

West Lothian 50+ Network
Minutes of the Members Meeting – 18th May 2024

Network Chair, Sue Bedford-Visser, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Guest Speaker:

John Murray, Network member, and former Wildlife Crime Officer with Strathclyde Police, outlined types of wildlife crime in Scotland and spoke about some of his experiences in this role.

2. Tea/Coffee Break

3. Raffle Draw

4. Day Trips

On **Saturday 25th May** our trip is to **Scone Palace and Perth**. The price is £32 which includes entry to the palace and then free time in Perth where it is possible to visit the new Museum which houses the Stone of Scone (Stone of Destiny). Tickets were on sale at the meeting and will also be available from the hub.

Walking Day in Melrose – Saturday 8th June, Price £18

The Melrose Walking Trip is full, but there is a waiting list if anyone wants to add their name.

On **Saturday 29th June** our coach trip is to **Cultybraggan & Callendar, Price £25**

Booking from Wednesday 29 May.

On **Saturday 27th July** our coach trip is to the **Borders Union Show, Kelso**.

Booking from **Wednesday 26th June**.

This is one of the 3 main Scottish agricultural shows (Highland Show, Game Fair, Borders Union). A traditional farming show with over 500 open competitions for horses, livestock and industrial arts. Approximately 200 trade stands, from tractors and farm supplies to clothing and food outlets. The Food Fair attracts producers from throughout Scotland, and there is a Craft & Gift Marquee for unique and special gifts. Catering outlets and bars.

The Network charge for the coach to Kelso is £18. This does not include the show entrance fee of £20. If you wish to go, the Network can pre-purchase show tickets for a discounted rate of £17 but this must be paid to the Hub by **Friday 19th July**. If you wish to split the cost, the payment can be made for the coach in July.

5. Holidays

Our next holiday is to **Belfast and the Antrim Coast** from **14th - 18th October**. Only two places are still available in a double room. The deposit is £40 per person. Please contact the Hub if you wish to take this up.

6. Events

New Members' Meeting – Thursday 23rd May

There will be a new members' meeting in the Hub on **Thursday 23rd May**. All new members who have joined since the last meeting will be invited. If you know of anyone who is thinking of joining the Network, please let them know that they are welcome to attend also.

Bathgate Civic Week Saturday 25th May

The Network took part in the street fair in the precinct on Saturday 18th May with a Tombola stall outside the hub, also selling books, jigsaws, CDs, etc. Thanks to everyone who brought in items for these stalls. And thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this a success. A total of £300 was raised for Network funds.

Childrens' Concert

The Network Choir is supporting the pupils of Bankton Primary School in Livingston in their concert, Olivia! on **Monday 17th June** at 7pm. Tickets £5, now on sale at the Hub.

Awareness Sessions

Thursday 2nd May: a representative from West Lothian Council Advice Shop came along to talk about any payments that older people may be entitled to.

It is worth noting that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) estimates that £1.7 billion of Pension Credit went unclaimed by pensioner households in financial year 2021/22. In West Lothian alone it is estimated that £5,606,926 of Pension Credit went unclaimed. Furthermore, eligibility for Pension Credit unlocks a range of other support including help with energy and council tax.

The Advice Shop is able to meet with individuals in one-to-one sessions to check their eligibility.

The following further awareness sessions are also coming up:

Thursday 30th May at 12 noon: A session "Friends against Scams"/ online safety will be delivered by Sally Burton, a Fair-Trading Officer from Trading Standards.

Thursday 25th July at 12pm: Session on Dementia Awareness on when Julie Turner from Age Scotland will join us.

Also flagging up the **Dementia Awareness Day (Friday 31st May, 10am - 2pm) at West Lothian College** where the Network will have a stall.

Saturday 24th and Sun 25th August, 10am-2pm, Volunteers are needed to help with the Network's Bucket Collection at Morrisons Bathgate. There will be two sessions on each day, 10am -12 noon and 12 – 2pm. Please give your name to the Hub if you would like to get involved.

Saturday 14th September 10am-11.30am and 12pm-1.30pm Coffee Morning in the Hub in support of MacMillan.

Our annual fundraising **Thrift Shop** will be in late Sept this year. More details to come but please start to think about putting aside any items if you are having a clear out.

Tuesday 1st October 7pm. The Network Singers have started to prepare for the Network's 30th Anniversary Concert. Please keep this date in your diary for this special event.

Saturday 16th November Our Coffee Morning and Craft Fair will take place on the third Saturday of November in lieu of Members' Meeting, a change from the usual October date. Due to the Thrift Shop being late September and the concert in October, it was felt that the craft fair and coffee morning should be in November. A reminder for craft group leaders to consider if they wish to take part and for crafters to get busy.

Saturday 7th December - Winter Art Exhibition in the Hub. Following the success of the first art exhibition, our art groups are planning a second exhibition in December.

7. Groups

Alison, our Volunteers and Activities Co-ordinator has asked that the following be brought to your attention:

- A new **Coffee Group in Armadale** is being started up. If you are interested, please let the Hub know and your name will be added to the list.

The following groups are looking for new members:

- **Ukulele For Fun** – meet fortnightly on Tuesdays, 14.30-16.30 in Rosemount Gardens
- **Book group 2nd Edition** – meets monthly on Thursdays 18.00-19.00 in Bathgate Library
- **Table Tennis** – the new Monday group, meeting weekly at Xcite Craigswood, Livingston, 16.00-17.00, (cost approx. £1.50-£2)
- **The Network Choir** – meet weekly on Mondays 14.00-15.30 in the Answer Centre Whitburn
- **Yoga** – there are 2 groups:
Yoga (Whitburn) Fridays, 11.00-12.00 in Whitburn Partnership Centre (Cost £5)
Yoga (Bathgate) Wednesdays, 10.30-11.30 in Butterfly Yoga Studio Ballencrieff Toll (Cost £5)
- **Outdoor Bowling** – there are 2 groups both meet at Glenmavis Bowling Club in Bathgate (cost £2)
Wednesday Group, weekly 11.00-13.00
Thursday Group, weekly 10.00-12.00
- **Saturday Cycling Group for Beginners** – meet weekly on Saturday morning from 10.30 at Bathgate Morrisons Carpark

If you are interested in any of the above groups, please contact the Hub.

Deer Park have advised that they are no longer open for Ten Pin Bowling on Wednesdays. The group is considering other options.

8. Other Business

- £1,000 was received from the Stagecoach Community Fund on the **24th April 2024** – this is for resources for members activity groups.
- **Hub closure** – please note that the Hub will be closed for general enquiries to allow staff training on Monday 10th June. It will be open to the groups that normally meet that at that time.
- **Group Leaders meeting** will be on **Tuesday 2nd July** 16.00-18.00. More information to follow.
- Please note that subscriptions for 2024/25 were due from 1st April. If you have not already done so, please make your payment of £24 to the hub as soon as possible.

If you pay by standing order or bank transfer, please amend your bank instructions, if necessary, as the old bank account is now closed. The new bank details for the West Lothian 50+ Network (SCIO) are sort code 80-22-60, account number 24654562. Please remember to include your name as the reference if paying by BACS.

- Our next **Members Meeting** is on **Saturday 15th June**, when we will be back at **St Mary's Hall**.
- Early notice of our **Annual General Meeting** which will be on **Saturday 17th August 2024** at St Mary's Hall, Bathgate.

If you have any concerns or comments about the Network that you wish to raise with Trustees, please contact the Secretary, Allan Dungavel at Secretary@westlothian50plusnetwork.co.uk or by letter addressed to him c/o the Hub.