

**West Lothian 50+ Network
Minute of Members Meeting
Saturday 16th February 2019**

Welcome: The Convenor, Anne Webster, welcomed members to the meeting.

In September last year we asked the membership if they wanted some social meeting during the year and the answer to this had been yes. Today is the soonest we have been able to do this as speakers are booked well in advance. At the end of this meeting we are keen to know if the membership enjoyed this so we have set up a voting system and we would like to record members' views.

The meeting then started with a Quiz which was won by Allan Dungavel, Corrinne Nani and Eleanor and John McLaren

1. **Publicity:** Sue Bedford-Visser has produced a video of the Network activities which will be used for the New Members meeting in March. It was played today during the coffee break. It is also available on a new You-tube channel Sue has set up for the Network. The link to this will be on our Facebook page and on our Web page and is included here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gjkVPwN7I&feature=youtu.be>
It will also be available on the TV screen in the office hub.
2. **Membership Fees:** These are now due.
Outstanding fees should be paid by the end of February either in person, at the office, or through the bank.
3. **Lottery Draw:** The prizes for February were as follows

£25	Eileen Jack
£15	Jackie McCulloch
£10	Margo Tait
4. **Obituaries -**
Duncan McNair Duncan and Jeannie moved to West Lothian to be nearer to their son and his family. Duncan was a keen sailor and took part in yacht races in Port Edgar every summer. He was also a keen hill-walker and walked many of Scotland's northern hills. After joining the 50+ network he and Jeannie joined Walky Talky 2 and they also enjoyed the Network holidays.
Agnes McKeown. Agnes was Treasurer for many years. Her funeral is to be held on 25th February at 9.30am at St Mary's Church.
5. **Finance and Grants:** A detailed sheet was distributed showing the running cost of the Network following the loss of our grant from the West Lothian Council and the Convenor explained the details to the membership.

We are looking at new sources of funding such as the Weir Trust and the Robertson Trust amongst other sources. Councillors have been contacted in respect of their 2018/19 disbursement funds to see if they can donate. Councillors will also be contacted in the new 2019/20 financial year (1st April 2019) to apply for that year's disbursements.

There are lots of great ideas being received from our members with regard to fundraising for which thanks were given.

We were asked about members who wished to give donations so we have brought a container and if anyone wishes to give it would be greatly appreciated. This will be present in addition to the current charity jar at every monthly meeting. It will also be in the office at all other times.

It has been suggested that we organise a petition. However, the feed back we are getting is that 100 letters from members would have a greater effect than 1 petition with 100 signatures. The Convenor encouraged members to write to their Councillor and let them know their views. A great many have already done this and they were thanked for their support.

6. 25 Years celebrations: Many events are in the planning process.

The Network is working in association with Enterprise Bathgate, The West Lothian Bike Library, The Partnership Centre and several of the local supermarkets
Details are not all finalised yet but the outline plan is as follows:-

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| May - | Starting in May which was the month the Network was started – A Cheese and Wine Evening. |
| June – | Taking part in Bathgate Gala Day on 1st June The plan is to have at least 25 bikes to represent our 25 years. These will be loaned by the West Lothian Bike Library and include lots of different bikes. Including those which take a wheelchair, side by side, and rickshaw style. |
| July – | Car Treasure Hunt. |
| August – | A Garden Party. We are currently looking for a suitable location for this so if you know of somewhere suitable, then please advise the office. |
| September – | A barbeque and family day out at Beecraigs where we will plant trees to commemorate our 25th anniversary This will include Silver Birch trees to celebrate our silver 25 years anniversary. |
| October- | The Network Singers will hold a concert with music of the time. |

7. Holidays: We have two planned.

Harrogate

- A holiday has been arranged with Strathmore Travel from **Monday 6th to Friday 10th May** (five days, four nights) at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate (the company own the hotel) on a Dinner, Bed and Breakfast basis.
- Pickups from Bathgate and Livingston.
- Cost of the holiday is £299 per person with a single supplement of £10 pppn, i.e. £40 to be added to holiday cost.
- There is no free holiday insurance so you need to have your own policy should you be forced to cancel.
- We will be doing two full day excursions to York, to Castle Howard where Brideshead Revisited was filmed. Plus a free day in Harrogate/surrounding area.
- Two nights Evening Entertainment
- Sparkling Drinks Reception
- Deposit of £30 due by Thursday 7th March with balance due by Wednesday 3rd April
- First day for payment of the deposit will be Wednesday 20th February

Seville

There are two options here:

Option 1: 7 – 10th October 2019 (3 nights) £286 pp, based on 2 sharing

Easyjet flights:

Dep Edin 6am – Arrive Seville 10.10am

Dep Seville 20.35 -Arrive Edin 22.50pm

Option 2: 7-14th October 2019 (7 nights) £547 pp, based on 2 sharing

Easyjet flights:

Dep Edin 6am – Arrive Seville 10.10am

Dep Seville 10.45 -Arrive Edin 13.00pm

Staying at the Hotel Derby Sevilla

A three star hotel with a city centre location close to the city's main attractions:

- Seville Cathedral and the Giralda (bell tower)- 10-minute walk
- The Alcázar of Seville - 10-minute walk
- Barrio de Santa Cruz - 10-minute walk
- Plaza de España and Maria Luisa Park - 15-minute walk
- Torre del Oro - 10-minute walk
- Plaza de la Maestranza - 8-minute walk

The price is based on Room Only (typical for city break hotels which often have no restaurant but are close to many bars and restaurants in the city).

To add in breakfast would be approx £11 / day (not recommended). Dinner not available

Transfers: (not included): See details in the office

Suggestions for places to visit near to Seville (further details and costs available in the office):

- Jerez – the home of sherry
- Cadiz – oldest city in Europe on the Costa de la Luz
- Cordoba – Mezquita, patios, Alcazar (gardens and palace)

Bookings for this will be taken in the office on Wednesday 20th February. Once 6 bookings have been confirmed we can go back to the travel agent and pay an agreed deposit (approx. £150 or whole amount). More bookings can subsequently be added but air flight costs can increase so early booking is advised. Sharing is advised as a single room will probably cost around an extra £100.

China

Jim Dixon reported that the trip to China he is organising, and which had previously been postponed, will commence on 13th October. This will be a ten day trip and will involve travel to Beijing, Tian, Jin and Xian. The cost will be around £1,800.

8. Trips - Monthly Coach Trips

(a) Cambo and St Andrews - 24th February

More than fifty have signed up for this trip. We have a 57 seater coach. We still have a few spaces. Please go into the office this week and book your place if you wish to attend.

(b) Abbotsford House – 24th March

The cost of this trip will be £25 which includes entry and teas/coffee/scones. The remainder of the day will be spent in Melrose. Tickets will be on sale for this in the office from Wednesday 20th February.

(c) Balloch and Helensburgh - 28th April

The cost of this trip will be for the coach only and this will be £12. Members will be free to do whatever they wish. Tickets will be on sale for this in the office from Wednesday 20th February.

9. Theatre

(a) Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – Wednesday 20th March, 2.30 pm

The closing date for purchasing tickets for this is Thursday 21st February from the office at a cost of £32.25. This is taking place in the Playhouse Theatre.

(b) The Mousetrap – Wednesday 29th May, 2.30 pm

Tickets for this will cost £28.50. It will take place in the Playhouse Theatre. Tickets will be on sale for this in the office from Tuesday 19th February.

10. Groups:

Allan Dungavel advised the meeting that a Cycling Group was to restart and names should be given to the office. There could be a possible link up with the West Lothian Bike Library. Once names have been received a meeting will be convened to decide how to take this group forward.

11. Committee Members

We are keen to hear of anyone wishing to take part in the work of the Committee. Please give your name to the office.

12. Help

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help out with various projects for example:

- Admin in the office. In the current climate we can't afford to employ anyone for longer hours. There is lots to do in the office so any help would be very much appreciated.
- Archiving and cataloguing our photos.
- Our Cleaning company has told us they can no longer give us the times we need so to save £1000 a year we hope to set up a rota of volunteers.
- WLC have informed us they will no longer collect our bins so we need volunteers to collect the rubbish and dispose of it, probably once a week.
- We have a lot of organising to do and work on the day for the 25th Anniversary events so we are looking for volunteers who are willing to either lead various parts of this or who can give some time to help.

13. AOCB

- (a)** Date of next meeting is Saturday 16th March when our speaker will be Andrew Fleming who manages Wyndford Farm Plants at Ecclesmachan, twice RHS Chelsea Medal winners.
- (b)** Lorna Kerwin mentioned that the Bathgate Twinning Association are running a Quiz in the Bathgate Golf Club with tickets costing £3
- (c)** We received a Highly Commended from Age Concern and a representative from this organisation will be attending the next members meeting to present this to us.
- (d)** The Convenor appealed for up to date photos of their Groups from Group Leaders to be used for the Website, Newsletter, Office publicity, Facebook etc.
- (e)** The result of the exit vote was two thirds in favour of alternating speakers with social events.