

WEST LOTHIAN 50+ NETWORK

MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2018

IN LEGION SCOTLAND, BATHGATE

The Convenor, Anne Webster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members including new members.

POLAR ACADEMY-

Anne Webster introduced Fiona Cochrane (parent), Alex Cochrane and Adam (pupils) from the Polar Academy. Fiona informed the members that Bathgate Academy is only the 5th school in Scotland to go on this expedition, with 10 children going to Arctic Greenland from 2nd – 18th April 2019. Alex and Adam told of their journey so far, from putting post-it notes up to see if they were selected, the selection process and training they had to undergo – including kayaking, camping out in the Cairngorms and survival skills. Fiona stated that the whole experience aimed to give 10 children from various backgrounds the opportunity to achieve something extraordinary. Total cost is £170,000.00, much of it raised by sponsorship and donations, but the parents also had to do a considerable amount of fundraising. Anne thanked them for coming along and wished everyone involved much success. A huge thank you to everyone that attended and helped to raise £238.54.

“THE CALDER WITCHES”

Joe Murphy introduced Rev. Joe Povey, who began his talk by giving the historical background to the origins of witches and witchcraft in Scotland, going back to the Reformation. He told very humorous and entertaining stories of the hunt, persecution and death of those women convicted of witchcraft and in particular the origins of the Calder Witches in 1644. He then went on to recount the story of Lord Torphichen's son, who was believed to have been possessed by evil spirits which resulted in a witchhunt in the surrounding area. He then went on to give a brief insight into Lizzie Bryce (Baxter) who, when an old woman, had such a frightening presence to local children especially, was referred to as “that old witch”. Because of the folklore, the area in Livingston became known as Lizzie Bryce's Strip and then the Lizzie Bryce roundabout which was subsequently built in the same area. Rev. Povey believed that superstition was the main cause of the witchhunts until their demise in 1707. Joe thanked Rev. Povey for taking time out of his very busy schedule and giving such an entertaining talk to the members.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Tickets are on sale for the Christmas Quiz – cost £1.

Dates for your Diary leaflets were available for members during and after the meeting.

Raffle tickets also on sale.

LOTTERY:

Winners: Christine White - £25 0
Valerie Campbell - £15
Sandra Carr-Pollock - £10

OBITUARIES:

Sadly, we lost 3 of our members since we last met.

Dougie McDougal

Hugh McKeown

Anne Nisbet

HOLIDAYS/TRIPS:

Liverpool holiday: 21st-25th January 2019. Cost £169 for twin room, £229 for single room. Payment due by 11th December with advice from Glenton to check individual insurance cover, to be notified by 26th November. There is one single room left and several twin rooms so still time for bookings to be taken

DAY TRIPS:

It is proposed to have a monthly bus trip on the last Sunday of each month after New Year.

The first trip is going to the V & A Museum in Dundee on January 27th, the result of popular requests. To keep it affordable, only the cost of the bus will be charged - £12.00. Admission to the Museum is free with optional 1 hour architectural tour costing £6.00, tour in groups of 10 people.

This trip can be booked through Tracy in the office.

The bus will leave the Old Railway Station at 9.30 a.m. leaving Dundee at 3.30 p.m. with free time in Dundee.

Gin Trip - 18th December 2018 – there is 1 place left on this trip, with payment to be made by 21st November.

Traquair House: 24th and 25th January 2019. On both days the bus will leave at 9.30 a.m. from the Partnership Centre. There are still a few places left on the Saturday, lunch not included.

St. Andrew's Night: 29th November 2018 at Bathgate Golf Club, 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. until 11.00 p.m. Entertainment provided by Mark Mulgrew. Now open to non-members.

Tickets available today and from the Office at a cost of £25.00.

CHRISTMAS KRACKERS:

13th December at St Mary's Hall - Tickets costing £4.00 are on sale from the office now.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: 15th December 2018 10.30 a.m. till 12.00 noon at the Legion. Tickets available from Wednesday 21st November until Wednesday 5th December and are free of charge.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Membership fees will be due from Monday 7th January 2019. Because of rising costs and reducing budgets available, it was recommended that the fee be set at £20.00. This was agreed by the members present. Members were reminded that they can pay their fees any time from now on, either at the office or by bank transfer. If paying by bank transfer, please make sure to write your name so we know who the payment is from. Thank you.

GROUPS:

Walking Holiday in Majorca, 9th May 2019 for 8 days, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast in 4-star Hotel Bella Plays in Cala Ratjada which is in the north- eastern side of the island. Cost is £729.00 with £100.00 single supplement. Deposit of £125.00 to be paid by 27th November 2019.

OCTOBER COFFEE MORNING AND CRAFT FAIR:

The sum of £1200.00 was raised at this event.

WW1 COMMEMORATION EVENT:

The Commemoration Afternoon Tea was a very successful event attended by invited guests including residents of Sheltered Housing/Care Homes in the area as well as members of the 50+ Network. It received very good coverage in The Courier.

OFFICE STAFF HOLIDAYS:

The office will be closed from Monday 24th December 2018 and will reopen on Monday 7th January 2019.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Christmas Party – 15th December 2018 10:30am till 12 noon.