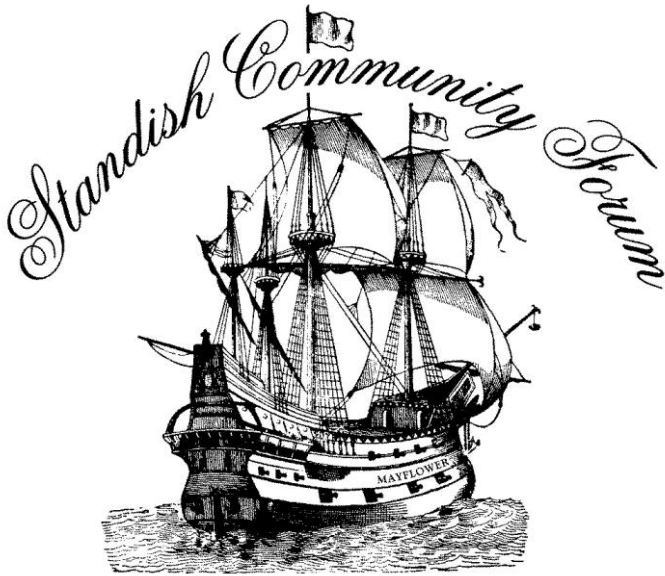


STANDISH COMMUNITY FORUM



HERITAGE PLAQUES

A guide to their locations

The Forum was established in 1994 following a public meeting to which all Standish residents and representatives from the township's organisations were invited to attend.

It's aim is to create a greater sense of community spirit within Standish by providing opportunities for the more direct involvement of residents in local issues, and forging stronger links with the local council and other agencies serving the community. The Forum will endeavour to maintain and preserve our local heritage, campaign on local issues and promote community events.

ALL residents are members of the Forum, and as such are welcome to attend meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.00pm in the Standish Community Centre in Church Street. The management is in the hands of a Committee elected annually at the AGM.

Projects such as Standish in Bloom, the Standish Website, Lancashire Day celebrations, the Annual Achievement Awards and a series of heritage Plaques have all evolved over the years, in addition to one-off publications such as the Standish Walks Booklets, 50 Facts about Standish, and Gordon Crumpton's excellent book 'Standish and its People'.

Recently our monthly meetings have incorporated different themes for discussion that included leisure, traffic, improving the local environment and creating a safer neighbourhood.

However, if the Forum is to maintain its credibility as the key local community organisation, and if it is to continue to deliver its extensive annual programme, then more organisational input is required, and more volunteers must come forward.

So, if you feel that it is important to retain Standish as a pleasant and parochial environment with a village atmosphere(although it is now a town!), and if you would be willing to offer your help for the benefit of the community, then please come to one of our monthly meetings or contact any member of the Forum's Committee.

BOAR'S HEAD INN

(on the main road into Wigan)



Sponsor:

Burtonwood Brewery

Text:

Originally this may have been a hostel for pilgrims on their way to the Great Abbeys of the North, because at this point on the route, there is a parting of the ways.

The present inn was built around 1450 and is now a Grade II listed building.

In the early 19th century it became a coaching inn on the turnpike road system, providing a resting place for weary travellers and their horses

EAGLE AND CHILD

(Market Place)



Sponsor:
Wigan Council

Text:

This Grade II Listed cottage was a hostelry from 1703 until it lost its licence in 1916. It was later converted for use as a butchers' shop but reverted to a private residence in 1993.

Behind the inn was the Standish Court House. Now demolished, it was a small building used for public meetings before the completion of the Council Offices on High Street.

STANDISH UDC COUNCIL OFFICES

(High Street)



Sponsor:

Somerfield Supermarket

Text:

This clinic stands on the site previously occupied by a building known as the 'Council Offices' or 'Local Board'. This was the centre of local government in Standish, housing the HQ of Standish with Langtree Urban District Council from when it was established in 1895 to 1974 when Standish became part of Wigan.

As well as the offices of the council and the council chamber, the building housed at various times a courtroom, public library, mortuary and public hall. It continued to be used as a public hall from 1974 until its demolition in 1990.

QUAKERS' BURIAL GROUND

(opposite Langtree Garage, Preston Rd.)



Sponsor:

Standish Community Forum

Text:

The Quaker movement founded by George Fox in 1647 was established in Standish Parish in the late 1660s by Heskin Fell and the brothers Roger and John Haydock of Coppull.

The burial ground, enclosed from the common, was used by the Quakers as early as 1682. They erected a meeting house here in 1717 which was used for that purpose until 1803.

John Haydock, who lived in Langtree Hall and owned this site, was buried here in 1719 following his death in Lancaster Prison.

WHEATSHEAF & BREWERY

(above main entrance to Somerfields)



Sponsor:

Standish Dickensian Group

Text:

This Somerfield supermarket stands on the site of the former Wheatsheaf Hotel, which closed in November 1982.

Behind the pub was a brewery opened in 1870 by JB Almond. It produced a traditional beer for local pubs until it was taken over by the Burtonwood Brewery in 1968.

The row of terraced houses along School Lane was owned by the Almond family and leased to brewery workers. Both the pub and the brewery were demolished in May 1985.

CAT I'TH' WINDOW

(Almond Brook Road)



Sponsor:
Wigan Council

Text:

Originally a farmhouse with a fine thatched roof, it was burned down in 1901 and later rebuilt. Tradition says that the silhouette cats in the blank windows are successors of the plaster cats used in the days of the early catholic persecution to indicate that a mass was to be held in nearby Standish Hall, or to warn Catholics that government troops were in the area. Alternatively, they may have been a dairyman's sign.

CAPTAIN MYLES STANDISH

(outside the Library, Cross Street)



Sponsor:
Ainscough's Engineering Services

Text:

CAPTAIN
MYLES STANDISH
1584-1656
Military Commander,
Pilgrim Fathers
1620

QUAKERS' PLACE

(off School Lane)



Sponsor:
Wigan Council

Text:

The Society of Friends, or Quakers, built a new meeting house along here in 1803, but the cause had declined by the 1850s.

In 1858, the site was sold to the Wesleyan Methodists who used it for a chapel, before it was converted into a number of cottages of which only numbers 17 & 18 are originals.

The area was previously named Quakers' Yard.

GIRLS' & INFANTS' SCHOOL

(front wall of Bramley Court, Rectory Lane)



Sponsor:
Lowry Homes

Text:

The front section of the Bramley Court development is the only surviving part of the Standish Sunday School established in 1829. The ground floor was later used as an infants' school, and the upper floor as a girls' school.

In 1963 the girls' school combined with the boys' school (Green Lane) to form the Standish C of E Mixed Junior School which moved to new premises further down Rectory Lane in 1965.

The infants followed them in 1970.

From 1975 it was used as St Wilfrid's Social Club, but this closed in 1999.

WELLINGTON PLACE

(High Street)



Sponsor:

Noel Chadwick Butchers

Text:

Built in 1817 and named after the Iron Duke, the house which is now a butchers' shop was part of a small complex of buildings comprising Wellington Place. Many of the other buildings, including a number of cottage dwellings, were demolished in the mid-20th century.

The house and associated buildings, including offices for the Standish Estate, were sold as lot 63 of the Estate in the adjacent Council Offices on 21 April 1921.

It was acquired by Noel Chadwick in 1950.

WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS

(High Street)



Sponsor:

Standish Royal British Legion

Text:

To mark the 60th Anniversary
of VE & VJ Day 2005

They did not give their lives in vain,
if those who are left remember them.

They will not grow old as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
we will remember them.

PIT TUB

(High Street)

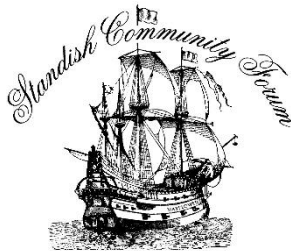


Sponsor:

Standish Community Forum

Text:

This Pit-Tub has been sited here as a lasting reminder that for centuries the Township of Standish was associated with the Coal Mining Industry. Few, if any, signs of that past are visible today.



Produced by Standish Community Forum.
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