

STANDISH VOICE – VICE CHAIR'S REPORT 2022

Standish Voice held the most successful ever Standish Christmas Market in 2022 with thousands of people coming to Standish centre on December 3rd to celebrate the festive season.

Our Christmas Market Committee, chaired by our Events Lead Kathy Robertson, did a fantastic job in organising the event, especially after two years when it was cancelled. Remembering all the arrangements needed was a feat in itself.

Huge thanks to the members of the committee who organise the market, Kathy, Ian, Sarah, Diane and thanks also to those committee members who helped out on the day: Fran, Ron, Gill, Allan, Nicky, Andrew and Karen.

Feedback from the event has been virtually 100% positive and we made a small profit which will be put toward next year's event.

Profits from previous markets have helped to fund some of our other activities including a film being made of the history of Standish's St Wilfrid's Church. A semi-professional film crew are now editing the film of the church tour – with much of the work on the project given free of charge – and hopefully this will be finished in early summer.

I'd like to thank our councillors, Debbie, Judith and Ray, who give Standish Voice so much support and work together for the good of the village, and I'd like to express our appreciation to the organisations and businesses from Standish who co-operate with us, especially the Friends of Standish Library who work with us on Standish Christmas Market.

This year, we also worked with the Friends to raise objections to Wigan Council's decision to reduce opening hours at the library. Wigan Council later increased those hours, which was hugely welcomed.

I'd like to thank our committee members for their hard work this year. Diane for liaising with our businesses in Standish and organising sponsorship of the Christmas Market; Sarah for her work with the schools and the Market Christmas trail; Karen for keeping our finances in order; Ron for his work on biodiversity and footpaths; Janet for her work on green spaces; Allan for his expertise on planning; Nicky for her input on housing; Andrew for his wise counsel; Fran for her work with the library; Ian and Kathy their professionalism in staging Standish Christmas Market, and Dave, who is stepping down, for his commitment and input over the years since the launch of Standish Voice.

Finally, I would like to thank and show my gratitude to Gill, who chairs Standish Voice and whose strong leadership has helped us to grow as an organisation and succeed in several areas over the past year.