.

It is intended to visit the Scottish Antique & Art Centre at Abernyte near Dundee. There are over 100 on site dealers offering antiques, collectables, memorabilia, vintage furniture, jewellery and art. There are also contemporary gifts and home accessories. It is a fascinating shopping experience. At Abernyte there is also a fully licensed Bistro style restaurant and food hall which offers a variety of confectionery, Scottish whiskies, wines, artisan gins and local craft beer.

After the three-course lunch in Perth there will be some free time there.

Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday 1st December.

7. **Christmas:** Due to Covid it was felt that it is not the best idea to hold our usual party with its Pass the Parcel, Conga and other close contact activities. Instead, it is planned to hold a Christmas Tea. There will be three sessions with a maximum of 80 at each session in our new Hub in George Street. This will take place on Saturday 18th December and this will replace our usual monthly meeting. There will be a variety of festive treats, including Boyle's pies (always a favourite), cakes, chocolate, etc. We will have a raffle at each session and there will be a variety of festive activities planned. The three sessions will be 10.00 to 11.30, 12.00 to 13.30 and 14.00 to 15.30. This leaves a gap in between to allow the tables, chairs and room to be cleaned and sanitised. Tickets will be free of charge as usual and can be obtained in the Hub from Wednesday 1st December until Thursday 9th December. We need to give catering numbers to our suppliers by 10th December. Members are advised to get their tickets early.

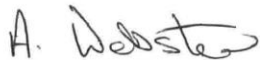
Volunteers are welcome to help in any of the three sessions. Please contact the Hub to let them know at which session you can help.

8. **Staff:** Two members of staff are leaving. Fiona Cochrane, our Manager, left on Friday and is embarking on a new position from 1st December going back to her first love of retail. On behalf of members, the Convenor wished Fiona all the best.

Tracy Kerr, our Development Officer, is also leaving and will finish on Friday 10th December. Tracy has been with us for three years and had been a great support to the Network and its members during this time. She was instrumental in the work of the Network during Covid and lockdown. She will be joining Voluntary Sector Gateway. We wish Tracy every success in her new position.

9. **Next Meeting:** No meeting in December as it will be the Christmas Tea. We look forward to seeing you there if you can make it. The next meeting will be on 15th January 2022 when our guest speaker will be Ruth McNamara.

Some members who receive their minutes by post did not receive last month's minutes. It seems that there was a problem at the post office. They can't offer an explanation. The Convenor apologised for this problem and said that a copy of last month's minutes will be included with this month's.



**Anne Webster - Convenor
West Lothian 50+ Network**