



## West Lothian 50+ Network

### Minutes of Members Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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

#### **SPEAKER**

**Our speaker was Isabel Dosser from the Dignity Box Charity.**

This charity places boxes in strategic places where the general public might contribute toiletry items: soaps, shampoo, deodorant etc. This gives people who can't afford these items the opportunity to take the items for free and still retain their dignity.

Isobel identified this need when she worked as a health professional and was so moved when she witnessed such poverty that she came up with the idea of providing the necessary items, thus allowing the users to help themselves and keep their dignity.

A donation bucket was passed round and came up with £80.

A box will now be located in the Hub where donations of toiletries can be handed in. Travel size items are also welcome.

**TRIPS** Heather outlined the various trips on offer.

- **Cairn o Mohr Winery & Perth** – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Departure time 9.30. Cost £25. There will be a tour of the winery and wine tasting then transfer to Perth for some free time.
- **Dunbar and Eyemouth** is the destination for the July outing – tickets on sale Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Mellerstain House and garden.** As there is no members' meeting in July, Heather gave the details for the August trip. Mellerstain House and gardens and grounds on Saturday 26 August. Cost £27.50. Mellerstain is celebrated as one of Robert Adam's finest works. Tickets on sale Wednesday 26 July.

#### **HOLIDAYS**

- **Yorkshire Gems** – Destination Farnley, Leeds. Corn Mill Lodge Hotel. Departs Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023; Price £359 for 5 days/4 nights. Single supplement £60 per single room. There is no evening entertainment and no portage. The price includes costs of entry to Harewood House and cost of Skipton Canal cruise. Insurance £10 optional. Booking now £30 deposit.
  - Harewood House & Otley – magnificent grounds, sparkling lake, beautiful bird garden. Inside sumptuous state rooms with rare Chippendale furniture.
  - HARROGATE - There is very fine art to be viewed at Mercer Art Gallery, and you may discover Harrogate's connection to Russian royalty at the pump house, enjoy a cuppa in Betty's tea room or relax in the Valley gardens.
  - SKIPTON CANAL CRUISE AND GRASSINGTON. Skipton has a well preserved castle which dates back over 900 years. There will be time to explore before we board our cruiser.

## EVENTS

- **The Network Singers' concert** will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> June in Bankton Primary. There are Three choirs involved and a fun story. This is a sell out.
- **Seniors Session at Bathgate Cinema** organised by Eleanor Shaw for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June. showing the film A Man Called Otto starring Tom Hanks. Coffee or tea, biscuit provided - £6.
- **West Lothian Foodbank.** Eleanor had organised a visit of 17 members to West Lothian Foodbank as a follow up to the recent talk on the subject. Members toured the food distribution centre at Whitehill Industrial Estate as well as the adjacent gardens where fresh produce is grown to supplement canned and packaged food.
- **Regal Pantomime.** Eleanor is organising our annual visit to the Regal pantomime, Cinderella, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 pm. Cost £10.00 and 50 seats have been reserved. Access seats will be available. Names and payment to be taken in August. Please be sure to tell the Hub when booking if you need an access seat.

## GROUPS

- **Whitburn Coffee Morning Group.** A new coffee morning group has started in Whitburn. It meets fortnightly at the Hilcroft. Please contact the hub if you wish to join.
- **Ten Pin Bowling Group** has now started at Deer Park on Wednesdays fortnightly at 1 pm. Cost £7 for two games.
- **New Italian class** starting at Rosemount 2.30 to 3.30 pm fortnightly – watch this space.
- **Coffee Club Armadale** Please register your interest in a new coffee club starting in Armadale at the Community Centre. Leader Jocelyn McPhillip. Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm.
- **Summer Break** Would any group taking a summer break please advise the Hub.
- **Jive Group** Katie Ellam spoke about the possibility of starting a new jive group at the Royal British Legion on Thursday, possibly from 1.00 to 2.00pm. Please register your interest with the Hub.
- **Classic cinema group** restarting has been mooted – watch this space.

## STAFF

- **Vicky McKie** has joined us in the back office as Member Support. She is currently being trained on the systems.
- **Hub Opening hours.** To accommodate staff holidays during the school break, the Hub will be closed on Mondays from 3<sup>rd</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> August inclusive. It will remain open to groups who normally use it.

## NEW MEMBERS MEETINGS.

A series of new members' meetings has been running over recent months with considerable success. The next one will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 5.30 to 7 pm.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership Fees were due on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. There are still some renewals outstanding. These should be paid by the end of June please. After that time we will assume that you no longer wish to be a member and remove your name from the Database.

If you wish to pay use one of the usual methods: phone with a card, bank transfer (remember to put your name in the comments) or in person at the Hub.

## **SWEETIE JAR**

At the last members' meeting we asked for nominations for our charity coin jar. We received 7 Nominations. We held a vote at the Members' Meeting and Alzheimer's Scotland won the vote, so gather up your pennies if you remember.

## **AGM May 2023**

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August where, as part of the business, the new Board of Trustees will be elected. We are looking for volunteers to join the Board. If you are interested please submit your name in advance of the AGM, the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> July.

You will be asked to give a short introduction to the members at the AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Should you be interested in applying and want to chat before committing please contact a member of the Board and we will happily chat to you about it.

Further information is included on the enclosed sheet.

## **NEXT MEETING**

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY.**

**Next meeting** will be on 19<sup>th</sup> August when the speaker will be Ross Walker Community Officer from Police Scotland.



**Anne Webster – Chair, West Lothian 50 + Network**