



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday, 11th September 2013**

at St. John's Church, Wingates

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (19)

1. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)
2. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
3. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)
4. Hope Church/Communiversality (HOPE)
5. National Association of Women's Clubs (NAWC)
6. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
7. Save Westhoughton Act Now (SWAN)
8. Senior Solutions (SenSol) *formerly Westhoughton Visiting Service*
9. St. Johns Church Wingates (SJW)
10. Townswomen's Guild (TWG)
11. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO)
12. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)
13. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA)
14. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
15. Westhoughton Market (WMK)
16. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)
17. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC)
18. Westhoughton United Reformed Church (WURC)
19. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)

#### Individuals in attendance (26)

Sue Ashcroft (WMADS)	Andrew Glynn (SJW)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Janice Bayliss (NAWC)	Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Gareth Thomas (StJW)
Ann Benn (FoEL)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	John Howard-Norman (WMC/SS)	Denis Woolley (FWS)
Doreen Booth (TWG)	Alexandra Ingram (WMK)	Yvonne Woolley (WLHG)
Maye Byers (TWG)	Jean Jones (SenSol)	Lynne Young (WURC)
Joan Coban (WMK)	Elise Nimmo (WAG)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Janet Colley (WACO)	Susan O'Donnell (WOW)	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Andrew Glitheroe (SWAN)	Jack Speight (FDHS)	

#### Apologies (14)

Becky Boydell (Youth Services - Get Active); Bill Greenhalgh (Westhoughton Methodist ADS); David Chadwick (Westhoughton Town Council); Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group); Pam Clarke (Westhoughton Local History Group); Doug Cunliffe (Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association); Margaret Curme (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); David Kaye (Wingates Band); Steve Harrington (Rotary Club of Westhoughton); Joanna Parncutt (Friends of Westhoughton Station); Kellie McGarry (Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation); Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); Jean Watkinson (Westhoughton Community Queens Association); Anne Burns (Bolton at Home).



## 1. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Harold Daniels (Chair) opened the meeting, thanking St John's for the use of the Church and hospitality. Gareth Thomas, new Reverend for St. John's (Wingates) and St. James (Daisy Hill) introduced himself and welcomed WCN for the evening.

Minutes of the previous meeting agreed—name of attendee amended (Veronica Swinbourne).

Those present introduced themselves and the groups they represented.

## 2. Senior Solutions

Jean Jones and John Howard-Norman gave a presentation. A summary of the history and development of Westhoughton Visiting Service which had grown and expanded beyond Westhoughton, and which has recently been rebranded as 'Senior Solutions' reflecting its services and future aspirations.

The group has 282 members and 106 volunteers to help with a variety of activities, not just the original aim of providing a visiting service to the elderly, but also social luncheons and carer relief. A new leaflet was distributed at the meeting and it was noted that the Bolton News had recently printed an article. Jean and John expressed gratitude to Bolton Council for continued support, but commented on the need to identify alternative sources of funding. Members asked questions about contact details and systems of referral.

## 3. Communiversity

Mark Taylor explained the reasons behind the recent change of management of the community centre by Hope Church. Mark emphasised that existing activities would continue at The Communiversity, but also hopes to build on the good work of W.A.C.O., extending the network of community projects.

A new website and landline telephone is planned, but meanwhile Mark can be contacted on 07837 787323.

## 4. Foodbanks Project

[Later agenda item taken at this point] Mark Taylor reported that seven Churches and Community Groups are now involved in the StoreHouse Project which oversees the initiative, with the Westhoughton hub at the Communiversity.

Grub Tub donations around Westhoughton are brought to the Communiversity, and then on a group rota basis transported to the Bolton store for redistribution as per allocations/need to individuals/families.



## 5. W.A.C.O. Update

Janet Colley gave a history of the development of W.A.C.O., and outlined current activities including association with Hope Church and the Communiversity. EAU Ltd (Enterprise Action Unity) - the non-profit company set up by W.A.C.O. to run the Communiversity - disbanded at the end of July. W.A.C.O. will now work to raise funds for community projects in Westhoughton; in a changed and tighter economic climate looking to a wider range of sources for funding applications is seen as a priority. W.A.C.O. is to work on a system for allocation of monies raised.

The popular and highly successful It's-a-Knockout event will continue (early June); Washacre FM 2014 wishes to do their broadcast the week before this event, and awaits confirmation of the W.A.C.O. date.

Janet informed the group of a subsidised Bolton Wanderers tickets scheme for (some) home matches at the Reebok stadium. The £10 tickets purchased through W.A.C.O., and available to WCN members, attract a donation that contributes to fundraising.

## 6. St. John's Refurbishment

After the break, Andy Glynn gave an overview and update on the regeneration of St John's as a wider community resource. It was noted that since the last WCN meeting at St John's the pews had been removed from the body of the Church resulting in more flexible, bright, airy and warm space - a Church for all activities.

It was noted that local construction company Malrod had been particularly helpful with this challenging project.

## 7. WCN Community Fayre Review/Update (July)

The event had been blessed with good weather and had been well attended; outdoor activities had been very popular with the result that some of the indoor presenter stalls (including WCN) were less well attended. Nevertheless it had been a successful event in connecting the community. The members had a wide discussion about the format and timing of future events. After discussion it was decided that there would not be a November event, but it was suggested by Jean Coban that some of the available stalls on Westhoughton Market could be used as a leaflet/information point or one-off community stall for groups as required.

Other suggestions included wider use of the Communiversity - there were mixed feelings regarding being in 'classrooms' as opposed to the open format of the market. Dave Hendry suggested setting up a small sub-group to consider these points for a future fayre. It was agreed to come back to this at the early 2014 meeting.



## 8. Group Updates / Information Share

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

**Westhoughton United Reformed Church** has a number of events coming up:

- Sun 29 Sept - 10.30am – ‘Songs of Praise’ joint pastorate service with a Boys Brigade Band will be in attendance.
- Sat 19 Oct - 10am to 2pm – Craft Fair. Refreshments available also some home baking and tombola.
- Sat 9 Nov - 10am to 2pm – Indoor Car boot sale/Table top sale.
- Sat 7 Dec - 7.30pm – The Houghton Weavers. Tickets £12.50 inc. refreshments. Contact: Margaret Curme. Tel 01942 812001.
- Sun 8 Dec - 10.30am – Christmas Tree & Toy Service. Representative from Bolton Lions attends and takes the toys to needy children in the locality.
- Sun 22 Dec - 6.30pm – Candlelight Carol Service, with light refreshments in the Hall afterwards.

Also announced was the ‘**Bethel Building Fund Appeal**’ which aims to raise £25,000 towards urgent building work to take place next summer. Over the past 200 years the church has been an community hub with a wide-range of activities and groups using the building. Events will take place to help achieve the goal.

**The Bethel Crowd Youth Theatre** is currently performing ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ 13/14 and 20/21 Sept with matinees on Saturdays.

**Friends of Westhoughton Station** - great progress has been made with landscaping and also installations (such as bird boxes). Yvonne Woolley spoke of a drop in volunteers helping with some of the labour-intensive border work at the Sunday sessions (1st & 3rd of month). More help most welcome.

**Westhoughton Methodist ADS** - prior to the February Panto (‘Puss in Boots’), the drama group are to put on a Murder Mystery Evening on Sat 16 Nov – ‘Who Killed the Hotel Manager?’ A three-part mystery with audience participation to help solve the crime, with prize for best solution.

The church itself is looking to develop its facilities for groups and external users.

**Westhoughton Art Group** - Dave Hendry alerted the group to the Bolton Art Forum ([boltonartsforum.org.uk](http://boltonartsforum.org.uk)) and the possibility of grants for arts-related projects. An AGM is coming up shortly.

Due to the success of WAG, a new afternoon session at The Communiversity will commence from Mon 30 Sept between 1pm and 4pm. Contact Dave if interested. There is a £5 joining fee and with a £3 per week session fee.

WAG will be hosting a second Art Exhibition upstairs at Westhoughton Library during the last two weeks of October. Free admittance.

**Hope Church** is having a quiz evening at the Communiversity on Sat 21 Sept - 7.30pm. Good fun! All welcome.



# Westhoughton Community Network

**St. John's Wingates** are also having a quiz (date TBC); a Men's Club is to start. The Community Hub is open and welcomes enquiries.

**Women of Westhoughton** - after a successful few months this fledgling group which meets Thursdays from 7:30pm at The Communiversity has a full programme of events and activities. Details are posted on the WCN website/calendar. Janet Bayliss gave an overview of progress.

**Townswomen's Guild** - Doreen Booth gave an overview of the group, which celebrated 60 years in 2012, and meets monthly on the 3rd Monday at the John Holt Centre. An updated programme is now on the WCN website.

**Westhoughton Market** – Alex Ingram, who is taking on Jean Coban's Trader Association role, introduced herself to the group and together with Jean gave an overview of plans for another Victorian Market on Sat 7 Dec. This popular event will involve all of Market Street, with the market in offering entertainment, raffles and special stalls - traders will be in Victorian dress.

**Westhoughton Community Queens** - Sandra Greenhall informed the group of fundraising fayre with stalls to be held at The Mercury on ~~Sat 16 Nov~~ (afternoon).

Sunday, 17 Nov

**Wingates Band** - David Kaye by proxy confirmed that after much endeavour the bands anthology 'From Bible Class to World Class' is ready for the printer. It marks the bands 140th anniversary, with orders now welcome.

The book will be officially 'launched' at the band's 140th Gala Anniversary Concert at Bolton's Victoria Hall on Sat 26 Oct - 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £9). Contact David on 01204 696984 / 07970 131460.

Finally Chris Buckley brought to the group's attention a Heritage of Drama - Bolton event: a chance to visit and look around **Bolton Little Theatre** (Hanover Street) over the weekend of 14/15 Sept. And [Bolton CVS Community Engagement Team](#) offering a number of free Training/Awareness Sessions to groups in Westhoughton covering issues around Safety in the Home, Alcohol, Tobacco, Cancer, STIs and Mental Health. For more information contact Farzana on 01204 546040.

\*\* For further information on events see the website.

Details of news / event should be sent in to WCN for updating >> [Add Event](#) \*\*

## 9. Any Other Business

The Chair extended thanks to Jean Coban for her help and support in Westhoughton Market activities involving WCN, and wished her well in her retirement. Harold also noted good wishes for Pam Clarke's speedy recovery.

## 10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**Tuesday, 12th November from 7.00pm at John Holt Centre**

Provisional items: an overview of WAVE, the community interest organisation taking on the John Holt Centre, and a look at the 'Incredible Edible' food growing scheme that has been a great success in Todmorden.