



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 9th September 2015

at Brookfield Hall

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (23)

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| 1. Barking Berrys (BARK) | 15. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP) |
| 2. Bethel Crowd (BADs) | 16. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG) |
| 3. Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC) | 17. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) |
| 4. COGG (COGG) | 18. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS) |
| 5. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS) | 19. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC) |
| 6. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL) | 20. Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild (WTG) |
| 7. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS) | 21. Westhoughton United Reformed Church (WURC) |
| 8. George Formby Society (GFS) | 22. Wingates Band (WB) |
| 9. Guiding UK (GUK) | 23. Women of Westhoughton (WOW) |
| 10. Rainbow Crafts Group (RBC) | ~ Bolton Wanderers Community Trust (BWCT) |
| 11. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW) | ~ Westhoughton Leisure Centre (WLC) |
| 12. Senior Solutions (SNS) | ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC) |
| 13. Travelliin' Strings (TST) | |
| 14. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) | |

Individuals in attendance (38)

Scarlett Berry (BARK)	Annaliese Sims (GUK)	Elise Nimmo (WAG)
Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (BARK)	Janice Bayliss (WOW)	Sarah Morris (WLC)
Karen Openshaw (BLGC)	B Askew (RBC)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Dave Fearnley (COGG)	Linda James (RBC)	Sue Ashcroft (WMC)
Jack Speight (FDHS)	Michelle Todd (SNS)	Barbara Dodds (WTC)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Hillary Welsby (SNS)	Maye Byers (WTG)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Doreen Booth (TWG)	Margaret Curme (WURC)
Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	Colin O'Brien (TST)	Helen Purnell (WURC)
Suzanne Freeborn (FWS)	Pat O'Brien (TST)	David Kaye (WB)
Brian Leyden (FoWS)	Kellie McGarry (WACO)	Richard Slater (BWCT)
Dennis Lee (GFS)	Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Debbie Lee (GFS)	Len Maycroft (WASP)	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Jayne Caldwell (GUK)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	

Apologies (13)

Jason Taylor (Bethel Crowd) | Anne Burns (Bolton at Home) | Shirley Pinches (Westhoughton Learning Centre) | Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge) | Mark Taylor (Hope Church) | Andrew Glitheroe (Save Westhoughton Act Now) | Tim Eden (Travelliin' Strings) | Jenny Haunch (Washacre Primary School) | Sandra Greenall (Westhoughton Community Queens Association) | Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group) | Bill Greenhalgh (Westhoughton Methodist ADS) | Johnny Crook (Westhoughton Poetry Group) | David Chadwick (Westhoughton Town Council)



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2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

The meeting started by Harold Daniels (Chair) expressing gratitude to Edwina and the staff of Brookfields for use of the venue and their kind hospitality. The first return to Brookfields since the inaugural meeting four years ago.

Regarding the groups interest in Social Media, it being a topic that would require time to cover, the possibility of a customised, short WCN course on its use and tips was raised – to be explored. Though there are occasional courses available through Bolton CVS; Barclays Bank also offer training through their 'Digital Eagles' scheme.

Those present briefly introduced themselves and the groups they represented. Minutes secretary asked that all signed the attendance sheet. Chair recorded pleasure at return of David Kaye of Wingates Brass Band after a period of ill health.

Record of minutes of previous meeting moved and seconded as accurate. Apologies were noted.

3. Bolton Lads and Girls Club

Karen Openshaw, Development Manager overseeing the Westhoughton Project, tabled an information leaflet and gave an overview on the project aims and how it is progressing (see also WCN minutes February and May 2015 – information provided Karen Edwards CEO). Karen Openshaw spoke about the importance of involving the local community in this project – some of the Steering Committee 'Community Champions' present – and of the support already shown by local businesses (3 'Gold Patrons'; Networking event planned at Provenance 9th October). The Central Drive site is undergoing a £90,000 refurbishment and a November opening is on track. There are opportunities for volunteers to help out at BLGC Westhoughton; in addition, Mentors are sought to work with youths to provide guidance and support. Karen took questions from the room: age range (8-18; up to 25 for those with special needs), activities (sports, arts), career support... centre to open 7 nights, with a provision for holiday care. Karen deferred until later answers to questions about links with established groups providing youth services, and the issue of indemnity and liability insurance.

4. 'Fitter Fans Delivery Plan'

Richard Slater, Bolton Wanderers Community Trust (BWCT) distributed leaflets and gave a presentation on this initiative involving Senior Solutions and promoting health for the over 60s. Funded by 'Awards for All', a series of 3 x 12 week blocks of 2-hour workshops (general health and I.T. awareness) with light physical exercise will be held at the Macron Stadium. The first sessions will be held weekly running from 30th September to 16th December (Wednesdays). Further information and contact details for this Bolton-wide project is on the leaflet (website: bwct.org.uk). The workshops are free and not gender specific.



5. Barking Berry's Fun Dog Show

Scarlett Berry and with her mum Sarah reported on recent activities and recorded that an amount of £16,000 had so far been raised for animal charities – Scarlett, hoping to be a vet, started out aged 8 baking dog biscuits to raise money for animals. The summer Fun Dog Show was a great success (£2,200 raised) and filled to capacity the field at Central Park with stalls and activities. The Barking Berrys were involved in the recent Friends of Eatock Lodge Funday. A Christmas Fair will be held at the Bethel on Saturday, 28th November (supporting Homeless Hounds). There will be 19 stalls, offering Christmas cards and gifts. Special guest 'Santa Paws' will be attending. (Leaflets were distributed.) Rochdale Dog Rescue will be the nominated charity at the end of the year.

6. Group Updates / Information Share

Wingates Band – David Kaye informed WCN of the current activities celebrating the 100th anniversary of Wingates Band's first recording (only the 4th band to reach this milestone. Over 200 recordings on 27 Record Labels). A new project 'Sounds of a Century' in progress: illustrated brochure to be published; new 12-track CD (recorded at St. James' Church, Daisy Hill with both representative, band favourites and two new, specially commissioned pieces) to be launched at a special concert on Sunday, 24th October at St Bartholomew's Church. An exhibition will also take place at Westhoughton Library.

The second of the very popular, bi-annual Folk and Brass concerts with the Houghton Weavers is on Wednesday, 16th September at Rivington Barn.

Westhoughton Local History Group—Ted Wisedale reminded the room that the group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday (10-12) upstairs at Westhoughton Library, with up 60-70 people regularly attending. They also do local walks, and trips away. On 17th September former Bolton Mayor, Martin Donaghy, makes a presentation: 'From Workhouse to Mayor's Chains'.

⋮ Ted reminded the group that he is prepared to make short videos to support groups, as he has been doing over recent years, the latest being the September Friends of Eatock Lodge Funday. See YouTube Channel 'Ted Wisedale'.

George Formby Society – Dennis Lee spoke of the group which celebrates the life and music of the Lancashire Ukulele Man. Meeting at the Mercury Hotel from 7:45pm on last Wednesday of month, they hold an informal sing-song where everyone is welcome (free). They made a much-appreciated contribution to the 'Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival' taking to the stage on the Sunday. Busy across the region, they are performing at Aspull British Legion on 6th November (7pm) supporting the 'On The Go' drama group doing a World War One play – tickets are £5 in support of charities. They are willing to support local groups and the community, and can be contacted via WCN website.

⋮ *There was a short break for refreshments and networking.*



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WACO – still has funds available for grants for local organisations for up to £250. Application forms available to download from WACO page on WCN website; or contact Janet Colley (01942 790064) or Kellie McGary (07804 010625).

Friends of Westhoughton Station – have been shortlisted in Community Rail Awards 2015 for 'Best Station Garden / Floral Display', with judging taking place 1st October at an 'Oscars' event in Torquay. Progress videos (as produced by Ted Wisedale) which have helped promote the group are available to view online. The voluntary work takes place at the station (1st / 3rd Sundays from 10am). Ted commented that this project is a good example of groups working together and the benefit of WCN.

Westhoughton United Reformed Church is holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning on 23rd September (10-12); there is a Craft Fair 17th October (10-2) and the Houghton Weavers are giving a concert on 31st October. On the first Saturday of the month (11-1), aimed at senior citizens but all are welcome, they host a popular and very sociable lunch club – it costs £4.

The **Bethel Crowd** is performing 'Grease' during September on the weekends of 18/19th and 25/26th with a matinee on Saturday afternoons. The Annual Treasure Hunt is on 4th October 4th from 1pm (tickets £7.50 | bethelcrowd.ticketsource.co.uk).

Senior Solutions – newly installed Scheme Manager, Michelle Todd, reported that they are still awaiting the result of the Council funding bid for their work, but continue to be busy providing visiting services and luncheons at Thorstons and Rylands (Mondays and Thursdays). They are looking to boost this by adding a third luncheon taking into account the wider area served. Activity groups also continue; and more volunteers are required. A new Trustees Chair, The Revd. Dr. Chris Bracegirdle, has been appointed.

W.A.S.P. – reported no new news but continue with their usual activities which take place at both the John Holt Centre and the Winifred Kettle Centre. An information sheet 'W.A.S.P. – What We Do' has been produced (WCN website). The group, established in 1982, has good and consistent numbers of members and is financially secure.

W.A.R.D. – new Action Group reported on activities including a response to Roscoe's Farm 106-dwelling development proposals (a decision passed at Committee but delegated for a final decision pending technicalities). Dave Fearnley talked of areas of historical significance around Westhoughton. There is an Organic Growers Group (COGG) based at Central Drive.

Travellin' Strings—update on current activities in support of Alzheimer's charities in and around Westhoughton; £12,000 raised to date. They are more in demand, with a growing repertoire; and as well as the 'Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival', they performed at the Westhoughton Golf Club 'Beer Festival' in August.



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St. Bartholomew's Church (Westhoughton Parish Church) will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of its Consecration on 1st October (following rebuilding after the 1990 fire). There will be a Church 'Song and Dance' event on Friday, 6th November (7:30pm) with entertainment by the Houghton Weavers - tickets £10 with a pastie and peas supper (bring own drinks). The **Rainbows** (along with the Brownies, a tier of **Girl Guides**) working out of St Bart's School have been supporting local charities (e.g., Easter Egg donations to Senior Solutions and Fortalice), and have raised £850 for chosen charities, including the British Heart Foundation. Group meetings Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Rainbow Crafts – Linda James thanked all those who supported and contributed to the very successful 'Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival' held on 4th and 5th July. It is hoped that this will be an annual event – some groups are knitting already! They will have a stall at the Bethel Craft Fair on 17th October; a repeat of the popular Christmas Fair will take place at the Carnegie Hall on Saturday, 5th December.

Photos from the two-day Yarn Bombing Festival will be shortly available via the 'Photos' link (Flickr) on WCN website.

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – Susan Ashcroft informed us that after a short break the ADS reunites in October to record a new radio play – Babes in the Wood – for Washacre FM; a Murder Mystery play will be performed on Saturday, 14th November, and preparations and rehearsals are ongoing for the February Panto. The Church has raised £1,000 for Water Aid with an August auction. A 'New to You' sale will be held on 10th October (10-1) – proceeds needed for Church improvements. A Coffee Morning takes place every Saturday at the Church Hall (12-12). The new Methodist Minister, Lesley Dinham will be ordained in July 2016.

Women of Westhoughton (WOW) – Janice Bayliss reported on visits and activities made over the summer including 'A Taste of Bolton', and the award of lottery funding to produce mosaics to be shown in town centre. 2015 has been a year of anniversaries and milestones for both WOW and the National Association of Women's Clubs (NAWC). The chosen charity for their fundraising for this year is Bolton Community Kitchen. They meet Thursdays from 7:30pm at the Hope Centre.

Westhoughton Leisure Centre – Sarah Morris introduced herself as the new Community Outreach Worker who is to promote participation for leisure activities within the community. They have recently supported the Eatock Lodge Funday. Free passes are available for September.

Friends of Eatock Lodge – won the 2nd prize for their Yarn Bombing exhibit in summer. The annual Funday on 6th September was another huge success with an increase in organisations attending now including Barking Berry's Bakery, Wild Wings Birds of Prey and Westhoughton Leisure Centre, in addition to last year's regular attractions. Many thanks to all who supported, and especially Ted Wisedale who has produced a short video of the day available on YouTube.



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Westhoughton Art Group – the group remains busy; Dave Hendry reminded WCN of grant availability (up to £500) from Bolton Arts Forum who apply wide criteria for art and creative work, and can help support / fund community projects. Following on from a recent Magistrates presentation, Dave said that it is possible to visit and observe Magistrates Courts in action, gaining an insight into the justice process.

Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild – Doreen Booth spoke of the activities and guest speakers of this longstanding, small but friendly group, which is responsive to members needs. New members welcome. The regular monthly meetings are held at the John Holt Centre on the 3rd Monday of each month (7.30pm). They use the Winifred Kettle for Committee meetings.

Friends of Daisy Hill Station (Jack Speight) expressed their support to Friends of Westhoughton Station in the upcoming competition in Torquay. Work has commenced on winter displays – central platform (lack of running water can be an issue) – and the bird boxes are now in situ – built and donated by the St. George's School Cubs Group.

Harold Daniels updated meeting on the success of the Urban Outreach BL15 summer school holiday lunch schemes, and gave an update of the **Foodbank Network**, with a new collections rota in place, and Westhoughton continuing to support the wider community going through hard times.

Westhoughton Community Queens Association (by proxy) have raised £2,454 for Manchester Children's Hospital; Bolton Hospice; Wigan and Leigh Hospice. A Presentation evening takes place at Westhoughton Conservative Club. Tickets £10 / £5 (OAPs / Children). Supper & entertainment (singer). The 2015-16 Charities are Fortalice, Bolton; Help For Heroes

Groups are reminded that events can be added to the website and WCN calendar – use the online events form or by sending in information/details and updates.

7. Any Other Business

- **Westhoughton College** (by proxy): This is a drop-off point for collection of items for the refugees in Calais. Donations needed: sleeping bags, blankets, tin openers, pot & pans etc. Centre is Mon-Thurs 4.40pm; Fri to 1pm. There will be 2 collections this month; 2 in October.

Shirley Pinches also looking for places in the area that have a room we could use (free) to bring some of the classes we run out into the community, especially English and maths tasters. Ideal for parents who have children starting back at school and who would like to brush up their skills to be able to help the children. Email Shirley.Pinches@boltoncc.ac.uk



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- A leaflet from **S.W.A.N.** (Save Westhoughton Act Now) was circulated regarding objections to the potential 300-dwelling, precedent-setting Lee Hall Development on protected open land – formal planning application submitted 29th July.
- **Brighter Future in Later Life** event takes place Bolton Holiday Inn 16th September 2015 (10-2). Initiative to promote better living for the over 50s through activity, work, volunteering, healthy lifestyles, access to services and better decisions. Information and advice on day. bolton.gov.uk/brighterfuture | 01204 335389
- The Citizens Advice Bureau (Leigh) have approached WCN regarding Pension Wise, a free advice service offering initial, impartial guidance on Government changes (6 April 2015) and your pension pots. Leaflet were tabled.
- Chris Buckley will circulate information and suggested dates for a formal Christmas Party / social gathering with entertainment at Brookfield Hall for WCN members and partners.

8. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 24th November 2015 | 7pm at Washacre Primary School.

Meeting finished at 9.15 pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk