



# Standish Voice Newsletter

Dear Standish Voice member,  
here is the newsletter for  
January...

## **CORONAVIRUS HELP**

During the latest national lockdown, Standish Coronavirus Help (SCH) is continuing to support self-isolating vulnerable people in our village who need shopping and other errands being done for them.

The number of people requiring our help has reduced since the first lockdown but as part of our scheme we were able to give Christmas treats to the 60 or so people who were on our support list.

SCH was set up by Standish Voice and the village's three councillors, Adam Marsh, Debbie Parkinson and Ray Whittingham, with the help of more than 100 volunteers, and we raised money in a COVID crowdfunding campaign.

Using some of this money, in early December we were able to deliver poinsettia flowers sourced by Standish florist, Wild Flowers, to the people we have looked after.

They were delivered by local 14-year-old Louis Martland as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, and his mum, Jo – complete with festive outfits!

SCH also arranged for a full Christmas dinner to be paid for and delivered to

those we have helped in the week before Christmas itself, after teaming up with the Hinds Head pub, which has undertaken a series of charitable initiatives during the pandemic.

SCH will continue through the pandemic until people do not need our help any more.

Thanks to everyone involved, including Standish company SMARTstrat, which continues to staff our helpline.

*Below left, Jo and Louis delivering flowers and, right, one of the Hinds Head meals being dropped off.*



**Standish Voice, along with our councillors, has continued to give input into Wigan Council's proposals to improve infrastructure in Standish, using money from housing developers.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed timescales on implementation of this but the council is hoping to move to the next stage soon and seek the views of the community on various projects.**



## STANDISH (VIRTUAL) CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our Standish Christmas Market was a digital event this year – with a virtual market and lots of entertainment across a weekend in early December. There were videos from schools, singers, bands, a Christmas Clobber fancy dress competition and a special panto for the village.

Tom Binns' Buttons panto comedy show was due to be staged in Standish on the day of the cancelled Market – until COVID meant it had to be pulled. But Standish Voice and the Market made sure the show still went on, with a video recording of the performance. You can watch it by clicking [here](#) – and some famous faces are involved.

Standish comedian Jamie Sutherland helped to arrange the show and his introduction to it can be seen below.

The finale of the event was left to Standish singer Neil Dunlop who usually organises a charity karaoke at the Market. You can watch this by clicking [here](#).

Louis and his mum Jo, our poinsettia deliverers, won the Christmas Clobber prize of a £50 Olive Garden voucher but gave it to St Wilfrid's Church for a deserving family.

Thanks to everyone who organised and took part in the virtual Market, especially Standish Voice Events Lead Kathy Robertson and Market co-ordinator Ian Trafford.

Roll on December when the real Market can hopefully return.



Standish comedian Jamie Sutherland introduces the virtual Christmas pantomime at the The 2020 Virtual Standish Christmas Market last month

## **HELPING ST WILF'S BRING SOME FESTIVE CHEER**

This Christmas, Standish Voice gave a £100 donation – matched by each of the three Standish councillors, Ray Whittingham, Adam Marsh and Debbie Parkinson – to St Wilfrid's Church for the delivery of special Christmas hampers for those who were spending Christmas on their own.

The church usually arranges a Christmas Day meal in the parish hall for these people, but the pandemic ruled this out – and the hampers were a welcome substitute.



**Standish Voice's monthly meetings have been cancelled during the pandemic in line with government guidelines.**

**However, our AGM will be held virtually in a Zoom meeting which will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday, January 27th.**

**In line with the constitution, committee members will be elected and officers selected along with the presentation of reports from our Chair, Gill Foster, and Treasurer, Karen Bliss.**

**If you would like to attend the AGM, please email Gill at [standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com](mailto:standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com) and we will send you an invitation link you can use to join us.**

## **REGIONAL PLAN WILL BE REWORKED... AGAIN**

The masterplan for Greater Manchester – which would protect Standish's Green Belt for another 16 years – will have to be reworked.

Stockport rejected the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, which was due to be open for consultation last month in its final leg before implementation.

The Framework decides on development across GM, including Standish, until 2037 and it will now be delayed after it has to be redrawn to include only nine councils.

The plan protected Standish's Green Belt against development, including house building.

Standish Voice has been lobbying to prevent any of our Green Belt from being changed into areas where development can happen as there has already been too much housebuilding, too quickly, in Standish over the past few years.

We will continue to monitor the progress of the plan and report back to you when there is more information.

You can read more about this issue by clicking [here](#).

Below is the map of the Call For Sites across Standish, where landowners and developers want to build homes. But Standish Voice still expects these to be resisted and our Green Belt to remain unchanged, despite the GMSF delay.

