

= Didsbury =

Didsbury / ˈdɪdzbəri / is a suburban area of Manchester , England . It lies on the north bank of the River Mersey , 4 @.@ 5 miles (7 @.@ 2 km) south of Manchester city centre . The population at the 2011 census was 26 @, @ 788 .

Historically a part of Lancashire , there are records of Didsbury existing as a small hamlet as early as the 13th century . Its early history was dominated by being part of the Manor of Withington , a feudal estate that covered a large part of what is now the south of Manchester . Didsbury was described during the 18th century as a township separate from outside influence . In 1745 Charles Edward Stuart crossed the Mersey at Didsbury in the Jacobite march south from Manchester to Derby , and again in the subsequent retreat .

Didsbury was largely rural until the mid @-@ 19th century , when it underwent development and urbanisation during the Industrial Revolution . It became part of Manchester in 1904 .

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was formed in Didsbury in 1889 .

= = History = =

= = = Toponymy = = =

Didsbury derives its name from the Anglo @-@ Saxon Dyddi 's burg , probably referring to a man known as Dyddi whose stronghold or township it was on a low cliff overlooking a place where the river Mersey could be forded . In the 13th century Didsbury was variously referred to as Dydesbyre , Dydesbiri , Didsbury , or Dodesbury .

= = = Parish Church = = =

A charter granted in about 1260 shows that a corn @-@ grinding mill was operating in Didsbury , along the River Mersey , but the earliest reference to Didsbury is in a document dating from 1235 , recording a grant of land for the building of a chapel . The church was named St James Church in 1855 . It underwent major refurbishment in 1620 and again in the 19th century , although most of the stonework visible today dates from the 17th century . A parsonage was built next to one of the two public houses that flanked the nearby village green , Ye Olde Cock Inn , so @-@ called because of the cockfighting that used to take place there . The parsonage soon gained a reputation for being haunted ; servants refused to sleep on the premises , and it was abandoned in 1850 . Local alderman Fletcher Moss bought the house in 1865 , and lived in it for more than 40 years . In 1902 , he installed wrought iron gates at the entrance to the parsonage 's garden , which , because of the building 's reputation , became known locally as " the gates to Hell " . The parsonage became a museum , now closed , but the gardens are still open to the public . The area around St James Church has the highest concentration of listed buildings in Manchester , outside the city centre .

= = = River Mersey = = =

Didsbury was one of the few places between Stretford and Stockport where the River Mersey could be forded , which made it significant for troop movements during the English Civil War , in which Manchester was on the Parliamentarian side . The Royalist commander , Prince Rupert , stationed himself at Didsbury Ees , to the south of Barlow Moor . It is also likely that Bonnie Prince Charlie crossed the Mersey at Didsbury in 1745 , in the Jacobite march south from Manchester to Derby , and again in his subsequent retreat .

= = = Immigration from Europe = = =

Jewish immigrants started to arrive in Manchester from the late 18th century , initially settling mainly

in the suburbs to the north of the city . From the 1890s onwards , many of them moved to what were seen as the more " sophisticated " suburbs in the south , such as Withington and Didsbury . The influx of Jewish immigrants led to West Didsbury being nicknamed " Yidsbury " and Palatine Road , a main road through West Didsbury , " Palestine Road " .

= = = 19th and 20th centuries = = =

During the Victorian expansion of Manchester , Didsbury developed as a prosperous settlement ; a few mansions from the period still exist on Wilmslow Road between Didsbury Village and Parrs Wood to the east and Withington to the north , but they have now been converted to nursing homes and offices . The opening of the Midland Railway line in 1880 contributed greatly to the rapid growth in the population of Didsbury , with stations at Didsbury and Withington and West Didsbury offering easy rail connections to Manchester Central . The line closed in 1967 , although Didsbury station building remained standing until its demolition in the 1980s . The station clock and water fountain have survived , dedicated to local doctor and campaigner for the poor , Dr. J. Milson Rhodes .

On 28 April 1910 , French pilot Louis Paulhan landed his Farman biplane in Barcroft Fields , Pytham Fold Farm , on the borders of Withington , Burnage and Didsbury , at the end of the first flight from London to Manchester in under 24 hours , with one short overnight stop at Lichfield . Arriving at 5 : 30 am , Paulhan beat the British contender , Claude Grahame White , winning a £ 10 ,000 prize offered by the Daily Mail . This was the first powered flight into Manchester from any point outside the city . Two special trains were chartered to the newly built but unopened Burnage Station to take spectators to the landing , many of whom had stood throughout the night . Paulhan 's progress was followed throughout by a special train carrying his wife , Henri Farman and his mechanics . Afterwards his train took the party to a civic reception given by the Lord Mayor of Manchester in the Town Hall . A house in Paulhan Road , constructed in the 1930s near the site of his landing , is marked by a blue plaque to commemorate his achievement .

= = Governance = =

= = = Civic history = = =

In the early 13th century , Didsbury lay within the manor of Withington , a feudal estate that also included the townships of Withington , Chorlton cum Hardy , Moss Side , Rusholme , Burnage , Denton and Haughton , ruled by the Hathersage , Longford and Tatton families , and within the historic county boundaries of Lancashire . Didsbury remained within the manor of Withington for several centuries .

By 1764 , Didsbury was described as a township in its own right . It became a civil parish in 1866 , and in 1876 was incorporated into the Withington Urban Sanitary District , superseded in 1894 by the creation of Withington Urban District . Withington Urban District was a subdivision of the administrative county of Lancashire , created as part of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1894 . In 1904 , Withington Urban District was amalgamated into the city and county borough of Manchester , and so Didsbury was absorbed into Manchester , although it remained a civil parish until 1910 . Following the Local Government Act 1972 , Manchester became a metropolitan borough of the metropolitan county of Greater Manchester .

= = = Political representation = = =

Didsbury is in the parliamentary constituency of Manchester Withington , and is represented by Jeff Smith MP , a member of the Labour Party .

Until 2004 , most of the area formed the Didsbury ward of Manchester City Council with a section of West Didsbury contained within the Barlow Moor ward . However , boundary changes in 2004 resulted in Didsbury being split mainly between the two new wards of Didsbury East and Didsbury

West while a small section of West Didsbury was incorporated into the new ward of Chorlton Park . Didsbury East is represented by Labour councillors James Wilson , Bridie Adams and Andrew Simcock . Didsbury West is represented by Labour councillors Josie Teuber and David Ellison and Liberal Democrat John Leech . All wards within Manchester elect in thirds on a four yearly cycle .

= = Geography = =

Didsbury , at 53 ° 24 ' 59 " N 2 ° 13 ' 51 " W (53 @. @ 4166 , 2 @. @ 2311) , is south of the midpoint of the Greater Manchester Urban Area , 4 @. @ 5 miles (7 @. @ 2 km) south of Manchester city centre . To the north , Didsbury is bordered by Withington , Chorlton @- @ cum @- @ Hardy and Burnage , to the west by Northenden , to the east and south @- @ east by Heaton Mersey and Cheadle , and by Gatley to the south .

The River Mersey forms Didsbury 's southern and southwestern boundaries and certain stretches of the river also demarcate the boundaries of the City of Manchester . The area is generally considered to be roughly enclosed by Princess Parkway to the west , Kingsway to the east and the Ball Brook , just north of Lapwing Lane / Fog Lane to the north . This northern boundary is marked by a boundary stone in the front garden wall of a house on the west side of Wilmslow Road . A " country trail " passes from West Didsbury to East , named the Trans Pennine Trail (National Cycle Route 62) . It was sited along a disused railway track , as part of a nationwide initiative to promote cycling .

Didsbury 's built environment has developed around the areas of East Didsbury , West Didsbury , and Didsbury Village , which separates the two . The Albert Park conservation area , covering much of West Didsbury , places planning restrictions on development , alterations to buildings , and pruning of trees . The areas adjacent to the Mersey lie within the river 's flood plain , and so have historically been prone to flooding after heavy rainfall . The last major flooding was in the late 1960s . In the 1970s extensive flood mitigation work carried out along the Mersey Valley through Manchester has helped to speed up the passage of floodwater . Fletcher Moss Botanical Garden also acts as an emergency flood basin , storing floodwater until it can be safely released back into the river .

= = Demography = =

The United Kingdom Census 2001 recorded Didsbury as having a population of 14 @, @ 292 , of whom 87 % were born in the United Kingdom . A large majority of residents , 88 % , identified themselves as white , 8 % as Asian , 2 % as mixed ethnicity , 1 % black , and 1 % Chinese or other ethnic group . The under @- @ 16s accounted for 17 % of the population , and the over @- @ 65s for 15 % . The population density in 2001 was 5 @, @ 276 / square mile (2 @, @ 037 / km ²) .

= = Economy = =

As of the UK 's 2001 census , Didsbury had an estimated workforce of 10 @, @ 755 or 75 % of the population . Economic status in Didsbury was : 48 % in full @- @ time employment , 11 % retired , 10 % self @- @ employed , 8 % in part @- @ time employment , 4 % full @- @ time student (without job) , 4 % housewife / husband or carer , 4 % permanently sick or disabled , 4 % unemployed , and 2 % economically inactive for unstated reasons . Didsbury 's 48 % rate of full @- @ time employment compares with 33 % in Manchester and 41 % across the whole of England . The area 's 4 % unemployment rate is in contrast to Manchester 's rate of 9 % , and broadly in line with the 5 % rate of unemployment for England .

In 2001 , the main industries of employment in Didsbury were 20 % property and business services , 15 % education , 15 % health and social work , 10 % retail and wholesale , 9 % manufacturing , 6 % transport and communications , 5 % financial services , 4 % hotels and restaurants , 4 % construction , 4 % public administration and defence , and 8 % other . These figures were similar to those from surrounding areas , but Didsbury did have a relatively larger education sector than other nearby wards , perhaps explained by the high density of schools in the area . A significant number

of people (12 %) commute to areas outside Didsbury ; at the 2001 census there were 6 @, @ 555 jobs in Didsbury , compared with the 7 @, @ 417 employed residents .

Siemens occupies the Sir William Siemens House in West Didsbury and in 2009 employed 800 people . The head office of BA CityFlyer is in Didsbury . British Airways has an office with 300 employees in Pioneer House on the 292 @, @ 000 square feet (27 @, @ 100 m²) , Dutch owned Towers Business Park . In 2005 , other tenants of the business park included Cisco , Logica , Regus , Trinity Integrated Systems limited , and Thorn Lighting .

Didsbury is considered to form a " stockbroker belt " , as it is Manchester 's most affluent suburb .

= = Culture = =

The original site of Didsbury Village is in the conservation area now known as Didsbury St James , about half a mile (1 km) to the south of what is today 's village centre .

The traditional independent retailers are gradually being replaced by multi @-@ national firms , raising fears that Didsbury may lose its individual identity and become a " clone town " . However , independent traders continue to thrive , especially in West Didsbury , which celebrates its independent spirit each year with the two @-@ day Westfest festival . The 200 @-@ year @-@ old Peacock 's Funeral Parlour , one of the few pre @-@ Victorian buildings in the village and regarded by some as the centrepiece of the village , was demolished in the summer of 2005 to make way for a new branch of Boots the Chemists . The owner , United Co @-@ op , blamed changing demographics for the closure of the funeral parlour ; with more and more homes being occupied by young professional people , the death rate was falling in the area .

= = = Green areas = = =

The Fletcher Moss Botanical Garden is a 21 @-@ acre (85 @, @ 000 m²) recreational park south of the village centre . It is named after local Alderman Fletcher Moss , who donated the park to the city of Manchester in 1919 . In 2008 , it won the Green Flag Award , the national standard for parks and green spaces in England , an award it has held since 2000 .

Didsbury Park was also a winner of the Green Flag Award in 2008 . It is a community park in Didsbury village centre that comprises a bowls area , crèche , football pitch and play area . Once a year , at the Didsbury Festival , pupils from local schools dress up to a theme and meet in the playground of St. Catherine 's Primary School , in East Didsbury , from where they parade to Didsbury Park .

Marie Louise Gardens is a relatively small park to the west of the centre of Didsbury . The park was originally owned by the Silkenstadt family as part of the grounds of their house . The land was bequeathed to the people of Manchester by Mrs Silkenstadt in 1904 in memory of her daughter , Marie Louise . The park was at the centre of controversy in 2007 after Manchester City Council proposed to sell a portion of it to a private property developer .

= = Media = =

Between 1956 and 1969 , the old Capitol Theatre at the junction of Parrs Wood Road and School Lane served as the northern studios of ITV station ABC Weekend Television . Early episodes of The Avengers and programmes such as Opportunity Knocks were made in the studios . ABC ceased to use the site in 1968 when it lost its ITV franchise , on its merger with fellow ITV company Rediffusion . The site was then used briefly by Yorkshire Television until its own facilities in Leeds were ready . In 1971 , the studios were acquired by Manchester Polytechnic , who used it for cinema , television studies and theatre . The building was demolished in the late 1990s to make way for a residential development , but the name lives on in the form of a new theatre space in the heart of the M.M.U. campus in the All Saints area along Oxford Road , just to the south of Manchester city centre .

Until 2009 Didsbury was the base for one of the Manchester Evening News subsidiaries , the South Manchester Reporter .

= = Transport = =

Didsbury is close to junction 5 of Manchester 's ring road , the M60 motorway . Manchester Airport , the busiest airport in the UK outside London , is about 4 miles (6 @. @ 5 km) to the south .

Didsbury is served by several bus routes into Manchester city centre , The Trafford Centre , Northenden , and other destinations . Wilmslow Road provides Didsbury with a regular bus service due to the strong demand for travel by students along the corridor . The service is cheap and passengers rarely have to wait more than a couple of minutes . According to some analysts , Wilmslow Road is the busiest bus corridor in Europe .

East Didsbury and Burnage are the nearest railway stations , on the line between Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport . Between 1880 and 1967 the area had been served by two other railway stations , Didsbury station and West Didsbury station , both on the South Manchester lines into Manchester Central station . The entire line was shut in 1967 following the Beeching Axe .

= = = Metrolink = = =

Proposals had existed since the 1980s to re @-@ open the disused railway line which passes through Didsbury as part of the Manchester Metrolink light rail system . Under these proposals , Didsbury Station was to re @-@ open under the name of Didsbury Central or Didsbury Village .

These extension plans were rejected by the government in 2004 , due to escalating costs . New plans were drawn up in 2007 , with at least some of the money required for the construction of the line planned to come from the proposed Manchester Congestion Charge , which was overwhelmingly rejected by public vote in 2008 .

In May 2009 , AGMA agreed to the provision of additional funding that secured the construction of Metrolink to the area . This included additional stops at Withington , Burton Road , West Didsbury , Didsbury Village and East Didsbury .

Final government approval for government funding for the Chorlton cum Hardy ? East Didsbury Metrolink extension using a closed railway line was granted in March 2010 by Transport Minister Sadiq Khan . The line through to East Didsbury opened on 23 May 2013 .

= = Education = =

Didsbury has a non @-@ selective education system , assessed by the SATs exam . There are seven primary schools and two state comprehensive secondary schools . The Barlow RC High School is one of those chosen by Manchester Council to benefit from funding made available in wave 4 of the government 's Building Schools for the Future programme , a national scheme for the refurbishment and remodelling of every secondary school in England . It is planned to replace all the current buildings , which date back to 1951 . Parrs Wood and The Barlow were two of only six schools in Manchester to achieve the Manchester Inclusion Standard in 2007 , awarded by Manchester Council to those schools doing innovative work to ensure that all their pupils are able to participate fully in the school ? s activities .

There are two centres of further and higher education in Didsbury : The Manchester College , (formerly City College Manchester) Fielden Campus , which was opened in 1972 by Margaret Thatcher , offers a variety of courses including communication and technology ; and Manchester Metropolitan University 's Didsbury Campus , the former Didsbury School of Education , is home to the faculties of health , social care , and education , along with the Broomhurst Hall of Residence .

= = = Primary schools = = =

Beaver Road Primary School
Didsbury C.E. Primary School]
West Didsbury C.E. Primary School

St Catherine 's R.C. Primary School
Cavendish Community Primary School
Ewing School
Broad Oak Primary School
Moor Allerton Preparatory School

= = = Secondary schools = = =

Parrs Wood High School
Barlow R.C. High School

Parrs Wood , with about 2 @, @ 000 pupils on its register , is much larger than the average , and is regularly over @-@ subscribed in Year 7 . In its 2007 inspection report by the Office for Standards in Education , Children 's Services and Skills (Ofsted) the school was criticised for " failing to give its students an acceptable standard of education " , and for providing " unsatisfactory " value for money . However , in 2012 it came out of special measures and Ofsted deemed it a " satisfactory " school with aspects of " good teaching " and " good management " . The Barlow RC High School is an average size secondary school , with about 1 @, @ 000 pupils . It too is regularly over @-@ subscribed . It was described in its October 2003 Ofsted report as " a successful and effective school that is providing a good education for its pupils " .

= = Religion = =

It is uncertain when the first chapel was built in Didsbury , but it is thought to have been before the middle of the 13th century . When the plague reached the village in 1352 the chapel yard was consecrated to provide a cemetery for the victims , it being " inconvenient to carry the dead all the way to Manchester " .

The BBC Radio 4 Daily Service programme of Christian worship ? the world 's oldest continuous radio programme ? is often broadcast from Emmanuel Church , on Barlow Moor Road . Two of Didsbury 's religious buildings are Grade II listed : Didsbury Methodist Church of St Paul , and the Nazarene Theological College .

Didsbury is in the Church of England Diocese of Manchester , and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford . It is not as religiously diverse as some other areas of Manchester , but it has the second largest Jewish population in the borough and two synagogues : the Shaare Hayim Synagogue and the Sha 'are Sedek Synagogue .

Didsbury has a medium @-@ sized Muslim population in comparison with areas such as Rusholme , Longsight and Levenshulme ; a converted church in West Didsbury houses the Didsbury Mosque and Islamic Centre .

= = Sports = =

Didsbury Sports Centre , on Wilmslow Road , is a part of the Manchester Metropolitan University campus . It provides a fitness suite and classes and facilities for badminton and tennis .

Didsbury has two rugby union clubs , Toc H R.F.C. and Old Bedians . Toc H , founded in 1924 , plays at Simons Fields , on Ford Lane . Its first team plays in the North Lancashire and Cumbria league . The club runs four senior teams and a youth section , and has run a 10 @-@ a @-@ side competition every May since 1951 , as a charity fund raiser for local hospices . Old Bedians is based in East Didsbury , and was founded in 1954 . It regularly fields three senior teams as well as a junior section . Desmond Pastore , believed to be the oldest rugby player in the world , was a founder member of the club , and later became its president . Formerly a player for Sale and Cheshire , Desmond played his last game for Manchester club Ebor on his 91st birthday . Bedians AFC (an amateur football club founded in 1928) share the Underbank Farm ground with Old Bedians RUFC .

Didsbury Cricket Club fields three Saturday teams and two Sunday teams . The first eleven plays in

the Cheshire County ECB Premier League . As well as the five senior teams , the club also has a junior section catering for players between 7 and 18 years of age , and has recently formed a Women 's section . It is also home to Manchester Waconians Lacrosse Club and Didsbury Grey 's Women 's Hockey Team , which do not actually play at the site but at grounds in Belle Vue , that were designed for the XVII Commonwealth Games . Northern Tennis Club , in West Didsbury , is one of Manchester 's few racquet clubs ; it annually plays host to an Association of Tennis Professionals tournament in July .

= = Public services = =

Withington Community Hospital , opened in 2005 , occupies part of the site of the former (and much larger) Withington Hospital , developed on the site of a workhouse some of whose buildings are still evident .

Didsbury is covered by the South Manchester Division of Greater Manchester Police .

The Towers , now known as the Shirley Institute , was once the home of engineer Daniel Adamson ? the driving force behind the Manchester Ship Canal project ? and the venue where the decision to build the canal was taken . The house was designed by Salford architect Thomas Worthington , for the editor and proprietor of the Manchester Guardian , John Edward Taylor .

= = Notable people = =

Daniel Adamson , promoter of the Manchester Ship Canal , lived at The Towers (blue plaque ? once the Shirley Institute) on Wilmslow Road from 1874 until his death in 1890 . His Grade II listed home , designed by Thomas Worthington for John Edward Taylor , the editor and proprietor of the Manchester Guardian , was the venue for the 1882 meeting at which it was decided to construct the Ship Canal project .

Emily Williamson , a pioneer of wildlife protection , was a resident of Didsbury from 1882 to 1912 . She founded the Plumage League in 1889 and went on to co -@- found the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in 1904 . In 1989 a plaque was placed on her former home , the Croft , to honour her work on the centenary of her organisation .

Sidney Bernstein and Denis Forman who created Granada Television Manchester also lived in Didsbury during their work requirements at the Granada Studios in Manchester .

Kirsty Howard was the final runner to carry the Queen 's Baton at the opening of the 2002 Commonwealth Games , when she was chaperoned by England football captain David Beckham . Born with a rare condition in which her heart is back @-@ to @-@ front , she has been a resident in Didsbury 's Francis House Hospice , for which she has raised over £ 5 million .

Lord Marcus Joseph Sieff , the chairman of Marks & Spencer from 1972 to 1982 , was born in Didsbury in 1913 .

Francis French , author and noted space historian , grew up in Didsbury , and attended the same school as noted poet and novelist Sophie Hannah .

Carol Ann Duffy , the first female Poet Laureate , lives in West Didsbury as of 2009 .