

West Lothian 50+ Network

Minute of Members Meeting, Saturday 15th June 2024

At St Mary's Hall, Bathgate

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- **Bankton Primary School Charity Fundraising Concert, Monday 17th June at 7pm at Bankton PS, Livingston.**
- **Seminar: Help Manage Your Rising Power Costs, SP Energy Works in the Hub on 27th June from 12.15pm to 1.30 pm.**
- **July Outing and new Twixmas holiday to go on sale on Wednesday 26th June.**
- **Annual General Meeting on Saturday 17th August at St Mary's Church Hall, Bathgate at 10.30am. Full details in the Minutes below**

Network Chair Sue Bedford-Visser welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guest speaker, Harry Cartmill.

1. **Guest Speaker:** Harry Cartmill gave an interesting, illustrated presentation on a town centre project which highlights some of Bathgate's history. He spoke about Bathgate's History Trail, a series of information plaques throughout the town which provide a glimpse of the past, reflecting all aspects of life.

2. Tea/Coffee Break Cost and Raffle Draw

3. Trips

Heather Waddell spoke about the upcoming trips and holidays:

3.1 Saturday 29th June - Cultybraggan & Callander

This trip is now fully booked with a waiting list. Please contact the Hub if you wish to be added to it.

3.2 Saturday 27th July – Borders Union Show, Kelso

This trip went on sale earlier this month as there was an opportunity to pay in advance for a discounted entry to the show (£17 instead of £20). The final date for payment to receive this reduction is Wednesday 26th June. This is in addition to the cost of the coach at £18.

If you wish to take advantage of the discounted rate, you should book at the Hub by 26th June.

Members who book the trip after Wednesday 26th June will pay £18 for the coach and must then purchase their own ticket for the show on arrival at a cost of £20.

4. Holidays

Our next holiday will be a Twixmas break from Friday 27th December to Monday 30th December 2024, 4 days, and 3 nights. The hotel is the Nethybridge Hotel, Speyside and is part of the Strathmore Group. Cost of the holiday is £249. You will enjoy a glass of fizz on arrival to the hotel to commence your relaxing 3-night break in the Highlands. The coach will take you to Inverness for a full day tour of Speyside visiting some the area's towns including Elgin, Grantown on Spey & Fochabers. The hotel will host Highland themed dinners and some evening entertainment.

Deposits of £40 should be paid to the Hub from Wednesday 26th June.

There are 8 single rooms available without supplement and sole occupancy rooms at an additional £30. We will note the names of members who wish a single room. After one week we will allocate by lottery the single rooms with no supplement to those who have requested one. Those who are unsuccessful in the ballot will pay the additional £30 for a sole occupancy room when they pay the balance of the cost by Friday 1st November. We hope members feel that this is the fairest way to allocate the single rooms.

5. Events

5.1 Bathgate Civic Week

The participation by the Network on 25th May was successful, raising over £300 from a tombola stall and the sale of books and jigsaws. Thanks to our events team for organising this and helping out on the day.

5.2 Friends against Scams information session

This information session was held in the Hub on 30th May. The seminar was delivered by Sally Burton who is a Fair-Trading Officer from Trading Standards. There are leaflets available in the Hub.

5.3 SP Energy Networks Information Session

Our next information session takes place on Thursday 27th June from 12.15pm to 1.30pm in the Hub. Scott Graham from SP Energy Networks will advise members on ways to help with rising costs of energy. Register your interest at the Hub for this either by phone, via Facebook or by e-mail.

5.4 New Members' Meeting – Thursday 20th June

All new members will be invited to this meeting which will be held in the Hub at 5.30pm. If you know someone who is not a member but is considering joining, please pass this information to them.

5.5 Bankton Primary School Charity Fundraising Concert

The Network Juniors and Junior Choir supported by the Network Singers are putting on a new concert, Olivia! on Monday 17th June, 7pm at Bankton Primary School. Tickets are £5 (cash only) and can be purchased in advance from the Hub or at the school on the night.

5.6 Next Members' Meeting - Saturday 20th July

There is no meeting in July, but the Hub will be open on Saturday 20th July from 10.30am -12.30pm to members and the general public for a drop-in coffee and chat session, costing £2, no ticket needed. We look forward to seeing you then.

5.7 Morrisons Bucket Collection - Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th August

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Bucket Collection at Morrisons Bathgate, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th August 10am to 2pm. ID badges will be provided to anyone wishing to help with this. Please give your name to the Hub.

5.8 Advance Diary Date – 30th Anniversary Concert- Tuesday 1st October

For our 30th Anniversary, the Network Singers are putting on a Concert at Reconnect Regal Theatre in Bathgate on Tuesday 1st October at a cost of £8. Tickets are not on sale yet. More information will follow next month.

6. Groups

Our Volunteer and Group Co-ordinator has asked that the following be brought to your attention:

6.1 New Group – Saturday Night at the Movies

A new monthly group is to start, “Saturday Night at the Movies.” Thirty tickets will be available from the Hub each month on a first come first served basis. Tickets are free. Refreshments will be available for £1 which will be collected on the night. The movie will be chosen by the Group Leaders (Jane and Marion Tinney) each month. The first movie night will be Saturday 13th July at 6pm in the Hub, tickets will be available from Monday 8th July.

Please note this group is in addition to the monthly Thursday evening cinema group

6.2 Group no longer running - Uphall Coffee Group

Unfortunately, the Uphall Coffee Group is no longer running. After a promising start, the numbers dropped too low to keep going. Thanks to the Group Leaders Brenda and Sonja for their time and effort with this.

6.3 Group Leaders Meeting - Tuesday 2nd July

All our Group Leaders should have received an invitation to come along to the Hub on Tuesday 2nd July from 4pm - 6pm to meet up and share their thoughts and ideas. We have so many Group Leaders with a huge amount of experience of running groups. It is also an opportunity to bring to our attention any issues or areas where we can help with your groups.

7. External Funding

Since our last meeting we have received the following funding support from external funders:

- £3,000 from the Basil Death Trust for salary costs
- £10,000 received from Queensbury House Trust, also for salary costs
- We currently have two small, restricted funds provided by Thistledown Trust and Merchant Company Endowments Trust which have been provided specifically to provide “transport for older people with reduced mobility to access activities and events.” The funds are primarily to be used to assist members to access events organised by the Network, and existing Network groups, and can be applied where members have reduced mobility due to age or health issues and are not able to use public transport or drive for this reason. Please check your eligibility with the Hub.

8. Other Business

Hub Closures

The Hub will be closed Monday 5th August for the Bank Holiday. Groups can access the Hub as normal. No staff will be in the Hub.

On Monday 12th and Monday 26th August, the Hub will be closed for staff training. Groups can meet as normal.

Would any members like to help out with some of the set-up for our various meetings and events?

No-one is excluded but as this can involve lifting tables, chairs and carrying and transporting boxes, it may be more suited to the men. Please let the Hub know if you are able to put your name down on a rota to help.

- The Meet and Greet Group are looking for new members. From Monday to Friday, members of this group spend two hours (of their choice) speaking to potential new members and assisting them with completing membership forms or just chatting with members who come through the door. This frees up the Hub staff to get on with other work. We have a full rota for each day of the week but holidays, doctor's appointments etc sometimes get in the way so we need extra cover. If you can assist, please give your name to the Hub who will pass it on to the Group co-ordinator. No qualifications required, just a sunny and welcoming disposition!
- There are still some unpaid subscriptions. Please note that your subscription of £24 for 2024/25 was due from 1st April and should be paid now at the Hub. The staff team are contacting members whose membership is outstanding, however if we are unable to contact you, please note that the end of June is the cut-off date, after which membership will lapse.

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 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.

- The Members' meeting on Saturday 17th August will be our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. This will be at St Mary's Hall in Bathgate at the usual time for a members meeting, 10.30am to 12.30pm. At this meeting we will present the Network's accounts and will also be asking you to approve some changes to the Constitution.

We also very much hope that new volunteers will come forward to join the Board of Trustees. Currently we have 9 Trustees, though some of the current Trustees will be stepping down. Our Constitution allows for up to 12 trustees.

Nominations must be submitted in writing by Wednesday 17th July.

Trustee Information Packs setting out the responsibilities of Trustees (Board members), an idea of the time commitment and other pertinent information will be available from the Hub from Monday 24th June for any member wanting to stand for election.

Any of the current trustees would be happy to discuss with you any questions that you may have about joining the Board.

- If you have any concerns 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.