



# Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 17th May 2017

at Wingates Band Hall

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (20)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Barking Berrys (BARK)                                    | 13. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) |
| 2. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)                     | 14. Westhoughton Active Volunteer Enterprise (WAVE)     |
| 3. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)                           | 15. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)             |
| 4. Friends of Washacre (FoW)                                | 16. Westhoughton Parish Churches (WPC)                  |
| 5. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)                    | 17. Wingates Brass Band (WB)                            |
| 6. George Formby Society (GFS)                              | 18. Westhoughton Community Royalty (WCR)                |
| 7. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 19. Westhoughton Community Vision (WCV)                 |
| 8. Hope Church/Centre (HOPE)                                | 20. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)                         |
| 9. Howfen Radio (HFR)                                       | ~ Bolton Council (BMBC)                                 |
| 10. Townswomen's Guild (TWG)                                | ~ Harold Daniels Legacy Fund (HDLF)                     |
| 11. Travellin' Strings (TST)                                | ~ PSoup (PSP)   |
| 12. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)                            | ~ Urban Outreach (UO)                                   |
|   | ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)                       |

#### Individuals in attendance (35)

Dave Bagley (UO)	Tim Eden (TST)	Dave Mooney (WB)
Janice Bayliss (WOW)	Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	Joy Mooney (WB)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Julie Poundall (FoW)
Scarlett Berry (BARK)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Gaynor Ratcliff (WCV)
Doreen Booth (TWG)	Kirsty Jacques (WB)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Charlotte Carlin (PSP)	Dennis Lee (GFS)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Debbie Lee (GFS)	James Wilson (SBC)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Anna-Marie Watters (BMBC)
Alison Colley (WCV)	Joan Leyden (FWS)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA)	Susan Missin (HDLF)	Ann Benn (FoEL) SECRETARY
Christine Dunscombe (BARK)	Tony McGarry (WACO)	Chris Buckley (WCN) CHAIR
Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (BARK)	Kellie McGarry (WACO)	

#### Apologies (10)

Ann Butler (Westhoughton High School); Jayne Caldwell (Guiding UK); Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton); Linda James (Yarn Bombing Festival); Len Maycroft (Westhoughton Age Support Project); Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); Veronica Swinburne (Daisy Hill in Bloom); Jason Taylor (Bethel Crowd); Michelle Todd (Senior Solutions); Mike Wood (John Holt Centre).



## 2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Meeting Chair, Chris Buckley, welcomed all to the meeting, thanking Wingates Band for their hospitality; our third visit to this historic Band Hall.

Apologies were noted, and those present briefly introduced themselves and the groups they represented.

This meeting marked a quarter-century of WCN meetings, and soon 6 years of existence for this pioneering and successful forum. As discussed previously Chris announced that the Meeting Chair would be rotating in future, with Mark Taylor chairing the September meeting. This it is hoped will keep WCN fresh, whilst retaining the informality and camaraderie at our meetings, as well as giving those that wish to a chance to run the meetings. All other aspects of the WCN operation will continue as normal.

Ted Wisedale thanked Chris for all his invaluable work for WCN.

Previous minutes were noted and approved; the family of Bill Greenhalgh had sent a card of thanks for WCN condolences and contributions to the £465 raised in his memory which were donated to his beloved Westhoughton Methodist ADS, who poignantly perform 'Fish Out of Water' (their May comedy play) this week.

## 3. Urban Outreach

Our guest Dave Bagley gave a passionate and comprehensive update on all Urban Outreach/Storehouse activities and initiatives. He explained the nature of poverty across parts of Bolton, and the effects of recent policy changes (introduction of Universal Credit) which have had a significant impact – delays in payments to recipients, local welfare provision being delegated to Councils whose resources continue to be stretched. This impacts on demand for foodbanks and UO services.

In 2016 68,500 people were fed through the Storehouse Project; 44,000 BL lunches were provided to schoolchildren during the summer holidays. Dave stating that it is more important to lift people out of poverty, provide sustainable solutions, and give a sense of self-sufficiency and dignity (budgeting, cooking skills, how to survive tough times...). A 'pantry' scheme is up and running in Johnson Fold (membership and access to a shop of donated food items). A 'mobile pantry' is being trialled.

Many organisations support ongoing initiatives, e.g. Westhoughton Rotary Club has supported school (holiday) lunches this year, with both the Library and John Holt Centre being 2017 pick-up points. Volunteers needed and welcome to support this.

Finally, Dave mentioned the 'Fresh as a Daisy' campaign to make ladies' sanitary products available through the foodbank network, and get the VAT removed.

Dave thanked WCN for its efforts to support UO, with its network of Grub Tub collection points and rota of forwarding donations to the Bolton Storehouse. He also mentioned the late Harold Daniels, grateful for his support, passion and friendship in helping UO, and those less fortunate.



## 4. W.A.C.O.'s 'It's A Knockout' 2017

Kelly McGarry updated WCN on the history of W.A.C.O. (Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation), set up to put on events such as Christmas fairs and IAK to raise money to establish and support a community hub (Communiversy 2010-2013). Money raised is now available to community groups through its grants scheme, and has supported many projects over the years. A new and refreshed committee has formed to work on IAK and other projects; with volunteers ready to help out on the day.

This year's 'It's A Knockout' event takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May on the Central Drive playing fields between 11am and 4pm; admission £1 adults, free for under-16s. Team competition (18 teams of 10 in 2 sessions), funfair, many attractions and activities, stalls (commercial and community groups), and an entertainment stage; with money raised going towards community organisations applying for funding (process being simplified).

## 5. Barking Berrys

Scarlett Berry gave us some background on her cause and how it came about (an 8 year old's love of animals, an ambition to be a vet, and baking dog biscuits to raise money...); her mum Sarah told us about the 'Fun Dog Show' planned for 10th June (11-4pm) on Central Park in support of animal rescue charities 'Rochdale Dog Rescue' and 'Dogs Trust Merseyside' – 15 Show Classes, 40 stalls, 'Distraction Alley' and Dog Obstacle Course... Entertainment and commentary to be provided by Howfen Radio. It will be the 5th such event, and is the mainstay of their fundraising, which includes the Christmas Fair at the Bethel, attending other shows, and recently online Facebook auctions taking advantage of the Scarlett's social media profile. Activities to date have raised over £25,000. The room showed its appreciation.

*There was a short break at 7:50pm for refreshments and networking.*

## 6. Information Share

We reflected upon it being almost a year since we lost our Chair Harold, and with daughter Susan present she was able to give an update on the **Harold Daniels Memorial Fund**, the family's activities, and mentioned the upcoming court case.

Susan spoke of the causes that Harold held dear - support for projects around youth, the elderly and intergenerational projects, education... Applications from the fund are welcome from WCN groups - Trevor Benn gratefully accepted a cheque on behalf of Friends of Eatock Lodge towards their September Funday.

Enquiries regarding fund to Susan at [harolddanielslegacyfund@hotmail.com](mailto:harolddanielslegacyfund@hotmail.com).

**Washacre Primary School** –Julie Poundall (PTA) was welcomed, and told WCN about the annual Summer Fair to be held on Saturday, 1st July (11.30-4.00pm) to help raise extra funds to for special items such as bike racks, new speakers,



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residential weekends away... This well-attended event organised by staff and parents will have stalls, entertainment, and fun activities... with a number of WCN groups supporting the event on the day.

**Wingates Band** - Andy Mooney welcomed WCN and the band's intent to both support and integrate itself more with its home community. We were given an overview of the band's history over its colourful and eventful 144 years, including being 7-time 'British Open Champions' and 4-time 'British National Champions', recordings, radio appearances and surviving the Pretoria Mine Disaster in 1910. Wingates Band is ranked 35 in the world.

Never resting on its laurels the Westhoughton brass band continues to compete: it has represented the North West at the Albert Hall in 2016, and in a recent success has qualified for the 'British Open' (European Cup) at Birmingham Symphony Hall, to be held 10th September.

Running a brass band is a costly business - in the region of £45-50,000 annually - with main income coming from concerts and local membership activities. There is a '100 Club' - £10 month/prize draw/80% of proceeds go to the band.

Nowadays players come from far and wide, and the band is proud to bring on new musical talent. Andy ran through the programme of current and upcoming events available on both the Wingates Band and WCN websites - a charity concert coming up at the prestigious St. George's Hall, Liverpool on 24th June.

**Travellin' Strings** - Tim Eden talked about the Strings' ongoing activities supporting Alzheimer's Research, having already raised over £20,000. The guitar strumming, sing-a-long ensemble now have 9 members; rehearsing, having fun and performing both locally and more distant events. They are an integral part of the Castlefield and Bolton Food & Drink Festivals (the latter 25-28th August), and Westhoughton Golf Club's Beer Festival (8th September). They are now looking at Christmas bookings!

In order to encourage playing and performing a regular 'Open Mic' session is being looked at for Westhoughton.

**Westhoughton Local History Group** - the group meets at Westhoughton Library 1st and 3rd Thursdays (from 10:00am), regularly attracting 60-70 people with its programme of events and invited speakers, and occasional trips. Ted Wisedale told us about upcoming major events: from 23rd September there will be an exhibition about Westhoughton Schools through the years; that day also sees the official unveiling of the 'Westhoughton Timeline' (10:30am) - both events at the Library (further information to be posted on the website).

The timeline project was something close to the late Pam Clarke's heart. Those present reflected on being able to reminisce and remember thanks to social media - Pam Clarke's video talking about [Hall Lee Bank Park](#); and Bill Greenhalgh's contribution to local life and a 2013 interview produced for [Washacre FM](#).

Ted is a member of 'Bolton Movie Makers' and has produced several community videos, and is happy to be approached for such projects.



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**Women of Westhoughton (WOW)** – Janice Bayliss said the group continue to be busy with its programme of meetings, events and trips (Thursdays 7:30pm at The Hope Centre). There is to be a 4th birthday celebration for the group on 25th May (Travellin' Strings performing). Having last year raised £350 for the Zak Foundation, this year WOW is raising money for the charity 'Target' which supports research into ovarian cancer. The group is always looking for interesting speakers to invite... Programme on WCN website.

**Westhoughton Art Group** – Dave Hendry commented on the success of the recent WAG Art Exhibition at the library, it is a great opportunity for local artists to show their work; the creativity much appreciated by visitors.

The group has been caught up in the closure of and uncertainty around the college, and has been looking at alternative venues for its Monday sessions. The room congratulated Dave on his upcoming nuptials to Elise.

**George Formby Society** – Dennis Lee reported on the final Wednesday of the month meetings and sing-a-longs at the Mercury Hotel (7:30pm), and other gigs including a Llandudno Show and W.A.C.O.'s 'It's a Knockout'. George Formby remains popular nationally - over 1,000 members and regular conventions in Blackpool. Our very own James Wilson told us he is loosely related to the Ukulele Man but has not benefited!

Doug Cunliffe for **W.A.V.E. / HACFRA** - announced that **the John Holt Centre** annual Funday was planned for Sunday 12th August (12-4). There is much new going on at the centre with a Beaver and Scout group starting over the summer; regular cinema events and plans for youth club sessions.

*HACFA is the Residents' Association and W.A.V.E. the community interest company managing the centre itself now on a long-term lease from Bolton Council.*

**Hope Centre** - Mark Taylor reported on the ongoing full programme of activities at the centre, as well as Sunday services (10:30am). Info on WCN website. Mark told us a little about the Hope Church connection and mission in Zambia (church and orphanage); he also looking at doing a fund-raising half-marathon.

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** – Trevor Benn thanked both Susan Missin Harold Daniels Legacy fund, and W.A.C.O. for the donations from the towards the end-of-summer Funday to take place Sunday, 3rd September (12-4) with its mix of outdoor educational and family-fun activities. The group is involved in the Bolton-wide green amenity network (Bolton Green Forum).

**Friends of Daisy Hill Station** – Jack Speight reporting... tidying up work is continuing at the station. There are parking issues at the station, with some drivers getting tickets. Encouraged by the family, there is a project in memory of Bill Greenhalgh – his journey by rail from China to Daisy Hill Station (bench, planters and the story of this epic journey told...).

Jack gave an update on this year's **Yarn Bombing Festival**, encouraged by those who are keen to do it. Westhoughton will be 'yarn bombed' over the weekend of 19th and 20th August, and groups are encouraged to support this. Recovering from



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an operation, Linda James will be not so involved this year, so there will be more of a DIY approach. The event will coincide with Silcock's Funfair being in town (Thursday-Sunday). Info/Contact through WCN.

**Westhoughton C of E Churches** – James Wilson gave an update on church activities, including crafts at St. Bart's and a new Church café drop-in at St. George's... James mentioned links with Namibia, St. Bart's raising £10,000 sent there to help fund building a school. James reminded us of the importance of our community and those of us within the Network helping the poor and less fortunate here in Westhoughton through the **Grub Tub** network and personal support – keeping an eye on people. Food donations always welcome – pasta, rice and long life milk especially sought.

**Friends of Westhoughton Station** – Steve Freeborn enthused about work at the station coming to fruition, and the growth of the gardens over the last five years – now looking wonderful – as well as the completion of the 'Harold Daniels Memorial Garden' and plaque on the Wigan bound platform. The group has teamed up with students from Myerscough Agricultural College who lend expertise and a helping hand (this supporting their 'Duke of Edinburgh' awards). Work is taking place every Sunday during the summer from 10am until 1pm.

Kelly McGarry confirmed that **Howfen Radio** will be holding a second Howfenbury music event showcasing local performers at the White Lion (carpark) on Saturday, 16th September (all day). They have recently received a grant of £750 for sound equipment, and have and will be supporting local community events.

**PSoup** – Charlotte Carlin reported on links established with the John Holt Centre and Washacre Primary School, and courses supporting the community including woodworking (upcycling pallets, planters, wishing wells and use of power tools). 'Men in Sheds' WCN guest Alan Clare is helping with this. They are involved in the new community hub at the college, and will be supporting the September 'Daisy Hill in Bloom Flower and Vegetable Show'.

## Any Other Business

- Westhoughton Learning Centre Update: There was a brief update on the current situation and future planned meetings about the Community College – it is to become a Community Hub, and is looking to involve community groups and local businesses. Overseen by Gaynor Ratcliff, and supported by Bolton Council and local Councillors, a management committee has been formed to take the project forward. Consultations ongoing. It is hoped to provide further updates and opportunities for engagement in due course.
- Daisy Hill in Bloom will be staging the first 'Daisy Hill Flower, Fruit and Veg Show' on Sunday 17th September at Daisy Hill Cricket Club. It's a chance for local gardeners to show off their best blooms and garden produce such as carrots, tomatoes, beans and plums... (The annual 'Ambridge Flower and Produce Show' comes to Westhoughton - but without the jams and cakes!) Details about the categories, etc, can be found at [DaisyHillinBloom.org.uk](http://DaisyHillinBloom.org.uk).



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There are occasional local litter picks; volunteers always welcome.

- Informal Police drop-ins with Pcsos take place at the John Holt Centre:  
Tuesdays 23rd May; 18th July; 1st, 15th and 29th August - 9:30-11:30;  
Westhoughton Market Café: Thursdays 18th May; 15th June; 13th July;  
10th August - 12-1pm

A long meeting with much to pack in, the Chair thanked everyone for attending...

## 7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**Tuesday, 5th September Westhoughton Methodist Church Hall.**

**Meeting finished at 9:50pm.**

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