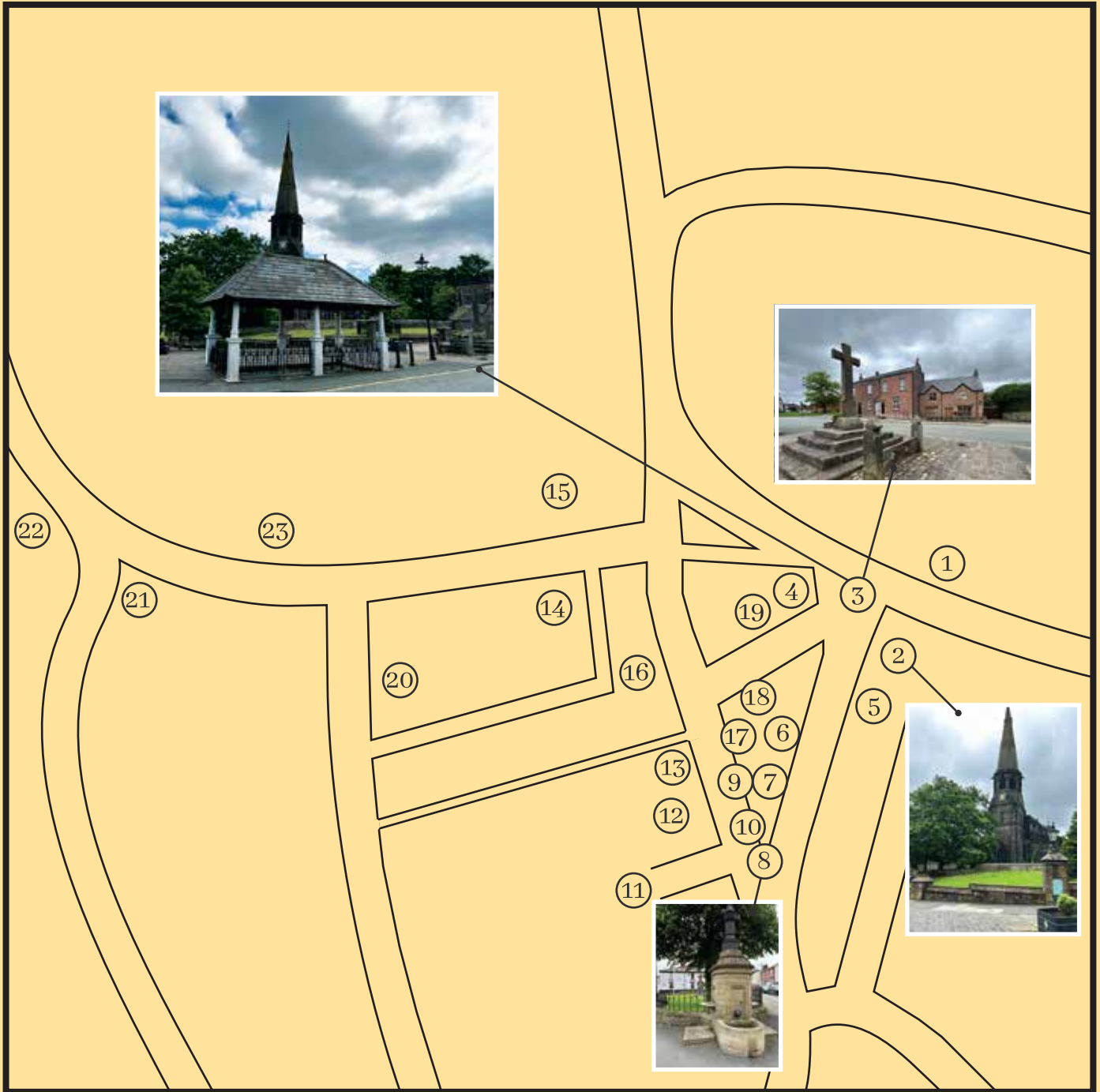




Standish Community Forum

INNER HERITAGE TRAIL

Map of Locations



Points of Interest

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Girls and Infants School (HP) | 9. Pit Tub (HP) | 17. Palace Cinema (HP) |
| 2. St. Wilfrid's Church | 10. Vets Practice | 18. Library (HP) |
| 3. The Market Place | 11. Wellington Place | 19. Court House** |
| 4. Eagle & Child Inn (HP) | 12. Standish UDC Council Office | 20. Greenacre Care Centre** |
| 5. Church Street | 13. Squires Hey (HP) | 21. Stone Cross |
| 6. Potters Bar | 14. Quakers' Place (HP) | 22. St. Marie's Church |
| 7. Oddfellows' Hall** | 15. Brewery Cottage and Aldi (HP) | 23. Albert's Restaurant |
| 8. Jubilee Fountain & War Memorial | 16. Methodist Church | |

Note:

Where shown **, these are 'site only' locations. (HP) denotes Standish Community Forum Heritage Plaque

This trail has been produced by Standish Community Forum for the benefit of residents and visitors alike

Original by John O'Neill - 1998 Update by Jim Meehan & Ron Wade - 2024

Points of Interest

1. Girls' and Infants' School (HP) - This Grade II listed stone building, built in 1825, was originally the Standish Sunday School. The ground floor was later used as an infant's school and the upper floor as the girl's school. From 1975 it was used as St. Wilfrid's Social Club. It was later redeveloped into a retirement complex.

2. St Wilfrid's Church - The only Grade I listed building in Wigan Borough. There has been a church here since at least 1205. The body of the church was rebuilt in the 1580s. The current tower and spire were built much later in the 1860s. The churchyard was originally circular. This indicates it may have been the site of pre-Christian worship and burial. The church contains the Standish Chapel which originally belonged to the Standish family of Standish Hall.

3. The Market Place - This historic site, which features much of the heritage of Standish is the centre of a conservation area. It was remodelled in 1930 using funds raised by JM Ainscough who grew up on Market Place and went on to become Mayor of Wigan. He was advised by Giles Gilbert Scott, the renowned architect. The base of the cross is medieval and a scheduled ancient monument. The cross was replaced by Cecilia Strickland, the Lady of Standish Manor between 1807 and 1814. The well was once the source of water for the village. The canopy was rebuilt in 1998 over 50 years after the previous one was damaged by an American truck during WW2. The Stocks went missing for several years and were found in a nearby garden. They were installed in their original position at the foot of the cross in 1930. The Peace Gate in front of the church was designed by Austin and Paley and unveiled in 1926 to commemorate those who died in the First World War. Plaques listing local colliery workers killed in WW1 were rehoused here when the pits closed.

4. Eagle and Child Inn (HP) - The old cottage in Market Place is a Grade II listed building and was the Eagle and Child Inn from 1703 until it lost its licence in 1916. For many years it was Worthington's butcher's shop. but reverted to a private residence in 1993.

5. Church Street - This was the main route through Standish before the completion of the new Wigan to Preston turnpike road in 1727.

6. Potters Bar - Originally the Ex-Servicemen's Club, but now a bar and snooker hall.

7. Oddfellows' Hall** - What is now a car park for the vets was once the site of the Oddfellow's Hall. The Earl of Surrey Lodge meeting place, also used for dancing classes and community events.

8. Jubilee Fountain & War Memorial (HP) - A Grade 2 listed fountain and lamp built to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. Standish War Memorial, erected in 1920 in the Jubilee Memorial Gardens to commemorate the dead of WW1 is Grade 2 listed. The names of those who died in WW2 were added. The gardens were renovated in 2004. A ceremony is held here every year on Remembrance Day.

9. Pit Tub (HP) - The tub was unveiled in 2002 to commemorate the rich mining history of Standish. Mining has been carried out in the area for many centuries and contributed to the growth of the township. The earliest written reference to coal mining in Standish dates from 1350. Dozens of pits were opened in the area which provided work for many local families. Opencast mining took place during World War 2 especially in the area around Standish Hall. Later drift mines were opened in Elnup Woods and at Robin Hill, which was the last mine to close in November 1963. Coal mining was dangerous. Records of fatalities were started in 1851. From then until the last pit closed in 1963, 236 men, women, and children were killed in Standish collieries.

10. Vet's Practice - This stone house started as Taylor's Drapers in 1732. Theophilus Taylor leased a "Burbage" including a shop with small parcel of waste land from Ralph Standish. However, many people will remember it as Gregory's grocer's shop.

11. Wellington Place (HP - Missing) - Now the location of retirement apartments. Originally built in 1812 and named after the Iron Duke. There were two cottages until 1950 when they were bought by the Chadwick family and converted into a butcher's shop and later a restaurant and food emporium. These were demolished in 2020 to make way for the retirement complex. The original datestone can be seen high up on the front wall.

12. Standish UDC Council Offices (HP - Only viewable during Clinic hours) - The building stood on the site now occupied by Standish Medical Practice and was also known as the Town Hall. Built in 1893 for the Local Board it became the Council Offices when Standish with Langtree Urban District Council was formed in 1894. It housed the council chamber, a library, court rooms, and a mortuary. It even had its own railway siding attached to the mineral line to bring in supplies for road maintenance. The UDC was abolished in 1974 when the Township became part of Wigan Borough. The building was taken over by Wigan Health authority and eventually demolished in 1989 to make way for a new clinic. This in turn was demolished and replaced by the current Medical Practice.

13. Squire's Hey (HP) - This passage from the High Street to Green Lane takes its name from a field, part of which is now the recreation ground. The field was bequeathed to the children of Standish by Helene de Perusse Standish in 1921.

14. Quakers' Place (HP) - From 1803 until the 1850's, the Quakers had a meeting and dwelling house here in which a family lived upstairs, and the lower area was the Meeting House. This land was part of the school croft and leased from the trustees of the Grammar School.

15. Brewery Cottage and Aldi (HP) - Former site of The Wheatsheaf Hotel and JB Almond's Brewery, both demolished in 1985.

16. Methodist Church - Opened in 1897. Built on the site of an old malt-kiln pond. It took 11 years to raise the money to build it with the help of the congregation.

17. Palace Cinema (HP) - The Cinema was opened in 1927 by Ernie Bentham to tap into the growing popularity of movies. It was part of Standish life for many decades. It was bought in 1954 by Vickers Entertainment Ltd who refurbished it, but it only remained open for a few more years, and finally closed in 1957. The last movie shown was Reach for the Sky about the World War 2 pilot Douglas Bader. The site became Lace's plumbers merchants. It caught fire on 10 December 1963, and despite the best efforts of fire fighters it was completely gutted. Following this it was replaced with a more modern building which has had many uses over the years.

18. Library (HP) - Used for meetings, community activities, coffee mornings, children's play area as well as the lending of books. Formerly the site of White Hall which housed the Customs and Excise office. The current library opened in 1965.

19. Court House** - This was behind the 3 terraced houses and former Eagle and Child Inn. The Manorial Court, Coroner's inquests, and public meetings were held here before the erection of the Council Offices on High Street

20. Greenacre Care Centre** - Site of the old Grammar school (founded in 1604) originally for the education of boys of the area. Later became a junior school for boys up to 11 but was closed in 1964 and demolished four years later.

21. Stone Cross - Of uncertain origin, but not belonging to the same series as the other stone cross bases in the area. Possibly a mounting block for horse riders, it once stood on the bend on the opposite side of the road.

22. St Marie's Church - Built in 1884 with the help of land and funding from the Standish family. The hall and presbytery were added later. Prior to this Standish Catholics worshipped in the chapel attached to Standish Hall.

23. Albert's Restaurant - Built as "The Beeches" by JB Almond, a local brewer and philanthropist. The house was used during World War 1 as a Red Cross hospital. It was later a hotel and restaurant until it was redeveloped in 2018 as Albert's.

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