



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 7th September 2016

at Brookfield Hall

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (17)

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| 1. Friends of Daisy Hill Station (FDHS) | 10. Senior Solutions (SNS) |
| 2. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL) | 11. St. Bartholomew's/St. Thomas/ St. George Parish (SBC) |
| 3. Friends of Westhoughton Station (FWS) | 12. Travelliin' Strings (TST) |
| 4. Guiding UK (GUK) | 13. Westhoughton Active Communities Organisation (WACO) |
| 5. Hindley's and Clough Farm Residents Association (HACFRA) | 14. Westhoughton Art Group (WAG) |
| 6. Westhoughton Active Volunteer Enterprise (WAVE) | 15. Westhoughton Community Royalty (WCR) |
| 7. Howfen Radio (HFR) | 16. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG) |
| 8. Women of Westhoughton (WOW) | 17. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC) |
| 9. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW) | ~ PSoup (PSP) |

Individuals in attendance (24)

Janice Bayliss (WOW)	Sandra Greenall (WCR)	Brenda Shott (FoEL)
Trevor Benn (FoEL)	Steve Harrington (RCW)	Annaliese Sims (GUK)
Ann Benn (FoEL) MINUTES	Dave Hendry (WAG)	Jack Speight (FDHS)
Jayne Caldwell (GUK)	Brian Leyden (FWS)	Michelle Todd (SNS)
Charlotte Carlin (PSP)	Joan Leyden (SenSol)	James Wilson (SBC)
Rev'd Lesley Dinham (WMC)	Kellie McGarry (WACO)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
Tim Eden (TST)	Tony McGarry (WACO)	Mick Wood (HACFRA/WAVE)
Stephen Freeborn (FWS)	Phil Macivor (HFR)	Chris Buckley (WCN) CHAIR

Apologies (19)

Doreen Booth (Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild); Chris Bracegirdle (Westhoughton Parish Churches); Paul Buxton (Scouts Association); Val Chadwick (Westhoughton Local History Group); David Chadwick (Westhoughton Town Council); Johnny Crook (Westhoughton Poetry Group); Margaret Curme (Westhoughton United Reformed Church); Sarah Dunscombe-Berry (Barking Berrys); Bill Greenhalgh (Westhoughton Methodist ADS); Jenny Haunch (Washacre Primary School); Linda James (Rainbow Crafts); David Kaye (Westhoughton Local History Group); Dennis Lee (George Formby Society); Len Maycroft (Westhoughton Age Support Project); Joy Mooney (Wingates Band); John Moutrie (Rotary Club of Westhoughton / Remap); Shirley Pinches (Bolton College - Westhoughton Learning Centre); Mark Taylor (Hope Church); Mark Webster (Westhoughton High School).



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2. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chris Buckley undertook to chair duties, and opened the meeting by welcoming those present as on the attendance sheet; apologies have been received and noted. Chris thanked new manager Victoria Pennington and Brookfield Hall for hosting the meeting and providing break-time refreshments.

3. Remembering Harold Daniels

It being our first gathering since our Chair, Harold Daniels' sudden and sad death in July, Chris invited those present to recall their memories of Harold, first giving an overview of the origins of Westhoughton Community Network, of which Harold was instrumental, championing the network out in the community, and going on to chair most of our meetings. A number of those present reflected their personal memories of how Harold had helped and influenced them in their lives. There were numerous expressions of gratitude for his work in Westhoughton, and also his work at Melbourne Road Methodist Church with refugees and immigrants, who contributed to his funeral service. A big loss; a chance for his friends to share some fond and happy memories of a man who touched people's lives with a smile and a good heart.

There will be a Service of Remembrance on Sunday 16th October at 2:00pm at St. Bartholomew's Church, where instead of a collection, grub tubs will be available to make food donations to Urban Outreach, a project with which Harold was much involved. There is to be a book, commissioned by the family, celebrating his life and decades of service to the community. Friends of Westhoughton Station are to create a memorial garden for him.

4. Organisation of Westhoughton Community Network

There was a general discussion about how do we go on from this point, including chairing the meetings. WCN is a mature group, completing 5 years in August; it has achieved much in bringing community groups together and fostering co-operation. It is high profile, and through its online presence reaches far and wide, across the borough and beyond Westhoughton.

With the need to sustain its operation, cover costs, and allow WCN to look at funding opportunities to benefit our groups and allow for special projects, the need for a bank account and the benefits of having a formal constitution were discussed.

One of the ideas put forward was a communal store of resources that could be used by groups for community events...

It was felt important not to lose the informality of something that 'works' and endures, whilst allowing our groups to flourish with support when needed. It was decided that with some further research, this would be a topic to return to at the next meeting.

There was a break at 7.45 for refreshments and networking.



5. Information Share

Foodbanks Network (Urban Outreach) – James Wilson reported on the progress of our foodbank collection and distribution network (helping 260 local families from the Bolton Storehouse facility), also the work done over the school holidays ('BL16 Lunches') ensuring that children entitled to free school meals get something to eat at lunch time – 8,600 children across Bolton benefited. The 8-week, emergency food parcel scheme is managed, and certain criteria must be met to qualify.

Urban Outreach will be providing Christmas Hampers. Tins of meat welcome. Fresh produce can be accepted at certain times but must be arranged through Urban Outreach, with many local providers contributing.

Howfen Radio - Phil Macivor introduced a new, live music event – the 'Howfenbury Festival of Music' – taking place on Saturday 17th September at the White Lion Pub (car park), with support from John Holt Brewery. A free public and family event from noon until 9pm with local artists and children's attractions, food and drink. Money raised supporting the fledgling radio and outdoor events group, and Francis House Children's Hospice. It is hoped to make this an annual event.

Charlotte Carlin from social enterprise, **PSoup**, gave a brief overview of a new initiative starting in September at the John Holt Centre supporting **WAVE** in promoting well-being, community development and training. Further information at website psoup-org.uk. A promotional **Family Funday** taking place on Saturday, 10th September.

Jayne Cardwell of the **Girl Guides Association** gave an update of local Rainbows, Brownies and Guides activities; meetings now resuming up to Christmas, with planned trips away including PGL. As always, volunteer helpers are welcome to support group activities; they are also interested in speakers/mentors who can give informal talks at meetings.

*Similarly (by proxy) Paul Buxton of **St James' Scouts** 11th Bolton (St. James) & 33rd Bolton (St. Georges) is seeking adult volunteers for lead or support roles. Contact 07340 962243 | info@11thboltonscouts.co.uk.*

The Travelling Strings (Tim Eden) continue to be busy; going from strength to strength now performing regularly at summer festivals such as Bolton Food and Drink and Castlefield, Manchester. With a target of £20,000, they have so far raised £17,500 for the Alzheimer's Society.

They have a regular spot at the Horwich Memory Café; and will perform at the popular Westhoughton Golf Club Beer Festival (9th September); and will be again supporting the St. John's Wingates Early Christmas Fayre, Saturday afternoon, 12th November.

Westhoughton Churches: Reverend Lesley Dinham talked about raising awareness of the **Methodist Mission** in Westhoughton, with a Barbecue planned for Saturday 17th September; a silent auction on 1st October, and a Christmas Carol Choir to be formed.



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James Wilson updated us on the widened CofE team now covering Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Wingates and Westhoughton, with the appointment of a new minister. The Harvest Festival will be celebrated over the first 2 Sundays in October, with proceeds going to Urban Outreach. Rev. Bracegirdle will be celebrating 30 years of Ministry on 28th September – once a Westhoughton High School teacher, former pupils will be most welcome. The popular **Community Schools Carol Service** followed by the Town Council **Christmas Lights Switch-on** is at **St. Bart's** on Friday 25th November.

Westhoughton Community Royalty (Sandra Greenall) continue to be busy with events; upcoming at the Mercury Bolton on Sunday, 25th September (12-4pm) a 'Court of Queens' competition. The group is raising money to support Help for Heroes and Urban Outreach this year.

Brenda Shott of **Friends of Eatock Lodge** reported on the very successful Family Funday the previous Sunday (4th), involving Lancashire Wildlife Trust and others. The group is grateful to Westhoughton Town Council for their financial support allowing this free family event to take place.

Ted Wisedale introduced **Westhoughton Local History Group** activities – they meet bi-monthly, 1st and 3rd Thursdays (10am) at the library. Information given on a new project to compile and catalogue all local historical information for easy reference (research, family history projects, biographies, press cuttings, books, DVDs...). Information on Westhoughton community groups and their origins would be of interest. Contact David Kaye - dkay43@btinternet.com | 07970 131460.

Rotary Club of Westhoughton (Steve Harrington) - picking up the pieces following loss of Harold Daniels, who was at the heart of many of the things the Rotary organised - have a number of evening events coming up (meal with speaker), including a special 'Charter Night' event at Brookfield Hall on Friday 21st October (7:30pm), celebrating the Rotary's 68 years service to the community. Local artist and comedian, Tom Newton, will be speaking. Tickets £25. Visitors welcome.

Women of Westhoughton (WOW!) – Janice Bayliss gave an update and shared the programme of events for their Thursday evening meetings (7:30pm) at the Hope Centre, which include themed evenings, speakers, as well as trips out – one of which will be to enjoy an evening with The Travellin' Strings (18th November). A 'Good As New Sale' is to be held on 15th September supporting the Zak Vali Foundation, a charity which raises money to cover funeral costs of children lost to cancer.

HACRFA / WAVE – Mick Wood reaffirmed the **PSoup** initiative at the John Holt Centre. The meeting sent best wishes to Doug Cunliffe for a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

Friends of Daisy Hill Station – Jack Speight gave an update of activities at the station; he alerted us of clamping and parking 'notices' being issued to cars at the station (a change in the law affecting private car parks).



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Jack also reported that the **Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival** will return next year with a theme of the 'Wind in the Willows' – dates to be confirmed, but likely to move to later in the summer to coincide with a fairground visit.

Steve Freeborn of **Friends of Westhoughton Station** referred to the groups [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for information. They are very grateful for donations (including 50 begonias), support and the efforts of volunteers (Sunday mornings 10-12). The group has had to deal with theft and vandalism, which is upsetting... Station Master 'Arthur Station' now has arms! A plaque will feature in the 'Garden for Harold', who was a big supporter of the group.

Senior Solutions – Michelle Todd updated us on the visiting service's new home, the recently refurbished Winifred Kettle Centre (new phone number 01204 335107). The service is now more integrated into Bolton Council's social care support. The newly established Tuesday afternoon social group is going well with activities, speakers and all-important social interaction. The AGM is on 27th September at Sacred Heart Church. In January 2017 the service will reach a special milestone – its 20th anniversary.

Westhoughton Art Group (Dave Hendry), the June/July Art Exhibition at Westhoughton Library raised money for MacMillan Nurses. The group is currently involved with a Bolton-wide exhibition at St. George's House Gallery (until 21/9) co-ordinated by Bolton Arts Forum. WAG has exhibition boards which could be used by other groups for events. Dave reminded WCN of grants from [Bolton Arts Forum](#) available for a wide ranging number of art-related activities.

W.A.C.O. (Tony & Kellie McGarry), updated WCN of the successful It's-A-Knockout event, which raised £2,500, of which £1,000 was given to support the **new Bolton Lads and Girls Club** Westhoughton facility. Topping up existing funds – the group also raises money through a Bolton Wanderers FC community ticket scheme – the remainder is available to local groups through the W.A.C.O. grants scheme (up to £250 over 12 months) - [details](#).

W.A.C.O. was recently approached by Premier Foods (Hovis) to distribute hundreds of boxes of cakes that would otherwise have been thrown away. These were collected and shared amongst many grateful groups and charities.

Updates by proxy...

Bethel Crowd production Little Shop of Horrors takes place Friday/Saturday 16th/17th and 23rd/24th September (7:15pm) with 2:15pm matinees on the Saturday. Tickets £6 available online through via [Ticket Source](#). There will be a Quiz Night on Saturday 22nd October (7:30pm) - £5 including supper (bring own drinks and glasses).

The upcoming production from **Westhoughton Methodist ADS** is a Murder Mystery 'Who Killed the Headmaster?' on Friday/Saturday 11th/12th November (7:30pm). Tickets are £6, and include a pastie and peas supper; evening has a 'Whodunnit?' Quiz with prizes. An update was given on Bill Greenhalgh's battle with illness; he is



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to work on the script for the February panto. WCN sends its best wishes for his continued recovery.

Wingates Brass Band is to play finals at the Albert Hall in London, with a rehearsal of the set piece being performed at Bolton little Theatre, Saturday, 24th September. The innovative 'Great Shindig', a theatrical piece based on local author Tony Smith's book 'Making Rain and Other Things Is Our Business', takes place Sunday, 25th September at The Brindley, Runcorn.

United Reformed Church (The Bethel) has a number of upcoming events: a Charity Coffee Morning on Wednesday 21st September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support; Harvest Service Sunday 9th October (10:30am); a Craft Fair on Saturday 15th October (10am-2pm); the popular, pre-Christmas Houghton Weavers Concert is on Saturday 29th October (7:30pm) – tickets £12.50 include supper (bring your own drinks and glasses). Contact Margaret 01942 812001 or Helen 01204 414915.

Barking Berry's Christmas Fair supporting Animal Charities takes place at The Bethel on Saturday 19th November (11am-4pm), with an appearance from Santa Paws in aid of Dogs Trust Merseyside. Scarlett's fundraising has surpassed £20,000 - £2,200 raised for central funds at Fun Dog Show (4 June); this year's main charity is Rochdale Dog Rescue.

6. Any Other Business

- After successfully playing that role at the Westhoughton Yarn Bombing Festival, groups wishing to have the services of a **Town Crier** for community events can contact Johnny Crook (of **Westhoughton Poetry Group**).
- **Westhoughton College:** new course brochure is out and is available on line at boltoncommunity.org, with Learning Ambassadors out promoting the range of Further Education courses at the college. Contact Shirley Pinches 01204 482980 / 01204 482386.
- **Jack Speight** on behalf of Westhoughton Town Council reminded the group about nominations for Community Awards including the Young Person Award. Information from the Town Council (Christine Morris 01942 819802).
- The **Community Empowerment Fund (CEF)**, Bolton Council's fund to support innovative community projects is under review, with feedback taken on board from the February WCN meeting. Details to be announced later in the year, criteria and objectives widened. We hope to have Dawn Lythgoe back to give an update.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at the end of November... provisionally 24th or 30th at Winifred Kettle (venue to be confirmed)

Meeting finished at 9:15pm.

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk