



West Lothian 50+ Network

Minutes of Members Meeting – 21st January 2023

WELCOME Anne opened the meeting by welcoming members old and new.

SPEAKER The topic today was The Armadale Shed, and the speaker was Jim Maxwell Gibben. He gave a very interesting talk about the work they do and the benefits this brings to members. A collection was taken for the Shed.

TRIPS Heather outlined the various trips on offer this month.

- **Rosslyn Chapel and the Scottish Parliament** on 28th January. Trip now closed and there is a waiting list for any cancellations.
- **Cambo Snowdrop festival and St Andrews.** 25th February. Cost £22.50 which includes entry to the Cambo Estate then some free time in St Andrews. Tickets on sale from, Wednesday 1st February

HOLIDAYS

- **Walking holiday** planned for Crete – Cost £1,141. 2nd May flying from Edinburgh. Three walks are offered. If you are interested please book through the company – details from Heather. The prices are held until the end of January and because of the short timescale, Heather has been in touch with the walk leaders and asked them to let their groups know.
- **Summer Holiday** Heather also suggested a summer holiday and offered a choice of two Glenton holidays. The Stratford on Avon, Warwick and the Cotswolds option proved to be the more popular. Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June. Cost £389. Single supplement £100. Deposit of £30 **from Wednesday 1st February.** Glenton's optional travel insurance available £10. Pay insurance at time of paying deposit.

EVENTS

Daffodil Tea. The annual daffodil tea will be held instead of our monthly meeting on Saturday, 18th March in the Hub. This is a fundraising event and will cost £5. Tickets on sale from Wednesday 1st February.

GROUPS

- **Pilates** will start on 1st February 2.15pm to 3.00pm in Xcite, 43 Church Street, Broxburn.
- **A new men's group** is to start soon – info. shortly.
- **Reminiscence group**, held in the Bennie Museum, will restart on 27th January at 10.30.
- **Bridge Group** are looking for new members. Monday evenings in the Partnership Centre.

STAFF

We have two temporary part-time staff, and are about to start recruiting for permanent staff now that the Christmas period, when there was high demand from the retail and hospitality sector, is over.

SURVEY

117 members surveys were completed and returned. The data contained therein will be collated and reported.

- **New members meeting.** We plan to hold regular New Members Meetings and the first three are: Thursday 9th February, Thursday 9th March, and Thursday 6th April. These will be casual, Drop-in, Get-to-Know you sessions, from 11.30am to 1.30pm. In order that we can order enough tea and biscuits, will you let us know if you intend to come in and visit with us?
- **Fundraising** ‘Why is there a need to fundraise?’ was asked. Anne explained that it takes £114K each year to run the organisation. Membership fees generate £12K, hence the fundraising. This is achieved by applying to various Trusts and Grants and by holding member supported events such as the Daffodil Tea, Thrift Shop, Coffee Morning and Craft Fair. It is important to our Funders that we, as members, contribute to the cost of running the Network and it is one of the questions funders often ask. We try to run social, fun events that can be enjoyed by the members as well as raising funds.

She also explained that we had calculated the number of volunteer hours annually that it takes to run the organisation. These came to 11,885 hours. On behalf of the Committee, she expressed her thanks to all our volunteers. She further explained that any grant money that comes to the organisation is restricted to the purpose for which it was intended. This means that we must spend every penny as the original application outlined.

Further information from the surveys will be analysed and published soon.

FLAMES THEATRE WORKSHOP

Several members enquired about this. For information, members can check the Regal Connect website, look at the West Lothian50+ Facebook page or speak to the hub.

SOCIAL EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

We are hoping to set up a sub-committee to help us with organising and running our social events. If we may persuade you that this would be an interesting and fun way to donate a few hours, will you put your name into the Hub by 10th February and we’ll get back to you?

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

2023/2024 Fees are due on or before 1st April. These will remain at £20.

AGM - May 2023

We have had requests for a bigger hall for this meeting. (Truth to tell, it has been my experience over all these years that it is a smaller hall we need for this event.)

Nevertheless, a bigger hall has been asked for and we’d love more people to come to the AGM so we have 3 options depending on numbers:

- The Hub, which is our usual venue. It is funded and is therefore free for us but takes smaller numbers.
- The Regal Theatre on Saturday 20th May with theatre style seating and no facilities for catering.
- The Hilcroft, Whitburn on Sunday 21st May (Saturday is not available) which is more expensive.

Would members please tell the Hub if they intend to attend this event? Please give your name to the Hub by 31st March 2023 to allow us to book the appropriately sized hall.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON 18TH FEBRUARY The Speaker will be Electra McPhillips, former Executive producer at reconnect Regal, and the topic will be the history and the way forward for the Regal Theatre.

A. Webster

Anne Webster – Chair, West Lothian 50 + Network