

## Wingates Band Fundraiser

Community has a chance to come together to support Wingates Brass Band this weekend.

To a shocked room at the last Westhoughton Community Network meeting in September, representatives of the 144 year old brass band announced that they were close to folding due to the financial pressures of running the band, keeping the band hall going, and a drop-off in audiences for brass band music.

This local institution, with its golden heritage, rich and varied history and strong association with Westhoughton, has recently climbed back into the world elite of banding with a recent appearance and creditable showing at the British Open in Birmingham.

In its six years of existence Westhoughton Community Network, or WCN as it is also known, has sort to bring the many and disparate community groups together, promoting their good work and supporting activities and events across the town.

The idea of using the local talent available and putting on a fundraiser to help Wingates Band through this rough patch was a no-brainer. Westhoughton United Reformed Church (The Bethel) home of Youth Theatre group, the Bethel Crowd, has offered the venue, and a date is set for an evening of entertainment - this Saturday, 14th October, with the 'Brass Band Aid' fundraiser starting at 7:30pm.

There will be a number of singers to provide some variety with local trouper Mike Lester starting proceedings, and Danny Thomas, a friend of WCN and up north for some recording sessions, providing his mix of fine singing and comedy.

Wingates Band itself performs the following Saturday (21st) at 7:30pm at St. Bart's in Westhoughton, with tickets on sale at via their website – or at the WCN fundraiser.

Joy Mooney, of Wingates Band, says "the Band has been overwhelmed by the kind support and offers of help since the announcement of our troubles, and hope that this will keep the band going while it looks to the future."

A spokesman for Westhoughton Community Network says: "We are delighted to be able to help this prestigious and important local band, and hope that we get a good turn out, and that people enjoy the show! The first such fundraising gig – if successful, it would be nice to be able to do others to benefit the many smaller, big-hearted community groups that do so much with so little in Westhoughton."

You can pay on the door; however, tickets are limited and are best reserved. We are looking for donations of £5 (or £10 if you can afford it!) for tickets for the show. You can bring your own refreshments and snacks.

More information on via WCN – [www.westthoughton.net](http://www.westthoughton.net) | [ents@westhoughton.net](mailto:ents@westhoughton.net) | 07946 418952

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Westhoughton Community Network (WCN) is an information sharing network run for the benefit of its members, and to advance and promote community projects and co-operation.

Established in 2011, it is an independent and non-political body that meets quarterly at venues around Westhoughton.