

**WEST LOTHIAN 50+ NETWORK
MEMBERS' MEETING HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2019
IN THE BRITISH LEGION, BATHGATE**

1. WELCOME

The Convenor, Anne Webster, welcomed members and any new members to the meeting.

2. DEBBIE McCONNELL – SINGER AND ENTERTAINER

Lesley Martin welcomed Debbie McConnell to the meeting. Debbie gave us a little bit of her background including the fact she had once been a ballerina. She entertained us with several songs from the musicals which everyone enjoyed. Lesley thanked her for what had been a very entertaining performance.

3. TRIPS/EVENTS

Anne Webster advised members that tickets for all events could be purchased during the interval.

1. Scone Palace and Perth – Sunday 29th September

Sue announced that there are still spaces on the coach for this event. The cost is £23. This event is now open to members' family and friends.

There will be no trip in November as the Chester Market event is taking place. There is also no trip in December due to the time of the year.

2. Sausage Sizzle and Tree Planting Event – Sunday 22nd September

This takes place tomorrow and tickets are still available. Transport can also be arranged if required.

3. Walking Day at St Andrews – Saturday 2nd October

Heather Waddell advised that there are still places on this trip and outlined the four walks that you can sign up for. She recommended stout walking shoes for the fourth walk. This will be followed by the rest of the day in St Andrews. The coach will leave from the Old Railway Station at 0930 returning to Bathgate at 1600. The cost is £12.

4. Network Choir Concert – Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October at 7 pm

This is taking place in Armadale Church Hall. Tickets are still available at a cost of £7 for adults and £5 for children. It is being held over two evenings as this location is smaller than the previous one. Transport can be arranged. Please ask when purchasing your ticket.

5. Coffee Morning and Craft Fair – 19th October

Anne announced that this will take place in St Mary's Hall instead of our next meeting here. She appealed for home baking, both for the coffee morning and for selling as well as craft items, jams, chutneys tablet etc and helpers. Please let Tracy know what you can do to help.

6. Race Night – Thursday 31st October

Willie advised that he is still selling horses which can be purchased from him during the interval. Sheila has the tickets for sale for entrance. The event will take place here in the British Legion starting at 7 pm.

7. St Andrew's Night – Saturday 30th November

Tickets are now on sale for this at a cost of £25. The event starts at 6 pm and last until 11 pm. The venue is Pumpherston Golf Club and transport can be arranged when purchasing your ticket. Entertainment will be by Mike Gill.

The tea and coffee event took place followed by the raffle.

4. FUNDRAISING

Spar are holding a vote for the charity most deserving of £1,000 donation. We have sent emails out and put a note on Facebook. The link is detailed below together with relevant

information. The closing date is 30th September and I would ask you to vote and get anyone you know to vote for us. (don't have to be members) If you need help please ask. The more votes, the better our chance!

SPAR is awarding charities £1000. Please spare 5 minutes and vote for West Lothian 50+ Network through this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X283S3T>

You will need the following information

Our charity registration number: SC024257

Our nearest SPAR: Bathgate North Bridge Street

Description: The West Lothian 50+ Network offers a wide range of activities – over 35 different interest groups – to help the over 50s stay healthy in mind and body, whilst socialising with others.

5. GROUPS

1. Groups/New Groups

Allan advised that the short walking group will have its first meeting at 1 pm in Rosemount Court this coming Thursday. Eleven members are interested.

Table Tennis Scotland will be setting up facilities in the old Harry Cory shop at the Centre, Livingston. This will hopefully happen mid-October. There are currently 8 or 9 interested. Names to office.

There have been a few members have mentioned an interest in Photography. To see if there are enough members to set up a group, please give your name to the office.

Allan mentioned he had been in touch with the bike library in Livingston about the possibility of hiring bikes who those who wanted to cycle but did not have access to a bike. If you are still interested in cycling, please give your name to the office.

Finally, Allan thanked Alison Gilchrist who is giving up the leadership of the Supper Club for all her efforts over the 6 to 7 years she has been doing it. Her proud record was that she had attended every meeting of the group during that time. He welcomed Maggie Wills as the new leader.

If anyone is interested in leading groups or ideas for a new group, they should contact the office.

2. Other Group Information

Jim Dixon advised that he has someone to take a Tai Chi Class which will be at Rosemount Court. The class will be a one hour session. He is trying to gauge interest and preference for the day. There is a sheet on which you can add your name and the day of the week that you would prefer. This will be in the office, but you can email.

6. HOLIDAYS

Heather advised as follows:

(1) The Isle of Skye and Kyle Line – Friday 3rd to Tuesday 7th April 2020

This is fully booked and that there is a waiting list in operation.

(2) Chester Christmas Market Break – 22nd to 24th November

The balance for this break is due by 10th October and is £99. You can pay by cash, cheque or card to the office.

7. THRIFT SHOP

We are looking for any contributions for sale. These can be brought directly the thrift shop held in the HomeAid shop on Wednesday 25th September. If you need help getting

the items to the Thrift Shop, please let Tracy or any member of the Committee know, and we will arrange for collection.

We are also looking for volunteers to staff the shop from Wednesday 25th September to Wednesday 2nd October. If you can help, please give your name to Tracy in the office who has a table of slots of time.

This is a great fundraising event for the Network so any items for sale or help you can give is very much appreciated.

8. NEXT YEAR EVENTS

Anne advised the membership that we are already planning for 2020 events. We would like to know what you enjoyed from this year, any suggestions you have for next year, anything you might like us to look into. The headings to consider are:

- Speakers
- Trips
- Holidays
- Social Events

Please give your suggestions to the office.

9. NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is Saturday 19th October and will be our Coffee morning and Craft Fair. I look forward to seeing you all next month. If you can help with the day or with baking, please give your name to Tracy or any of the Committee.

Finally, Anne mentioned that the participants from Bathgate Academy who took part in the Polar Academy and came to speak to us about it will be on BBC Scotland on 9th October.