



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: Tuesday, 4th September 2018 (7:00pm)

at Brookfield Hall

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (19)

1. Daisy Hill FC (DHFC)
2. Daisy Hill in Bloom (DHB)
3. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)
4. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
5. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)
6. George Formby Society (GFS)
7. Harold Daniels Legacy Fund (HDLF)
8. Hindleys and Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA)
9. Hope Church & Hope Centre (HOPE)
10. Howfen Radio (HFR)
11. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
12. St. James Daisy Hill (SJDH)
13. Travellin' Strings (TST)
14. Westhoughton Active Volunteers Enterprise (WAVE)
15. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
16. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)
17. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPG)
18. Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild (TWG)
19. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)
- ~ Bolton CVS (BCVS)
- ~ West Lancashire Freemasons (WLF)
- ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)

Individuals in attendance (30)

Janice Bayliss (WOW)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Ian Templeman (DHFC)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Claire Hill (HACFRA)	Tracie Thornton (HACFRA)
Tom Briggs (FWS)	Chris Jones (WLF)	Mike Threllfall (WLF)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Bob Latham (SJDH)	Neil Ward (WLF)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Glenys Latham (SJDH)	Gill Williams (DHB)
Johnny Crook (WPG)	Fred Martindale (GFS)	Jodie Wilson (HACFRA)
Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA)	Tracey McCue (BCVS)	Mike Wood (WAVE)
Tim Eden (TST)	Susan Missin (HDLF)	Mark Taylor (HOPE) CHAIR
Colin Gradwell (WMADS)	Cindy Ritchie (TWG)	Ann Benn (FoEL) SECRETARY
Garry Hampson (GFS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)	Chris Buckley (WCN)

Apologies (20)

Scarlett Berry (Barking Berrys); Doreen Booth (Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild); Rev'd Lesley Dinham (Westhoughton Methodist Church); Sarah Dunscombe-Berry & Scarlett Berry (Barking Berrys); Dave Fensome (Westhoughton Methodist ADS); Stephen Freeborn (Friends of Westhoughton Station); Dave Hendry (Westhoughton Art Group); Dennis Lee (George Formby Society); Brian & Joan Leyden (Friends of Westhoughton Station); David Lilley (Bolton NHS Trust); Julie Loughran & Michelle Todd (Senior Solutions); Joy Mooney (Wingates Band); Michelle Moore (Community Police); Elsa Parker (Co-op Members); Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); James Wilson (Parish Churches/Foodbanks); Ted Wisedale (Westhoughton Local History Group).



2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Mark Taylor, of the Hope Church and Hope Centre, as Chair for this meeting welcomed all on this our 4th visit to Brookfield Hall, remarking that this was where WCN had its very first meeting all those years ago back in August 2011 (9th); he extended thanks to Victoria Pennington and staff for the use of their premises and hospitality, with a nod to owners of the hall, our guests the Freemasons – the invite came about because of connections made and information shared during the Heritage Open Day here last year.

Apologies were noted. There was a quick update on the previous minutes [M29 16/5/18]: the Certificates of Achievement to Westhoughton High School pupils and school from the Town Council as nominated by WCN for the Heart Beats 2020 Campaign (First Aid in schools) were awarded in July. There was an update on General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) issues: this cumbersome and overreaching regulation meeting with inertia from those 'needing' to opt-in (email response generally poor), and some websites outside the EU area simply not making themselves available due to the new rules.

3. West Lancashire Freemasons

Chris Jones (Membership) and Mike Threlfall (his boss) both of the Chorley Group of Masonic Lodges gave an overview of the organisation of Masonic Lodges and the charitable work that they do.

Freemasons is a large and ancient, non-religious but faith-based, and non-political organisation. The earliest recorded 'making' of a Freemason in England is that of Elias Ashmole in 1646. Organised Freemasonry began with the founding of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 - the 2017 Heritage Open Day marked the 200th anniversary, attended by some in the room who said it was very interesting. Entry is age from 21 years; it is a fraternal organisation promoting self-knowledge and moral standing through a range of Lodge activities. Meetings are minuted; there are a number of ceremonial activities followed by dinner. Organised into Lodges. Brookfield Hall is a key centre with 11 Lodges meeting here, plus another on a quarterly basis.

Charitable work is funded by individual financial gifts from members according to their means. Allocation is by annual decisions on national, regional and local basis.

Some local awards include rest homes, NHS premises and soup kitchens. National awards have been made to dementia care, hospices, Blood Bikes, and in line with their fraternal objectives deceased members' families. Local monies raised are in the order of £4,000, there are some standing orders to registered charities; some local donations are made to voluntary groups.

Chris Jones took questions from the room, such as about criteria for membership, and also in relation to women – there is a separate Order of Women Freemasons with its own constitution spread across the UK. It is non-discriminatory. If you don't know a member you can apply to join online or by email.



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Chris, having looked up the WCN website stated that he was impressed with our network and welcomed being involved, and being made aware of work done in this local community.

There are freemasons websites with more information about the organisation: westlancsfreemasons.org.uk | [United Grand Lodge of England](#) | [Order of Women Freemasons](#) | [Chorley and District Masonic Group](#)

The Chair thanked the speakers for their time and interesting presentation.

4. Information Share

Women of Westhoughton – Janice Bayliss reported on the increased membership following the Yarn Bombing Festival in July. The events and social activities programme has been updated (WCN). The group meets weekly (Thursdays 7:30pm) at the Hope Centre on Central Drive. There will be an open-top-all 'Bring and Buy Sale' on 4th October; and taking advantage of Brookfield Hall's Open Party Nights, their Christmas Party is on 14th December. Chosen by the group's members, this year's supported charity is Bury Cancer Support Network.

Susan Missin joined us for an update on **Harold Daniels Legacy Fund**. The schools Road Safety Quiz competition had been a great success. Harold's work with refugees based at Dean Road Methodist Church is continuing supporting an annual seaside trip; as well as visits to Bolton Wanderers FC through its community scheme to watch football matches. Transport to matches is always welcome.

Westhoughton Local History Group - David Chadwick outlined future activities commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, which the group is heavily involved in. On Thursday, 8th November, as part of Mayoral events, Wingates Brass Band will perform a themed evening at Brookfield Hall (£12). Over the weekend of 10th & 11th November, and tying in with the Remembrance Sunday Services, Wreath Laying and Parade (Cenotaph/St. Bart's), there will be a History Group exhibition of post war life in Westhoughton at the Carnegie Hall (11am-2pm).

On 10th November a National Pealing of Church bells will take place at 12.30pm. Post Remembrance Parade (11th), a special plaque installed at Ditchfield Gardens is to be unveiled on the Sunday. Contact Town Clerk for information on donating flowers and the parade.

David took the opportunity to give an update on the new **Aldi** and **trains**. The carpark relocation/swap is progressing, with the building of the new supermarket now underway (groundwork and steel erection), with a mid-February target for its opening. We are getting there with train improvements, for which has been a huge project – track improvements, installing overhead cabling for electrification, new time-tables, and new rolling stock currently being tested... Weekend station closures and replacement bus services expected to continue until 4th November. [Network Rail \(Manchester-Preston Project\)](#) | [New fleet \(Bolton News\)](#)

There was a 15 minute break for refreshments and catching-up.



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St. James Church (Daisy Hill) – Glenys Latham spoke of the upcoming Heritage Open Day events at the Grade II listed Church between 13th and 16th September, as well as visits this includes a Coffee Concert on Saturday and special events on Sunday. There are 'Open Doors' on the last Saturday of the month (10am-12pm) with news about church plans, refreshments, bookstall; Westhoughton Local History Group will be doing a guided tour Thursday 11th October (10am). A young amateur dramatic group, Blitz Production, will be doing a special performance of 'As You Like It' on Friday 2nd November, 7:30pm (£5 - pay on the door). A Heritage Lottery application for refurbishment and a community extension is in progress. A fund has been set up for repair to the Bell Turret ([Appeal \(Bolton News\)](#)).

John Holt Centre (HACFRA / WAVE) – Doug Cunliffe reported on a busy summer at the centre – as well as the normal schedule of groups and activities, there has been a Funday, the centre was the base for the Urban Outreach 'BL Lunches' scheme providing lunches for those who normally get free school means. In addition, a school uniform exchange has proven very popular and a great help to the community.

Grub Tubs – Mark Taylor did a quick update in the absence of James Wilson. Donations welcome at the 14 locations across Westhoughton (see WCN Foodbanks).

Friends of Eatock Lodge – Trevor Benn reported on the very successful Family Funday the previous Sunday (2nd); there was good weather, plenty to see and do and a good attendance. Formal expression of gratitude to WCN members who had made such an important contribution: Colin Gradwell for conducting and leading nature walks; Mick Wood (John Holt Centre Scouts) for camp fire activities, and Sheena Flanagan for taking on the pond-dipping. A visit from Pcsos Michelle and Catherine with the Police Car proved much fun for children doing the sirens.

Trevor also thanked all for the provision, making and installing of three additional benches on the hill at the Eatock Lodge – a project undertaken by volunteers with Council funding over the summer.

George Formby Society – Garry Hampson updated on recent activities including the Queen's Birthday concert at the Albert Hall, and regular meetings the last Wednesday in month at the Mercury Motel (from 7:30pm) – all welcome. The latest George Formby weekend is on 15th/16th September at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool, where fans gather and celebrate the Ukulele Man.

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – Colin Gradwell told us the latest production of 2 One-Act Plays take place on Friday/Saturday 28th/29th September – tickets £6 inc refreshments – available from the Church Hall Saturdays (10am-12pm) – or contact WMADS. Rehearsals to begin for the February Panto, Aladdin (8th/9th & 15th/16th) – meeting on Monday evenings. New people always welcome. WMADS is also contributing to WW1 commemorations with the Local History Group (Thursday 15th November 10:30am).

The Church is opening its doors, and having a Barbecue on Saturday 15th September from 2pm. Fellowship and info about community events and activities.



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Daisy Hill in Bloom--Gill Williams reported on the second Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show at Daisy Hill Cricket Club the previous Sunday (2nd); there had been lots for people to look at and they look forward to next year's event. The group has regular meetings – Tuesdays 7:30pm at Daisy Hill Cricket Club, upcoming dates 11th September and 6th November – all welcome. As well as looking after the flowers, which held up well over the hot and dry summer, the group holds regular Community Litter Picks.

Bolton CVS – visiting WCN Tracey McCue mentioned support given to Bolton community groups through the [website](#) and mailshots with news and information on courses and funding.

Daisy Hill Football Club – Ian Templeman spoke of the new season and, after some summer friendlies, the North West Counties Football League Club's first win, and upcoming 1st qualifier for the FA Vase – the road to Wembley! Next round for The Cutters to be played on Saturday 15th September, followed by a busy programme of home and away matches – Saturdays 3pm or Monday evenings 7:30pm. A friendly club with a welcoming clubhouse; all support welcome at New Sirs.

Friends of Westhoughton Station – Tom Briggs joined us and expressed gratitude to local businesses and volunteers who had supported work during the summer dry spell – there were plant casualties! There are a number of wooden exhibits in place, and the gnomes are popular. Watch out for donations boxes at local businesses. Volunteers meet every Sunday from 9am to work at the station.

Friends of Daisy Hill Station – Jack Speight commented on the increased footfall arising from rail rerouting. There had been some loss of plants during drought. There is a new passenger shelter, but it is a bit on the small side! A bench/planter in memory of the late Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS), and his epic Shanghai to Daisy Hill journey by train, has been made and is in place at the station – an official dedication planned. Regular monthly work sessions on Sundays (from noon) – upcoming dates 9th September, 14th October and 18th November.

Travellin' Strings - Tim Eden updated WCN on current activities and a busy schedule for the 'Strings' with performances at Westhoughton Yarn Bombing 2018, Withington Hospital and Bolton Memory Café (RMI) – still fundraising for Alzheimer's Research. Coming up... performances at Over Hulton Conservative Club with Chloe Jones (5/9), and their 5th year entertaining at Westhoughton Golf Club Beer Festival (Friday, 7th September). Their big, already sold-out event 'Sing with the Strings' with special guests is on at Horwich RMI in aid of the Dementia Café event on Friday 28th September. Ever popular they have bookings as far as March 2019.

Tim also gave a mention to **Howfen Radio** now broadcasting online from the Hub for some 4 months – his 60s show is on a Thursday at noon. He was involved with the Howfenbury music event at the White Lion car park (25/8), which raised £500 for the fledgling station and received sponsorship from BL5 Storage. They are looking at building a second studio. howfenradio.co.uk



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Rotary Club of Westhoughton - Steve Harrington said the Rotarians were celebrating their 70th anniversary this year. On Friday, 5th October it is the 'President's Charter Evening' with entertainment and 3-course meal at Brookfield Hall - tickets £25. They have supported the Harold Daniels Road Safety Quizzes. Fundraising activities will continue with the Christmas Santa Float in December visiting Westhoughton estates – helpers welcome. On Friday 21st September (7:30pm) his church Sacred Heart is having a General Knowledge Quiz Evening – tickets £5 include pasty and tea/coffee, though you may bring your own drinks.

Westhoughton Poetry Group and Town Crier - Johnny Crook is doing a series of readings at venues around Westhoughton - quite happy to support the community with his verse. He has a poetry show on Howfen Radio. With his Town Crier duties as he adds a bit of colour and verse to community events. Poetry Group meetings continue at Westhoughton Library, last Thursday of month at 2pm - new members always welcome. Johnny's poems are regularly updated on the group's WCN page.

H.E.A.R.T. – the residents groups fighting the golf course and housing development – now called in – at Hulton Park. David Chadwick mentioned their fundraising activities including a 'Calendar Girls' type calendar selling for £10, available from Deardens Farm, Westhoughton Market, E.J. News, Gee Tees...

5. Any Other Business

- Claire Hill from **HACFRA** (John Holt Centre) asked that a note be made of the duplication of some activities despite **The Hub's** assurances at its beginning this would not happen, and existing groups and their activities would be respected. Some groups such as **Tots and Toddlers** seeing numbers fall are concerned Hub activities are impacting on established groups and their income and viability. The Chair commented that WCN has influence as a community network but does not have power. Hopefully The Hub's management will attend a future meeting to address concerns...
- The next **Westhoughton Area Forum** is on Thursday, 8th November at Westhoughton High School – Drop-in 6:30pm | Main meeting 7pm.
- The Brookfield Hall 'Open' **Christmas Party Night** on 14th December sold out; an additional event has been added for the following Friday (21st) – welcome drink, 3-course Christmas meal, photobooth, DJ (£30). Contact team@brookfieldhall.co.uk / 01942 813125 to book.
- A sign of good musical health, **Wingates Band** is to compete with the elite brass bands of Britain and Europe at the British Open at the Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday 9th September. We wish them luck! Having received some funding support, the Band is holding a number of PTSD Musical Therapy Workshops between October and December to people from the Services who suffer with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, extended to cover other occupations/groups. A chance to try a brass instrument and participate in music making. Contact wingatesbrassband@gmail.com for further information (before 23/9).



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- **Westhoughton Community Choir** is to hold an Open Evening for those interested in getting involved in choral singing on Monday, 1st October (7:00 to 8:30pm) at the Hope Centre, Central Drive. This is the regular practice evening. Informal and fun. Men welcome!
- **Senior Solutions** – its AGM is on the 2nd October (2pm) at Sacred Heart Church - local organisations welcome. It hopes to launch a new Telephone Befriending service soon. Volunteers needed >>> Befriending, drivers, fundraisers, sitting in befrienders for the new joint project to support carers and telephone befrienders. Befrienders needed in the Blackrod area. New monthly Carers support group early stages of being developed (meetings being held). Chair Based exercise class has taken off, plenty of room if anyone wants to try - weekly - Tuesdays, Sacred Heart 12:30pm until around 1:15pm (£2.00 includes refreshments).
Town Crier, Johnny Crook, was thanked for his attendance and poem to celebrate a 100th birthday. Michelle Todd saying: “Johnny was fantastic as always and really made the day special.” Westhoughton Town Mayor, Arthur Price, was also in attendance.
- **Westhoughton Town Council** have programme of upcoming civic events:
Mayor's Ball with Wingates Band, Brookfield Hall, Thurs 8/11 £12
Remembrance Day Cenotaph/St. Bart's, Sun 11/11
Schools Carol Service and Christmas Lights Switch-on, St. Bart's, Fri 30/11
For further details contact the Town Clerk – 01942 819802
- **Bolton Arena** (Indoor Courts) is launching ‘Walking Sports’ from Friday 7th September 10am to 1pm, with Tennis, Badminton & Table Tennis, Netball sessions. £3 (£6 inc. lunch). Info sport@boltonarena.com or 01204 488131.
- **Bolton Council Consultations** – A ‘Rights of Way’ Improvement Plan Bolton Council Plan 2018-2028. Looking for feedback and contributions on public paths and rights of way. [Consultations \(Bolton Council\)](#). (By 10/11.)

Groups are reminded to let WCN know of future and future activities so they can be added to website/calendar and promoted via social media between meetings.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and their contributions. Chris Buckley thanked Mark Taylor for chairing this meeting, and Ann Benn for minuting.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at

La Scala Restaurant

Wednesday, 28th November 2018

Meeting finished at 9:05pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk

Westhoughton.Net