

Coffee, Crafts and Cracking Company



Our Coffee and Craft Morning in Bathgate on 15 November was a real success. It raised a solid amount of funds for the Network and, just as importantly, gave everybody a cracking social morning together. The place was buzzing from start to finish.

We had a fantastic mix of crafts and home baking, all made by our own members who continue to show just how much talent we've got across the Network. A huge thank you to everyone who donated raffle and tombola prizes, to the stall holders who put in hours of work behind the scenes, to those who baked cakes and tablet, and to the events team who've been planning this for months.

Another great day for the Network and a reminder of what we can do when everyone pulls together.



A strong presence from Art Group 1 at our coffee and crafts event

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Co-op Community Fund Support

A big thank you to Co-op members and the Co-op Local Community Fund for backing the West Lothian 50+ Network over the past year. Their support makes a real difference to the work we deliver across our communities.

Our Chair, Sue, visited the Co-op in Whitburn on 22 November to collect a generous cheque on behalf of the Network. The funding helps us keep groups running, tackle isolation and strengthen the services older adults rely on every week.



MP Visit Highlights Our Growing Impact

This month we welcomed Kirsteen Sullivan, Member of Parliament for Bathgate and Linlithgow, to the Hub. She met with our Charity Manager Jamie and our Chair Sue to discuss our work, our growing reach, and the developments taking place across West Lothian. It was a positive visit and keeps our activities visible and well understood by our local representatives.



Kirsteen Sullivan, MP with Network Charity Manager Jamie Seery

Coach Trips and Holidays



The joy of coach trips, members enjoying Kailzie Gardens and Peebles

House of an Art Lover Christmas Fayre & Kelvingrove Sunday 30 November 2025

Make a start on your Christmas shopping at House for an Art Lover's Christmas Fayre. Take in this Beautiful Charles Rennie Mackintosh-designed house located in Bellahouston Park, combined with a visit to the Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow.
Price £25, on sale at The Hub

Twixmas in Harrogate – 27–30 December 2025

Booking is still open for our 3-night Twixmas stay at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate, with excursions to York and Knaresborough, plus visits to Richmond (on the outward journey) and Barnard Castle (on the way home). Includes evening entertainment.
Price: £299 per person (full amount payable on booking)
Sole occupancy of double room: +£60

Isle of Man Holiday – 13–17 April 2026

Join us for our spring holiday to the Isle of Man, staying at the Best Western Palace Hotel on the seafront in Douglas with dinner, bed & breakfast, all coach travel on the island, ferry crossings, and a full programme of excursions including Laxey, Ramsey, Peel, Castletown, Port Erin, and the Snaefell Mountain Railway.

Price: £507 per person | £30 deposit
Now booking at the Hub – places are limited and no single rooms remain.

Summerlee Museum and Garrion Bridge Garden and Antiques Centre – Saturday 31 January

Our first trip of 2026 is now confirmed. We'll start the day at Summerlee Museum before heading on to Garrion Bridge Garden and Antiques Centre. Plenty to see and do at both stops, and indoor space for winter weather conditions.

Cost: £21 per person
On Sale: Wednesday 7 January - Bookings can be made in the Hub, by phone, or online from 10am.

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

Marking Remembrance Together

On Sunday 9 November, members of the West Lothian 50+ Network took part in Remembrance Parades across the area, paying their respects alongside local communities. A poppy wreath was laid at Bathgate War Memorial by Gordon Porter on behalf of the Network, marking our continued commitment to remembering those who served.



Enhancing Safety Across the Network

Member Support Officers Jen and Debbie, along with volunteers from our groups, took part in Fire Safety Principles Level 2 training this month, delivered by Vital Signs Scotland. The session covered core responsibilities, evacuation procedures and practical responses to fire risks.

This training forms a key part of the Network's ongoing approach to building confident, well-prepared volunteers and ensuring strong safety standards across all activities, and is particularly for groups using the Hub outside office hours.



Well done to our newly qualified fire safety volunteers!



Members joined a Network Natter session this month with SP Energy Networks

Activity Groups Update

Monday Stitchers

This friendly stitching group meets every Monday at Rosemount Gardens, 10am to 12pm. A relaxed, welcoming couple of hours to start the week with good company.

Chess for Fun

Running every Wednesday at The Hub, 10:00 to 12:00. Perfect for beginners and regular players alike, this friendly group keeps things light and encouraging. A midweek brain workout with good company and plenty of laughs.

French for Beginners

Fancy picking up a new language in a relaxed, friendly setting? This weekly beginners class meets every Wednesday at The Hub, 12:45 to 13:45, with the follow-on French group running 13:45 to 15:15. A brilliant way to keep the mind active and build confidence learning something new.

Pool Group

Meeting every Thursday at Rabs Bar, Deans, 12:00 to 14:00. Enjoy good chat and a bit of friendly competition in a laid back atmosphere. Ideal whether you're sharpening your aim or just fancy something different in your week.

To join any of our groups, please note your interest with the Hub



This month we welcomed three pupils from Linlithgow Academy who popped into our Pins and Needles group. The girls have chosen West Lothian 50+ Network as their charity for this year's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Scotland Project and it was great having them in to see what we're all about.



Members enjoyed a Spooky Saturday Night Club in October

Community Engagement



We're pleased to confirm a new partnership with West Lothian Foodbank as they establish their Bathgate Distribution Centre. While their long term base at St David's Church is under refurbishment, we're providing temporary space in our Members Hub so their service continues without interruption. This keeps vital support close at hand for individuals and families in Bathgate and strengthens the wider network of help available across the community.

Network vice chair Sheila Jamieson, and one of our new Network Ambassadors, Karene Sutherland, represented the Network at the recent Carers Rights Day. This annual event plays a key role in making sure carers know what support is open to them. The theme this year, Know Your Rights, Use Your Rights, centred on giving carers clear information, practical guidance and direct access to professionals. The drop in session at Strathbrock Partnership Centre offered strong advice on legal rights, financial support, community services, social care and more. It was a welcoming and well run event, and we were pleased to be represented and continue building our links with partners supporting carers across West Lothian.

Charity Manager Jamie joined West Lothian Boomerang this month for a chat about everything happening across the Network. He covered our new groups, our partnerships, the strength of our community, and where we're heading next. West Lothian Boomerang is a registered charity producing a weekly talking newspaper for blind and partially sighted people across the region, and we were glad to share our story with them.

Because of You, We Keep Moving



This month we mark the National Lottery's "Because of You" campaign. The National Lottery is a strong supporter of the Network, helping us grow, strengthen our work and reach more older adults across West Lothian.

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Robert Connell. Robert leads our growing and popular Photography Group. He's a welcoming and encouraging leader whose passion for photography shines through to everyone, both within his group and around the Hub.

With a helping hand from Andy Cartmell, Robert also gave our Meet the Team display board a much-needed makeover, capturing brilliant new photos of our Hub Team and Trustees. He also shares fantastic shots from Network trips he attends, helping bring those moments to life on our Facebook page.

He's a friendly face in our Men's Groups too. Thanks, Robert, for all that you do!

2026 Calendar Now On Sale



Our 2026 West Lothian 50+ Network calendar has arrived and it looks brilliant. Inspired by our walking groups, it is packed with stunning photos taken on walks through the seasons. We think it's a cracking way to brighten up the year ahead while supporting the work we do across the area.

The A5 sized calendars are now on sale at the Hub for £5. Ideal for yourself or as an easy gift for friends and family.

Dates For Your Diary

St Andrew's First Aid – CPR & Defib Drop-In

Thursday 27 November, 12:15 to 1:45

WL50+ Hub, Bathgate

A hands-on chance to try CPR and defib basics

50+ Makers Market

Saturday 29 November, 11am to 3pm

WL50+ Hub, 14 George Street, Bathgate

FREE ENTRY

Bangour Documentary Showing

Sunday 30 November, 2 to 4pm

WL50+ Hub

£5 – Available now from the Hub

Art Group's Art Exhibition

Saturday 6 December, 10am to 2pm

The Hub, George Street, Bathgate

FREE ENTRY

Network Singers Carol Concert

Wednesday 10 December, 7 to 9pm

Whitburn South Church

£5 – Available now from the Hub

Members' Christmas Party

Saturday 13 December, 1pm to 3pm

St Mary's Church Hall, 9 Livery Street, Bathgate

£6 – Available now from the Hub

Christmas Quiz Afternoon

Sunday 14 December, 2 to 4pm

WL50+ Hub

A light and friendly afternoon with Bill and Norman leading the quiz. Free event with tea, coffee and mince pies. Please let the Hub know if you plan to come along.

Network's Christmas Ball 2025

Thursday 18 December, 6pm to 10pm

Almondvale Suite, Livingston Stadium

£20 - Available now from the Hub

Members' Twixmas Drop In

Tuesday 30 December, 10.30am to 12.30pm

The Hub, George Street, Bathgate

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

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