Standish Voice newsletter – April 2023

A major fundraising campaign has been launched to for a full and urgent restoration of the spire of St Wilfrid’s Church.

Architects have said vital repairs – costing around £400,000 – are needed the 130ft and the community is being asked to help out.

If you can donate, please do so on the church’s crowdfunding page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-standish-spire>

The church, the only Grade I-listed building in the borough of Wigan, has launched a Save Standish Spire campaign to raise money for the project, which includes fixing the broken church clock, and it is hoped the work can be carried out later this year.

The Rev Andrew Holliday, Rector of St Wilfrid’s CE Church, said: “The spire is an important part of our village’s heritage and is a landmark for Standish people which can be see for many miles around. It is essential that we preserve it and we are launching this appeal so that this urgent restoration can be carried out as soon as possible.

“As the spire is dear to everyone in Standish, we are hoping people and businesses from across the village and beyond will be able to make a donation, no matter how small, so that we can conserve the spire for future generations to enjoy.

“Obviously, our own parish funds built up to maintain the church will contribute to the costs, but the scale of the essential repairs that are needed means we have to reach out across the community for support.”

To contribute to the appeal, follow this link to the church’s Just Giving page (see above) or send a cheque with’ Spire’ on the back to The Parish Office, St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Church Street, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0JT.

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A planning application is expected soon for more housing in Standish.

The planned scheme is to build around 75 homes on a former stables and paddocks off Pepper Lane.

A ‘Community Consultation Event’, hosted by the developer Persimmon Homes, was recently held in Standish.

This site is designated as ‘land safeguarded for future development’ - the same designation as the rest of the land now being built on in Standish.

Standish Voice will be objecting to the application when it is lodged as it is obvious that the infrastructure in the village cannot sustain the homes already being built, never mind new ones.

You can view the plans here: [https://www.pepperlanestandish.com/](https://www.pepperlanestandish.com/?fbclid=IwAR2iu0Ns4tjNfKQsVs14kDtsmgCarrUopeqoqp1OkLgpO3Fppi4aeuUJSPY)

This is not yet a planning application, just proposals, but an application is expected to be submitted in the coming months.

We ask that you send your views to Wigan Council when the application is lodged – we will keep you informed.

For a news story on this, click here: <https://www.wigantoday.net/business/residents-of-a-wigan-township-able-to-voice-their-opinions-on-latest-home-plans-4072642>

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The country’s only festival celebrating the owl is returning to Standish later this month – sponsored by Standish Voice.

Owlfest is a day of fun and learning, totally free of charge, about the bird which is part of the emblem of our village – with the owl and the rat part of the crest of the Standish family.

Owlfest – on Saturday, April 29th – is being organised by the Friends of Standish Library and is sponsored by Standish Voice, using money raised by Standish Christmas Market.

It is a celebration of the owl with a display by Vale Royal Falconry and an Owl Trail around the village the week before the event, which will be held at Standish Library.

Children can also dissect owl pellets (coughed up undigested food – to see what they eat), make an origami owl, name the owl competition, listen to owl storytelling and have their face painted as the bird.

There will also be a stall from Wigan RSPB, refreshments and more.

The event lasts from 11am to 2pm at the library on Cross Street.

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Remember to put the date of Standish Christmas Market in your diary – Saturday, December 2nd.

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Standish will go to the polls next month when all three council seats in the Standish With Langtree ward will be contested.

There will be three seats to be voted on in the neighbouring wards of Shevington and Aspull, which some parts of Standish are in.

These ‘all-out’ elections will take place on Thursday 4th May. All-out elections are where all 75 seats on Wigan council are all to be elected on the same day. Voters will have three votes, though they don’t need to use them all. The council must hold an all-out election due to changes to the boroughs ward boundaries.

The Government has also brought in new regulations about Voter ID. You will need to show one form of original photo ID to vote in person.

For names of the candidates standing, see <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Council/Voting-and-Elections/2023/Statement-of-Persons-Nominated-4-May-2023.pdf>

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A new restaurant and bar could be coming to the centre of Standish if planning permission is given.

The owner of a house opposite Standish Library wants to transform the building by adding extensions to create an eatery with space for 30 diners.

But it will need Wigan Council’s planning section to give permission for a change of use for the property, at 14 Cross Street.

The owner, a Mr Hodgson, says the restaurant and bar would provide “high-class dining” and drinking, with opening hours from Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 11pm. There would also be a self-contained flat above.

It would be the newest restaurant in Standish since Copper Vines opened in a former tanning shop last year.

For more information on the plans, follow this link:

<https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=externalDocuments&keyVal=RQVZC5RRJJ000&fbclid=IwAR2hZoMZ7uTdSwNCUlMmnoJG7FEjnD2eBbM8bZvEtFK4bEkpRBNBrmyDTlA>

For a news story on this, click here: <https://www.wigantoday.net/lifestyle/food-and-drink/plans-submitted-for-high-dining-restaurant-in-wigan-township-4087651>

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Do you want to join a free coffee morning in Standish?

The coffee mornings are held on the third Wednesday of the month with the next on April 18th. The event is hosted by Debbie Parkinson from 10am to 12 noon in The Globe Inn.

All welcome and it’s free! Go on, give it a try!

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Standish singer Neil Dunlop and a team of helpers will be hosting a monthly night of entertainment and song at Standish Unity Club.

The Unity Sunday Sessions will raise money for charity and Neil is hoping other local singers will join him for the entertainment.

The first show will be on Sunday, May 21st and entry costs £1. There will be a raffle too.

And a professional Standish soprano will sing for only the second time in the village performing songs in a night of entertainment next month in an event organised by Wigan Rotary.

Wigan Rotary Club is bringing the best of the music from the West End theatres to the Unity Club in Standish on Saturday 29th April and Standish resident Lisa Davis, pictured, will be singing for only the second time in the village having performed all over the world.

Tickets are available here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=Wigan%20Rotary%20Club%20>