



West Lothian 50+ Network

Minutes of Members Meeting – 21st May 2022

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members.
2. **Speaker:** Stephen Turnbull from West Lothian Food Bank was introduced to the members. He gave an extremely informative and interesting talk regarding the work of the Food Bank. Not only does it provide food for needy families, but it also has its own garden in which are grown a variety of vegetables and fruit which will be given to those in need. Volunteers are always welcome to assist in the maintenance of the gardens.
3. **Break:** There was no raffle during the tea and coffee break as the Network was running a bottle stall and a stall selling jigsaws and books immediately after the meeting. This was part of the Bathgate Street Fair.
4. **AGM:** This took place after the break and there are separate minutes of this meeting.
5. **Holidays and Trips:**

Holidays:

Bletchley Park and the National Arboretum. The balance for this holiday is due by 1st July.

A trip to the Christmas Markets in Belgium is being planned. See attached sheet for details of this trip.

Day Trips:

- Saturday 28th May to Seahouses and Bamburgh. The bus will depart at 9.00am from the new railway station. This is an earlier start than usual as the journey will take about 2 hours. Boat trips are planned during this outing.
- Sunday 26th June to Falkland then Dunfermline. A couple of hours will be spent in Falkland followed by approximately two and a half hours in Dunfermline. The cost of this is £15 and bookings can be made from Wednesday 1st June.

There have been several suggestions from members regarding trips: e.g. Kirkcudbright, Dumfries House, Burrell Collection and the Enchanted Forest. It is intended to go to the Enchanted Forest on Sunday 30th October and places can be booked now. The cost is £39 and a deposit of £20 is required. High tea is available in Fishers Hotel at a cost of £16.

Members were thanked for their suggestions and were encouraged to keep their ideas coming.

6. **Jubilee Tea Friday 3rd June:** Vanda told the members that all the tickets had been taken and there is a waiting list. It will be an informal party with tea, cakes, songs, a quiz and singing and dancing (outside if weather permits). There will be no groups in the Hub on this day.

7. **Charity of the Year:** Suggestions for this were – The Food Bank, Riding for the Disabled, Signpost West Lothian, Carers of West Lothian and the Answer Centre.

The charity with the most votes was the Food Bank. The proceeds of the Sweetie Jar will go to this charity. A collection was made during the meeting and £92 was raised for The Food Bank for which Stephen was very grateful.

Last year the sum of £200 was raised for The School Bank.

8. **Official Opening:** This was held on 18th May when Moira Niven, Lord Lieutenant of West Lothian, officially opened the building. It was attended by Group leaders, Funders, Partners and Committee members.

9. **AOCB:** Lesley Martin is organising a lunch group in The Cairn Hotel, Bathgate. It will take place on the last Thursday of the month. A two-course lunch will cost £9.95. Any members interested in this group should give their names to the Hub.

10. **Groups:** Cheryl, our Development Officer, informed the members that a new Spanish group is starting, and the uptake and interest is very good. A second class may be introduced if there is sufficient interest.

Other possible groups are – Table Tennis, Pins and Needles, Walking groups – shorter walks – and another Coffee Club in Livingston. A Jewellery group is possibly starting on a Friday between 12noon and 2pm in the Hub.

11. **Survey:** A Partnership Survey with Opal was sent by email to members so they can complete it if they wish to. Ask at the Hub.

12. **Volunteer Day:** There is to be a Volunteer Day in Fauldhouse Partnership Centre on 2nd June between 10am and 12pm to which committee members are asked to attend.

13. **Next meeting:** Saturday 18th June 2022 in the Hub.



Anne Webster - Convenor

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