

Spring Makers Market Showcases Talent



Our Spring Makers Market on 21 March was a great opportunity to showcase the crafting and artistic talents of members across the Network. The wide range of handmade crafts, seasonal pieces and photographic work highlighted the creativity and effort that goes into our groups, and ensured that the Hub was busy from start to finish, helping us to raise valuable funds to support our work.

It was particularly good to see the younger generation wanting to get involved. Amber ran her own stall with handmade items, and Ethan brought along his 3D printing creations, which drew plenty of interest across the day.

A big thank you goes to everyone who contributed. Whether you made items, donated to the tombola, helped set up, or supported on the day, it all added up to something that felt very positive and community-led. Special thanks to Cat, Sheila and Carolann for pulling everything together and making sure the day ran smoothly.

There was a real buzz about the place, providing the impetus for us to be able to welcome some new members too.

Lots of people have already asked when the next Makers Market will be. Safe to say, this won't be the last.



Members of the Photography Group showcasing their work

New Livingston Men's Social Group

The new Livingston Men's Social Group has made an excellent start, with two well-attended sessions already bringing people together.

At the first meeting, 11 men attended, with strong engagement from the outset. The conversation flowed easily and there was clear interest in building something regular. By the end of the session, around 20 ideas for future outings and activities had been put forward.

A second meeting followed at the Lanthorn, with 9 in attendance. The group took time to discuss what they want to get from the sessions, agreeing a shortlist of five activities. Members have since volunteered to take these ideas forward.

There was also a light-hearted team challenge, where members worked together to build the tallest free-standing tower. Rob, Les and Peter came out on top.

The group will now meet every Friday from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at West Lothian Indoor Bowls Club in Livingston. The venue offers space for the group to grow, along with facilities that support a mix of social time, activities and potential guest talks.



Excellent Response to Members' Survey

Thank you to everyone - almost one third of our members - who took the time to complete our 2026 Members Survey.

Your feedback shows just how valued the Network is, with high satisfaction, strong participation and a reported real impact on people staying connected and active.

This will help shape our next steps, making sure we continue to develop in line with what members are telling us.

The Survey report can be found on the Resources section of our website.

Upcoming Day Trips & Holidays



Members enjoying a day out at Abbotsford House

Dundee & the V&A - Saturday 28 March **SOLD OUT**

This coach trip has now sold out

Anstruther Walking Day Trip – Saturday 11 April

Now open to everyone, with or without a led walk. Choose from four guided walks (10, 8.5, 4 or 2.5 miles) or simply enjoy a day in Anstruther with time to explore the harbour, shops and seaside.

Cost: £21 | On Sale Now

North Berwick – Saturday 25 April

A spring day out to North Berwick with time to explore the harbour, beaches, shops and cafés. Optional visit to the Scottish Seabird Centre, including views of the Bass Rock.

Cost: £21 / £33 with Seabird Centre

On Sale: From 25th March 10am

Scone Palace Garden Fair – Saturday 30 May

A great day out at the Scone Palace Garden Fair with 70+ exhibitors, expert talks, live demos and show gardens in a stunning setting.

Cost: £37 (includes coach travel and entry)

On Sale: Wed 29 April, 10am

Network Holiday – Weston-super-Mare, Bath & Wells 6–11 September 2026

5 nights at the Royal Grosvenor Hotel with visits to Bath, Cheddar Gorge, Wells and Tiverton, plus a horse drawn canal boat cruise and free time in Weston-super-Mare.

Cost: £539 (Single supplement £38) | Deposit: £60

On Sale: From Wed 8 April, 10am

Single Rooms: 10 available via ballot

Draw: Tues 7 April | Notify same day | Deposit due 8 April

Trips can be booked in the Hub, by phone or online.

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

Please let us know if you have any accessibility needs when booking.

International Women's Day



Network Ambassadors, Moira and Karene, were pleased to attend the International Women's Day event in Bathgate, hosted by Kirsteen Sullivan MP.

The event brought together a wide range of organisations supporting women across West Lothian, highlighting the strength and depth of work happening locally.

It was a great opportunity to make connections, share ideas and see the impact of these groups across our communities. It was also good to catch up with some familiar faces, including a number of our own members.

Members Meeting – Strong Start to 2026

The first Members Meeting of 2026 set a clear tone for the year ahead.

Lord Lieutenant for West Lothian, Moira Niven MBE delivered a thoughtful and engaging talk, offering insight into her role representing His Majesty across the county. She spoke about the responsibility that comes with the position, the breadth of work happening locally, and her genuine pride in the people and organisations driving that forward.

Vice-Chair Sheila Jamieson provided a focused update on recent progress, funding secured, upcoming activity and the continued growth of the Network.



Activity Groups Update

Writers Chat Group - New Members Welcome

Our Writers Chat Group meets monthly on Tuesday afternoons at the WL50+ Hub and is a relaxed space to share ideas, chat about writing, and get inspired by others. Whether you write stories, poems, memories, or you've never written a word in your life, you'll be made welcome.

2nd Edition Book Club - New Members Welcome

The group meets on the last Thursday of each month, 6:00pm – 7:00pm, at Bathgate Library. It is a relaxed and friendly session, ideal for anyone who enjoys reading and discussion.

New Linlithgow Coffee Morning

Starting Monday 13 April, 10:00am – 12:00pm at Linlithgow Burgh Halls café.

A relaxed space to meet others locally. Just drop in for a coffee, with a £6 coffee and cake or scone deal available.



Familiar faces, Jane and Marion popped into the Women's Day Event



All smiles at last month's members meeting



Monthly Friday Wine Tasting group in the Hub

Dates For Your Diary

Country Music Event SOLD OUT

Saturday 4 April, 2pm – 4pm

WL50+ Hub, 14 George Street, Bathgate

An afternoon of country music with Kamen Brown, Scottish Guitarist, Vocalist and Country Tribute Artist
All tickets now sold out.

Network Singers – Spring Concert

Tuesday 12 May, 7:00pm

Connect Community Church, Whitburn

£6

A fantastic evening with our Network Singers and a guest performer. Tickets available from the Hub or online.

Members' Meeting

Saturday 16 May, 10:30am – 12:30pm

St Mary's Hall, Bathgate

Join us for updates, upcoming plans, and a guest speaker to be announced.

Art Exhibition

Saturday 23 May, 10:00am – 2:00pm

WL50+ Hub, 14 George Street, Bathgate

A showcase of artwork created by members across the Network.

Summer Celebration Charity Ball 2026

Friday 5 June, 6:30pm – Midnight

Almondvale Suite, Livingston FC

£35

Proudly supported by our Headline Partner, The Wellbeing Hub. A great night of food, music and fundraising, open to everyone.



Members enjoying the last music event in the hub with Alex and Carol

Membership Renewals Now Open

Renewals for 2026/27 are now open, with membership remaining at £36 for the year.

Renewal is due by 1 April to keep your membership active and continue accessing groups, events and trips across the Network.

You can now renew online, or via the Hub, phone or bank transfer.

Volunteer Spotlight



Vanda has been part of the 50+ Network for more than 24 years. Many members will know her well, not just as a familiar face but as someone who consistently gives her time and energy to the organisation.

She has led the Network Singers Choir for many years, helping to organise concerts and playing a key role in our 30-year celebration performance. Vanda has also served on a previous committee helping to oversee the Network and has taken on a range of responsibilities over the years.

Through the Network Singers, she and the group have raised funds for a wide range of local causes, including supporting the 50+ Network itself.

If something needs doing, Vanda is happy to step forward. Her commitment, reliability and steady support have made a lasting contribution to the Network, and we are genuinely grateful for everything she continues to do.

Ageing Well Workshop

Thanks to group leader Allan Dungavel who represented the Network at the recent "Supporting Older People to Age Well" workshop in Bathgate.

Delivered by Age Scotland and hosted by VSGWL, the session brought together staff and volunteers from a range of organisations to explore practical ways to support older people's health and wellbeing - from physical activity and nutrition to social connection and brain health.



New Members Getting Involved In Linlithgow

This month we hosted two New Members Get-Togethers, one in Linlithgow Burgh Halls and another at our Hub in Bathgate, with over 30 people coming along across both sessions.

In Linlithgow, 16 people joined us including new members, existing members and others keen to find out more. There was clear appetite to build something locally, with plans already underway for a new coffee group, and early interest in gentle exercise, a men's group and a bridge group.

At the Hub, we welcomed 17 people for an evening session. It was a good mix of those who have recently joined and others just starting to explore what the Network offers. These sessions give people a chance to see how things work, meet others and ask questions in a relaxed setting.

What stood out across both was simple. People are looking to get involved, meet others and be part of something locally. It's been a strong start, and we're looking forward to seeing more people take that next step into groups and activities over the coming weeks and months.



Some familiar faces at the New Members Meeting in Linlithgow

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