

Network Singers Bring Christmas Cheer

A huge thank you to our Network Singers, who spread real Christmas cheer at their recent carol concert in Whitburn South Church. Joined by members of Bathgate Brass Band, the choir performed to a full church, delivering a joyful programme of festive songs and traditional carols.

The concert ended on a high with a lively, audience-participation rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas, complete with actions, which proved the perfect lead-in to mince pies and coffee served in the church hall afterwards.

Our thanks to Whitburn South Church for hosting the event, to Bathgate Brass Band for their support, and to everyone involved behind the scenes. It was a brilliant example of the community spirit that runs right through the Network.



Dates For Your Diary

Screening of Condor Entertainment's new documentary, The Knights of St John

17 Tuesday 23 December, 1pm to 2pm
 The Hub, George Street, Bathgate
 Tickets £5, cash on the day. Please contact the Hub to reserve your space, as places are limited.

Members' Twixmas Drop In

17 Tuesday 30 December, 10.30am to 12.30pm
 The Hub, George Street, Bathgate

New Members Get Together

17 Thursday 15 January, 12:15pm at the Hub
 A relaxed and informal opportunity to meet fellow new members and those considering joining the Network.

Network's Traditional Christmas Party



It was a fun afternoon of dancing, celebration and good company as members came together for our traditional Christmas Party at St Mary's Church Hall in Bathgate.

The Dunfermline and Strathspey Fiddle Band set the tone with brilliant live music, filling the hall with festive sounds and energy. From traditional Scottish dancing through to line dancing, there was something for everyone and the atmosphere stayed warm, lively and upbeat from start to finish.

Boghall Butchers and Christie the Baker in Whitburn were popular choices for party food. The pies and cakes went down a treat and kept everyone fuelled for the dancing.

We are grateful to the West Lothian Council Pensioners Christmas Fund for their support, which helped make the event possible.

Finally, a big and genuine thank you to our volunteers. Their organisation, commitment and hard graft behind the scenes ensured the afternoon ran smoothly and delivered the kind of Christmas celebration our members truly deserve.



Coach Trips and Holidays



The joy of coach trips: members enjoying Lindisfarne Holy Island

Summerlee Museum and Garrion Bridge Garden and Antiques Centre – Saturday 31 January 2026

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.

Exclusive Access to Abbotsford House & Free Time in Melrose – Saturday 28 February 2026

A full day out to the Scottish Borders, with exclusive early access to Abbotsford House before the season opens. Members will enjoy a guided visit around the former home of Sir Walter Scott, without the usual crowds. After that, we'll head into Melrose for free time to explore the town centre, visit the Abbey, browse the independent shops, or enjoy a relaxed coffee.

Cost: £35 per person

On Sale: Wednesday 31 January 2026 – Bookings can be made in the Hub, by phone, or online from 10am.

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.

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

Christmas Ball a Great Success



Our Christmas Ball, held at Livingston FC's Almondsuite on 18th December, was the highlight of this year's festive programme.

Guests enjoyed excellent food, table magic and a dancefloor that stayed busy all night. It was great to see members dressed to the nines, embracing the occasion, and enjoying a different style of celebration together.

The event represented a clear step forward for the Network in both scale and ambition. It showed what is possible when we look beyond our usual programme and invest in larger, public-facing events. We are already planning to build on this success and deliver more events of this kind in 2026.

A photo album has been created on our facebook page and members are encouraged to share their photographs from the evening so they can be included.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our Christmas Ball raffle supporters for their high value prizes: Images Face and Body Clinic, Ehsaas Care, Food Creations, Harbour Inn Fife and CM Optical. Their generous support played a key role in making the evening such a success.

Art Exhibition and Craft Stall Fundraiser



Another fantastic day on 6 December, when Art Group 1 staged an exhibition of their work in the Hub, whilst others joined the Bathgate Street Market outside for the Christmas lights switch on. Supported by the Events team who served coffee and cake, the Art Group also raised funds through a raffle. And our wee stall was packed with brilliant handmade items from talented members of our Craft groups. Huge thanks to everyone who came by for a blether and supported us through your purchases.

Activity Groups Update

Rummikub Group

Our friendly Rummikub group meets every Monday afternoon at Rosemount Gardens. It's a relaxed and sociable session where you can learn the game, enjoy a few laughs and get to know new people. New members are very welcome.

Brunch Club

Starting Thursday 8 January at 11am, meeting at the 1912 Café in Bathgate. A laid-back weekly catch-up over brunch, good chat and a chance to enjoy some company midweek.

Italian for Beginners – Notes of Interest

Starting Wednesday 14 January 2026 at Livingston Station Community Centre (Youth Room). This weekly beginners Italian class is designed for those keen to learn at a steady, supportive pace. Classes cost £5 per session, paid in advance in four-week blocks (£20).



The Thursday Cinema and Saturday Matinee Groups enjoyed Christmas films with festive treats this month



Our Monday Men's Darts and Dominoes Group in Action



Joyeux Noel from the Network's French Group

A Season of Connection and Celebration

We've loved seeing the photos coming in from all the Christmas lunches, coffee mornings and outings enjoyed by our various groups. They really show the warmth, laughter and connection that's been shared right across the Network.



Festive Fun at Christmas Quiz

Christmas jumpers were out in force at Norman and Bill's Christmas Quiz in the Members' Hub on 14th December, setting the tone for a lively and good-humoured afternoon.

There were plenty of laughs, a few unexpected Christmas facts along the way, and nobody went home hungry thanks to the pies, cakes and festive treats provided by our brilliant tea team.

It was a proper boost of festive cheer and a reminder of how valuable afternoons like this are, bringing friends together in warm, welcoming company.



Age Scotland Visit

Love later life

Representatives from Age Scotland and their creative partners visited the Network on 16th December to hear directly from our members about the future for those growing older in Scotland.

This was our chance to speak honestly about what matters to us, what needs to change, and what a better future could look like.

The discussion will help shape an upcoming national strategy, so voices from West Lothian, where the aging population is growing faster than many other places in Scotland, genuinely matter.

Volunteer Spotlight



We're proud to shine a light on Norman Gregg, a popular member who joined us in 2023. He's the kind of man who just gets stuck in. Helping to organise trips with the Men's Group. Sorting teas and coffees. Staying back to tidy up - and he still finds the energy to be one of our quiz masters, giving his own time so others can enjoy a good afternoon together.

Norman's warm smile and his pure willingness to help lift the place. He is an absolute credit to the Network.

What makes him even more impressive is that he does the same across the wider community. His volunteering with Cyrenians OPAL - Opportunities for Active Lives, the Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision Group and other local projects shows the difference one person can make when they care about their area.

Norman. Thank you. You make this place better.

Annual Pantomime Outing



Members enjoyed their traditional Christmas pantomime matinee outing on 10th December to see Snow White at Reconnect Regal Theatre in Bathgate.

Many commented on the high standard of the production and the lively song and dance routines throughout, engaging for young and old alike.

The outing continues to be a valued part of our annual programme.

Our popular Theatre group also provides opportunities to enjoy the performance arts throughout the year.

Message from Member Support Team

As we come to the end of 2025, the member support team would like to take a moment to thank you for being part of the West Lothian 50+ Network.

This year has been busy, sometimes challenging, but overwhelmingly positive. We've seen more activity, more connection, and more ambition across the Network. From everyday groups, to trips, events and new ideas being tried for the first time, it's been clear that this is a community that wants to keep moving forward.

What makes that possible isn't buildings, programmes or paperwork. It's you. Turning up. Getting involved. Supporting one another. For some, the Network is a nice addition to a busy life. For others, it's a lifeline. Both matter, and we never lose sight of that.

We've also pushed ourselves as a team this year. We've aimed higher, tried new things, and laid the groundwork for bigger plans ahead. Not everything is perfect, and we learn and are honest when we don't get things quite right, but the direction of travel is clear. 2026 will bring more opportunities, more choice, and more chances for people to feel connected and valued.

Thank you for your support, your patience, your feedback and your trust. It genuinely means a lot.

Jamie, Jen and Debbie



OSCR
 Scottish Charity Regulator
www.oscr.org.uk

**Registered
 SCIO
 SC051335**



hub@westlothian50plusnetwork.co.uk



01506-635510