

= Flixton , Greater Manchester =

Flixton is a village and electoral ward in the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford , Greater Manchester , England . The population of the ward at the 2011 census was 10 @, @ 786 . It lies about six miles ( 9 @.@ 7 km ) to the southwest of Manchester city centre , within the historic county boundaries of Lancashire .

Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts have been found locally and the area may have been inhabited in those periods . Medieval Flixton was a parish within the Hundred of Salford and encompassed the manor of Flixton , along with its church , first mentioned in the 12th century . The parish comprised isolated farmsteads and a manor house . Toward the end of the 17th century its population began to rise , continuing through the 19th century , although at a much slower pace than its neighbours . Flixton was a remote rural area with few transport links and did not witness the level of industrialisation other parts of Manchester saw , but its connection to the railway network in 1873 helped transform the area into a middle @-@ class suburb .

Flixton is represented in Parliament by Labour MP Kate Green .

= = Etymology = =

Flixton has been recorded as fflixton , Fluxton , Flyxton , Flyxeton , Fleece @-@ town , Flixston and Flixtone . It is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey , and first appears in historical records in 1176 or 1177 . The name may be Scandinavian in origin , the Anglo @-@ Saxon ton meaning a farmstead , although along with nearby Urmston , it may be an anglicised personal name from the 10th or 11th centuries and not a primary settlement name from earlier times .

= = History = =

= = = Early history = = =

The area may have been inhabited during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages . Stone axes have been found on the banks of the River Mersey in Flixton , as well as on the banks of the River Irwell in Old Trafford . Further afield , two Neolithic arrowheads have been found in Altrincham and Dunham Massey , and a Bronze Age arrowhead in Warburton .

Medieval Flixton was one of several parishes which existed in the Hundred of Salford . The parish encompassed the manors of Urmston and Flixton ; the latter is first mentioned between 1189 and 1181 and was granted by the Mascy family of Dunham . The manor of Flixton 's boundaries are unclear , although they were perhaps formed by a mixture of natural and man @-@ made features including Carr Ditch , which divided Flixton and Urmston . St Michael 's Church is also first recorded at about the same time , although the building may date from an earlier period . In keeping with a pattern found in northern and eastern Cheshire and south @-@ eastern Lancashire , the parish comprised isolated farmsteads and a medieval manor house , rather than a village centre . Notable place names in medieval Flixton include Shaw Hall , located near the present @-@ day Roebuck Hotel , east of the modern Flixton village . The location of Berne is unknown , while Booths was possibly somewhere near Hulme Bridge Farm , close to the Irwell . An area named Wood may have existed in the north @-@ western part of Flixton , near a Woods @-@ end Farm noted in an 1818 survey . A Shaw Hall , whose name first appears in 1508 and was derived from a small wood , was described by historian Michael Nevell as " the most significant medieval estate within the township " . Reputed to be a Jacobean era mansion , it was referred to as a manor in 1594 , although whether this was also the case during the medieval period is unknown . It was the home of the Valentines , the Asshawes and the Egertons , and during the English Civil War was defended against a potential attack by Royalist forces . The Egertons remained at Shaw Hall until 1757 ; thereafter it was occupied by various families , until it was demolished in the 20th century .

An early mention of Flixton appears in the Testa de Nevil , which includes the entry : " Albert Gredle

, sen . , gave to Henry , son of Siward , one carucate of land in Flixton by 10s. yearly . The heirs hold that land . " The manor of Flixton was , for a time , controlled by the Grelleys , Barons of Manchester . Robert of Lathom , who inherited the manor , granted the parish of Flixton to the newly created Burscough Priory , located near Ormskirk , in 1190 . The Grelleys may not have been Flixton manor 's only masters , as in 1250 ? 1251 part of the area came into the possession of David de Hulton . The Hultons united what in the 12th century was a fragmented manor . In 1330 they sub @-@ let one half of it to the Valentine family and the other to two branches of the Radcliffe family . The Valentines are included in the Exchequer Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1332 , which show five tax payers in Flixton : Richard le Valentine , Henry de l 'Wode , William de l 'Berne , Richard son of Robert and John de Booth . The name Valentine also appears in Flixton 's parish registers , which begin in 1570 . Written on vellum and mostly in Latin , the first records 11 baptisms , 2 marriages and 7 burials . Christian names include Hamlet , Randle and Ralph . The registers show that surnames such as Gilbody , Valentine , Millatt and Low remained prevalent in the area well into the 19th century .

= = = Industrial Revolution = = =

Flixton 's population remained fairly stable until the end of the 17th century , when , along with other nearby parishes , it began to rise steadily . It was by that time a small hamlet , with several buildings around the parish church and its parsonage . The 1664 hearth tax returns show that Flixton had 70 heads of household , who were likely engaged mainly in agricultural activities . Evidence exists to suggest that some areas in the parish were used for textile production , with " yarn croft " in Flixton , Stretford and Warburton indicating the production of flax . Almost 20 per cent of wills and other documents gathered from nearby areas contain references to textiles , hemp and flax .

During the Industrial Revolution many of the townships in the region experienced fairly rapid population growth , although Flixton remained an exception , its population growing by only 22 per cent between 1801 and 1851 . This was in stark contrast to Altrincham ( 165 % ) , Bowdon ( 242 % ) and Stretford ( 238 % ) , and is attributed to the emigration of villagers to more industrialised areas like Manchester , and the agricultural depression of the 1830s and 1840s . The domestic production of textiles , popular during the 17th and early 18th centuries in Flixton and other nearby townships , and the newer factory @-@ based system which replaced it , had disappeared in Altrincham by the middle of the 19th century . Weaving continued in Flixton , although within ten years of the construction of Flixton Cotton Mills in 1851 , domestic textile production had ended . In nearby Urmston , 28 per cent of the township 's population was in 1851 engaged in textile work , but the area did not experience the level of industrialisation seen in towns like Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne , east of Manchester , where 16 mills were built between 1815 and 1829 , doubling the population . The reasons for this reliance on land rather than industry are unclear .

Flixton was a remote rural area with few transport links to nearby towns , the rivers Irwell and Mersey for the most part cutting off access to other areas . To the southwest , Carrington Old Bridge , removed in about 1840 , was an old wooden structure too narrow to accommodate carts , which were forced to use a nearby ford . Another ford existed near Flixton Church and yet another near Shaw Hall . An omnibus service carried passengers to and from Stretford , where the nearest railway station was located , but it was the town 's connection on 2 September 1873 to the UK 's railway network , through the Manchester , Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway ( later the Cheshire Lines Committee ) line from Manchester to Liverpool , which helped transform the area . A new bridge across the Mersey was built around 1906 ? 1907 , replacing the earlier structure nearer to Carrington . Flixton gradually became a middle @-@ class railway suburb of Manchester .

= = Governance = =

= = = Civic history = = =

In 1841 Davyhulme , Flixton and Urmston became part of the Chorlton Poor Law Union , until 1849 when , with Stretford , it was transferred to Barton upon Irwell Poor Law Union . An 1894 Act of Parliament created urban and rural district councils , and along with Carrington , Davyhulme , Dunham Massey , Hale , Partington , Timperley and Warburton , Flixton became part of Barton upon Irwell Rural District ( Urmston gained an urban district council ) . Land was exchanged between Flixton and Irlam Urban District and Barton Moss civil parish . A further exchange of land occurred in 1920 , with Carrington civil parish . In 1933 the civil parish became a part of Urmston Urban District .

== Political representation ==

From 1918 to 1950 Flixton was a part of the Stretford Division of Lancashire and from 1950 to 1983 a part of the borough constituency of Stretford . From 1983 to 1997 it was included in the new constituency of Davyhulme and represented by the Conservative Party MP Winston Spencer @-@ Churchill , grandson of Winston Churchill . The Davyhulme constituency was replaced in 1997 by Stretford and Urmston , whose first MP was Labour 's Beverley Hughes . She won the 1997 General Election with 58 @.@ 5 per cent of the vote , against the Conservatives ' John Gregory with 30 @.@ 5 per cent . She was replaced in 2010 by Kate Green , who won 48 @.@ 6 per cent of the vote , compared to the Conservatives ' Alex Williams with 28 @.@ 7 per cent . The Liberal Democrats gained 16 @.@ 9 per cent of the vote .

Flixton elects three councillors to Trafford Council ; as of the 2012 local election , all three seats are held by Jonathan Coupe , Paul Lally and Vivienne Ward , for the Conservative Party .

== Geography ==

At 53 ° 44 ? 27 ? N 2 ° 38 ? 44 ? W ( 53 @.@ 4427 ° , -2.3844 ° ) and 170 miles ( 274 km ) northwest of central London , Flixton is located between Urmston and Irlam , which lie to the east and west . For the purposes of the Office for National Statistics , Flixton forms a south westerly part of the Greater Manchester Urban Area , with Manchester city centre 6 @.@ 4 miles ( 10 @.@ 3 km ) to the north @-@ eastnorth .

Flixton ward 's southern boundary is formed by the River Mersey , opposite the neighbouring ward of Bucklow St Martins . With the creation of the Manchester Ship Canal , which roughly followed the former path of the River Irwell , the township 's western boundary with Irlam was adopted in 1896 . Today , the ward 's western boundary lies further east , running south through farmland near Woodsend Circle . Flixton 's north and eastern boundaries are formed by Moorside Road and the area slightly east of Chassen Road railway station . Most of the town 's population lives to the north , the south being mainly open land .

== Demography ==

As of the United Kingdom Census 2001 , Flixton ward 's population was 9 @,@ 473 , 9 @,@ 164 of whom were white , the remainder being either of mixed race , Asian , Black or Chinese . 3 @,@ 789 people are listed as single and 3 @,@ 543 as married for the first time ; the remainder were either remarried , separated , divorced or widowed . 7 @,@ 771 people considered themselves Christian , 952 stated they had no religion and 606 did not state their religion . 86 people are listed as Muslims , 22 as Hindus , 10 as Buddhist and 8 as Jewish .

Of Flixton 's 4 @,@ 530 households 83 @.@ 1 per cent are listed as owner occupied . Most houses in the area are semi @-@ detached ; the rest are detached , terraced or flats . Average household income for 2010 was £ 39 @,@ 231 . According to the 2001 census , of the 6 @,@ 812 people aged 16 ? 74 , 46 @.@ 1 per cent were employed on a full @-@ time basis , 11 @.@ 2 per cent part @-@ time , and 7 @.@ 3 per cent self @-@ employed . 1 @.@ 8 per cent were unemployed and seeking work , while 16 @.@ 5 per cent were retired .

## == Culture ==

Flixton Band , formed in 1877 , played at the official opening of the Manchester Ship Canal in 1894 , attended by Queen Victoria . It was disbanded in 1933 but reformed in 1967 , since when it has performed on television and radio .

Local artist Frances Lennon , born in nearby Stretford , moved with her husband to Flixton in the late 1970s . Following his death she became a full @-@ time painter , releasing several books including A Trafford Childhood ( 1986 ) and A Manchester Childhood ( 2001 ) . Dubbed " the people 's artist " , she was the official artist for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and produced a special book of paintings relating to games and sports .

## == Religion ==

Flixton is in the Church of England Diocese of Manchester and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford . Historically church life has centred around the Grade II \* listed 12th @-@ century St Michaels Church , built on raised land close to the centre of Flixton village . For about 500 years the church was attached to Lichfield Cathedral . Another Church of England place of worship , St John 's Church , can be found on Irlam Road . Flixton 's Catholic Community worships at St Monica 's Church on Woodsend Road South . The parish was founded in 1950 and the church built from 1968 to 1969 .

## == Landmarks ==

Flixton House , a late 18th @-@ century Grade II listed building set in Flixton Park and Gardens , was the focus of one of the first footpath battles in England after its owner , Ralph Wright , in 1824 closed several footpaths crossing his estate . Local residents accepted the closures , but Wright also attempted to change the route of footpaths not on his land , ploughing the entrance to one and sowing it with oats . A local farmer , Samuel Wood , objected to Wright 's tactics and removed each obstruction , restoring the footpath . Wright successfully gained an order supporting his changes at his third attempt , but by then the case had attracted considerable interest and in 1826 the Manchester Society for the Preservation of Ancient Footpaths was formed . After several years of expensive legal wrangling , Wright 's order was quashed and in June 1827 the footpaths affected were reopened . Wright obtained further orders and again closed the footpaths , before the matter was finally resolved at the Quarter Session on 29 October that year , to Wright 's cost . His loss proved to be an important event in the movement for footpath preservation in England .

Abbotsfield Park was the venue for a 1963 Beatles concert , booked before they became famous . The Urmston and District Model Engineering Society operates a miniature railway around the park and ran a yearly May Day Steam rally in conjunction with the Lancashire Traction Engine Club until 2010 . Stocks , once located in Flixton village and seldom used , were removed in 1823 . A tree planted in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria 's Golden Jubilee , and known locally as ' The Jubilee Tree ' , now stands in the same area .

To the southwest lies Green Hill , from which the disused Flixton Sewage Works may be viewed . Formed from pulverised fuel ash , the soil provides ideal conditions for flora like gorse and is a habitat for moles . The former sewage works is an important undisturbed wintering site for wildfowl , such as marsh harriers and linnets . Nearby , Duttons Pond is a privately run but publicly accessible location for anglers . West of Dutton 's Pond is Jack Lane nature reserve , a small marshland habitat for wetland birds , surrounded by farmland .

## == Transport ==

Public transport in Flixton is coordinated by Transport for Greater Manchester . Bus services in Flixton run to destinations such as Davyhulme , Urmston , Stretford , Partington , Hulme and Manchester . The two local railway stations , Flixton and Chassen Road , are managed by Northern

Rail .

= = Education = =

Flixton has several primary and secondary schools . Its first was founded by Peter Egerton , in 1643 , and built close to the parish church . The building was later replaced by the Dog and Partridge Inn , but another school was opened near the present @-@ day Roebuck pub in 1662 , of thatched wood and plaster . Shawtown school , which was slightly closer to Urmston than the building it replaced , was still extant in 1826 , but was later used as cottages . A school built in 1861 opposite the parish church and expanded in 1893 has since been demolished .

Flixton Girls ' School is a non @-@ selective sports specialist academy school , for girls aged 11 ? 16 . Its 2011 Ofsted report describes it as a good school , with " a number of outstanding features including the way in which the school promotes community cohesion " . Another local school , Wellacre Academy , was described by Ofsted as " an outstanding and happy school which knows itself very well " .

= = Sport = =

Flixton was witness to bull and bear baiting , performed in several places throughout the village . One of these was in Shawtown , on " Schoo ' Green " , and another was at " Th ' Grane " , at the top of Woodsend Road , opposite where the Red Lion pub once stood . The practice was ended in 1816 . Badger baiting was also practised , at certain inns . Anecdotal evidence exists to suggest that hunting , cockfighting and horse racing took place in Flixton , the latter in the fields around the parish church .

Formed in 1990 , Trafford Football Club plays in the Northern Premier League . Local golf courses include the municipally owned William Wroe Golf Course and the privately owned Flixton Golf Club . The William Wroe course , named after Councillor William Wroe , was opened in 1973 as a fourteen @-@ hole course , six holes occupying land on the Flixton road side of the railway , and eight on the Church road side . The land it occupies was originally purchased by Urmston District Council in 1935 , but from 1947 to 1970 , aware that it was gradually becoming occupied , Wroe campaigned for the establishment of a municipal golf course . It was expanded to fifteen holes , then eventually to eighteen holes in 1984 , after the nearby Acre Gate Farm became vacant .