

= Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne =

Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne (pop . 43 @, @ 200) is a market town in Tameside , Greater Manchester , England . The population had increased to 45 @, @ 198 at the 2011 census . Historically in Lancashire , it is on the north bank of the River Tame , in the foothills of the Pennines , 6 @. @ 2 miles (10 @. @ 0 km) east of Manchester .

Evidence of Stone Age , Bronze Age , and Viking activity has been discovered in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne . The " Ashton " part of the town 's name probably dates from the Anglo @-@ Saxon period , and derives from Old English meaning " settlement by ash trees " . The origin of the " under @-@ Lyne " suffix is less clear ; it possibly derives from the British lemo meaning elm or from Ashton 's proximity to the Pennines . In the Middle Ages , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne was a parish and township and Ashton Old Hall was held by the de Asshetons , lords of the manor . Granted a Royal Charter in 1414 , the manor spanned a rural area consisting of marshland , moorland , and a number of villages and hamlets .

Until the introduction of the cotton trade in 1769 , Ashton was considered " bare , wet , and almost worthless " . The factory system , and textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution triggered a process of unplanned urbanisation in the area , and by the mid @-@ 19th century Ashton had emerged as an important mill town at a convergence of newly constructed canals and railways . Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne 's transport network allowed for an economic boom in cotton spinning , weaving , and coal mining , which led to the granting of municipal borough status in 1847 .

In the mid @-@ 20th century , imports of cheaper foreign goods led to the decline of Ashton 's heavy industries but the town has continued to thrive as a centre of commerce and Ashton Market is one of the largest outdoor markets in the United Kingdom . The 140 @, @ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (13 @, @ 000 m2) , two @-@ floored Ashton Arcades shopping centre opened in 1995 and an IKEA store in 2006 .

= = History = =

Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area comes from Ashton Moss ? a 107 @-@ hectare (260 @-@ acre) peat bog ? and is the only one of Tameside 's 22 Mesolithic sites not located in the hilly uplands in the north east of the borough . A single Mesolithic flint tool has been discovered in the bog , along with a collection of nine Neolithic flints . There was further activity in or around the bog in the Bronze Age . In about 1911 , an adult male skull was found in the moss ; it was thought to belong to the Romano @-@ British period ? similar to the Lindow Man bog body ? until radiocarbon dating revealed that it dated from 1 @, @ 320 ? 970 BC .

The eastern terminus of the early medieval linear earthwork Nico Ditch is in Ashton Moss (grid reference SJ909980) ; it was probably used as an administrative boundary and dates from the 8th or 9th century . Legend claims it was built in a single night in 869 or 870 as a defence against Viking invaders . Further evidence of Dark Age activity in the area comes from the town 's name . The " Ashton " part probably derives from the Anglo @-@ Saxon meaning " settlement by ash trees " , the origin of the " under @-@ Lyne " element is less clear : it could derive from the British lemo meaning elm , or may refer to Ashton being " under the line " of the Pennines . This means that Ashton probably became a settlement some time after the Romans left Britain in the 5th century . An early form of the town 's name , which included a burh element , indicates that in the 11th century Ashton and Bury were two of the most important towns in Lancashire . The " under Lyne " suffix was not widely used until the mid @-@ 19th century when it became useful for distinguishing the town from other places called Ashton .

The Domesday Survey of 1086 does not directly mention Ashton , perhaps because only a partial survey of the area had been taken . However , it is thought that St Michael 's Church , mentioned in the Domesday entry for the ancient parish of Manchester , was in Ashton . The town itself was first mentioned in the 12th century when the manor was part of the barony of Manchester . By the late 12th century , a family who adopted the name Assheton held the manor on behalf of the Gresleys ,

barons of Manchester . Ashton Old Hall was a manor house , the administrative centre of the manor , and the seat of the Assheton family . With three wings , the hall was " one of the finest great houses in the North West " of the 14th century . It has been recognised as important for being one of the few great houses in south @-@ east Lancashire and possibly one of the few halls influenced by French design in the country . The town was granted a Royal Charter in 1414 , which allowed it to hold a fair twice a year , and a market on every Monday , making the settlement a market town .

According to popular tradition , Sir Ralph de Assheton , who was lord of the manor in the mid @-@ 14th century and known as the Black Knight , was an unpopular and cruel feudal lord . After his death , his unpopularity led the locals to parade an effigy of him around the town each Easter Monday and collect money . Afterwards the effigy would be hung up , shot , and set on fire , before being torn apart and thrown into the crowd . The first recorded occurrence of the event was in 1795 , although the tradition may be older ; it continued into the 1830s .

The manor remained in the possession of the Assheton family until 1514 when its male line terminated . The lordship of the manor passed to Sir George Booth devolving through the Booth family until the Earls of Stamford inherited it through marriage in 1758 . The Booth @-@ Greys then held the manor until the 19th century , whose patronage , despite being absentee lords , was probably the stimulus for Ashton 's growth of a large @-@ scale domestic @-@ based textile industry in the 17th century . Pre @-@ industrial Ashton was centred on four roads : Town Street , Crickets Lane , Old Street , and Cowhill Lane . In the late @-@ 18th and early @-@ 19th centuries , the town was re @-@ planned , with a grid pattern of roads . As a result , very little remains of the previous town . In 1730 a workhouse was established which consisted of a house and two cottages ; it later came to be used as a hospital . The Ashton Canal was constructed in the 1790s to transport coal from the area to Manchester , with a branch to the coal pits at Fairbottom .

Domestic fustian and woollen weaving have a long history in the town , dating back to at least the Early Modern period . Accounts dated 1626 highlight that Humphrey Chetham had dealings with clothworkers in Ashton . However , the introduction of the factory system in the 19th century , during the Industrial Revolution , changed Ashton from a market town to a mill town . Having previously been one of the two main towns in the Tame Valley , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne became one of the " most famous mill towns in the North West " . On Christmas Day 1826 , workers in the town formed the Ashton Unity , a sickness and benefits society that was later renamed the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds . From 1773 to 1905 , 75 cotton mills were established in the town . On his tour of northern England in 1849 , Scottish publisher Angus Reach said :

In Ashton , too , there lingers on a handful of miserable old men , the remnants of the cotton hand @-@ loom weavers . No young persons think of pursuing such an occupation . The few who practice it were too old and confirmed in old habits , when the power @-@ loom was introduced , to be able to learn a new way of making their bread .

The cotton industry in the area grew rapidly from the start of the 19th century until the Lancashire Cotton Famine of 1861 ? 1865 . The growth of the town 's textile industry led to the construction of estates specifically for workers . Workers ' housing in Park Bridge , on the border between Ashton and Oldham , was created in the 1820s . The iron works were founded in 1786 and were some of the earliest in the north west . The Oxford Mills settlement was founded in 1845 by local industrialist and mill @-@ owner Hugh Mason who saw it as a model industrial community . The community was provided with a recreational ground , a gymnasium , and an institute containing public baths , a library , and a reading room . Mason estimated that establishing the settlement cost him around £ 10 @, @ 000 and would require a further £ 1 @, @ 000 a year to maintain (about £ 600 @, @ 000 and £ 60 @, @ 000 respectively as of 2016) , and that its annual mortality rate was significantly lower than in the rest of the town .

A poor supply of fresh water and dwellings without adequate drainage led to a cholera outbreak in the town in 1832 . The Ashton Poor Law Union was established in 1837 and covered most of what is now Tameside . A new workhouse was built in 1850 which provided housing for 500 people . It later became part of Tameside General Hospital . Construction on the Sheffield , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne and Manchester Railway (SA & MR) began in 1837 to provide passenger transport between Manchester and Sheffield . Although a nine @-@ arch viaduct in Ashton collapsed in April

1845 , the line was fully opened on 22 December 1845 . The SA & MR was amalgamated with the Sheffield and Lincolnshire Junction Railway , the Great Grimsby & Sheffield Railway , and the Grimsby Docks Company in 1847 to form the Manchester , Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (MS & LR) . In 1890 , the MS & LR bought the Old Hall and demolished it to make way for the construction of new sidings .

In the late 19th century , public buildings such as the market hall , town hall , public library and public baths were built . A donation from Hugh Mason funded the construction of the baths constructed in 1870 ? 1871 . The Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne Improvement Act was passed in 1886 which gave the borough influence over housing and allowed the imposition of minimum standards such as drainage . Coal mining not as important to the town as the textile industry , but in 1882 the Ashton Moss Colliery had the deepest mine shaft in the world at 870 metres (2 @,@ 850 ft) . Ashton 's textile industry remained constant between 1865 and the 1920s . Although some mills closed or merged , the number of spindles in use increased . With the collapse of the overseas market in the 1920s , the town 's cotton industry went into decline , and by the 1930s most of the firms and mills in the area had closed .

Ashton became a part of the newly formed Metropolitan Borough of Tameside in 1974 . In May 2004 , a massive fire ravaged the Victorian market hall , and a temporary building called " The Phoenix Market Hall " was built on Old Cross Street on the opposite side of the Old Market hall . Described as the " heart of Ashton " , the market was rebuilt and officially opened on 1 December 2008 .

= = Governance = =

Lying within the historic county boundaries of Lancashire since the early 12th century , Ashton anciently constituted a " single parish @-@ township " , but was divided into four divisions (sometimes each styled townships) : Ashton Town , Audenshaw , Hartshead , and Knott Lanes . Ashton Town was granted a Royal Charter in 1414 , granting it the right to hold a market . All four divisions lay within the Hundred of Salford , an ancient division of the county of Lancashire .

In 1827 , police commissioners were established for Ashton Town , tasked with bringing about social and economic improvement . In 1847 , this area was incorporated under the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 , as a municipal borough with the name " Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne " , giving it borough status . When the administrative county of Lancashire was created by the Local Government Act 1888 , the borough fell under the newly created Lancashire County Council . The borough 's boundaries changed during the late 19th century through small exchanges of land with the neighbouring districts of Oldham , Mossley , Dukinfield , and Stalybridge . In the early 20th century , the Borough of Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne grew ; Hurst Urban District was added in 1927 , parts of Hartshead and Alt civil parishes in 1935 , and parts of Limehurst Rural District in 1954 . Since 1956 , Ashton has been twinned with Chaumont , France .

Under the Local Government Act 1972 , the town 's borough status was abolished , and Ashton has , since 1 April 1974 , formed part of the Metropolitan Borough of Tameside , within the metropolitan county of Greater Manchester . Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne is divided into four wards : Ashton Hurst , Ashton St. Michaels , Ashton St Peters and Ashton Waterloo . As of the 2012 local elections , all twelve seats are held by Labour councillors .

Since the Reform Act 1832 the town has been represented in Parliament as part of the Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne parliamentary constituency . During its early years the constituency was represented in the House of Commons by members of the Liberal Party until the late 19th century , when it was broadly held by the Conservative Party . It has been held by the Labour Party since 1935 ; Angela Rayner has been the constituency 's Member of Parliament since 2015 .

= = Geography = =

At 53 ° 29 ? 38 ? N 2 ° 6 ? 11 ? W (53 @.@ 4941 ° , ? 2 @.@ 1032 °) , and 160 miles (257 km) north @-@ northwest of London , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne stands on the north bank of the

River Tame , about 35 feet (11 m) above the river . Described in Samuel Lewis 's A Topographical Dictionary of England (1848) as situated " on a gentle declivity " , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne lies on undulating ground by the Pennines , reaching a maximum elevation of about 1 @,@ 000 feet (305 m) above sea level . It is 6 @.@ 2 miles (10 @.@ 0 km) east of Manchester city centre , and is bound on all sides by other towns : Audenshaw , Droylsden , Dukinfield , Mossley , Oldham and Stalybridge , with little or no green space between them . Ashton experiences a temperate maritime climate , like much of the British Isles .

Generally the bedrock of the west of the town consists of coal measures , which were exploited by the coal mining industry , while the east is mainly millstone grit . Overlying the bedrock are deposits of glacial sand and gravel , clay , and some alluvial deposits . Ashton Moss , a peat bog , lies to the west of the town and was originally much larger . The River Tame forms part of the southern boundary , dividing the town from Stalybridge and Dukinfield , and the River Medlock runs to the west .

Ashton 's built environment is similar to the urban structure of most towns in England , consisting of residential dwellings centred on a market square and high street in the town centre , which is the local centre of commerce . There is a mixture of low @-@ density urban areas , suburbs , semi @-@ rural and rural locations in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne , but overwhelmingly the land use in the town is residential ; industrial areas and terraced houses give way to suburbs and rural greenery as the land rises out of the town in the east . The older streets are narrow and irregular , but those built more recently are spacious , lined by " substantial and handsome houses " . Areas and suburbs of Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne include Hartshead , Hazelhurst , Hurst , Taunton , and Waterloo .

= = Demography = =

As of the 2001 UK census , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne had a population of 43 @,@ 236 . The 2001 population density was 12 @,@ 374 per mi ² (4 @,@ 777 per km ²) , with a 100 to 96 @.@ 1 female @-@ to @-@ male ratio . Of those over 16 years old , 30 @.@ 9 % were single (never married) and 50 @.@ 0 % married . Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne 's 18 @,@ 347 households included 33 @.@ 2 % one @-@ person , 33 @.@ 0 % married couples living together , 8 @.@ 9 % were co @-@ habiting couples , and 12 @.@ 4 % single parents with their children ; these figures were similar to those of Tameside , however both Tameside and Ashton have higher rates of single parents than England (9 @.@ 5 %) . Of those aged 16 ? 74 , 37 @.@ 0 % had no academic qualifications , similar to that of 35 @.@ 2 % in all of Tameside but significantly higher than the 28 @.@ 9 % in all of England , and 11 @.@ 9 % had an educational qualification such as first degree , higher degree , qualified teacher status , qualified medical doctor , qualified dentist , qualified nurse , midwife , health visitor , etc. compared to 20 % nationwide .

In 1931 , 10 @.@ 2 % of Ashton 's population was middle class compared with 14 % in England and Wales , and by 1971 , this had increased steadily to 17 @.@ 3 % compared with 24 % nationally . In the same time frame , there was the decline of the working class population . In 1931 , 33 @.@ 8 % were working class compared with 36 % in England and Wales ; by 1971 , this had decreased to 29 @.@ 2 % in Ashton and 26 % nationwide . The rest of the population was made up of clerical workers and skilled manual workers .

= = = Population change = = =

In 1700 , the population of Ashton , the Tame Valley 's main urban area , was an estimated 550 . The town 's 18th @-@ century growth was fuelled by an influx of people from the countryside attracted by the prospect of work in its new industries , mirroring the rest of the region . In the early 19th century , Irish immigrants escaping from the Great Irish Famine were also drawn to the area by the new jobs created , The availability of jobs created by the growth of the textile industry in the town led to Ashton 's population increasing by more than 400 % between 1801 and 1861 , from 6 @,@ 500 to 34 @,@ 886 . The population dropped by 9 % during the 1860s as a consequence of the cotton famine caused by the American Civil War . The table below details the population change

since 1851 , including the percentage change since the last census .

= = Religion = =

St Michael and All Angels ' Church is a Grade I listed building that dates back to at least 1262 , although it was rebuilt in the 15th , 16th and 19th centuries . In 1795 it was the only church in the town , and one of only two in Tameside . There was a great increase in the number of chapels and religious buildings in the area during the 19th century , and by the end of the century there were 44 Anglican churches and 138 chapels belonging to other denominations . The most common denomination amongst the chapels were Catholic , Congregationalist , and Methodist .

The 19th @-@ century evangelist John Wroe attempted to turn Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne into a " new Jerusalem " . He founded the Christian Israelite Church , and from 1822 to 1831 Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne was the religion 's headquarters . Wroe intended to build a wall around the town with four gateways , and although the wall was never constructed , the four gatehouses were . Popular opinion in the town turned against Wroe when he was accused of indecent behaviour in 1831 , but the charges were dismissed . The Church spread to Australia , where it is still active .

As of the 2001 UK census , 68 @.@ 5 % of Ashton residents reported themselves as being Christian , 6 @.@ 1 % Muslim , 5 @.@ 0 % Hindu , and 0 @.@ 2 % Buddhist . The census recorded that 11 @.@ 4 % had no religion , 0 @.@ 2 % had an alternative religion , and 8 @.@ 7 % did not state their religion . The proportion of Hindus in the town was much higher than the average for the borough and the whole of England 1 @.@ 4 % and 1 @.@ 1 % respectively . The percentage of Muslims in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne was nearly double the national average of 3 @.@ 1 % , and was higher than the average of 2 @.@ 5 % for Tameside . In Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne are located 6 mosques (October 2013) , including on Hillgate Street in Penny Meadow (Ashton Central Mosque , formerly known as Markazi Jamia Mosque) and on Katherine Street in West End (Masjid Hamza Mosque) .

= = Economy = =

In the medieval period , farming was important in Ashton , particularly arable farming . By the 18th century , textiles had also become more to the town 's economy ; in the 1700s , 33 @.@ 2 % of those with jobs worked in textiles and 36 % in agriculture . With the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the second half of the 18th century , the textile industry in the town boomed . It continued to expand until the cotton famine of 1861 ? 1865 , after which the industry was steady until it collapsed after the overseas markets shut down in the 1920s .

Coal has been mined in Ashton since at least the 17th century . In the late 18th and early 19th centuries demand for coal increased , which led to an expansion of the town 's coal industry . The produce of the collieries was transported by canal to Manchester . The industry began to decline during the late 19th century , and by 1904 only the Ashton Moss Colliery was still operational , the last colliery to be opened in the area .

Ashton town centre , which is the largest in Tameside , developed in the Victorian period . Many of the original buildings have survived , and as a result , the town centre is protected by Tameside Council as a conservation area . As well as being populated by leading high @-@ street names , Ashton has an outdoor market which was established in the medieval period . It is made up of about 180 stalls , and is open six days a week . The farmers ' market , with over 70 stalls , is the largest in the region , as is the weekday flea market . Ashton Market Hall underwent a £ 15M restoration after it was damaged by fire . The Ashton Renewal Area project has attracted investment in the town centre , encouraging conservation and economic development .

The 140 @,@ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (13 @,@ 000 m2) , two @-@ floored Ashton Arcades shopping centre opened in 1995 . Permission has been granted for a £ 40 million extension yet no work on this project has begun , on the nearby Lord Sheldon Way development of the new Golf Course is in its early stages , Tameside Hospital is under regeneration and there are preliminary stages being taken to welcome the Metrolink to Ashton . These four projects are currently the

biggest in Ashton . In 2006 , after failing twice to gain permission , IKEA announced plans to build its first town centre @-@ store in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne . The store is expected to create 500 new jobs as well as attract other businesses to the area . The store opened on 19 October 2006 and covers 296 @,@ 000 square feet (27 @,@ 500 m2) . At the time of its creation , the store was the tallest in Britain .

Amongst the facilities provided by Ashton Leisure Park are a 14 @-@ screen cinema , a bowling alley , and several restaurants . The St Petersfield area of Ashton underwent a £ 42M redevelopment and provided 2 @,@ 000 jobs . The aim of the investment was to create a business district in the town and bring life to a neglected area of Ashton . The development provided 280 @,@ 000 square feet (26 @,@ 000 m2) of office space and 400 @,@ 000 square feet (37 @,@ 000 m2) of retail and leisure space . Pennine Care NHS Trust relocated its headquarters to the St Petersfield area in 2006 . Until then a popular nightspot , in 2002 several night clubs were brought to the brink of closure after a downturn in trade caused by four murders in three months .

According to the 2001 UK census , the industry of employment of residents aged 16 ? 74 was 22 @.@ 7 % manufacturing , 18 @.@ 6 % retail and wholesale , 11 @.@ 3 % health and social work , 9 @.@ 8 % property and business services , 6 @.@ 7 % construction , 6 @.@ 5 % transport and communications , 5 @.@ 8 % education , 5 @.@ 6 % public administration , 4 @.@ 3 % hotels and restaurants , 3 @.@ 8 % finance , 0 @.@ 4 % agriculture , 0 @.@ 7 % energy and water supply , and 3 @.@ 9 % other . Compared with national figures , the town had a relatively low percentage working in agriculture , public administration , and property which was also below the national average , and high rates of employment in construction at more than triple the national rate (6 @.@ 8 %) . The census recorded the economic activity of residents aged 16 ? 74 , 2 @.@ 0 % students were with jobs , 3 @.@ 8 % students without jobs , 6 @.@ 4 % looking after home or family , 9 @.@ 5 % permanently sick or disabled , and 3 @.@ 9 % economically inactive for other reasons . Ashton 's 4 @.@ 1 % unemployment rate was above the national rate of 3 @.@ 3 % .

= = Culture = =

= = = Sports = = =

The most prominent football teams are Curzon Ashton F.C. and Ashton United F.C. Curzon Ashton play at the Tameside Stadium on Richmond Street . They are currently playing in the National League North , the highest level in the club 's history following two consecutive promotions , beating town rivals Ashton United in the playoffs . Of the teams who formed the Manchester Football Association Ashton United , under the name Hurst , were the first to win an FA Cup tie , when they beat Turton 3 ? 0 in 1883 . In 1885 they were the first winners of the Manchester Senior Cup , beating Newton Heath (who later became Manchester United) in the final . Ashton United play at Hurst Cross stadium . Other sporting venues include the Richmond Park Athletics Stadium , also on Richmond Street , which has an all @-@ weather running track with facilities for all field events and is home to the East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside Athletics Club and the Ashton Cricket Club . This team has won the Central Lancashire Cricket League 's first and second division twice each , and the Wood Cup four times .

= = = Landmarks = = =

After the Ashton Canal closed in the 1960s , it was decided to turn the Portland Basin warehouse into a museum . In 1985 , the first part of the Heritage Centre and Museum opened on the first floor of the warehouse . The restoration of building was complete in 1999 ; the museum details Tameside 's social , industrial , and political history . The basin next to the warehouse is the point at which the Ashton Canal , the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and the Peak Forest Canal meet . It has been used several times as a filming location for Coronation Street , including a scene where the character Richard Hillman drove into the canal .

The earliest parts of Ashton Town Hall , which was the first purpose @-@ built town hall in what is now Tameside , date to 1840 when it was opened . It has classical features such as the Corinthian columns on the entrance facade . Enlarged in 1878 , the hall provides areas for administrative purposes and public functions . It is a Grade II listed building . After the Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne municipal borough was abolished in 1974 , the town hall was no longer required and became the home of the Museum of the Manchester Regiment . The museum exhibits relics related to the Manchester Regiment including five Victoria Crosses awarded to its members .

There are five parks in the town , three of which have Green Flag Awards . The first park opened in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne was Stamford Park on the border with Stalybridge . The park opened in 1873 , following a 17 @-@ year campaign by local cotton workers ; the land was bought from a local mill @-@ owner for £ 15 @,@ 000 (£ 1 @.@ 3 million as of 2016) and further land was donated by George Grey , 7th Earl of Stamford . A crowd of between 60 @,@ 000 and 80 @,@ 000 turned out to see the Earl of Stamford formally open the new facility on 12 July 1873 . It now includes a boating lake , and a memorial to Joseph Rayner Stephens , commissioned by local factory workers to commemorate his work promoting fair wages and improved working conditions . A conservatory was opened in 1907 , and Coronation gates installed at both the Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne and Stalybridge entrances in 1953 .

Hartshead Pike is a stone tower on top of Hartshead Hill overlooking Ashton and Oldham . The current building was constructed in 1863 although there has been a building on the site since at least the mid @-@ 18th century , although the original purpose is obscure . The pike may have been the site of a beacon in the late 16th century . It has a visitor centre and from the top of the hill it is possible to see the Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire , the Welsh hills , and the Holme Moss transmitter in West Yorkshire .

The Witchwood public house , in the St Petersfield area of the town , has been a music venue since the 1960s , hosting acts such as Muse , The Coral , and Lost Prophets . In 2004 The Witchwood came under threat when the area was being redeveloped , but was saved from demolition after a campaign by locals and led by Tom Hingley , drawing support from musicians such as Bert Jansch , The Fall , and The Chameleons .

The main Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne War Memorial , in Memorial Gardens , consists of a central cenotaph on plinth , surmounted by sculpted wounded soldier and the figure of " Peace who is taking the sword of honour " from his hand . It commemorates the 1 @,@ 512 people from the town who died in the First World War and the 301 who died in the Second World War . The cenotaph is flanked on both sides by two bronze lions . The plinth is decorated with military equipment representing the services , as well as bronze tablets listing the Roll of Honour from World War I. Commissioned by the Ashton War Memorial Committee , the statue was sculpted between 1919 and 1922 by John Ashton Floyd , and unveiled on 16 September 1922 by General Sir Ian Hamilton .

The tablet on the front of the memorial reads :

Erected in honour of the men of Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne and district who fought for King and Empire in The Great War , especially those who sacrificed their lives , and whose names are recorded hereon

1914 ? 1919

= = Transport = =

= = = Roads = = =

Ashton is served by the M60 motorway , which cuts through the west end of Ashton (Junction 23) .

In 1732 , an Act of Parliament was passed which permitted the construction of a turnpike from Manchester , then in Lancashire , to Salters Brook in Cheshire . The road passed through Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne as well as Audenshaw , Mottram @-@ in @-@ Longdendale , and

Stalybridge . A Turnpike Trust was responsible for collecting tolls from traffic ; the proceeds were used for road maintenance . The Trust for Manchester to Salters Brook was one of over 400 established between 1706 and 1750 , a period in which turnpikes became popular . It was the first turnpike to be opened in Tameside , and driven by economic growth , more turnpikes were opened in the area in the late 18th and early 19th centuries . Acts of Parliaments were passed in 1765 , 1793 , and 1799 permitting the construction turnpikes from Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne to Doctor Lane Head in Saddleworth , Standedge in Saddleworth , and Oldham respectively . Towards the end of the 19th century , many Turnpike Trusts were wound up as they were superseded by local government ; the last in Tameside to close was the Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne to Salters Brook road in 1884 .

= = = Canals = = =

The town of Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne became the focus of three canals which were constructed in Tameside in the 1790s because it was an important centre of coal mining in the Lancashire coalfield . The 1790s has been characterised as a period of mania for canal building in England . The first of the three to be built was the Ashton Canal , which was constructed between 1792 and 1797 . Connecting Manchester to Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne , with a branch to Oldham , it cost about £ 170 @,@ 000 (£ 15 million as of 2016) . The Peak Forest Canal was constructed from 1794 to 1805 , and was originally planned as a branch of the Ashton Canal . It connected the Portland Basin with the Peak District and cost £ 177 @,@ 000 (£ 13 million as of 2016) . The Huddersfield Narrow Canal was built between 1794 and 1811 , to enable cross @-@ Pennine trade between Manchester and Kingston upon Hull ; the cost of construction was £ 400 @,@ 000 .

The advent of the railways in the 19th century signalled the decline of the canal system . The new railways were quicker and more economical than the canals , and the waterways declined . The Huddersfield Canal was bought by the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway in 1844 . Along with the Ashton and Peak Forest canals , the Huddersfield canal was later bought by the Sheffield , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne and Manchester Railway Company . The canals remained in use throughout the 19th century on a smaller scale than in their heyday , but by the mid @-@ 20th century all commercial traffic had ceased . Following an extended period of closure & dereliction , when the Huddersfield canal was in parts filled @-@ in or built over , a complete restoration was undertaken resulting in the full reopening of the canal in 2001 . They are now used for leisure craft and are still maintained and in good condition .

= = = Railways = = =

Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne railway station sees regular services on the Huddersfield Line between Manchester (Victoria) and Huddersfield .

The present station , known historically as Ashton (Charlestown) as was opened by the Ashton , Stalybridge and Liverpool Junction Railway (AS & LJR) on 13 April 1846 . The AS & LJR was absorbed by the Manchester and Leeds Railway in 1847 , which was then renamed the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (LYR) . The LYR renamed it Ashton (Charlestown) in 1874 . The LYR amalgamated with the London and North Western Railway at the start of 1922 , and these in turn amalgamated with several other companies on 1 January 1923 , to form the London , Midland and Scottish Railway during the 1923 Grouping . It then passed to the London Midland Region of British Railways on nationalisation in 1948 . The station was renamed Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne on 6 May 1968 .

There were once three stations in the town : Charlestown , Park Parade (closed 1956) and Oldham Road (closed 1959) on the Oldham , Ashton and Guide Bridge Railway . Also , Guide Bridge , a few miles away , was known as Ashton & Hooley Hill and then Ashton in its earliest years .

The Sheffield , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne and Manchester Railway Company was founded in

1836 with the purpose of building a line linking Manchester and Sheffield . The line was opened in stages and by 1845 was complete . It included a branch to the nearby town of Stalybridge , the former Ashton Park Parade station was included on this branch .

== Trams ==

In 1881 , a tramway with horse @-@ drawn tramcars was opened between Stalybridge and Audenshaw , through Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne . The first tramway of its kind in Tameside , it was later extended to Manchester . The Oldham , Ashton and Hyde Electric Tramway Company , founded in 1899 , operated 13 km (8 mi) of tram lines with electric tramcars . It was the first line around Manchester to use electricity . A line from Stalybridge to Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne was opened in 1903 and operated by the Stalybridge , Hyde , Mossley & Dukinfield Tramways & Electricity Board . The first bus service from Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne ran in 1923 and the 1920s saw a period of decline for the tramways as they suffered from the competition from buses . The last electric tram service in the town ran in 1938 .

After a 75 @-@ year absence , trams returned to Ashton in October 2013 , when the Manchester Metrolink tram system opened the East Manchester Line to the town : Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne tram stop in the town centre , lies alongside Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne bus station and is the terminus for the East Manchester Line , which runs to Manchester Piccadilly station and Manchester city @-@ centre . Away from the town centre towards Manchester there is also Ashton West tram stop and Ashton Moss tram stop .

== Education ==

There are eight nursery schools , fifteen primary schools , and two secondary schools in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne . In 2006 , the council began a scheme to develop education in the borough by opening six new secondary schools . Among the changes proposed as part of the £ 160M scheme was the closure of Hartshead Sports College and Stamford Community High School , to be replaced by a 1 @, 350 @-@ pupil academy with 300 members of sixth form . The new school is named New Charter Academy after its sponsor , the New Charter Housing Trust . In 2007 , Hartshead Sports College was placed on " special measures " after it failed to achieve its targets for General Certificate of Secondary Education results and was criticised by Ofsted for its teaching standard . Originally expected to open in September 2009 , the academy opened in September 2008 .

The other secondary school in the town is St Damian 's RC Science College , which was founded in 1963 , and provides education for 800 pupils aged 11 ? 16 . As part of the BSF Project , they created plans for a new school building (built by Carillion) and the pupils moved into this new building in May 2011 . Dale Grove School has 60 pupils and offers education for pupils aged 5 ? 16 with special needs . Ashton Sixth Form College is a centre for further education with 1 @, 650 pupils aged 16 ? 18 . Tameside College also provides opportunities for further education and operates in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne , Droylsden , and Hyde . Founded in 1954 and expanded in 1957 and 1964 , it was originally called Ashton College .

== Public services ==

In the early 19th century , Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne 's growth made it necessary to find a new water supply . Before the introduction of piped water the town 's inhabitants drew water from wells and the nearby River Tame . Industrial processes had polluted the river however , and the wells could not sustain a rapidly expanding population . From 1825 , a private company was responsible for piping water from reservoirs , but there were still many homes without proper drainage or water supply . Today , waste management is co @-@ ordinated by the local authority via the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority . The first power station in Tameside was built in 1899 , providing power for the area . Ashton 's Distribution Network Operator for electricity is United Utilities

; there are no power stations in the town . United Utilities also manages the drinking and waste water .

Home Office policing in Ashton @-@ under @-@ Lyne is provided by the Greater Manchester Police . The force 's Tameside Division have their divisional headquarters for policing Tameside in the town . Public transport in the area is co @-@ ordinated by Transport for Greater Manchester . Statutory emergency fire and rescue service is provided by the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service , which has one station on Slate Lane . The Tameside General Hospital is a large NHS hospital on the outskirts of the town , administrated by Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust . The North West Ambulance Service provides emergency patient transport .