



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: 7:00pm Tuesday, 12th November 2013**

at John Holt Youth & Community Centre

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (17)

1. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)
2. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
3. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association / WAVE (HACFRA)
4. Hope Church (HOPE)
5. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
6. Senior Solutions (SSOL) *formerly Westhoughton Visiting Service*
7. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas & St. George LEP Parish Church Group (SBC)
8. Washacre Primary School (WPS)
9. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO)
10. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)
11. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)
12. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA)
13. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
14. Westhoughton Market (WMK)
15. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)
16. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)
17. Youth Services - Get Active (YSGA)
- ~ Bolton at Home (BaH); Mercury Bolton (MER); Westhoughton Learning Centre (WLC);  
Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)

#### Individuals in attendance (29)

Ann Benn (FoEL)	Jenny Haunch (WPS)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Martin Thompson (MER)
Becky Boydell (YSGA)	Steve Howarth (WMK)	Louise Thompson (MER)
Anne Burns (BaH)	Len Maycroft (WASP)	Jean Watkinson (WCQA)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Kellie McGarry (WACO)	Hillary Welsby (SSOL)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Elise Nimmo (WAG)	James Wilson (SBC)
Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA)	Susan O'Connell (WOW)	Mike Wood (HACFRA)
Jean Green (WASP)	Janice Pilling (WOW)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Shirley Pinches (WLC)	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)	

#### Apologies (15)

Sue Ashcroft (Westhoughton Methodist Church); Janice Bayliss (National Association of Women's Clubs); Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild); Pam Clarke (Westhoughton Local History Group); Margaret Curme (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); Andrew Glitheroe (Save Westhoughton Act Now); Andrew Glynn (St. Johns Church Wingates); Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton); John Howard-Norman (Westhoughton Methodist Church/Senior Solutions); Alexandra Ingram (Westhoughton Market); Jean Jones (Senior Solutions); David Kaye (Wingates Band); Sally Martin (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); Yvonne Woolley (Westhoughton Local History Group).



## 1. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Harold Daniels (Chair) welcomed all to the John Holt Centre and expressed thanks on behalf of WCN for the kind hospitality of our hosts. Apologies were given. Minutes of previous meeting agreed. Individuals introduced themselves, stating the group they represented: there was a special welcome to new attendees.

## 2. Incredible Edible

Anne Burns (Bolton at Home) acquainted the group with the community scheme for growing and sharing of food which has been launched in Todmorden; she was able to visit the town gaining insights about this pioneering scheme, which has been replicated in other communities and has received considerable media attention. A similar scheme has begun in Bromley Cross, Bolton; Chris Buckley attended their 'Home Grown Bash' in September promoting the scheme and involving local producers.

Anne highlighted the positive aspects of such schemes in promoting physical, mental and societal wellbeing. A discussion covered land availability in and around Westhoughton, some existing food growing projects and ideas for a town-wide scheme. Washacre School (headteacher Jenny haunch) indicated a willingness to be involved.

It was agreed that contact be made with the Todmorden group and that a small steering group be set up to investigate the feasibility of a local initiative in Westhoughton, with a further push in the spring.

Videos (links):

- [Incredible Edible Todmorden](#) - A short film highlighting the work of radical new food growing movement 'Incredible Edible Todmorden' (11m50s)
- [You've Been Chived!](#) - A quirky video made by the Bromley Cross community group as they got their scheme off the ground (8m27s).

## 3. Foodbanks Update

James Wilson reported on the increasing interest and support for the scheme. There are 'Grub Tubs' in Churches across Westhoughton and in the Hope Centre (formerly The Communiversity). There will soon be additional 'Grub Tubs' for donations at Westhoughton Market and at Bolton College, offering wider access. Details of availability to be added/updated to the WCN website.

A rota has been in place for some months with groups co-operating to bring individual collections to the Hope Centre on a Monday (Mark Taylor can be contacted on 07837 787323). All donations are then taken to Urban Outreach (Storehouse) for distribution as per Agency voucher schemes.

We are currently helping over 80 families in Westhoughton.



## 4. Victorian Market

Steve Howarth gave an update on the all-day event Saturday, 7th December at Westhoughton Market. There will be a Christmas theme with special stalls, period costume and entertainment. Father Christmas will be at his Grotto. Westhoughton Local History Group are to have a stall. Washacre FM has been asked to provide background music and commentary.

Steve acquainted the group with local online radio station Pulsar which can be used by groups to promote their activities - [PULSAR \(online radio\)](#).

## 5. Mercury Christmas Lunch

Martin and Louise Thompson were given the opportunity to talk about the traditional Christmas Day lunch at the Mercury Hotel on the A6 for people on their own at Christmas. Organised and funded by the local community, this has been held at the Mercury for 7 years catering for up to 70 guests. Guests are collected by volunteers at noon and returned home after 4:30pm, having had a traditional Christmas fayre and entertainment.

This year's event is going ahead despite The Mercury being up for sale - it is hoped that new owners will continue this important, local tradition. Donations and the help of volunteers are most welcome to support this event. For more information contact Louise on 07837 210686 or the [Mercury Bolton](#) on 01942 810904.

## 6. WAVE

Doug Cunliffe gave an overview of the growth of HACFRA and the achievements of the Washacre estate community group based at the Bolton Council-owned John Holt Centre. Council budgeting constraints and issues affecting the fabric and structure of the centre presented an opportunity for the establishment of the Community Interest Company - WAVE - which has been able to negotiate and take on the management of the John Holt Centre keeping it open and available for community groups and activities over the longer term. A 25-year lease has been signed, with management developing plans for the future.

WAVE will continue the good work of HACFRA, and will seek to raise funds from the various pots of money available for community projects; it is hoped that the centre can either be refurbished or even rebuilt to give a greater flexibility of use in modern, up-to-date surrounding.

## 7. Group Updates / Information Share.

Going round the room there were group updates and information sharing.

**Washacre School** are holding a 'Ladies Night' on Thursday, 5th December (6-8pm) at Washacre Primary School (Clough Avenue) highlighting Facebook safety and smoking cessation, with bingo, jewellery sales and other activities. Westhoughton Community College will be on hand offering pampering sessions (hair and beauty, nail art...). More info: 01942 634756.



# Westhoughton Community Network

**WOW (Women of Westhoughton)** have increasing numbers now attending meetings at the Hope Centre (Communiversity) - Thursdays 7:30pm - and participating in a full programme of events. [Info](#) on WCN website.

**Get Active Westhoughton** - There are Youth Club activities at the John Holt Centre on Wednesday and Friday evenings for 13 to 19 year olds; Wednesdays between 4:30pm and 6:30pm there is a 'Junior Club.'

**Hope Church** - Mark Taylor reported that the 'Mothers and Toddlers' group are now meeting Monday mornings; and that a quiz evening will take place on Saturday, 30th November at the Hope Centre from 7.30pm. Bring a bottle...

**Westhoughton Parish Churches** -St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas and St. George (LEP). James Wilson shared information regarding events at this busy time of year:

- Sat 23 Nov, 10am to 1pm - Coffee Morning in aid of Bolton Hospice at St Bartholomew's Parish Church.
- Sat 23 Nov, 11am to 2pm - St Thomas School (Molyneux Road) Christmas Fayre.
- Sat 23 Nov, 7:30pm - **Wingates Band Concert** at St Bartholomew's Church. Pay on the door (£5).
- Fri 29 Nov, from 7pm - **Westhoughton Christmas Lights Switch-on** in the company of the Town Mayor and civic guests. Local schools provide the entertainment with carols and other songs.
- Sun 1 Dec (Advent), 2.30pm Children make their 'Christingle' at St. Bartholomew's. Please bring an orange.
- Sun 8 Dec (Advent), 8.15am at St. Thomas Church and 11am at St. Bartholomew's Church is our annual Toy Service; all gifts are taken by Bolton Lions to distribute round our borough. Toys and Gifts for age 0 - 18 years required, unwrapped.
- Sun 15 Dec (Advent), 11am service at St. Bartholomew's is our children's Nativity play.
- Sat 21 Dec at St. Bartholomew's - the town's annual **Pretoria Pit Disaster Remembrance Service**, starting at 7.45 am with an Act of Remembrance in Ditchfield Gardens at the new Memorial site, followed at 10am with a service inside the church, then procession onto the cemetery to mark the 103rd anniversary at the memorial burial site.
- Sun 22 Dec (Advent) - 9.15 am Carol Service at St. Thomas; 9.30am Nativity Play at St George LEP and 11am Carol Service St. Bartholomew's. Non communion services that day, except the 8am service at St. Bartholomew's.
- Tues 24 Dec (Christmas Eve) - 4pm Crib Service at St. Thomas; 6pm Crib Service at St George LEP; 11.30pm Crib Service with Communion St Bartholomew's.
- Wed 25 Dec (Christmas Day), 10am - the one service for the parish at St. Bartholomew's.
- Sun, 12 Jan, 10.30am at St Bartholomew's - parish annual service for all denominations to commemorate the 'Week of Christian Unity and Prayer'.



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Westhoughton Local History Group** will have a stall at Victorian Christmas Market on Saturday, 7 Dec selling Christmas Cards, books, etc. There are plans for an exhibition at Westhoughton Library in the new year reflecting on Westhoughton's industrial Heritage.

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** - have recently held a litter pick and batwalk; there are no planned activities over winter months, although they are considering seeking funding for events over summer 2014.

**Westhoughton Community Royalty** informed the group of their fundraising Christmas Fair at The Mercury Motel on Sunday, 17th November.

**W.A.S.P. (Westhoughton Age Support Project)** has its Christmas Party at Brookfield Hall on Sun 15 Dec, 12.30-4.00pm.

**Senior Solutions** are currently on the look out for Trustees (including a Treasurer) to help manage and support the Central Drive-based charity. For further details contact Jean Jones on 01942 799374.

Their Christmas lunch takes place on Saturday, 7th December (12-4pm) at Brookfield Hall.

**Westhoughton Methodist ADS** have two upcoming productions: the Murder Mystery 'Who Killed the Hotel Manager' on Saturday, 16th November 7.30pm and the traditional Panto 'Puss in Boots' on 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd February 2014.

**Westhoughton Art Group** reported on their very successful exhibition held in October at Westhoughton Library and informed Network on the grants available from [Bolton Art Forum](#). Artwork for local railway stations was discussed: Bolton Stations looking for contributions from the public.

**Rotary Club of Westhoughton** - Harold Daniels reported on planned events including the Christmas Santa Float: an important part of the club's fundraising for local causes. Activities start on 7th December carrying on until the 23rd. Full details will soon be available on the WCN website.

**The Bethel (Westhoughton united Reformed Church)** [in absentia] - there are two upcoming events which are to help raise funds for the £25,000 'Bethel Building Fund Appeal.'

- On Saturday, 30th November (7.30pm) there is 'A Winter Concert' featuring local and other artistes - with hotpot and mince pie supper; and on Saturday, 7th December The Bethel presents 'The Houghton Weavers' - with supper. Tickets for each event are £12.50. You are welcome to bring your own drinks (and glasses). Contact Margaret on 01942 812001.
- Other Bethel events: Sun 8 Dec - 10.30am - Christmas Tree & Toy Service with a representative from Bolton Lions in attendance to take toys donated for needy children in the locality; and Sun 22 Dec (6.30pm) there is a Candlelight Carol Service, with light refreshments in the Hall afterwards.

An exhibition of Westhoughton's industrial heritage - coal, textiles and industry - took place upstairs at Westhoughton Library during December.



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## 8. A.O.B.

Ann Benn circulated a funding application form (deadline Wednesday, 4th December) for access to small grants of £100 provided by Bolton Law Society through [Bolton CVS](#).

Chris Buckley (on behalf of **Wingates Brass Band**) reported on the uptake of the recently published 'From Bible Class to World Class: The Remarkable Story of Wingates Band, 1873-2013' authored by David Kay and detailing the 140 years of the legendary, local brass band. Over 350 copies have already been sold, with positive reviews. Costing £12.95, the book can be purchased by contacting David on 01204 696984 or through their website.

In addition the ever-popular, annual, festive-season concert Christmas Folk and Brass featuring The Houghton Weavers and Wingates Brass Band will be held at Bolton's Victoria Hall on Saturday, 14th December (7:30pm). Tickets £10 (£9 concessions) through David or the [Box Office](#) (01204 334400).

**Washacre FM** (Doug Cunliffe) reported on broadcasting dates for June 2014, again over 7 days, including the possibility that a short play may be included in the schedule.

**WCN Community Fair 2014** - a new Network event discussed for next summer. Dave Hendry to look at forming a working group to look at options and progress an event in the new year.

Cllr David Chadwick and others reported on the good turnout to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. The Network had a brief discussion around events planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One, and noted that Westhoughton High School is in preparation for an event on Saturday, 19th July [date amended].

The meeting finished at 9:10pm

## 9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 5th February from 7.00pm at St. Bartholomew's Church

[WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk](http://WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk)

Date of event marking 100-year anniversary of World War One is Saturday, 19th July (2pm-4pm) at Arts Theatre, Westhoughton High School. Ticket only (by application) - performances from The Houghton Weavers, Wingates Band and On The Go drama group ('Burning of the Mill')  
A civic event organised by Westhoughton Town Council.