



Westhoughton Community Network

Meeting: 7:00pm Wednesday, 17th September 2014

at Wingates Band Hall

Minutes

1. Present

Groups in attendance (15)

1. Bethel Crowd (BADs)
2. Friends of Eatock Lodge (FoEL)
3. Hope Centre/Hope Church (HOPE)
4. Incredible Edible (Westhoughton) (IEWH)
5. Rainbow Crafts (RBC)
6. Rotary Club of Westhoughton (RCW)
7. St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas & St. George LEP Parish (SBC)
8. Westhoughton Age Support Project (WASP)
9. Westhoughton Community Queens Association (WCQA)
10. Westhoughton Local History Group (WLHG)
11. Westhoughton Methodist ADS (WMADS)
12. Westhoughton Methodist Church (WMC)
13. Westhoughton Traders Association [Vibrant Vintage] (WTA)
14. Wingates Band (WB)
15. Women of Westhoughton (WOW)
- ~ Bolton at Home (BaH)
- ~ Westhoughton Town Council (WTC)

Individuals in attendance (25)

Hannah Barker (HOPE)	Sue Doyle (RBC)	James Wilson (SBC)
Janice Bayliss (NAWC)	Jean Green (WASP)	Brenda Shott (FoEL)
Anne Burns (BaH)	Sandra Greenall (WCQA)	Jason Taylor (BADs)
Karla Campbell (IEWH)	Bill Greenhalgh (WMADS)	Mark Taylor (HOPE)
Brenda Cartledge (RBC)	Linda James (RBC)	Ted Wisedale (WLHG)
David Chadwick (WTC)	Jean Jones (WVS)	Chris Buckley (WCN)
Val Chadwick (WLHG)	David Kaye (WB)	Harold Daniels (RCW) CHAIR
Pam Clarke (WLHG)	Kath Payton (VIBV)	
Wilf Dillon (WASP)	Wayne Payton (VIBV)	

Apologies (13)

Ann Benn/Trevor Benn (Friends of Eatock Lodge)	Alexandra Ingram (Westhoughton Market)
Doreen Booth (Townswomen's Guild)	Dennis/Debbie Lee (George Formby Society)
Doug Cunliffe (HACFRA/WAVE)	Carl Messenger (Washacre Primary School)
Andrew Glitheroe (Save Westhoughton Act Now)	Shirley Pinches (Westhoughton Learning Centre)
Jenny Haunch (Washacre Primary School)	Jack Speight (Friends of Daisy Hill Station)
Dave Hendry (Westhoughton Art Group)	



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1. Welcome/Apologies/Review of Minutes

Chair Harold Daniels opened by thanking Wingates Brass Band for providing the venue and hosting the meeting. Individuals introduced themselves and the groups they represented. The Chair welcomed newcomer Karla Campbell, a guest of Anne Burns to the meeting, who is looking to bring the Incredible Edible scheme to Westhoughton, seeing being involved with the Westhoughton Community Network as a way of furthering the project.

2. Big Fun Day

Mark Taylor gave an overview of the Big Fun Day in June. Helped by the fine weather and groups working together, it was a big success for the Westhoughton community – over 2,000 people attended. He expressed his thanks for all who had been involved in the event; though a post-event meeting has not taken place, he welcomed feedback from participants. Several people commented that that it had been a success, in particular its friendly and co-operative atmosphere.

Chris Buckley said that photos from the event were viewable online (Flickr | Westhoughton) and via the WCN website. Brenda Shott and Linda James also commented that there was good interaction between groups and people attending, that the entertainment worked well with good audiences watching. Mark stated that it was unlikely that they would do another event this coming year (2015) but will consider doing another in the future.

3. Wingates Band

David Kay extended a warm welcome to everyone. He explained the proud history surrounding the hall and the band. The years 2013- 2014 has been a very good years for Wingates Band - celebrating their 140th anniversary, special concerts and recordings, a book, radio appearances, theatre involvement and successes on the competition trial.

The band was originally a temperance band, formed in 1873 in a Methodist chapel, and has a proud history, legacy and endurance. It's longevity down to the talent, commitment and passion of those involved.

Last year, David filled a lifetime ambition in writing up the band's long and great history in his book 'From Bible Class to World Class.' He was interviewed for a special broadcast on BBC Radio 2 – two programs on the history and music of this 7 times British Open Champions and 4 times British National Champions brass band. Another achievement was to have been mentioned in the Houses of Parliament by local MP Julie Hilling, and cited in Hansard (2013).

Throughout its history a contesting band, recently in May they won The Senior Cup at the Winter Gardens Blackpool beating 19 brass bands from all over the British Isles. They were invited to be one of three local bands selected to mark the 30th anniversary of 'Brassed Off,' with an extended run performing at the Octagon Theatre Bolton as part of the dramatised piece.



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Such is their renown three boundary road signs around the town mention them and, more recently, a Blue Plaque has been erected in their honour at Wingates Square, unveiled and dedicated by the Town Mayor in the summer.

In 2015 the band celebrates 100 years of recorded music (April 1915) – only three other bands have had this honour.

For the future they are hoping to enter the Scottish Open in Perth at a cost of £5000 to take part – Quiz Sheets costing £2 are available to help fund this.

Spreading the name of Westhoughton worldwide, another tremendous success for Wingates Band was to play in Germany and Switzerland; and also, receiving a tremendous reception at their concert in Chicago in the USA.

Asked about new blood, David stated that once a very local band, things change and its members are spread around further afield. Over the years the band has been blessed with many talented young players coming through with degrees in music, trained at Chetham's School of Music, and other centres of excellence in the North West. One of their protégé was Peter Moore, who at aged 11 was principle trombone, and became BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2008. Now 18, he is co-principal trombone at the London Symphony Orchestra.

4. W.A.C.O

Unfortunately W.A.C.O. was unable to attend the meeting. They are currently working to raise funds to give to good causes locally, including having 'nearly new' stall on Westhoughton Market. Grant application forms will be available in due course. An AGM is coming up (see Facebook via WCN), and they wish to have more involved with their group to help with fundraising and activities. W.A.C.O. plans to bring back their It's-a-Knockout event in 2015 (7th June).

5. GMP

GMP (not present at meeting). Harold Daniels had been made aware of a Greater Manchester Police scheme looking at allocating a funding budget (£15,000) to local groups – Westhoughton being one of the chosen areas. The idea is for groups to put together a presentation and bid for funding – attending public can then support these bids in a vote. An Information Day is planned for Wed 15th Oct at the John Holt Centre. Details and arrangements currently being finalised, and will be passed on as soon as known.

6. Incredible Edible (Westhoughton) [supplementary agenda item]

Introduced by Anne Burns, Karla Campbell was asked to attend the meeting to share information about the idea of 'Incredible Edible' – encouraging people to grow their own food wherever they can. A community project that began in Todmorden and been taken up in other places: the idea of food self-sufficiency a throw-back to World War One when food was scarce. This time the motivators being: less money about, community interaction and healthy outdoor activity.



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With the support of Bolton at Home it has been piloted locally in Johnson Fold, which is a deprived area which suffers from food poverty. Starting small, they have used small boxes with soil in prominent places to grow items of food to show people that you don't need a huge area to grow food, thus publicising and promoting the scheme (in Todmorden there are 'boxes' all around the town).

Karla had received a grant to initiate this project and wishes to reach out to the community for ideas, support and volunteer help. A discussion took place; options and possible locations for the project in Westhoughton. There are a number of local 'Friends' groups involved in outdoor projects that might be naturally inclined to get involved, and that might be able to help with expertise/volunteers as well as promoting the scheme. Extra funding would also be required to cover costs.

Where successful these schemes lead to a strong sense of community. There was discussion of possible allotments and work with schools (Waitrose has a 'grow and sell' initiative for schools). Karla said that there is interest, but it needs to be pulled together and launched as a Westhoughton-wide project. Not necessarily an easy task – an example came up of land at Washacre that was prepared and could be available but remains unused.

One simple way of starting the project would be to site grow boxes around the town and encouraging food planting and interest in the natural environment and the food cycle – also giving people the satisfaction in growing food for themselves.

The group was told of a newish Incredible Edible scheme at Bromley Cross where they held an end of summer event offering local food for sale thus helping local suppliers, as well as informing and motivating the community.

The group agreed that this was an idea worth encouraging and any future events should support and promote it as much as possible. Karla is to talk with interested parties and update the group at forthcoming meetings as the project is developed.

The meeting broke for coffee and networking, and the opportunity to see a display of Wingates Band information and memorabilia.

7. Group Updates / Information Share

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

Westhoughton Community Queens Association – Sandra Greenall. Charity Fun Day in aid of Manchester Children's Hospital and both Bolton and Wigan & Leigh Hospices at the Dray king pub, Hindley Green on Sun 28th Sept [£400 raised]. On Sat 25th Oct there will be a 'Ladies' Night' at the John Holt Centre – tickets £5 including supper (bring own drinks), contact Carrie 07847 650027. Sat 29th Nov there will be a Royalty competition at the Hope Centre, with their Christmas Fair at the John Holt Centre on Sun 30th Nov. Finally, on Sat 13th Dec WCQA will be bag packing at B&M Bargains (10-4) to raise funds.



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Westhoughton Town Council – David Chadwick. An event to mark the centenary of the World War One is to be held on Sun 9th Nov, with wreath laying by all local schools. Pretoria Remembrance this year on the Saturday (20th Dec). David mentioned Town Council Civic Awards, encouraging nominations (to Town Clerk) of people who have served the community for over 20 years.

St. Bart's, St. John's, St. Thomas' Churches – James Wilson. There is a new rector at St. Bart's, Chris Bracegirdle, keen to be involved with the wider community; a welcome event will take place on Sun 9th Nov. A free (donations) 'Beethoven Concert' of light orchestral music is being held at St. Bart's on Sat 4th Oct. There is a Ladies Society now meeting on Thursdays. The Harvest Festival will be on the second Sunday in October - donations going to Urban Outreach, the Salvation Army and Fort Alice. Held at the Hope Centre, there is the weekly Friday Night Fever Youth Club – volunteers appreciated. St John's Wingates Early Bird Christmas Fayre is on Sat 15th Nov (11-2); money raised going towards the roof fund. Finally, on Sun 2nd Dec, there is a Toy Service – donations of toys for need children welcome.

Women of Westhoughton (WOW) – Janice Bayliss. Varied and busy programme of activities, speakers and outings has been a success; an updated list is on the WCN website. WOW is currently raising money for women's refuge, Fort Alice.

Hope Church – Mark Taylor. Hannah Baker is now responsible for looking after the Hope Centre and is on site throughout the week. Their slots are filling up with space available (updated timetable on WCN website) – for availability for groups/events check with Hannah. Our Foodbanks network (Grub Tubs collections) is feeding 31 families in Westhoughton. Rainbow Crafts donated £100 towards Urban Outreach supplementary provisions buying.

Mark's wife, Mim, is fundraising for Street Life, a charity hoping to improve the lives of children in Zambia. She is looking to raise £500 for a drinking water filter. Upcoming events at the Hope Centre: Table Top Sale, Sat 11th Oct (10-1); Body Shop Ladies Pamper Night, Sat 18th Oct (7:30pm), with performance by a BBC Philharmonic Orchestra violinist (bring a bottle!). Dates TBC, Hope Church will be holding regular Fun Quiz Nights – all welcome.

Westhoughton Methodist ADS – Bill Greenhalgh told us of their successful year; branching out, they appeared at the June Big Fun Day, did a 7-part, well-received radio play ('Old King Cole's Treasure Hunt') for Washacre FM. Their next production will be a murder-mystery 'Who Killed Caretaker?' on Sat 15th Nov (with pasty 'n' peas supper). The annual Panto 'Ali Baba and the Four Thieves' is on the 13th/14th, 20th/21st February. Details will be on the WCN website.

Bill informed us that the Methodist Church's Reverend John Howard-Norman has now moved on to his new pasture in Blackburn – his replacement is Reverend Lesley Denham. A new Thai Chi group is starting at the church hall on Tuesdays.

Bethel Crowd – Jason Taylor. The Amateur Dramatic Group have tried out a new online ticketing system, which has caused a little confusion, ticket sales not as good as hoped for first weekend of Alice - The Musical. However, the final weekend



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looks promising. Their next production is the panto Beauty and the Beast, scheduled for the last two weekends of January with Saturday matinees. Tickets now on sale at bethelcrowd.ticketsource.co.uk.

Senior Solutions – Jean Jones. Jean announced her arrival on Twitter – social media being increasingly used by community groups. They have applied to Lloyds Bank for a grant from their Community Fund Scheme – £500 to £3000 up for grabs. This is an online vote driven scheme, your support is needed. Visit Lloyds Community Fund website and search for Senior Solutions.

Providing an important service for 18 years, they have had uncertainties over funding in recent times – funding is in smaller blocks and has been delayed leading to uncertainty. Fortunately, the new funding was confirmed during the meeting.

Jean, updated the group on a new initiative with funding from the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group). A grant has been awarded to work with Age UK to provide a new 'Home From Hospital' service, designed to keep elderly discharged people out of hospital whilst they get used to being back home (currently at 65% readmission). The pilot scheme offers a scaled support in person/by phone during the all-important first 30 days back home with back-up from Social Services. As this is a service above what Senior Solutions normally do, they will need to recruit more volunteers before it can go live. Contact Jean for full information on this.

Westhoughton Local History Group – David Kaye. David praised the tireless work of the group, and in particular Pam Clarke for her research and dedication, which keeps her in touch with inquisitive Howfeners all over the world. She has completed research on a soon-to-be published book on World War One from a Westhoughton perspective (research papers on display upstairs at the library at the WWI Exhibition running to November).

David informed us that the group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month (10-12), upstairs in Westhoughton the Library and has speakers sharing their knowledge on topics of interest. It costs £1 to attend, which includes tea and biscuits. They also organise trips; one of which is to The Houses of Parliament in January – tickets still available.

Rainbow Crafts – Linda James. A relatively new group meeting on a Tuesday afternoon at the library, they have been very busy and successful organising craft activities and the odd trip. Producing and selling their craftwork they have been able to raise funds for good causes locally. They have recently started a Thursday afternoon session.

They will be putting on a Victorian themed Christmas Fair on Sat 6th Dec (10-4) in the Carnegie Hall next to the library, selling handmade crafts for charity: this is a make and take event – participation welcome. £1 entrance fee, with tombola. In the New Year they are planning a Lancashire Evening, possibly at The Bethel.

⋮ Sat 6th December is also the day of the traditional Victorian Market at
⋮ **Westhoughton Market**; the two events should compliment each other bringing a
⋮ greater number of people to the town centre.



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Vibrant Vintage (Westhoughton Traders Association) – Kath and Wayne Payton. New to the meeting and active within the local community; they were involved in the summer Fashion Show at Brookfield Hall promoting local fashion and raising funds for Senior Solutions. They are keen to encourage local small businesses to come and prosper in Westhoughton and reminded us to value the ones we already have here – Westhoughton Traders Association has a page on Facebook. Westhoughton is also promoted at their Haigh Hall events.

WASP (Westhoughton Age Support Project) - Jean Green. The group remains busy with activities and trips for local senior citizens. They will be having a stall at the Victoria Market on Sat 6th Dec fundraising by selling the items and crafts that they have been making.

Westhoughton Townswomen's Guild – Doreen Booth (by proxy) asked it to be known that they held a charity/social event at Sacred Heart Church on 3rd Sept, raising £480 for the Children's Air Ambulance Service – a new charity and service, able to quickly transport young children and babies to hospital.

Groups are reminded that events can be added to the website and WCN calendar – use the online events form or by sending in information/details. It is hoped that by sharing this information events can be planned such that they don't clash or adversely affect each other: as in the summer when 5 events took place on one day.

8. Social Media

Due to time constraints this topic was put on hold, save to say the use of Facebook, Twitter and websites is becoming an important communications tool for community groups. There is varying levels of expertise within WCN, and therefore help available for those who need it.

Barclays are currently running a scheme (Digital Eagles) and offer 'Tea & Teach sessions' for people new to computers and the internet. Chris Buckley has spoken to them with a view to attending a future meeting.

9. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting finished at 9:40pm

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place mid-November.
Date and venue to be confirmed separately in due course.

(The February 2015 meeting will take place at Westhoughton Golf Club.)

WesthoughtonCommunityNetwork.co.uk