

Standish Voice Newsletter July 2024

Line extension

Work to upgrade a walking, cycling and riding route from Standish to Wigan will begin in the Autumn – effectively creating The Line 2.

The Line from Standish to Almond Brook was improved several years ago and has been a huge success, encouraging more people to walk and cycle into the village centre from new estates and to also enjoy it for a stroll or run.

Now, the route of the former mineral railway line and bridleway will be upgraded from Standish Wood Lane to Gidlow Lane and be paid for by Greater Manchester council funding and money from Standish housebuilders.

Wigan Council has chosen a contractor for the work, due to begin in Autumn and take six months to complete. After that, some routes leading to the new Line will be upgraded in a second project.

The council says: “Our ambition for Wigan borough is to increase the amount of people using greener travel and improve connectivity in the borough. Wigan Council has secured Mayor’s Challenge Fund and S106 funding to improve connectivity, accessibility and encourage active travel.”

You can find out more about the project here:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-Roads-Travel/Travel/Schemes-Proposed-for-the-Borough.aspx#WigantoStandishCyclingandWalkingNetworkPhase2>

St Wilfrid’s film night

Are you interested in the history of St Wilfrid’s Parish Church? A new feature-length documentary has been produced by Standish Voice about the rich history of the church, the only Grade I-listed building in Wigan borough.

The film – In The Heart Of Standish – follows the excellent history tour of the church by guide Joe Bazeley and showcases the church choir and bellringers, as well as fascinating stories about the life of the village and how it has been intertwined with the church for hundreds of years.

Proceeds of the film show – which is on from 6.30pm for a 7pm start on Friday, August 23rd – will go to the Save Standish Spire appeal, which is raising money to renovate the church spire.

Tickets are £5 each, including refreshments, and can be bought at the Parish Office in the Parish Hall, which is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 12 noon – or email stwilfridsparish@outlook.com

Standish Christmas Market Sponsorship

There is still time to sponsor Standish Christmas Market and put your business in the local spotlight.

All our Gold packages have sold out but we still have Silver and Bronze packages available.

Join more than a dozen local businesses which are helping us to stage this popular annual event that brings thousands of people into Standish and raises thousands of pounds for good causes.

This year's Standish Christmas Market will be on Saturday, November 30th, with new attractions, live stage acts and stalls – but with the same super seasonal atmosphere.

Silver and Bronze packages bring tangible publicity for your business - while also helping your community. So don't delay, get in touch with us at Standish Voice by emailing standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com and help us to stage a celebration of Christmas.

Applications for stalls at this year's Market are now closed. We are going through them and will be in touch with people who submitted applications soon. But don't worry if you haven't applied, we'll be reopening submissions again on August 4th to fill up any remaining spaces.

Can you help the Poppy Appeal?

Standish remembered D-Day last month – but now we need YOU to remember veterans by helping with the Poppy Appeal in our village.

The recent sudden and tragic passing of Chris Velone, who ran the Poppy Appeal in Standish with his wife Tracey, means new organisers are needed to raise money for the care of our Armed Forces community.

Standish Voice is working with Standish Branch of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal regionally to ensure Standish's fundraising and commemorations continue with the creation of a new committee to organise them.

But we need volunteers. Volunteers to join the Poppy Appeal organising committee in Standish, to help to put up the commemorative poppies on lampposts in the run up to Remembrance Sunday, and volunteers to help man donation points in the village to raise money for veterans and their families.

Under Chris's watch, the Poppy Appeal in Standish was highly regarded for its organisation, visibility and the amount it raised – help us continue Chris's great work.

Please send us an email with an expression of interest to help and your contact details to standishneighbourhoodforum@gmail.com

Thanks very much.

Standish Coffee Mornings

Standish Voice has successfully applied for grant funding for community coffee mornings organised by Wigan's Mayor, Standish councillor Debbie Parkinson.

The monthly events are held with support from Wigan Council's Tech Mates scheme, giving help to Standish residents with their technology questions each month, and the Tenant Voice Association attends regularly giving advice and taking queries on council housing issues.

The money, from Brighter Borough funding, will be used for tea and coffee and juice plus cakes and biscuits for between 30-50 people each month for 11 months.

The Globe pub donates the venue and staff for free as the pub is not normally open at the times when the coffee mornings are held. This helps all residents who may not be able to afford to attend other places and helps enhance friendship and reduce loneliness.

The coffee mornings are held on the third Wednesday of the month from 10am to 12 noon and all are welcome.

You can also join a bereavement support coffee morning which meets monthly in St Wilfrid's Parish Hall. The next one is on Friday (July 26th) from 3pm to 4pm. No need to book, just go along.

Red Rock bridge to close for traffic lights upgrade

Red Rock bridge will close for three weeks from August 8th so that new traffic lights can be installed.

There will be a diversion in place for the work, which the council says will improve traffic flow over the bridge and cut congestion.

The council says: "Wigan Council have worked with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) on an infrastructure upgrade scheme which improves the existing traffic signals on the canal bridge at Red Rock Lane. By upgrading to the latest technology, the signals will work more efficiently, ultimately reducing delays and improving journey times."

Give your views on buses

Do you use the bus in Standish – or want to tell someone why you don't?

The Bee Network wants to hear your views on the new service, which has been operating for nine months in Wigan, and what you'd like to see in the future.

Follow this link to fill in a survey...

https://www.gmconsult.org/transport/c8dc97b7/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3mCkegKBQI0mMqtKPHHCmLbVJpyRgVKFfV68v3mXaYz5DpkOAMT3EthAo_aemHyqmk8HuKLRHw2a58nEVEA

Hotel to reopen

A Standish hotel, closed to paying guests for several years, is due to open to the public at the end of next month.

Britannia Hotel Wigan – formerly the Almond Brook Hotel – stopped housing asylum seekers earlier this year after it was handed over to Serco for the Home Office to use for this from 2016.

The 124-room hotel is now advertising availability for guests from August 29th, from £39 per night. The building, which was once Cassinellis, is being refurbished and employing new staff.