



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 29th November 2017

at John Holt Youth and Community Centre

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (20)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Bethel Crowd (BCD) | 12. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG) |
| 2. Daisy Hill FC (DHFC) | 13. Westhoughton Community Hub (WHUB) |
| 3. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS) | 14. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS) |
| 4. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL) | 15. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC) |
| 5. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 16. Westhoughton Parish Churches (WPC) |
| 6. St. James Daisy Hill (SJDH) | 17. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPG) |
| 7. Westhoughton High School (WHS) | 18. Wingates Brass Band (WB) |
| 8. Westhoughton Library (LIBR) | 19. Yarn Bombing (YB) |
| 9. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) | 20. Westhoughton Active Volunteer Enterprise (WAVE) |
| 10. Senior Solutions (SNS) | ~ Bolton Movie Makers (BMM) |
| 11. Washacre Primary School (WPS) | ~ Westhoughton Library (LIBR) |

Individuals in attendance (24)

Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Julie Loughran (SNS)	James Wilson (WPC)
Chris Brewster (LIBR)	Bob Naylor (DHFC)	Lisa Wilson (WHUB)
Johnny Crook (WPS)	Julie Poundall (WPS)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Dave Fensome (WMADS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)	Stefanie Withington (WHUB)
Dave Hendry (WAG)	Jason Taylor (BCD)	Mike Wood (HACFRA)
Warren Hulme (BMM)	Ian Templeman (DHFC)	Jessica Wood (WAVE)
Kirsty Jacques (WB)	Michelle Todd (SNS)	Chris Buckley (WCN) SECRETARY
Bob Latham (SJDH)	Mark Webster (WHS)	Ann Benn (FoEL) CHAIR

Apologies (20)

Janice Bayliss (Women of Westhoughton); Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild); Ann Butler (Westhoughton High School); Charlotte Carlin (PSoup); Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group); David Chadwick (Westhoughton Town Council); Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA/WAVE); Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (Barking Berrys); Tim Eden (Travellin' Strings); Stephen Freeborn (Friends of Westhoughton Station); Sandra Greenall (Westhoughton Community Royalty); Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton); Nick Haworth (SIL); Darren Knight (Bolton CVS); Kellie McGarry (W.A.C.O.); Susan Missin (Harold Daniels Legacy Fund); Joy Mooney (Wingates Band); Andy Partington (Howfen Radio); Lisa Reilly (Howfen Radio); Mark Taylor (Hope Church/Centre).



2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chairing duties for this WCN meeting were taken on by Ann Benn (WCN Secretary/Friends of Eatock Lodge). She welcomed everyone, particularly newcomers, and extended thanks to Mike and Jessica Wood of the John Holt Centre for hosting this meeting and looking after us. She asked to pass on our best wishes to Doug Cunliffe who is hospital (a get well card was circulated).

There were a number of apologies (noted). The last minutes were reviewed.

Ann reflected on some events of the year: the passing of Bill Greenhalgh (Westhoughton Methodist ADS) and Pam Clarke (Westhoughton Local History Group) early in 2017, their groups continuing and doing them proud. Similarly Harold Daniels' legacy lives on. In recent months, two more social events for WCN, a 6th Birthday party at the Hope Centre at which our friends The Travellin' Strings performed – a raffle helped cover some of the costs... last month a WCN fundraiser variety show at the Bethel raised £200 for Wingates Band. Referencing the activities of our younger citizens, she praised the High School (Defibrillator campaign); and gave a special mention to Scarlett Berry - this past weekend a Barking Berry's Christmas Fun Dog show raised £2,000, taking their fundraising for animal causes to over £34,000 in six years.

Those present were asked to introduce themselves and groups represented.

3. Westhoughton Library

Chris Brewster gave an overview of library services (not just about books!) and its importance as a community hub operating within tight budgets to look at gaps in provision in order to narrow the gap between rich and poor communities; adapting its service offerings and providing space for groups to meet and flourish - from reading and writing to poetry and craft, art and history. The local library is vibrant, varied and well-supported by both users and public. Newer ad hoc services include computer training and projects with schools to boost reading and literacy.

Upcoming events and activities include the St. Bart's Primary School Coffee and Carols 15th December (10:30am); a visit from the M1 Theatre Company to do a performance (Q1 2018); work with Age UK to support a dementia initiative – story telling with children at nursing homes.

Chris will also be working with Westhoughton Community Hub on Central Drive with special Gruffalo/Narnia readings.

Chris gave an update on the relocation of Bolton Council 'One-Stop Shop' services to the library (target February 2018). Following a decline in use at Westhoughton Town Hall (staff relocated to Bolton), an information point and some provision will be provided by trained-up library staff supported by a direct phone line to the Bolton Centre for more involved enquiries, including Universal Credit. The service will operate during existing library opening hours.



4. Westhoughton High School

Mark Webster gave a presentation on 'Citizenship and Community'. Mark introduced himself, his teaching responsibilities cover Citizenship, PSHE and RE, with the school-wide role of helping develop the good citizens and volunteers of tomorrow through an appreciation of social concepts and instilling community values to "be the change you want to see". The presence and legacy of former WCN Chair Harold Daniels loomed large as an example of a model, much-respected citizen; Harold and his Rotarian colleagues spent many hours at the school mentoring and engaging with pupils, feeding through to work and programmes that support the community culture of the school.

Mark talked us through the programmes and social action project – doing rather than just learning from books – challenging individuals, giving them ownership, building teams and taking the school into the community. Starting with a National Schools Forum that suggests various projects ('Make Your Mark') that are then democratically chosen for individual schools to focus on.

The most recent major campaign was 'Emergency First Aid', the aim of which was to help save lives by having EFA training as part of the curriculum to improve low cardiac arrest survival rates. Called 'HeartBeats2020' the campaign involved research, promotion both in person and across social media, raising awareness within the community, lobbying politicians of all parties – a petition amassing 3,780 signatures was handed over to Chris Green (MP).

One outcome was the installation of a Council-funded defibrillator just outside the school available 24/7, linked to a helpline.

Such projects have a big impact on the students who learn important life skills and gain confidence in seeing a real project through.

Again, thanks to links forged through Harold Daniels and latterly Michelle Todd, the school has pioneered schemes with Senior Solutions; a key goal and project for Intergenerational Work bridging the gap between young and old. A taster was a 'Home Alert Scheme' with a visible card system to watch out for isolated older people needing some support. Only a partial success but a useful learning experience, it has helped projects that are geared towards longer term friendships and real engagement between the generations. Not only do students participate in Senior Solutions social group sessions, such as talking, crafts, playing games (learning dominoes), they now have a Pen-Pal scheme adopting 38 'grandparents' across the 38 school form groups keeping in touch and sharing experiences. There are special plans too for Christmas – gifts and cards, grub tub donations.

Mark, backed up by Michelle Todd of Senior Solutions, could already see how positive and uplifting these real and authentic contacts and relations have been and how mutually beneficial they are.

The room warmly congratulated both Mark and the School for its endeavours and positive contributions for our community.



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Following enquiries by Ann Benn, it was proposed that WCN put forward the group of WHS students at the forefront of the 'HeartBeats2020' campaign for civic awards from the Town Council (Certificates of Achievement). Names will be put forward in due course.

There was a short break for refreshments and networking.

5. Information Share

John Holt Youth and Community Centre – in the absence of Doug Cunliffe Chris Buckley gave a quick overview of the history of the centre, HACFRA (Residents Association), and the formation of WAVE (Community Interest Company), which took on the running and management of the centre on a 25-year lease. There have been many successes over the years as the Centre, working with outside agencies and harnessing the enthusiasm of its committed volunteers, as it seeks to improve the lives and add amenity for local residents on the Washacre estate (formerly designated a deprived urban area).

Achievements include the annual Washacre FM community radio broadcast (one year short of a 10th anniversary), an annual summer funday, job clubs and credit unions, police drop-ins... the Centre continues to do well and provides an important community hub for local area and beyond, being a home for a number of WCN groups and recently, thanks to the fundraising efforts of management, is providing new services and opportunities, such as a Youth Club, Scouts group, Tea Dances, a Saturday cinema and one-off events. The Centre will continue to look to improve facilities and offerings.

Westhoughton Poetry Group – Johnny Crook. A good year for the group with new faces joining them. Next meeting at end of January (last Thursday of month 2-4pm at Library). A group also meets at the Central Library in Bolton, first Monday of month, 2pm. They are working with Age UK to take poetry and verse into Care Homes. Johnny is also the Town Crier, and would welcome enquiries for his services at events.

Friends of Westhoughton Station – Ted Wisedale. The Remembrance Day Poppy Display was well received. There is now a Santa and Sleigh in place. In early December the group is to give a presentation on its environmental improvement work at Manchester Town Hall. Ted commented on how important our network of groups (volunteers, donations and displays) has been in working together and contributing to this amazing, 'making a difference' project.

Bethel Crowd – Jason Taylor reviewed the "musical masterpiece" from September – the 'sold out' show showcasing the 'life journey' of the drama group 'You Can't Stop the Beat!' Coming up is the youth group's 'Children of the World' about how Christmas is celebrated across the world; one-night only (16th December) – already 'sold out'. Coming soon is the 2018 Pantomime Aladdin, 19th/20th and 26th/27th January (7:15pm with Saturday matinees at 2:15pm) – tickets £6. Tickets for all shows and events can be purchased [online](#).



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Friends of Daisy Hill Station – Jack Speight. Work continues at the station to keep it clean and tidy. Donated bird boxes have been installed, and there have been plant donations from Daisy Hill in Bloom. Jack was hopeful that the group would be considered for an environmental award from the Town Council. Nearby work affecting the car park is related to Hall Lee Bank Park.

Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival – Jack Speight reminded WCN that the 2018 event is planned for the weekend of 14th and 15th July. All groups are invited to get involved with yarn displays; as are local businesses, schools and community establishments. Contact WCN.

Daisy Hill FC. A first visit for the football club to see what WCN is all about and how it might help them promote and support the club. The club has a senior team and an under-17 team, and plays in the North West Counties League. Their home ground is 'New Sirs' on St. James Street, with a capacity of 2,000.

Westhoughton Community Hub – Stephanie Withington gave an update. The new centre is up and running and is very busy putting on classes and events, and trying out new ideas (such as the 'Imagination Station'), and forming links with the wider community including the library and drama groups... There are arts and crafts, sewing groups, woodworking, computer coding... On 17th December Santa will be around for the Hub Christmas party. A carol concert is planned. The group is to be added to the WCN website but further information is required about activities.

Friends of Washacre School – Julie Poundall spoke of work on the school's Christmas Fayre (Tuesday, 19th December, 2pm) with stalls and attractions (free entry). Inspired by the Royal Wedding, the school is looking at an Easter event/Party in the Park to include a mock wedding of two of their pupils.

St. James Church, Daisy Hill – we welcomed newcomer Bob Latham to our network, Bob spoke of the busy period, a successful Heritage weekend in September, and plans to have more use of the Church for community events (improved facilities include a toilet!). It hopes to encourage young musicians by giving them a place to perform. On Friday, 8th December (7:30pm) they have a 'Christmas Spectacular!' with Brass Quintet 'Salutation Brass' performing. Proceeds for Church Funds. Tickets £8 (under 18 Free). Bob 01942 811691.

Wingates Band – Kirsty Jacques thanked WCN for its recent support during the band's crisis; she was pleased to report back that the fortunes of the band are on the right tracks. The band is growing, and a focus on grant funding and membership/sponsorship schemes has given a boost to the brass band's finances and future. There is still much to do including much-needed work on the band hall – help from local tradesmen would be welcomed.

Upcoming Christmas concerts include: Thursday, 7th December (8pm) at St. John's Church, Wingates and Saturday, 9th December (7:30pm) at Victoria Hall, Bolton. Both important markers in local support. They also expect to be out and about in the local community over Christmas.



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Kirsty reminded WCN of the Supporters Club - £20 for monthly updates, newsletters, offers on CDs and a complimentary Christmas concert. A new business / Patron sponsorship scheme has been launched with 3 levels of engagement and support – Gold (£1,000); Silver (£500) and Bronze (£200). Details: wingatesbrassband.co.uk.

Westhoughton Art Group – Dave Hendry spoke of an “odd year” losing their College base but regrouping and moving to the John Holt Centre (Monday mornings), where they are being well looked after. Earlier in the year there was a successful exhibition at Westhoughton Library; members were involved in a Comic-Con event in October with Pop Art and comic characters. A spin-off from WAG and adding further provision to art in Westhoughton are classes with Elise Hendry at the Hope Centre - two 2-hour sessions on Thursdays 10am and 12:30pm. WAG will be organising a new art exhibition in March 2018 – the official opening to which the attendance of WCN groups is encouraged (Tuesday, 13th March). The WAG exhibition will be immediately followed by an exhibition at the Hope Centre (April).

Senior Solutions – Michelle Todd affirmed how positive working with the High School has been. Following a set-back earlier in the year, the Christmas Party for volunteers will be going ahead thanks to extra fundraising and donations. The Tuesday social club is going well; Michelle wished to publicise the Tonge Moor-based Bolton Carer Support drop-in run by expert Zoe Hill and open to all carers (all ages/situations) at these Sacred Heart sessions – 2nd Tuesday/1:45-2:45pm.

Friends of Eatock Lodge – Trevor Benn commented on the success of the Funday, despite the poor weather, and whilst things are quieter over the winter months the group is in contact with the Council, which is aiming to have fishing pegs replaced (funding from Town Council). Additional benches are being looked at...

Westhoughton Churches – James Wilson first commented on how enjoyable recent WCN events have been and that they should be supported. The recent Wingates Band concert at St. Bart's (21st October) was a great success, with a good turnout.

James did a recap on ‘**Grub Tubs**’, donations are helping to support some 272 families across Bolton. It is the period of Urban Outreach's [Winter Watch](#) campaign, providing weekend support for Bolton's homeless. Christmas Hampers are being prepared; there is a campaign to collect boxes of mince pies (local target 500). Our Grub Tub network continues to support UO with 12 locations including Sainsbury's and Westhoughton Market...

In Church News, Revd Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle is promoted becoming the Vicar of Bolton (St. Peter's) and will be leaving Westhoughton in Easter to take up his new position. A replacement will be in place; it is hoped vacancies at St. James/St. John's will be filled soon.

This is an important period for our churches both spiritually and within the community, with the coming of Advent and Christmas services – a time when many do attend services. Toy Services take place on 2nd Sunday of December (toy donations welcome, which are passed on to the needy). It is a time of much



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charitable work supporting Bolton Hospice and Bolton Cancer Voices... James reminded us that the church offers home visits, Bible readings...

Bolton Movie Makers – a first visit by the group, invited by Ted Wisedale. Warren Hulme spoke of the club, its movie-making and facilities, useful for the recording of community life and events (resources permitting). Newcomers welcome. Ted's videos have already proven a fantastic record of community spirit here in Westhoughton.

Westhoughton Local History Group – Ted gave an update on this popular group. The recent 'Aspects of Howfen' exhibition at the library was well received and supported; the new historic timeline, set in motion by the late Pam Clarke, is now a permanent feature on the upper floor of Westhoughton Library. The exhibition gave rise to two new publications: firstly 'Historic Images of Westhoughton', a collection of Tom Newton's excellent paintings, and 'A Timeline of the History of Westhoughton', a detailed souvenir of the latest exhibition. The upcoming projected for the group will remember the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I – 'Westhoughton After the War' (November), and will likely feature a drama production.

The group reaches far and wide, Ted mentioning an Australian family looking up the family tree and discovering their Westhoughton roots, an ancestor being a deportee following the 'Burning of the Mill' over 200 years ago!

The group meets at Westhoughton Library 1st and 3rd Thursdays (from 10:00am).

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – Dave Fensome gave an update... the drama group is to take their Murder Mystery evening 'on tour' with performances at Westhoughton Community Hub on Friday/Saturday 1st/2nd December (7:30pm, £6 with pasty and peas supper). The February panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, is in preparation for performances 2nd/3rd and 9th/10th February (7:15pm), tickets £5.

Westhoughton Methodist Church itself is busy and open to all over the Advent/Christmas period, and will have a Christmas Eve Carol Service and a Christmas Day Church Service. A special project for next Easter (30th/31st March - Good Friday and Easter Saturday evening), Revd Lesley Dinham is to put on a Cantata, a presentation of the life of Christ in music, drama and narration. She is looking to form a choir, especially men to provide the basses and tenors needed. An interesting project for those who like to sing; starting Friday, 12th January (7:30pm) with weekly rehearsals. Contact Lesley on 01942 581337.



6. Any Other Business

- Rotary Club of Westhoughton – Santa and his Elves will be out and about from the weekend of 2nd/3rd December (at Sainsbury's), with the evening street tours around Westhoughton estates beginning Friday, 8th December and runs until Thursday 21st (routes [online](#)). They will be on Market Street on Saturday, 16th December. This is an important activity raising funds to give to local groups and charities in the spring. The Rotarians are grateful for volunteers helping out on the collection days.

Their 'Christmas Music Celebration' takes place on Wednesday, 13th December at Brookfield Hall, open to all friends and visitors - £18, bookings via John Moutrie 01204 669336.

- **Bolton CVS** (Darren Knight) – there will be a 'Local Charities Day' event on 15th December at the Bolton Hub. The next Small Grants deadline is the end of January. Full details of grants, funding opportunities and regular training courses on the [Bolton CVS](#) website or via newsletters.
- **Ann Benn** spoke of an idea for a cross-community project to mark the end of World War I, with some focus on the former Eatock Lodge mine (38 miners lost). She would like to put together a working group in the New Year to flesh out ideas and look at funding. Contact WCN.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**The next meeting will take place at
The Winifred Kettle Centre (Day Centre)
Tuesday, 6th February 2018**

Meeting finished at 9:10pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk