



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: Tuesday, 12th February 2019 | 7:00pm
at John Holt Youth and Community Centre

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (19)

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| 1. Art By Elise (ABE) | 13. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) |
| 2. Bethel Crowd (BCD) | 14. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG) |
| 3. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS) | 15. Westhoughton Community Royalty (WCR) |
| 4. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL) | 16. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPG) |
| 5. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FoWS) | 17. Westhoughton Active Volunteer Enterprise (WAVE) |
| 6. Harold Daniels Legacy Fund (HDLF) | 18. Winifred Kettle Centre (Bolton Cares) (WKC) |
| 7. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 19. Westhoughton Local History Group |
| 8. Howfen Radio (HWR) | ~ Bolton College (BCOL) |
| 9. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW) | ~ Bolton Council (BCMBC) |
| 10. Travellin' Strings (TST) | ~ Co-op Members (COOP) |
| 11. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG) | ~ Playing For Success (PFS) |
| 12. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP) | ~ Westhoughton Town Council |

Individuals in attendance (27)

Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Janet Halliwell (WKC)	Janet Rhodes (PFS)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Jayne Taramontana (BMBC)
Johnny Crook (WPG)	Elise Hendry (ABE)	Jason Taylor (BCD)
Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA)	Sam Khan (BCOL)	Tracie Thornton (HACFA)
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Mike Wood (WAVE)
Tim Eden (TST)	Kath Lloyd (WKC)	Jessica Wood (WAVE)
Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	Susan Missin (HDLF)	Chris Buckley (WCN) SECRETARY
Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Elsa Parker (Coop)	Ann Benn (FoEL) CHAIR

Apologies (17)

Janice Bayliss (Women of Westhoughton); Doreen Booth (Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild); Tom Briggs (Friends of Westhoughton Station); Paul Budd (The Hub); Ann Butler (Westhoughton High School); Kate Conway (Bolton Lads and Girls Club); Dave Fensome (Westhoughton Methodist ADS); Garry Hampson (George Formby Society); Julie Loughran (Senior Solutions); Joy Mooney (Wingates Band); Bob Naylor (Daisy Hill FC); Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); Mark Taylor (Hope Church); Ian Templeman (Daisy Hill FC); Michelle Todd (Senior Solutions); James Wilson (Grub Tubs/CoE Parish); Ted Wisedale (Westhoughton Local History Group).



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 the John Holt Centre for hosting this meeting and providing break-time refreshments. It is the fourth time we've been here.

There were a number of apologies noted. No matters arising from the last minutes (WCN M31).

Those present were asked to briefly introduce themselves and groups represented.

3. Playing For Success

Janet Rhodes introduced the Bolton Council organisation which specialises in supporting groups with writing and applying for community needs-based small Lottery grants, and in providing activities to support community projects and local engagement – in particular working with schools providing outdoor environmental sessions, and art and even drama sessions.

Janet has recently supported **Friends of Eatock Lodge** in obtaining funding for projects using the lodge to provide outdoor nature-related sessions for schoolchildren (September) and for engaging with older people bringing them closer to nature, stirring memories and enjoying the outdoors (summer). The projects will be hands-on and stimulating, building on the intergenerational dimension. Janet is currently developing her side of the project and liaising with schools and senior organisations. The funding will also allow Friends of Eatock Lodge to organise other activities such as the end of summer Family Funday (1st September).

4. Bolton College (Adult Learning Provision)

We were joined by Jayne Taramontana, of Bolton Council whose role as Adult Education Officer is to look at, develop and promote adult learning provision across the borough, as delivered by Bolton College. Aware of the controversy involved in the closure of the Westhoughton Centre (now The Hub), and both budgetary constraints and demands of educational provision that is obliged to improve employability of local citizens, Jayne and her team are to consult with the local community about local need, family learning and how best to use a tight budget whilst ensuring good delivery and outcomes of courses provided.

Adult Education funding is moving from Government to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Budget (Health, Education, Social Care). The consultation will take the form of an online questionnaire, supported by meetings with key partners, and a 'Learners Week' in June with events and taster courses. Whilst a 'Festival of Learning' last summer did not generate the take-up hoped for, the Council and College are looking to improve and provide some adult provision in Westhoughton, identifying The Hub, John Holt Centre, Library and Washacre School as centres for learning.



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Being tailored for employment, it is important that courses support work – Maths and English, Digital Literacy (which are free); but self-improvement and skill-based courses such as photography, hairdressing, floristry, cake-making... are available, which can also lead to self-employment opportunities.

Jayne took some questions: Dave Hendry suggested that mental health through art and creative learning would be beneficial; music too is good for the community – the coming together of the **Travellin' Strings** post-music course has had a significant impact on those involved, the community and their fundraising beneficiaries. It is not black and white, Adult Education should be about more than getting people into work - self-improvement has other dimensions. Jayne reiterated constraints about demonstrable benefits and added value being part of the equation.

Sam Khan from Bolton College introduced some of current provision and half-day courses at New Bury Community Learning Centre (Farnworth), accessible to Westhoughton residents. Brochures and leaflets were left. More information at www.boltoncollege.ac.uk | 01204 4829660.

5. Fairtrade Initiative

Elsa Parker of **Co-op Members** (instrumental in supporting local groups WASP and Wingates Band through its 'Local Causes' scheme), introduced the scheme which aims to support suppliers throughout the supply chain – fair price and fair treatment by retailers. Acknowledging some of the work Jack Speight had done in this regard, Elsa hoped that Westhoughton, if there was the will and support might become a Fairtrade Town. Gastang was the first; there are now 1,200 such towns worldwide. The Co-op itself has been fair-trade since the 1990s and has a wide range of Fairtrade products available.

With a Fairtrade Town needing to champion fairtrade, Elsa outlined the criteria that needed to be met: (1) Local Council passes a resolution and uses such products at meetings; (2) At least two fair-trade products should be available locally and used by workplaces, schools, etc. (3) There should be media coverage and support.

Borough Councillor David Chadwick pointed out the Bolton Council has been fairtrade since 2006; however there was support in the room for the idea and it seems some criteria is already met; people thought a large retailer fronting this was a positive – and the scheme could have a marketing bonus for the town. Elsa will continue look into this and feedback to the network.

There was a short break for refreshments and networking.

6. Information Share

John Holt Youth and Community Centre – Doug Cunliffe gave a HACFRA and WAVE update. The Centre is a hive of activity with some new provision including bakery, sewing sessions, and a Job Club. HACRA is organising one of its coach trips: this



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time to the 'Big Car Boot' at Towyn then onto Rhyl on Sunday, 19th May (£13) – open to wider community.

David Chadwick gave an update on matters affecting the town: as discussed here, after a long, often frustrating period there is progress with **rail improvements and electrification**... the first, new all-electric trains are now coming into service across Greater Manchester and the Bolton area, and will in time be more numerous and replace the Pacer trains. Benefits include greater capacity through additional carriages which should alleviate overcrowding (some station platforms are being extended; at Daisy Hill an unused, blocked-off part of the platform is currently being brought back into use); these trains are quieter and more efficient... we will also see a hybrid diesel-electric train able to handle non-electrified track (a potential blockage problem with electric identified beyond Lostock). All this is geared up to the new May timetable which will see improvements in frequency across the network; though current journey timings will be kept to during the transition. [Northern Rail Improvements](#).

Longer term (4-5 years) as part of Greater Manchester strategic planning, they are looking at tram-trains along the Daisy Hill line, which will offer improvements for commuters. [Transport for the North \(rail\)](#).

David mentioned that the new Westhoughton Aldi store will be opening 21st February; and that £12m has been allocated for Town Centre improvements, £1m will be spent in Westhoughton, which will include improved parking provision. David gave some detail as to Council Tax rises for 2019-20 agreed by the Cabinet (11/2/19); this also covers Social Care and Police.

Westhoughton Local History Group – Val Chadwick gave an update on the group, which regularly has attendances of 70-80 people at its Library meetings (1st & 3rd Thursdays of month from 10:00am); a diverse range of activities include guest speakers, quizzes, walks and trips taking in history locally and sometimes far away - a Houses of Parliament trip planned for next week; Chatsworth House later. The group does research into key local events which feeds into exhibitions and books. This summer will see the group will put on a Peterloo (16/8/1819) commemorative event in this its bicentenary year.

Winifred Kettle – following its refurbishment and reopening (2016) as an NHS Heath Centre and Day Care Centre managed by **Bolton Cares**, Janet Halliwell spoke of services and activities provided for day care through the week catering for 70-80 people with social activities (games, arts, crafts, occasional entertainment, creative work...), supervision and meals; its specialised day service can cater for a range of OAP needs serving Westhoughton and beyond. Janet has been working with outside groups, local schools and users to develop the service and build its reputation for first class care. Last year the centre put on a Remembrance event; this year they will be working with W.A.S.P., Age UK and others to organise a summer, themed event in the centre and gardens.

W.A.S. P – Wilf Dillon, 96-year old Treasurer and Event Organiser for this thriving OAP group, ever-enthusiastic and recovering well from a recent health scare, gave



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an update on activities and events for the year: these include regular social get-togethers for bingo and games Monday and Thursday at the John Holt Centre and Winifred Kettle respectively, and the programme of trips to the seaside with entertainment for its members. Its big event is the W.A.S.P. Christmas Party, which also sees some 60 non-W.A.S.P. OAPs invited. The group received over £8,588 in funding from Co-op Members ('Local Causes') which will keep its finances in good order for a couple of years. Its AGM is on the 25th March (1pm) at the John Holt Centre.

Friends of Daisy Hill Station – Jack Speight. Monthly volunteer work at station to resume (schedule on WCN). Currently work is ongoing to bring more of platform into use (for longer trains); this will create an area that can be used for plants and grass. There is money for a passenger lift; questions asked about there being adequate covered areas for waiting commuters (standing on stairs problematic). Some issues with youths hanging around the station.

Harold Daniels Legacy Fund – we welcomed Susan Missin who informed us that in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Westhoughton, a second Road Safety Quiz involving four local primary schools will take place on 21st March.

Westhoughton Art Group – Describing the groups' output: "Ordinary people producing extraordinary art!", Dave Hendry gave updates on the Monday arts classes at the John Holt Centre, now there two years and with 27 members (capacity for 24). A second painting and drawing offering is by the 'Art By Elise' classes at the Hope Centre on Thursdays 10am-12pm, and the newly started Wednesday class 12:30-2:30pm at the John Holt Centre.

Dave reminded groups of funding available for discreet art and craft projects of up to £500 through [Bolton Arts Forum](#).

Now in its 8th year of doing so, both groups looking forward to their upcoming Art Exhibition at Westhoughton Library from March 7th lasting a month. The preview evening to which all WCN groups are most welcome will be on Tuesday, 5th March (6pm) with Tony Berry of the Houghton Weavers invited to open this year's exhibition. Once again, funds raised on the night will go to Macmillan Cancer.

Tony Berry has been suffering ill-health lately recently missing a fundraising show for the Town Mayor; there was appreciation for support he and the Houghton Weavers have given the community over the years with their performances and presence at events, as well as for the joy and warmth in their unique performances. The room asked to send on our very best wishes to Tony.

Friends of Westhoughton Station – Steve Freeborn. Work continues on a Sunday morning at the station (10am for 2-3 hours), clearing and planting... The Christmas display was excellent – well received by commuters; the group continuing to outdo itself with its displays. Supported by Janet Rhodes and involving a group of 11-year old children from St. George's School there is a station art project pending. Money has been received from TfGM (£250) to repaint the white fence on the Wigan platform – a task the volunteers will now take on themselves.



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Unfortunately, some incidents of vandalism have been occurring again. Frustrating for those making the station clean, tidy and a pleasant environment.

Bethel Crowd – Jason Taylor talked of the very successful recent pantomime ('Little Red Riding Hood'). Upcoming shows include a Murder Mystery - 'Death By Chocolate' on Saturday, 23rd March (7:15pm). A fun evening trying to solve the whodunnit, when you can bring own drinks and refreshments. The next Junior Show is 'Hoodwinked' - The Robin Hood Musical; auditions are Sunday, 17th March (1pm), with initial meeting on more Wednesday, 13th March (7:15pm). The show is performed in June (21st, 22nd, 28th and 29th). Tickets for all shows and events can be purchased [online](#).

As well as his work with the Bethel Crowd, where as well as acting he has made his directorial debut, Jason is now involved and performing with Bolton Little Theatre.

Tim Eden brought us up to date with the world of the **Travellin' Strings** as they continue to wow audiences with their unique sing-along offering, whilst supporting community groups and raising money for Alzheimer's and Heart charities. Upcoming gigs include: St. Vincent's, Over Hulton (Friday, 15th February); in Kearsley, at a remembrance event for the 1878 mining disaster (44 dead) – Unity Brook Colliery Fund (Friday, 8th March); the Horwich Mayor's Ball with a James Bond themed 'Stars in their Eyes' evening at Horwich RMI on Friday, 5th April (7pm) – tickets are £10 (Call 07759 148693). Tim made an offer to play for W.A.S.P. at an event, which has since been taken up. The group is now getting some private shows which are helping them sustain the band.

Tim is involved in organising an 'Open Mic' evening at **Westhoughton Golf Club** on Friday, 22nd March (8pm), hosted by Linda J off 'The Voice': a chance for local musicians to play to an audience in a fun, informal and friendly setting. It's free. Bar and facilities will be available.

Westhoughton Poetry Group – Johnny Crook was promoting both his poetry activities and his Town Crier duties, with which he can bring a bit of pomp to events. He is happy to take engagements and support the local community. The poetry group meets last Thursday of month 2pm at Westhoughton Library; a chance to explore poetry and writing, and use creativity to deal with life! There is also a writing/poetry group that meets first Monday of month 2pm at Bolton Library.

Johnny has recently been published as a poet with his first book [My Tinnitus Created Mirth and Verse...](#)

Both Tim Eden and Johnny Crook have regular shows on online community radio station [Howfen Radio](#) – '60s Plus' Thursdays (12-2pm) and 'Johnny C's Poetry Corner' Wednesdays (1-3pm) respectively. Broadcasting between 9am and 5pm, the station has been growing its content with a diverse range of shows. It is happy to promote local events and news.



7. Any Other Business

- **Westhoughton Methodist ADS** – Panto ‘Aladdin’ it is the final weekend with performances on Friday and Saturday 15th and 16th February (7:15pm). Tickets are £5.50/£5 with a group offer of 10 tickets for the price of 9. Pay on door or contact 07808 841631 (Colin). This year there is a special Saturday matinee performance at 2:30pm, with the optional tie-in of panto & Chinese meal deal for £12 from with Man’s Palace.
- **Westhoughton Library** - Vicky Gee, new Library Manager, has made a request for a ‘gardening group’ to assist the Library: there are five large planters currently with old, dead plants and also artificial plants – they want to offer the tubs to a group to use in the library, and maybe also occasionally let their toddlers plant or members of a new potential dementia group assist. A new autism support group is starting. There have been one-off sessions: an ‘Anti-scam’ talk aiming to protect people and prevent them from becoming victims of scams, and also an ‘ICT and Biscuits’ drop-in, where people can bring in any computers / phones or basic tech questions they have at any time between. Details on WCN, watch out for other events...
- **Wingates Band** is busy at this time of year preparing for the Area Contest in Blackpool; it is the road to the ‘National Championships’ held in Birmingham in September. Joy Mooney is currently preparing the final stages for funding applications for the Band Hall re-build project, as well as the PTSD/Mental Health workshops funded by Co-op ‘Local Causes’ – its scope is to be extended to include a larger age group and also other mental health groups. The 2019 concert programme being finalised; there is a possibility of an Eatock Lodge Summer Concert...
- The annual **Woman’s World Day of Prayer** takes place on Friday, 1st March 2019 (7pm) at Westhoughton Methodist Church (BL5 3RQ). The Service is prepared by Christian Women of Slovenia, and the theme is “Come - Everything is Ready!” It is a multi-church/International event involving 120 countries and islands. Those participating in the service, we will be part of a big wave of prayer encircling the globe – starting as the sun rises over Samoa and ending some 38 hours later back in the Pacific, as the sun sets over American Samoa. Men welcome too! www.wwdp.org.uk.
- There is a new **Church of England Team Rector** for the Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton and Wingates Parish, The Reverend Carol Pharaoh; her Institution and Induction Ceremony took place on 31st January at St. Bart’s.
- The second draft of the **Greater Manchester Spatial Framework** has been published ([Information & Documents](#).) An 8-week consultation, which began 21st January 2019, is under way. A Public Consultation will take place at Westhoughton’s Carnegie Hall on Monday, 25th February (2pm to 7pm) with the public able to view plans, infrastructure proposals, ask questions of planners. In essence, there is now less green belt building with focus on town



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centres and brownfield; some Westhoughton green sites removed from GMSF - Hulton Park, Lee Hall and Bowlands Hey. However, these sites all have approved applications, with Hulton Park going to Public Enquiry (1/10/19). There are allocations of employment land along M61 corridor including Cutacre expansion (M61 J4) and west of Wingates (M61 J6). And a new allocation, Chequerbent North (Snydale Way).

- For those concerned with crime or wishing to seek advice on crime or anti-social behaviour, there are regular **Police Drop-ins**:
John Holt Centre (fortnightly) – next... Tuesday 26th February (9:30-11:30am).
Westhoughton Market (4 weekly) – next... Thursday, 21st February (12-1pm).
The Hub, Central Drive (4-weekly) – next... Monday, 4th March (7-8pm).
A new police constable has joined the team – PC Mick Tinsley.
- News has been received of a successful Heritage Lottery funding application by **St. James Church (Daisy Hill)**. £70,500 has been awarded for the “Promotion of the Heritage of Daisy Hill’s Unique Paley and Austin Church”. The project focuses on repairing damage caused by vegetation growth to the 85ft. Bell Turret – a Daisy Hill landmark – including an understanding of the construction of this unique Grade II listed building, now placed on the ‘At Risk Register’ by Historic England. Other aspects of the project involve researching the history of the church, local area and sponsors the Haddock Family... and educational projects spreading knowledge and understanding of the church, its history and significance to the local community.

And finally... Chair Ann Benn announced that Chris Buckley has been awarded a **Civic Medal** by Westhoughton Town Council in recognition of his service to the community over two decades; this includes work in establishing and developing Westhoughton Community Network, as well as involvement with many other groups and community projects over the years. The recipient now becomes the holder of the **Harold Daniels Trophy** for the year. The formal presentation ceremony takes place in February when Chris will receive the award from the Town Mayor Cllr. Arthur Price.

The room gave a very warm round of applause for this well-deserved recognition.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at
Daisy Hill FC (New Sirs)
Wednesday, 15th May 2019

Meeting finished at 9:10pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk