

**West Lothian 50+ Network**  
**Members Meeting Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**St Mary's Hall, Bathgate**

**Meeting led by:** Sue Bedford-Visser, Convenor

The Convenor welcomed any new members to their first members' meeting and introduced the guest speaker.

The meeting was quorate for the purposes of voting on the resolutions to be proposed at the part of the meeting which dealt with the Final Accounts and Final Members Meeting of the West Lothian 50+ Network (SC024257.) The Convenor reminded members that only those who were members on 30 September were entitled to vote.

1. **Speaker:** Mel Hughes of the Canine Concern Scotland Trust, who brought along her Therapet, Collie dog, Ollie. Mel spoke about the charity's history and the work that it does in Scotland. This includes visits to care homes, hospitals, hospices, schools, colleges and secure units. She joined the charity as a volunteer in 2018 and rose to CEO in 2020. Through her experiences, Mel has witnessed the positive impact dogs can have on the physical and mental welfare of children and adults. She outlined how to become a Therapet Volunteer. Although Mel has other dogs, only Ollie is a Therapet as not all dogs have the right temperament. Mel is a most impassioned ambassador for the Trust.
2. **Vote of Thanks:** The Convenor thanked Mel for her interesting talk and proposed a collection for the charity which raised the sum of £160.
3. **Final Accounts and Final Members Meeting of the West Lothian 50+ Network (SC024257)**

By way of background the Convenor outlined that last year we began the process of transitioning the Network into a new legal structure, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), and began to operate as the West Lothian 50+ Network (SCIO) (SC051335) with effect from 1 October 2023. The Network has finally been able to implement the resolution taken at the members meeting on 29 May 2021 (by Zoom) to establish a SCIO and thereafter to transfer all assets of the old network to this new entity.

Final accounts for members approval have now been drawn up for the "old" Network and all assets and liabilities have been transferred to the West Lothian 50+ Network (SCIO) in preparation for the dissolution of the "old" Network (SC024257).

The final accounts for the period 1 April 2023 - 31 January 2024 (when the bank account was able to be closed) and a short report on Network activity in the period 1 April 2023 – 30 September (we began to operate as the SCIO from 1 Oct 2023) were tabled at the meeting for members' inspection.

The Convenor introduced the short report on Network activity.

She then handed over to the Vice Convenor, who went through the accounts in some detail with explanatory commentary. Members were invited to ask any questions on the accounts. There were no questions.

**Resolution (1)**

The Vice Convenor then proposed the resolution to adopt the accounts (subject to examination by the external examiner).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

**Resolution (2)**

The Convenor then proposed the resolution that steps be taken to wind up the (old) West Lothian 50+ Network.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

#### 4. Coffee Break and Raffle Draw

#### 5. Coach Trips

- **Dawyck and Peebles Coach Trip**

All places on the coach trip on 24<sup>th</sup> February to Dawyk Botanic Gardens and Peebles have now been taken. There will be a waiting list in case anyone has to drop out at the last minute.

- **Culross and Stirling Coach Trip**

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, leaving from Bathgate Railway Station at 9.30 am arriving in Culross at 10.15 am and departing for Stirling at 12.45 pm. It will depart Stirling at 4.30 pm to arrive back in Bathgate for 5.30 pm. The cost of this trip is £18. No admissions are included. Culross Palace is a National Trust Site (entry £7.50). On sale on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**.

#### 6. Holidays

- **Kyle Line and North Coast 500 (April 2024)**

The next holiday available to members of the Network is for four nights/five days, dinner, bed and breakfast and runs from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer. The cost is £339. Excursions include travel by train on the Kyle Line from Dingwall, trips to Ullapool and Dornoch. The organising company is Strathmore Holidays.

There are still 14 places in double or twin rooms. Please contact the Hub if you wish to go.

- **Belfast and Antrim Coast (October 2024)**

A new holiday with Glenton is planned to Belfast and the Antrim Coast starting on 14<sup>th</sup> October for 5 days/4 nights at a cost of £479. Five single rooms are available at a supplement of £120. Thereafter double rooms can be booked for single occupancy at a supplement of £200.

Hotel is the Ramada by Wyndham in Belfast, includes dinner, bed and breakfast. No portorage or evening entertainment.

The price includes all coach travel, return ferry crossings from Cairnryan/Belfast with Stena Line, admission to Titanic Belfast, the Giants Causeway, guided tour and tasting at Bushmills Distillery, Mount Stewart House & Garden, Down Cathedral & St Patrick's Grave.

Deposit £40. On sale from **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** in the Hub. Balance due by 16<sup>th</sup> August. Insurance costing £27 is available payable at the time of payment of the deposit.

#### 7. Future Events

- **New Members' Meeting**

There will be a New Members' Meeting in the Hub on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. All new members who have joined since the last meeting are welcome to come along. Members are welcome to come along with any friends who are thinking of joining the Network.

- **Awareness Seminars**

- **Six Legal Must Do's for the Over Fifties**

- A 45-minute information session covering the importance of making a Will; putting in place a Power of Attorney; Advance Directives; Care Costs; Equity Release and Legal Aid will be led by Martin Donnelly from Caesar & Howie. It will include the opportunity for questions. This will take place on Thursday 29th February between 12 and 2 in the Hub. Some 38 members have already expressed an interest. Please contact the Hub if you are interested.

- **Spotting the early signs of Dementia**

- This talk by Alzheimers Scotland will take place in the Hub on Thursday 28th March between 6 – 7pm. This will enable members family or friends to attend as they are often the ones who notice signs before the person themselves. There will be the opportunity for questions.

- **Daffodil Tea, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

- In lieu of our March members' meeting, the Daffodil Tea will take place in St Mary's Hall, Bathgate on Saturday 16th March. The tea will take the form of a buffet and will include a floral demonstration by one of our members and music, also provided by members. Tickets cost £5 and went on sale on 31st January.

- **Art Exhibition and Sale, Sat 6th April**

- To take place at the Hub from 10am-2pm. Drop in open to all including non-members to see exhibits from both 50+ Network Art Groups. Paintings can be bought with the proceeds from art sales going back to the group. Cash sales only. Tea /coffee will be available for £1.

- **Ceilidh, Friday 3rd May from 7.30 to 9.30 pm.**

- Following the success of the last Ceilidh in November, the Events Group are organising a Ceilidh on Friday 3rd May from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. The bar will be opened at 7 pm. The band will be Cockleroy, and tickets will be £10. This will be a social event. Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

- **Senior Cinema, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February**

- Eleanor Shaw has organized this month's Seniors Session at Bathgate Cinema on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February. The film will be "Bob Marley – One Love", and will start at the earlier time of 10 am. Coffee or tea, biscuit and film £6. There is no need to book, just turn up at the cinema.

## 8. Groups

- **Scrabblers**

- This new group started on Wednesday 14th February at Rosemount Gardens from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm. It will be limited to 12 members but there is still room for four new members. If you wish to join, please contact the Hub. The existing Scrabble group continues on Fridays.

- **Conversational French**

- Expressions of interest are sought for a new Conversational French group to be led by Allan Wilson. Please let the Hub know if you are interested in this group.

- **Genealogy Group**

A meeting has been set up to take this new group forward. This will take place on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February at 4.30 pm in the Hub.

Contact the Hub to note your interest if you have not already done so.

- **Games and Mahjong Group**

The Games and Mah Jong Groups which take place on a Thursday in the Hub are looking for new members. Please register interest with the Hub if you wish to join either of these groups.

- The **Chess group** is also looking for new members.

## 9. Funding

The following sums were received from funders:

- £200 received on 24th January from Local Members Disbursement Fund to be used towards running costs and heating. £100 each from councillors Harry Cartmill and Sally Pattle.
- £1200 received from Foundation Scotland on 12th January and £1000 received from Thistledown on 18th January to be used for "Transport for older people with reduced mobility to access Network activities and events".

## 10. First Aid Courses

Congratulations to the 23 members who have completed their first aid training, all of whom qualified. The third course will take place on Saturday 23rd March and there are currently no places available. However, please get in touch if you wish to be put on a waiting list in case someone should drop out.

## 11. Membership Fees

Membership fees for the new membership year are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> April but can be accepted from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The fee for 2024/2025 is £24. If you pay by bank transfer, please ensure that you use the Network's new bank account details and use your name in the reference to identify your payment.

## 12. AOB

Members announcements:

- Lorna Kerwin - Supper Club (last Thursday of the month) is unable to accept any more members at this stage.
- Lorna Kerwin - Bathgate Twinning Association Quiz Night Teams of six would be ideal. The event takes place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm in the Bathgate Golf Club. Tickets are available from Lorna Kerwin at a cost of £3 each.
- Katie Ellam – asked whether a Calligraphy group was still being considered. It was confirmed by staff present at the meeting that names are still being taken though there has not been a great deal of interest. If you are interested, please contact the Hub.
- Chain Runner Coffee and Games Group on Wednesdays are also looking for new members. Please contact the Hub if you are interested.

## 13. Next Members Meeting

The next Members Meeting is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. The speaker will be one of our members, Linda Sanders, on behalf of the Charity Quilts for Care Leavers, Scotland. Please note there is no Members Meeting in March - our annual Daffodil Tea Event is in lieu of this meeting.