



Standish Parish Council



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

Elections Update: Parish, District and General

Local elections for parish and district were held on 2nd May. There was no competition for Parish Council seats, and existing councillors Andreas Biermann, Sue Hartley, Oliver Kirkham, John Parker and Alison Widgery were elected unopposed. At its meeting on 8th May, the Council was able to fill its single vacancy with the co-option of Sardar Khan. Sardar introduces himself on this page.

For Stroud District Council, Standish is part of the 3-member Hardwicke ward. Here, the Conservative candidates were all elected. In Standish, we will continue to be served by Cllr. Mark Ryder, who can be contacted at Cllr.mark.ryder@stroud.gov.uk

The General Election took place on 4th July. As part of Hardwicke ward, Standish has moved from Stroud to the newly-formed North Cotswolds constituency, where the Conservative candidate, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown was elected MP. Sir Geoffrey's office can be contacted at Cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk or by phone on 020 7219 5147. There are no in-person surgeries listed on his website as yet. **SUE HARTLEY**



Tribute to the retiring Vice Chair of the Parish Council

Robert Kellie was elected as a parish councillor in May 2016. Having moved to Standish in 1982, Robert has seen many changes over the years, but has been consistently devoted to Standish and to protecting all that is best about the parish. Robert was elected Vice Chair in 2017 and served until the May 2024 elections. Robert has been a conscientious and reliable councillor, bringing intelligence and good sense to the wide variety of decision-making that takes place at Parish Council. He will be much missed. **SH**

Road Safety in Standish

Following the tragic death of a young man on the B4008 between St Nicholas Church and Little Haresfield, the Parish Council has been in discussion with our local PCSOs about this section of road. They have contacted the Camera Enforcement and Road Safety Officer, who has advised (somewhat ironically - Ed.) that, due to the speed of the road and limited area for officers to conduct speed checks, they do not want the PCSOs or Community Speed Watch groups carrying out speed checks in this area. The area has been marked as a location to have a traffic survey box, which will provide information on mean speeds and can identify times when speeds may be of concern if a problem is found. The PCSOs have assured us that they will be chasing this up and trying to identify additional solutions. **SH**

STOP PRESS: MULTI-USER PATH MEETING, 12TH SEPTEMBER, SEE PAGE 2.

Council Tax

The Parish Council's precept this year is £15,863. Whilst this is about £2,300 more than last year, we have been able to avoid an increase in the Council Tax payable by each household, because there are additional homes occupied at Green Walk. So the Council Tax payable at Band D remains £63.42 p.a. The Council's budget for 2024-25 can be viewed on the Standish Village website under the Parish Council's heading Financial Audits and General Finance. **SH**



Our New Parish Councillor, Sardar Khan, Introduces Himself

"I live at Green Walk with my wife, Nabila, and son, Seyhan, who recently graduated from university. I moved to Standish in July 2021, having previously lived in Berkshire, Dubai, Sussex and the US. I am a member of the Cotswold Canals Trust and a former marketing trustee of the charity.

My career has included 30+ years in marketing tourism and travel. I now run a communications consultancy for emerging brands and support Nabila's new dessert business. My spare time is taken up with gardening, walking, exploring and photographing flora and fauna in our beautiful neighbourhood.

I am keen to assist the smooth integration of Green Walk into the parish, ensure all residents' voices are heard and improve communications."

Javelin Park Extension Site (Planning application S.21/2579/OUT)

The developers, Tritax, are slowly continuing with the transport arrangements for this development at Javelin Park, which will see modifications to the B4008 and Junction 12 of the M5. A Section 106 agreement has been agreed to provide funding for additional transport mitigation in the form of a "Travel Plan and Monitoring", to try to reduce car journeys and increase the use of sustainable transport methods to and from the location. It's doubtful that this will achieve much, as only £10,000 has been provided. The 7.5 tonne weight restriction remains in place for the B4008 to limit HGV rat running through Standish and Stonehouse to Stroud. The Parish Council remains concerned at the impact this employment land allocation will have on the road network. Junction 12 is already operating beyond its design capacity and developers have not been required to make sufficient financial contributions to ensure the necessary improvements.

OLIVER KIRKHAM

Getting Around Without the Car



1. Multi-User Path

As reported in the Winter newsletter, funding has been achieved for a multi-user path alongside the B4008 between Horsemarling roundabout and the bridleway at Crowcumpill. The scheme (which will eventually become part of an off-road route between Gloucester and Stroud) will promote safe travel on foot, bike and horse. Under the terms of the funding arrangement, the path should be constructed by the end of this financial year. Preparatory work by the County Council and their consultants, Atkins, has been ongoing and further information will be available on the County Council website in August.

STOP PRESS: A PUBLIC SHARE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT STANDISH VILLAGE HALL, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 5-8PM. PLEASE COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PLANS. SH

The Parish Council is delighted to report on two further initiatives to encourage the use of public transport and electric bikes:

2. The Robin

The Robin is a local, bookable bus service for the Berkeley Vale area, which is now covering Standish, with several identified stops in the village. You can search for a journey via the website: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/> or by phone on 0345 263 8139 (the call centre is open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm) or on the App (see website). You can book a pickup and drop off location that suits you. It's affordable at only £2 per journey (pay via the website or direct to the driver) and free of charge for Concessionary Pass Holders. It connects passengers with transport links such as bus stops or train stations or takes you directly to a location if there are no other transport options available.

The Robin is designed to improve connectivity between rural areas. By offering this, it increases access to services and the wider transport network in the county, expanding access to employment, education, healthcare and shopping. **Alison Widgery**



3. Try out an E-Bike

Transition Stroud, social enterprise The Bike Drop and community partners are working together to run three e-bike loan pilot projects across Stroud district. One of these, starting in August, will be based in Stonehouse at Bridge Cafe, 9 High St, Stonehouse, GL10 2NG. The e-bikes come with all safety equipment and transport aids (panniers, baskets etc) as standard, and are available to loan out per day, week or fortnight. You can reserve the e-bikes at rate of £10 / day, £50 / week or £80 / fortnight. You can choose to have this reserve returned once the e-bikes are safely back, or donate the balance to help the project cover costs and keep the service running in the future. The project is supported, amongst others, by Stroud District Council's Active Travel Fund and by Stonehouse Town Council.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Join the Climate Fresk Movement: (<https://climatefresk.org/world/>)

Do you want to help tackle climate change but don't have the time to become a climate scientist? Climate change is a complex and urgent problem that affects us all, but it is still poorly understood by the general population. By understanding the challenge, we can take our response to the next level.

In just 3 hours, the collaborative Climate Fresk workshop teaches the fundamental science behind climate change and empowers participants to take action. It aims to create a network of people, which will grow exponentially, and who can pass on this quality climate education in order to reach a social tipping point that will help guide us to a low carbon world.



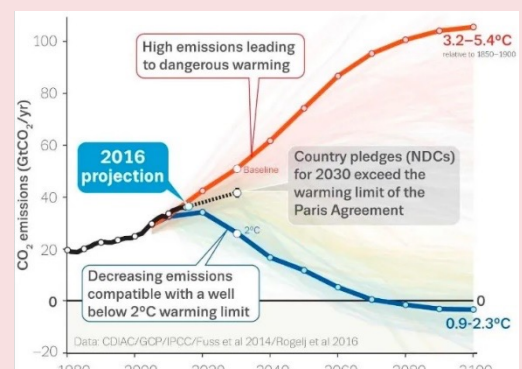
The Parish Council is very grateful to Standish resident Jenny Lam for facilitating such a powerful and meaningful workshop in June at the Village Hall, attended by sixteen people. The session was supported by the Council in collaboration with Transition Stroud. The science-based information cards encouraged much discussion and thought about the positive contributions that we, as individuals, could make to lowering carbon emissions and enhancing biodiversity. It was a great workshop that left us with actions we could take and a feeling that we could continue to work together to make a difference. The refreshments were also greatly appreciated!

Some comments from the 'debriefing session':-

Roses (positives)

The strong workshop format of the session helped participants to feel safe and able to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns in a sensitive and supportive environment. It was good to have some Standish residents in attendance as well as welcoming participants from other local areas. The interesting, if alarming, information helped develop understanding of issues.

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Thorns (issues for possible development)

We need to work on finding a way of encouraging a wider range of attendees. The timing of the meeting (a Saturday afternoon just before a general election) meant that some people were unable to attend as they were out campaigning or had family commitments. We were pleased that a parliamentary candidate was able to drop in for a short while.

Buds (positive ways to move forwards)

The Climate Fresk format is being used in schools and universities across the world, so we will approach local secondary schools to publicise the resource. It is also being used in workplaces to develop understanding of issues and areas for action. Connections were made with other local groups at this session and there are plans to meet to further develop ideas. Future sessions could include ethical investment, green pension advice, walks, talks etc.

Let's work together towards a positive future for our next generations. As the wise elder Joanna Macy said:

***"If the world is to be healed through human efforts,
I am convinced it will be by ordinary people,
people whose love for this life is even greater than their fear."***

For further information contact ajwidgery1@gmail.com AW

Gardening for Wildlife and Climate Change

In April, funded by the Parish Council as part of its Climate Change and Biodiversity policy, Chloe Cox from Wild Stroud gave an interesting talk on how we could develop our gardens to support wildlife in a time of changing climate.

Chloe talked about the worrying decline in UK wildlife (down 41% since 1970) and how gardens, which cover approx. 270,000 hectares in the UK, could be a real and very important refuge for wildlife providing wild corridors and green stepping stones for many creatures. She talked about the food chain and how we should be aware of supporting the creatures at the bottom of the chain in order to provide food for those higher up the ladder. By keeping things as natural and undisturbed as possible and not having everywhere 'tidy', wildlife would be able to flourish. Leaf piles, wood piles (vertical and horizontal) and stone piles (wet and dry) all support creatures by providing shelter. Soil is enriched by fungi, microbes, three types of earth worms and other soil creatures and mulching the soil with leaves and compost can enrich the soil and prevent erosion of water through winter. It's important to provide plants that are beneficial for the butterflies, bees, hoverflies and moths that pollinate flowers and food crops. There are many online sites giving guidance on plants that will support a range of biodiversity in your garden all year round. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plantsforpollinators>
<https://ngs.org.uk/how-to-increase-biodiversity-in-your-garden>
How To Increase Biodiversity In Your Garden - Woodland Trust
Plants for Bugs - RHS science projects / RHS

Chloe was keen that every garden should have a pond – even a small one – to support frogs, toads, newts and provide much needed water for wildlife (always remembering to have a way for creatures like hedgehogs to get out of the pond). She encouraged the use of peat-free compost and explained that chemicals (slug pellets, weedkillers) damage the delicate balance in our gardens. She encouraged us to talk to our neighbours about how we are trying to support the wild creatures in our gardens and why we are leaving some areas a bit 'wild'. Several members of the audience engaged Chloe to do garden surveys to help them support biodiversity.



Emily from Wild Hogs talked about the work done at the hedgehog rescue centre next to Saul Marina. She asked people to be very careful when using strimmers, which can inflict serious injuries on hedgehogs, and to provide gaps under fences, as hedgehogs travel long distances in search of food. Wild Hogs Rescue have an open weekend 31st Aug and 1st Sept 11am – 5pm. AW

Standish Tree Walk

Our resident tree expert, John Parker, led a well-attended walk in May, sharing information about the churchyard trees and the "Edward II trees" along Standish Lane. SH

COMMUNITY NEWS

Standish Almonry Gateway

The gateway at Standish Court dates from the 13th century. It needs significant repair work every 20 years or so. Currently, the ancient oak lintels are starting to collapse. A new charity has been formed called "The Friends of Standish Arch", which will be applying for grant money to assist with these repairs. The arch itself has a fascinating history: Standish was the agricultural estate owned by the Bishop of Gloucester and was linked directly to Gloucester Cathedral, then known as St Peter's. Hence, the correct name for the archway is St Peter's Arch. The people who benefitted from the bishop's alms were therefore known as Peter's Men. The charity hopes to complete its first round of funding applications this year with essential works taking place in 2025. OK

Standish Village Hall

The Village Hall has seen a steady flow of bookings for the first half of 2024 and is proving to be a popular venue for both locals and individuals further afield. The new cooker installed in January has been in regular use and is proving its worth.

Once again this year, thanks to Alison Widgery and other local helpers, the Village Hall is pleased to support the ever-popular Harvest Supper on 21st September. The previous years have been sold out so please get your names in early to make sure you have a place at the table!

To book the Village Hall, visit : <http://www.standishvillage.co.uk>

Ian Richens Chairman, Standish Village Hall Management Committee



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Stonehouse Walking Festival

6th - 15th September 2024

<https://stonehousewalkfest.wixsite.com/walkstonehouse/walk-schedule>

The annual Stonehouse Walking Festival has some interesting walks this year, including four tree walks in and around Stonehouse to be led by our parish councillor, John Parker.

Standish is also featured in the schedule with the following walks:

Sunday 8th Sept 6pm - An evening walk across fields to the site of the old Standish Hospital grounds.

Monday 9th Sept 10am - A walk up and over Doverow Hill, through Randwick into Standish Woods, and back through the fields to Stonehouse.

Tues 10th Sept 6pm - A walk to Moreton Hill Care Home to see the sunset.

Thurs 12th 2pm - A walk through farmland and country lanes to Standish Village Hall and Church. **AW**

Stroud Half Marathon 27th October

The half marathon will be coming through Standish as usual.

Memorial Charity Concert for Gerald Hartley

Saturday, 9th November, 7.30pm, St Nicholas Church

Many of you knew my husband, Gerald, as a fine brass musician, as well as an active member of our local Standish community. In November 2023, he played his last concert with Harlequintet+, the small brass ensemble he founded, in St Nicholas Church. This November, the sextet and I are planning a memorial concert, which will again raise funds for Sue Ryder and Longfield Hospices. Interval refreshments will be served in the Village Hall. I hope you will come along, enjoy the music and raise a glass to Gerald. **SH**



MegaFlix Film Awards -

FilmFreeway have hired the Village Hall to promote the work of independent filmmakers by hosting a series of Film Awards in Standish. More

information can be found on the village website. The dates for the presentations are **Mon 2nd Sept, Mon 7th October and Thurs 7th Dec 2024. All are from 7 - 10pm. AW**



Standish Harvest Supper 2024

Saturday 21st September 6pm for 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Our Harvest Supper is always a sell out! For tickets and further information contact bookings@standishvillage.co.uk or call John on 01453 828568 or Alison on 07974117960

Tickets cost £10 for adults, £5 for 5- to 16-year-olds (under 5s are free). This includes a welcoming drink, a four-course meal and entertainment. Offers of raffle prizes would be very welcome!

All profits will go to the Stroud Food Bank. Thanks to the Standish Village Hall Management Committee for generously supporting this event. **AW**



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD ALUMNI NETWORK GLOUCESTERSHIRE

STANDISH CONSORT

Standish Consort and Ensemble la Notte

Pergolesi
Stabat Mater
Soprano - Jennifer Thorne
Countertenor - Mark Wilson

Vivaldi
Gloria

3pm Saturday
12th October
St Mary's Church
Painswick

Adults £15 in advance
£17 on the door
Children 12-17 £5
Under 12s free

www.ticketsource.co.uk/standish-consort

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