



NETWORK NEWS

APRIL 2025



Big Fundraising Week 2025

5th - 11th May

Our Big Fundraising Week is your chance to get involved and show support for the Network. It's all about everyone having the opportunity to feel a sense of ownership by contributing in any way they can.

We've asked each group leader to consider organising a fundraising activity. Every group is unique, and even the smallest donation raised will make a real difference.

Why are we fundraising?

As many of us are feeling the pinch financially, the Network is no exception. Membership fees are expected to cover only 17% of our costs, meaning we must raise the rest through fundraising and other income sources.

Want to get involved? Speak to your group leader or a member of staff to find out more.



hub@westlothian50plusnetwork.co.uk



01506-635510

Join Us for the Edinburgh Kiltwalk!

This year's Edinburgh Kiltwalk takes place on Sunday 14th September, offering a choice of walking distances, from 5 miles to 20 miles, so you can pick the one that suits you best. Some of our members will be taking on the Big Stroll (starting at 10:30am), while our staff team is signing up for the Mighty Stride.

Sign up via the Kiltwalk website: www.thekiltwalk.co.uk

When registering, you'll have the option to nominate West Lothian 50+ Network SCIO as your chosen charity.

We can also provide sponsorship forms and help you set up an online JustGiving page.



Upcoming Meeting Dates

New Members Meeting

Thursday 22nd May 12:15 at The Hub, 14 George St, Bathgate

Members Get Together (Monthly Meeting)

Saturday 24th May 10:30 - 12:30 at St Mary's Church Hall, Livery St.

Guest Speaker: Michele Lindsay, Engagement Officer, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland.

Group Leaders Meeting

Thursday 12th June 12:15 at The Hub, 14 George St, Bathgate

First Aid Training

Saturday 14th June at the Hub.

The course to be delivered is the Scottish Emergency First Aid at Work (SCQF Level 6) Regulated Course, which is a full one-day course. It will provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to provide appropriate care and manage life-threatening conditions, minor illness and injuries.

Vital Signs Scotland have kindly donated 12 free places for Network members.

Make the rest of your life the best of your life!



Membership Fees Now Due

A gentle reminder that your annual membership fee for 2025-2026 was due on 1st April 2025.

Please contact the Hub to make your payment to renew your membership if you wish to continue to take part in your groups and Network activities.

The annual membership fee for this year is £36. You can pay by visiting the Hub in person, or over the phone or by bank transfer. Whatever is easier for you. We can accept the following payment methods:

- Card
- Cash
- BACS (Please use your name as the reference)
- Cheque

If paying by BACS (bank transfer) please use the following account details:

Payable to: West Lothian 50+ Network SCIO
Sort Code: 80-22-60
Account Number: 24654562

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please feel free to contact us on 01506 635510 between 10am-2pm, Monday-Friday.



Upcoming Trips and Events

VE Day Celebratory Quiz – Thursday 8th May

6.30pm–8.30pm | Members' Hub | Tickets £3

Enjoy a fun evening quiz to mark VE Day. Tea and coffee are included in the ticket price, and you're welcome to Bring Your Own Bottle, glasses, and nibbles. Tickets go on sale Monday 7th April.

Bathgate Civic Week – Saturday 24th May

The Hub will be bustling with activity as Art Group 1 hosts their Spring Art Exhibition. Teas and coffees available for £2, with a raffle in support of Network funds.

Outside, there will be stalls featuring a tombola, and book and jigsaw sales. This event coincides with the May Members' Get Together — don't miss it!

Coach Trip to Lindisfarne – Saturday 31st May

Tickets on sale from 30th April | £25 per person

Join us for a scenic day out to the historic island of Lindisfarne.

Silent Auction – Friday 9th August

Join us for a fundraising Silent Auction at St Mary's Hall, Bathgate. The church team will kindly be opening the bar for the evening.

Holiday to Wales – 15th - 19th September 2025

We are offering a Glenton coach holiday based in the beautiful seaside resort of Llandudno. Explore the spectacular Welsh landscape, including Snowdon, from the vantage point of some of Wales' scenic heritage railways, visit Caernarfon Castle, Conway and Portmeirion, location of 1960s TV series The Prisoner and now one of Wales' foremost visitor attractions.

Price £525. Limited single rooms with £20 supplement.

Includes scenic rail trips, entry to Caernarfon Castle and Portmeirion. Please contact us for more information if you are interested.

For more information on any upcoming events and trips please contact us on 01506 635510 between 10am-2pm Monday-Friday.

Activity Groups

Outdoor Bowls

Glenmavis Bowling Green will be open to 50+ Network members for use on Thursday mornings from 8th May. If you are interested in joining the Bowling group, please get in touch with the Hub to note your interest.

The Network Singers

The Network Singers were pleased to welcome Scott as their new musical director this year. Thanks to Alison from our Photography group who captured the choir at their session at the Answer Day Centre.

The Network Singers meet weekly on Monday afternoons and are always looking for new members to join them.



New Bathgate Coffee Group

Due to the high demand for our coffee groups, we've recently started a new one which meets on Friday mornings in Costa Coffee, Bathgate. We still have a couple of spaces available, so if you would like to join please get in touch with the Hub.

Livingston Lunch Club

Would you enjoy meeting for lunch in good company in the lovely surroundings of Howden Park? Our new lunch group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at The Kitchen at Reconnect in Howden Park Centre in Livingston. Contact the Hub if you'd like to join us.



GUITAR LESSONS

Would guitar lessons at the hub be something that interests you?

We are considering starting a group on a Monday evening led by one of our members who is an instructor.

If you are interested please let one of the staff members know.

Once we have a sense of interest we will provide more details on practicalities i.e equipment etc.

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✉ hub@westlothian50plusnetwork.co.uk

We're always exploring new groups to launch for our members, and we'd love to hear your ideas. If there's something you'd like to see, please let us know!

Pins and Needles

Our Pins and Needles group couldn't wait for our Big Fundraising Week to start fundraising for the Network! They've already made a fantastic contribution to our funds through their efforts. Thank you ladies!



Community Engagement



A group from the Network has visited Mill Farm to meet with museum curator Nicola. Members enjoyed a tour of the shale oil museum, the rare breeds farm and the mill as part of Almond Valley Heritage Centre's community engagement as they plan for the next 5 years.

Other News

Swing into Spring

Our Swing into Spring event was a great success, thanks to all involved: our events team, tea team, home bakers, raffle organisers, everyone who donated prizes, our wonderful Ukulele group and singers Carol and Alex who got everyone's feet tapping.

Livingston FC Bucket Collection

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers who braved the heavy rain on Easter Friday at Livingston FC for our recent bucket collection. We're also very grateful to Livingston FC for hosting us, and to everyone who generously donated.

Wool Bank

We have a wool bank available at the hub, stocked with plenty of wool and knitting needles for anyone feeling creative.

Greetings Cards

Looking for a greetings card for someone special? Our Craft for Enjoyment group keep the Hub supplied with a lovely selection of beautiful hand crafted cards for all occasions, helping to support Network funds through the donations they raise.

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Jim Tripney, leader of our popular art group and host of our upcoming art exhibition in the Hub next month. Jim also runs the Saturday Cycling group, a friendly and encouraging volunteer who always has a smile on his face. Thanks for all you do Jim.



New Charity Manager

Jamie Seery

We're delighted to introduce Jamie Seery as the new Charity Manager at West Lothian 50+ Network!

Jamie brings a wealth of experience in volunteer development, community engagement, and charity operations, having held key roles with currently with Glasgow Disabled Scouts and previously St Andrew's First Aid.

From leading impactful community initiatives during the pandemic to championing inclusive programmes, Jamie's dedication to service and strategic thinking makes him a fantastic fit for our network.

Jamie is passionate about building stronger communities and supporting positive, lasting change, values that align perfectly with our mission.

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