

## STANDISH VOICE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2024

### SUPPORT YOUR CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sorry to be mentioning the 'C' word at the beginning of Summer but planning for this year's Standish Christmas Market is well underway and now is the time you can join us for another amazing festive celebration.

We are looking for generous businesses to support us with sponsorship so that we can arrange another successful Christmas event. Our costs continue to rise and we would not be able to hold the Market if it was not for the donations of our sponsors – who receive publicity in return.

This year's Market will be held on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and we have been able to keep the prices of our sponsorship packages at the same levels.

Standish Voice neighbourhood forum organises the Market and any profit we make goes towards staging the following year's Market and our other activities (some of this money was used to stage events at Standish Library recently).

We have three levels of sponsorship packages: Gold, Silver and Bronze – with most of our Gold packages already taken up. You can see the details below. If you want to take one of the packages, please email [standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com](mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com)

Also, now is the time to apply for a stall if you want to trade at the Christmas Market in one of our four craft halls or outdoor stalls selling festive goods and food and drink?

If you've traded with us before or already completed an expression of interest form this year, your application pack should have already been sent to you, but if not or if you would like to trade for the first time, please follow the links below to apply for a stall:

Indoor - <https://tinyurl.com/SCM-Indoor>

Outdoor - <https://tinyurl.com/SCM-Outdoor>

Hot Food - <https://tinyurl.com/5dekhk37>

Join us for Standish's Christmas celebration!

### FIRST STANDISH COUNCILLOR IN 50 YEARS IS MAYOR

The first Standish councillor to be a Mayor of Wigan for more than 50 years has begun her term in office and is inviting you to her civic service at St Wilfrid's Church.

Councillor Debbie Parkinson was Deputy Mayor last year and stepped up to the top job at a ceremony in Wigan Town Hall with her official charities this year being Wigan and Leigh hospice and TalkFirst, a mediation charity. Her official consort for the 12 months is another Standish councillor, Terry Mugan, who was re-elected last month

The Mayoral Civic service will be on Sunday 16th June at 3pm at St Wilfrid's Church and all are welcome. There will be light refreshments afterwards.

Debbie, a mother-of-three, who is an authorised lay minister of St Wilfrid's Church, was first elected in 2019 and has been appointed as Wigan's Older Persons Champion. She continues to work for the NHS. She said: "I am very proud to be Mayor and to represent Standish where I have lived and brought up my children for 48 years."

## **SPIRE FUNDRAISING PAST HALFWAY POINT**

The £500,000 fundraising appeal to restore the iconic spire of Standish's St Wilfrid's Church is more than halfway to its target – but time is running out to begin urgent repairs.

A fundraising appeal for Wigan's only Grade I listed building was launched in April last year after architects have discovered problems with the structure. It has so far raised around £280,000 – including a substantial amount coming from the church's own funds but with generous donations from people across Standish and beyond.

But time is running out to hit the fundraising target for the restoration – which includes mending the broken spire clock – as it needs to begin in February next year to prevent costs spiralling.

Rector Rev Andrew Holliday said: "We are so grateful to everyone who has donated to the Save Standish Spire Appeal. People have been very generous but we need more people to come forward to give towards these vital repairs.

"The community of Standish has been looking after St Wilfrid's Church since the building was built in the late 1500s and it is bound up in the history of the village. It is now our turn to ensure this wonderful building survives for coming generations and I have no doubt the people and businesses of Standish will meet that challenge.

"We have been advised that the repairs to the spire need to begin as soon as possible so time is running out for our appeal. We trying many ways to raise the money needed – including applying for grants – but donations from the public are vital for us to achieve our goal.

"Our own parish funds built up over decades to maintain the church will contribute to the costs, but the scale of these essential repairs means that 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: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-standish-spire> or send a cheque with 'Spire' on the back to The Parish Office, St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Church Street, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0JT.

## **IMPROVEMENTS 'SOON' FOR ASHFIELD PARK**

Upgrades to the play area, football pitches and footpaths - and a new outdoor gym - are on their way for Ashfield Park after years of pressure on Wigan Council.

Councillor Ray Whittingham has been given information that the improvements planned into a work programme - but no dates yet.

Enhancement of the facilities at Ashfield was part of Standish Neighbourhood Plan, devised by Standish Voice, and our councillors of all political parties have lobbied for some of the money from housing developments be used on the park for several years.

People who completed the council's 2021 consultation on how to use developer funds - called Section 106 monies - said improving Ashfield was a high priority.

Councillor Whittingham states: "After many years negotiating with quite a number of Streetscene officers past and present, I and a resident who lives close to Ashfield Park have finally received news of some landscaping of the footpaths in and around the park and a few other planned additions."

Councillor Whittingham is pictured at Ashfield Park.

### **13,000 FOLLOWERS**

Thank-you to our Facebook page 13,000 followers!

They have Liked or Followed our page to see more of our posts.

We have rules to interact with our public Facebook page – which anyone can access – and to date, only 14 people have been banned from commenting on our posts.

You can read our rules on our website here: <https://www.standishvoice.co.uk/us/>

### **PUB PLAN FOR STANDISH CENTRE HOUSE**

A Standish centre house could be transformed into a "high-class pub with food" if a planning application is passed.

The owner of the vacant home on Cross Street wants to refurbish the property by creating the hospitality venue and a self-contained flat on the first floor. The venue would have 30 covers with an outside drinking and eating area at the back, and would be open five days a week.

The planning application states that the upgrade would be done "to meet modern standards for a comfortable living lifestyle by creating a dwelling of modest proportions to the first floor and a high-class pub with food element to the ground floor with an external rear outdoor eating / drinking area. Careful consideration has been adapted in the design of the development so as not to adversely damage the environment visually, economically and ethically."

The hours of business at the pub, opposite Standish Library, are proposed to be:  
Monday: closed; Tuesday: closed; Wednesday: 11am-11pm; Thursday: 11am-11pm;  
Friday: 11am-11pm; Saturday: 11am-11pm; Sunday: 11am-11pm.

The building and a map of its location are here and you can see the application on this link: <https://planningdocs.wigan.gov.uk/planning/planning-documents?SDescription=A/24/97121/FULL&viewdocs=true>

## **PLANS FOR CAR WASH ON PUB LAND**

Standish Voice has objected to plans to turn the car park of The Shamrock pub into a car wash.

A planning application has been lodged to clean cars on the car park of the closed pub on Preston Road, with bays for cars being washed, parking for drivers waiting their turn, water storage tanks and a small office.

The pub has been closed and reopened sporadically for the past three years or so.

You can see and comment on the plans here:

<https://planningdocs.wigan.gov.uk/planning/planning-documents?SDescription=A/24/97063/FULL&viewdocs=true>

## **UPDATE ON BRADLEY LANE BRIDGE**

The final piece of highway infrastructure has been put in place at Bradley Lane bridge after traffic lights were installed there.

An increase in traffic – with more expected when a new estate is finished on Bradley Lane – meant the council agreed to traffic lights at the railway bridge and tunnel.

Standish Voice and Standish councillors are concerned pedestrians could be put in danger and new illuminated signs at each end of the tunnel now alert drivers to people walking through the tunnel.

We will be monitoring the situation as we still believe pedestrians could still be at risk from speeding drivers.

## **RAISING A TOAST TO CRICKET IN STANDISH**

You can have a tippie while enjoying the sound of leather on willow at an event at Standish Cricket Club next month.

Standish Cricket Club has teamed up with Wigan Lane mixologists Gin On The Lane to bring you an afternoon of cricket with a gin bar and a selection of beers and cider.

At Gin On The Wicket, the Green Lane club will host a cricket match and you can enjoy some great drinks in a marquee pavilion with freshly cooked pizzas from Fizz & Furnace and crepes from Daisy Catering.

It is on Saturday June 15th with a 1pm start and money raised will go to the club which does a huge amount in the community, especially with our youngsters.