



# Westhoughton Community Network

**Meeting: 7:00pm Tuesday, 7th February 2017**

at St. John's Church, Wingates

## Minutes

### 1. Present

#### Groups in attendance (22)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Barking Berrys (BARK)                                    | 13. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) |
| 2. Bethel Crowd (BCD)                                       | 14. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)             |
| 3. Daisy Hill in Bloom (DHIB)                               | 15. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG)                        |
| 4. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS)                     | 16. Westhoughton Active Volunteer Enterprise (WAVE)     |
| 5. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)                           | 17. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)             |
| 6. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS)                    | 18. Westhoughton Parish Churches (WPC)                  |
| 7. George Formby Society (GFS)                              | 19. Westhoughton Poetry Group (WPG)                     |
| 8. Hindley's And Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 20. Wingates Brass Band (WB)                            |
| 9. Howfen Radio (HFR)                                       | 21. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)                         |
| 10. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)                       | ~ Bolton Council (BMBC)                                 |
| 11. St. Johns Church Wingates (SJW)                         | ~ Bolton CVS (BCVS)                                     |
| 12. Travelliin' Strings (TST)                               | ~ Clegg's Lane Church Community Workshop (MIS)          |
|   | ~ Harold Daniels Legacy Fund (HDLF)                     |
|   | ~ PSoup (PSP)   |

#### Individuals in attendance (39)

Jill Aldred (DHIB)	Janice Estcourt (GFS)	Kellie McGarry (WACO)
Janice Bayliss (WOW)	Barry Glasspell (BMBC)	Susan Missin (HDLF)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Andrew Glynn (SJW)	Joy Mooney (WB)
Scarlett Berry (BARK)	Mark Grundy (BCVS)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Chris Brewster (LIBR)	Garry Hampson (GFS)	Nilda Speight (FDHS)
Charlotte Carlin (PSP)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Veronica Swinburne (DHIB)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Jason Taylor (BCD)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Stephen Hesketh (WASP)	Anna-Marie Watters (BMBC)
Alan Clare (OHCW)	Kirsty Jacques (WB)	James Wilson (WPC)
Johnny Crook (WPS)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Mick Wood (HACFRA/WAVE)
Christine Dunscombe (BARK)	Joan Leyden (FWS)	Jessica Wood (HACFRA/WAVE)
Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (BARK)	Len Maycroft (WASP)	Ann Benn (FoEL) SECRETARY
Tim Eden (TST)	Tony McGarry (WACO)	Chris Buckley (WCN) CHAIR

#### Apologies (11)

Doreen Booth, Maye Byers (Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild); Rev. Canon Chris Bracegirdle (St. Bartholomew's Church); Rev'd Lesley Dinham (Westhoughton Methodist Church & ADS); Stephen Freeborn (Friends of Westhoughton Station); Linda James (Yarn Bombing Festival); Dennis Lee (George Formby Society); Beth Maunder (Bolton Lads and Girls Club); Brenda Shott (Friends of Eatock Lodge); Michelle Todd, Hillary Welsby (Senior Solutions); Ted Wisedale (Westhoughton Local History Group).



## 2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chris Buckley acted as Chair and welcomed all to the 24th meeting of WCN. He expressed gratitude to St John's Church (Andy and Vince) for use of the beautifully renovated Church hall and their hospitality. Apologies received were noted and announced. Attendance list completed and minutes of the last meeting agreed. Chris asked that newcomers briefly introduce themselves and groups they represented.

## 3. Remembering Bill Greenhalgh and Pam Clarke

Chris reflected on yet more recent sad losses to the whole community of Westhoughton.

There are many happy memories of Bill Greenhalgh's contribution to Westhoughton through his work with Westhoughton Methodist ADS as director, scriptwriter and performer in their productions of pantos and dramas over more than 30 years – this included bringing to life serialised radio plays for Washacre FM broadcasts; he was involved in life of Westhoughton Methodist Church including fundraising, and contributed greatly to WCN events and meetings.

Val Chadwick joined Chris in remembering Pam Clarke ('Prolific Pam') who was the founder of Westhoughton Local History Group, which has brought history to life in Westhoughton over many years with books, talks, events and walks. The go-to person for local historical record and supportive of many local groups and schools. Pam has been pivotal in charting the history and development of Westhoughton for which she has received much acclaim, including an appearance on Michael Portillo's Railways Programme for the BBC to talk about the Luddites. She was recognised by the Town Council with Civic Medal in 2014. Her final project will see the mounting of a definitive Westhoughton Historical Timeline from 1066 to present day in Westhoughton Library.

We remembered Bill and Pam with gratitude for their contributions, and noted our privilege to have known them. They will both be sorely missed.

Tributes can be found on the WCN and History Group websites. Now online: 2013 [Washacre FM interview](#) with Bill; video of Pam talking about [Hall Lee Bank Park](#).

## 4. Bolton CVS Grants and Funding Update

Mark Grundy from Bolton CVS returned to present an update on grants available from the Small Grants Fund as well as to give pointers to other sources of funding. The Small Grants Fund is for funding up to £1,500 applied for use by small community groups (income <£40k) for events and projects. Mark mentioned a number of Westhoughton groups that had already applied and been successful. Application criteria was explained for the rounds of funding – one group application every two years; rounds every 6 months; 'not-for-profit' constitution; group bank account; insurance and safeguarding policy as appropriate. There is an 80% success rate for applications (one month for outcome).



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Examples of awards include: projects old and new; equipment; training; venue hire; volunteer expenses; insurance. The following areas are favoured for funding: Improving health; building skills to improve employment or education opportunities; bringing communities together; improving green spaces and awareness of sustainable living. It is important to show you are responding to a local need and that outcomes are demonstrable. The Small Grants Team is happy to help with any enquiries.

Recently there has been a move to online applications via the [CVS website](#); having been trialled and tested it is working well. Mark took us through the online process with examples.

Mark also listed other sources of grants which are published on [Funding Central](#), run by [NCVO](#) (The National Council for Voluntary Organisations). Mentioning also: Bolton Council [Community Empowerment Fund](#); National Lottery [Awards For All](#); [Tesco Bags of Help](#) (with Groundwork); [Forever Manchester](#); [Manchester Lieutenancy](#); and Bolton-specific Provincial Walsh Trust ([joan.bohan@ntlworld.org](mailto:joan.bohan@ntlworld.org)).

For more information contact: [mark@boltoncvs.org.uk](mailto:mark@boltoncvs.org.uk) | 01204 546026.

## 5. Barking Berrys

Scarlett Berry informed us she has now raised £24,800 for animal charities including a recent online auction raising £400. The 5th Annual Fun Dog Show is planned for Saturday, 10th June (11-4), again at Central Park; this year supporting Rochdale Dog Rescue and Dogs Trust Merseyside. There will be the usual display of stalls, dog show judging in various classes - and canine related fun on the day.

## 6. Harold Daniels Legacy Fund

We were joined again by Susan Missin (Harold Daniels' daughter), she informed us that today was Harold's birthday. The room expressed support and warm wishes to Susan; glad that she is here to see our WCN gatherings in which was Harold played a big part.

Susan Missin updated WCN on progress of the fund and her own community efforts. Donations from the publication 'Harold Remembered' have raised £3,000 deposited in the new Westhoughton-based bank account. Susan asked for approaches for funding for projects involving older people; young people; education or sport. They will be looking for matched funding opportunities. The family are keen to support road safety initiatives and is making progress on a quiz link up with BRAKE with local schools, including banner promotions.

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

Susan added that the first holder of the 'Harold Daniels Memorial Trophy' is Dora Mills (Forshaw). Awarded in addition to the 'Civic Medal' by Westhoughton Town Council in recognition of her outstanding, long-term contribution to the community and fundraising on behalf of St. Bartholomew's Church and Bolton Hospice.

*There was a break at 7:55 for refreshments and networking.*



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## 7. Westhoughton Learning Centre Update

We were joined by Councillors Anna-Marie Watters and David Chadwick who asked for time to update on the emerging confusion around the future of Westhoughton Community Learning Centre. With a lack of news, no new term courses, staff departures, and removal of site equipment, there is much uncertainty around the future use of the premises, which has a lease (Bolton council) running until 2023. This directly affects a number of groups based there.

Communication has been difficult. The premises had closed on the previous Friday. Early options are being identified with certain parties for consideration. Both Councillors are keen to involve the community in future plans – community hub, learning centre...? Councillors undertook to provide a further update at the Area Forum meeting at the John Holt Centre – Thursday, 23rd March (7:00pm).

## 8. Information Share

**George Formby Society** – Garry Hampson gave details of group's meet-ups (last Wednesday in month at The Mercury) to play, sing and celebrate the ukulele man. They now do small gigs, and are performing further afield raising money for charity. The group will be entertaining at this summer's 'It's-a-Knockout'.

**PSoup** – There had been some success with John Holt courses in 2016, especially women and woodcrafts. Charlotte Carlin has since been working with Alan Clare ('Men in Sheds' guest at last meeting) to promote woodworking activities for parents and grandparents at Washacre School - items will be displayed at Barking Berry's Dog Show.

**Wingates Brass Band** – new to the group Kirsty Jacques, introduced herself as the band reorganises... Band rehearsals are Tuesday and Thursday evenings 8-10pm at the Band Hall (Wingates Square) - visitors would be welcome. The band has a performance coming up at Bolton Little Theatre on 1st April, 7.30pm - On Stage and Screen (tickets £8). They are currently looking for financial support to boost youth band involvement, and to maintain the Band room, which is in need of TLC.

**Westhoughton Poetry Group** – Johnny Crook reported that the poetry group has meetings at the Library (last Thursday of month, 2pm), with an offshoot to boost numbers at Bolton Library. The group can offer poetry readings and tips to local care homes, group sessions (such as Senior Solutions) and schools. They are looking forward to promoting National Poetry Day (28/9). Johnny is Town Crier, now seen at local events; he noted that Harold Daniels had been instrumental in him taking on that role for which he expressed his gratitude.

**Friends of Westhoughton Station** – the group meets on Sundays between 10am and noon. Brian Leyden gave an update on work at the station – new shelters, resurfaced pathways and the preparations for the 'Harold Daniels Memorial Garden'. The Friends plan to build on the success of the Christmas themed displays with a similar Easter attraction. They have involvement from students specialising



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in agriculture & sports industries from Myerscough College in planting in more inaccessible areas (including 2,000 crocus donated from the Rotary Club).

**Daisy Hill in Bloom** – group is now working on planting and watering cycles in preparation for the spring. Jill Aldred informed us of the monthly meetings at Daisy Hill Cricket Club and website [DaisyHillinBloom.org.uk](http://DaisyHillinBloom.org.uk). The AGM takes place 21st February; next regular meeting Tuesday 28th March (7.30pm). There will be a local litter pick in March. Volunteers are always welcome.

Veronica Swinburne informed the WCN of the **Westhoughton Community Choir**, which is growing in popularity and repertoire and has performed around Westhoughton supporting causes and events. It meets and practices at the Hope Church on Mondays at 7.00pm (1½ hours). New singers welcome – especially men.

**Westhoughton History Group** – Val Chadwick reported the next meeting would be on 16th February with the topic being ‘Liverpool Cow Keepers’; the group meeting at Westhoughton Library 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 10:00am.

**Westhoughton Art Group** – Dave Hendry announced that the annual art exhibition of this popular and talented group is to be held upstairs at Westhoughton Library, previewing on Tuesday 21st March (6-7pm), to which WCN are invited. The exhibition will run for two weeks from the Thursday (23rd). Unfortunately, the group is affected by uncertainty over the college where it is based. Accommodation permitting, it could add extra members wishing to join.

**Friends of Daisy Hill Station** – Jack Speight updated on winter activities which have mainly been to keep the station tidy. A new tap (for watering) has been fitted – but is located in the office! Group meets twice monthly – socially at the John Holt Centre and for work at the station (dates on WCN website). Local parking issues noted, there is currently some concern around the liberal issuing of parking tickets to the unwary at the station carpark.

**Westhoughton Library** – WCN welcomed Chris Brewster to his first meeting. Chris thanked the community for their support of the Library activities - poetry group, art exhibitions, history group and craft clubs, including a new first Saturday morning in month children’s craft club. Chris mentioned a Home Library Service for OAPs and the housebound – library information/contacts on WCN website.

**Westhoughton Age Support Project** – Steve Hesketh gave an update of W.A.S.P. activities... they are planning free 8 trips/events in 2017 for their members; with weekly social gatherings at the John Holt and Winifred Kettle. The AGM is in May.

**Women of Westhoughton (WOW)** – Janice Bayliss spoke of this popular ladies group, which meets Thursdays 7: 30-9.00pm at the Hope Centre - social, informative and fun, with occasional outings e.g., the Theatre (Education Rita - 2nd Feb); the next meeting featuring ‘Crystal Power’ - 16th Feb)... a new group - The Knitwits - also teaching members to crochet. Programme on WCN website.

**Bethel Crowd** – Jason Taylor reported on the sell-out success of the recent pantomime ‘Puss in Boots’, with long-time dame, Will Taylor, hanging up his panto dress... The schedule ongoing, the group is now preparing for a new youth



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production (8-18) 'Cinderella & Rockerfeller' (auditions in March for June performances), and a murder mystery 'Mutiny and Murder' (Jason making his directorial debut) – 6th May (7:15pm) - tickets £5 inc. supper.

Based at the John Holt Centre **HACFA** is the Residents' Association, and **WAVE** the community interest company managing the centre itself now leased from Bolton Council. A number of regular events and activities take place at the centre, and Mick Wood gave an update... recently funding was received from Bolton CVS allowing the purchase of equipment to begin a community cinema project – showing recent films and having themed evenings catering for all tastes. March launch. Details to be announced.

**Travellin' Strings** - Tim Eden reported the group has raised over £20,000 to support Alzheimer's research by playing at many community events. The guitar and sing-along troupe will be playing the prestigious Castlefield Food Festival again this year (13th May), as well as the Westhoughton Beer Festival (Golf Club) in September. An upcoming local gig (for children's cancer charity) is at the Over Hulton Conservative Club (22nd February), supported by talented local singer-songwriter Chloe Jones. The Strings are subject of a photographic project (community activities) being shadowed by a Bolton College student for a few months.

**W.A.C.O.** – Kellie McGarry confirmed the return of a big summer event for Westhoughton – 'It's- a-Knockout' on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May. There will be a mix of competitive team games, funfair, entertainments and stalls and community participation (free stalls for WCN groups wanting a presence). Planning well under way. Volunteers and other support welcome.

In December a fundraising raffle for local mum and cancer sufferer Polly Haydock raised £4.570. W.A.C.O. has funding available for local groups and projects. It is currently looking at becoming a registered charity to facilitate its projects.

The **Howfen Radio** team have been providing entertainment at Westhoughton Market in the run up to Christmas, are meeting regularly and hope be a permanent feature with studio of a revamped market in the coming months. They are available for community events upon request, and will be holding a Howfenbury 2017 music event at the White Lion carpark later in the summer.

**Friends of Eatock Lodge** – Trevor Benn reported that although quiet at the moment (winter), they are looking for funding to support the usual summer activities. Litter Pick and Dawn Chorus Walk likely to be early activities. They are helping Lancashire Wildlife Trust as part of a Bolton-wide green amenity network.

**Grub Tubs (Foodbanks Network)** – James Wilson gave an update on the work done by Urban Outreach and the Storehouse projects; food donations helping families in Westhoughton and across the borough – 91 door-drops and 430 by collection. Donations of powdered or UHT milk as well as rice most welcome. All local churches have a grub tub, as do the market and recently the John Holt Centre; Sainsbury's has a donation basket. James expressed concerns that homelessness appears to be on the rise.



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James also gave an update on **Church** activities... not only spiritual with Lent upon us and Easter not far off (14-17th April), but as part of the community, supporting parishioners and putting on social events. Such as: at St. Bart's: a Houghton Weavers Concert supporting the Mayor's Charities - Fort Alice and Daytrippers - (10th Feb - £10), Manchester Organists' Association Concert and Cantoris choir performance (11th Feb – Free), Bolton Chamber Orchestra annual concert (Sat 18th March, 7:30pm - donation)... and at The Bethel: Women's World Day of Prayer (3rd March – service prepared by ladies from the Philippines)...

One final suggestion from James... a Gala Night showcasing the talent from our groups here in Westhoughton...

**Bolton Council** – visiting for the first time Barry Glasspell gave a brief overview of his role as Community Capacity Lead, facilitating and encouraging communities to support each other with networking and initiatives that make lives better and fill gaps in community provision. Barry has worked with Senior Solutions, and is currently looking to launch a 'Carers' Strategy'. Barry will return for a more formal presentation on his work at a future WCN meeting.

## 9. Any Other Business

- Informal Police drop-ins with Pcsos: John Holt Centre – Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am 14th & 20th Feb; 7th & 28th March; and Westhoughton Market Café – Thursdays 12- 1pm 23rd Feb; 23rd March.
- WCN was approached by Vicky Mercer manager of Miller Metcalfe (Estate Agents [Chequerbent Roundabout]), wishing to give back to community, having already supported local primary schools. Can help with marketing or volunteers for events and activities...
- Bolton Council – upcoming Westhoughton with Chew Moor Area Forum meeting at the John Holt Centre - Thursday, 23rd March | 6:30pm drop-in sessions, and 7:00pm for main meeting.

Chris thanked everyone for attending...

## 10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next meeting will take place Wednesday, 17th May at Wingates Band Hall.

Meeting finished at 9:30pm.

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