

West Lothian 50+ Network
Minutes of Members Meeting
Saturday 15th September 2018

Welcome: Convenor Anne Webster welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially new members. She informed members that there would be a different order for the meetings from now on. Business matters would be dealt with first, the speaker would be next followed by tea and coffee. During the latter at Saturday's meeting, apples which had come from the garden of the Partnership Centre, were for sale and the raffle and monthly lottery took place.

The members were also informed that, starting in January 2019, every other meeting would be a social meeting. There will be a speaker at the January meeting and the 1st social meeting will be in February.

1. **Coffee Morning/Craft Fair:** This will take place on 20th October in St. Mary's Hall. Tickets were on sale at the meeting and will be on sale in the office from Tuesday 18th September. The cost of the event will be £3. Donations of jams, chutneys, hamper items, craft goods were requested. Help is also required in setting up the tables and in serving teas and coffee.
2. **WW1 Commemorative Afternoon Tea Party:** This event will be hosted by both the 50+ Network and the British Legion. It will be held in the Legion on Friday 9th November from 2-4pm. We have invited members of the community who may not have much opportunity to attend such functions. Invitations have been sent to the residential/care homes, sheltered housing complexes and day care centres in Bathgate asking if 5 residents/members from each would like to attend.

There is no cost for this event. The catering is being provided by the Legion and the 50+ Network is providing the entertainment. This will consist of the choir singing some songs which were popular at the time of WW1, readings of letters (by two of our members) to and from husbands and wives or sweethearts during the war, a short interesting talk about what was happening in West Lothian (mainly Bangour hospital) and the afternoon will finish with community singing, again of popular well-known songs of the time.

Those attending the Afternoon Tea have been asked to bring along any items of memorabilia that they would like to share with the rest of the company. This applies to any 50+ members who will be there.

Tickets – once we know how many of our invited guests will be attending then we will be able to allocate tickets to both the 50+ Network members and the Veterans of the Legion. We will keep members informed of the availability of tickets which then can be collected from the office on a first come first served basis. The Lord Lieutenant of West Lothian and the leader of the Council have both agreed to attend.

3. **Holidays:** Holiday to Liverpool on 21st January for 5 days/4 nights at a cost of £189. There is a single supplement of £60. There are still places available. Any members interested in going to Liverpool should give their names to the office along with £20 deposit. The Adelphi Hotel has had some adverse publicity, but it is good value for money. The next cheapest hotel would cost £120 more. Possible visits are being planned to Southport and a National Trust property.
4. **Easy Fundraising.Org:** Through using this website, we can raise funds while we shop. The EasyFundraising website has over 3,000 retailers linked with it. To use the site, you go onto the EasyFundraising site, choose the shopping site you want and when you buy and finish shopping you are told how much you have raised for your charity. Asda, Amazon, E-Bay, etc are all linked to the website. We could raise quite a lot of money by using it and it costs nothing to do so.
5. **Silver Sunday:** Sunday 30th September in the Hilcroft Hotel. Between 1 and 4pm. 15 places have been reserved for 50+ members. Names to be given to the office. It is a free event and there will be entertainment and teas and coffees.
6. **Day Trips:** A return visit to the Gin Factory in Edinburgh has been arranged for 18th December. There are 20 places available. Two tours will take place. Members wishing to go should give their names plus £10 to the office.

Future trips – It is planned to visit the new V and A museum in Dundee in April next year. Details will be given later.

Traquair House – 25th November. There is a waiting list of 18 members. It has been suggested that a second coach go on the Saturday. No lunch will be provided on that day and the cost of the coach will be £10. Lunches can be purchased at the café in the grounds.

It is proposed to run monthly day-out trips on the same Sunday each month. It is estimated that the maximum price would be £10. A show of hands showed this to be quite a popular idea. These trips will commence in 2019.

7. **Theatre:** Beauty and the Beast has been booked for 9th January at 2pm at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh. The cost is £20.50, and the seats are in the upper circle. Booking for this show will be open on Tuesday 18th September in the office.

In March next year there is a possible booking for Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Playhouse in Edinburgh between 19th and 23rd March.

8. **Website:** This is still a work in progress. The address stays the same. Details are being brought up to date. It is hoped that the website will promote the activities of the 50+ Network and raise an awareness of it. This is also being done through local media. Photographs of the recent visit of the committee to the OIR in Ayr was in last week's Courier and it is hoped that photos of this meeting will also appear. Anyone with anything of interest for the local paper should get in touch with Sue Bedford Visser.

9. **St. Andrew's Night Dinner**; This will be held on 29th November in Bathgate Golf Club at 6 for 6.30pm. Tickets were on sale at the meeting and will be on sale in the office from Tuesday onwards. Mark Mulgrew will be the entertainer. Tickets are £25 each.
10. **Christmas Party**: In the Legion on Saturday 15th December. Further details will follow.
11. **Newsletter**: Articles for the Newsletter should be handed in to the office as soon as possible.
12. **Kristmas Kracker Concert**: In St. Mary's Hall on Thursday 13th December at 7.pm. Times and cost of tickets to be notified later.
13. **Walking Day in Peebles**: This is on 29th September, leaving at 9:30am from Old Railway Station and returning to Bathgate at 4.30pm.
14. **Appeal**: An appeal was made for a television for the office on which could be displayed upcoming events, etc. The screen needs to be at least 40" and must have HDMI and be able to be wall hung.
15. **Groups**: Nothing to report.
16. **Speaker**: The Convenor introduced Alex Kemp and Tessie, the dog, to the group. Alex is puppy walker for the RNIB. He gave a very interesting talk and insight into how the puppies are trained from a very early age. It is often very difficult for the walkers to part with their dogs after their training as they become very attached to them. Puppy walkers house train the dogs and teach them obedience. All the funding is by donations as they receive no Government grants.
17. **Monthly Lottery Draw**:

£20 - Anne Dixon;

£15 - Isobel Flannigan

£10 - Sheila Joel

The next meeting will be the October Coffee Morning and Craft Fair on 20th October in St. Mary's Hall. Meeting on 17th November – Speaker will be John Povey who will talk about the Witches of Calder.