

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1181126

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-12-11

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Old Parsonage
Stenner Lane
Manchester
M20 2RQ

Phone 01614457661

Email info@didsburycivicsociety.org

Website <http://www.didsburycivicsociety.org/>

Activities

Objects: A) TO STIMULATE PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND CARE FOR THE BEAUTY, HISTORY AND CHARACTER OF DIDSBURY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS. B) TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE FEATURES WHICH GO TO MAKE PLEASING CONDITIONS IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK. C) TO ENCOURAGE HIGH STANDARDS OF ARCHITECTURE AND TOWN PLANNING IN THE AREA. D) TO PURSUE THESE ENDS BY MEANS OF MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES, PUBLICATIONS, OTHER FORMS OF INSTRUCTION, STUDY AND PUBLICITY, AND PROMOTION OF SCHEMES OF A CHARITABLE NATURE.

Activities: SOCIAL & COMMUNITY BASED EVENTSHERITAGE OPEN DAYSARCHIVE DAYSWORK WITH DIDSBURY FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY GROUPSMAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO PLANNING COMMITTEEATTEND COUNCIL DIDSBURY EAST AND WEST WARD MEETINGSPRESENT LOCAL MEETINGS REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENT, POLLUTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH WITH OPEN FORUMS.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Manchester City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£16,182	£26,157	-	-
2023-12-31	£6,422	£5,421	-	-
2022-12-31	£23,964	£6,337	-	-
2021-12-31	£3,373	£5,682	-	-
2020-12-31	£2,717	£3,253	-	-

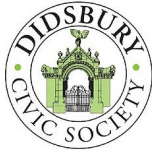
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MICHAEL CORLETT	Chair	2018-12-11
Carol Wilkinson		2022-02-02
Elaine Sams		2022-11-14
GORDON WILLIAM BROWNE		2018-12-11
Richard Kilpatrick		2018-12-11

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Didsbury Civic Society Report to The Charity Commission for 2024

The year 2024 started very well with our biggest project ever commencing since the start of the Society in 1966.

The Garden of Contemplation:

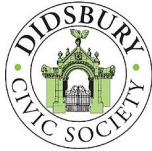
The first spades entered the ground in January 2024. The winning design had been agreed and voted on by the Community during a design exhibition at the library. The funding though not complete was steadily growing along with alternative commitments from business to supply labour and site equipment for the project, for which we are extremely grateful, such as access to the MCC library site for the storage of materials and the use of the toilet facilities. The water needed was delivered via several hose connections from Emmanuel Church and was a constant for stone cutting, the mixing of cement and the perennial plants and bulbs after planting. Some 5 months after the first spade went in the ground the project was completed within budget, and has been widely praised and received by the community.

The Deterioration of Street pavements and driveway entrances:

The DCS remains concerned that Didsbury`s pavements continue to disintegrate both by wear and tear, along with poor maintenance. Including the various elements of builder`s damage from their heavy vehicles and loaded skips parked in place during the perpetual building extension works which takes place. Relaxed planning regulation fails to stop the large amounts of additional flagging, concreting and tarmacking over gardens and drives which is taking place in the expectation that waste water schemes introduced nearly 100 years ago will continue to cope. Along with the lack of enforceable regulation to use permeable surfaces to ensure the return of rainwater to the ground water system, rather than the waste water system. It is also Important that builders do not use the water drainage system to dispose of surplus plaster and concrete etc which could be evident by the large amounts of grid and gully flooding which currently takes place around our streets.

Membership:

We have introduced our online auto enrol facility as our membership numbers are not as strong as in past years. However, I think we now have a much more realistic mix of Annual payments and Life Membership (where lump sums were received and one- off Gift Aid earned). We will also examine whether Direct Debit would be practical to the society in terms of cost and whether we have the ability within our banking arrangements.



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Our regular Social Trips:

Our social trips remain a strong, ever popular event and a regular feature of the society, usually starting with a visit to a retail outlet, a coffee, followed by a good lunch, usually at a carvery which caters for all tastes. Then followed by a visit to a listed building or private house tour where possible. Significant research is usually carried out into the proposed venue's history, snippets of historical and social interest, its local land marks and regular information updates enroute. Also including the house's building costs, and remodelling costs where known, the number of years in build, it's architect and the build style etc.

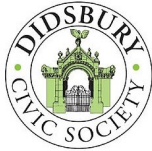
Support of Community Functions:

We continue to support functions in the community such as Didsbury Pride, the Christmas Fayres, Carols and Lights, summer Garden Parties, Didsbury Festival and the Didsbury car show. We also affiliate to and support Didsbury Mosque and Didsbury Synagogue who in turn have strongly supported our garden of Contemplation project. We also attend the regular Didsbury Traders Meetings, Remembrance Sunday and Didsbury East and West Ward Meetings. The DCS monitor and comment on all local Planning and Licencing Applications including licensing hours and their effect on the environment such as noise, glass and bottle waste, and the Didsbury Dozen plastic waste.

Green Issues, Climate and Pollution:

The DCS and the local Community fully support all of the issues contained in the MCC package for Climate, including the DCS Didsbury Plan dated 2017 and 2021. Didsbury has several areas of green spaces in public areas which are not supported by community groups. The Sandhurst Road/Wilmslow Road corner, the area fronting Beaver Road school on Wilmslow Road, and the public footpath area to the Barlow Medical Practice, which is constantly driven over by delivery vehicles area which would benefit from no parking signage. The triangular park at Parrs Wood (known as the Pocket Park) close to Tesco will receive some tender loving care from approximately July 2025 assisted by the DCS and MCC. Work has already started with mural artworks being placed on the public facing sides including "Welcome to Didsbury" on the A34 road side. The artwork has been carried out by a professional artist along with the support of Cadent the gas company hopefully to beautify the area, with a big tidy up and perennial planting ready for Spring 2026. There will be other similar areas to these, across the Didsbury Wards which would benefit from some TLC.

The community currently do not have any real knowledge of whether MCC are achieving reductions in carbon or pollution as they currently look to the community rather than industry and business to make reductions. Litter still remains an issue on the main street areas with the still inadequate and not fit for purpose newly installed litter bins, with overflowing cigarette ends trays exposed to wind and rain etc. We still do not have any on-street can and plastic bottle crushers allowing simpler metal and plastic recoveries and recycling.



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The types and volumes of waste has changed dramatically since the bins were first installed with significant increases in food and drinking taking place on the move, which was not the done-thing in bygone years. There are inconsiderate groups of people who believe it is acceptable to leave their rubbish both kerb and pavement side for someone else to collect and remove. There are also a number of agencies being paid large amounts in funding to manage our rivers and railway bridges and land areas etc, but they do not really want to have to take action or responsibility possibly damaging income streams by spending the monies received. So much of the responsibility is out-sourced that the public no longer know who is responsible, and who to report problems to, and feed-back being usually minimal.

This problem has been further magnified by the devastating flooding of Didsbury and its surrounds, with insurance increases for both households and vehicles. Poorly maintained sluices, a lack of resource planning such as Bank Holidays, along with the continuous damage to the hard work of voluntary groups, delays in replacing paths washed away etc, along with the shifting of debris, which seems to be a case of profit before people.

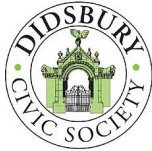
Planning and Licensing:

We still take an active part in debating applications for planning approvals in the Didsbury electoral Ward, though the number of big builds is reducing in Didsbury due to the lack of available land and with larger plots suitable for development decreasing. Though the approved Dandara Living, Blackbird Yard development at Tesco's Parris Wood has yet to see a spade in the ground. The completed McCarthy and Stone development of Jessiefield provoked local responses regarding several green issues.

As already mentioned currently one of the main issues is that in Didsbury building land is in short supply, which in some cases results in the demolition of perfectly good houses to deliver solutions of more bang for the buck from the land footprint. Whilst the new buildings will be greener environmentally and better insulated does this compensate for the damage and pollution caused when the bricks were originally cast, steel produced, timber cut and energy used in production. We do also take responsibility at times in opposing some of the plans that we are asked to comment on, and passing many others especially those that are of the "affordable housing" variety, which can bring younger residents and families to Didsbury.

Heritage Open Days:

The society strongly supports the programme and has a good portfolio of local buildings included. We have done a large amount of video filming which have been posted to our YouTube channel recording heritage and history for posterity. We have recorded all of the historical blue plaques on a walk thru map, along with the names of those who made history or were involved in great writings or discoveries. The Programme regularly starts off with a local historical talk by a local speaker, with all on the on the door charges going to a good-cause.



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During 2024 we were also able to erect the DCS funded plaque to the Spann`s business and family at Costa Coffee on School Lane. With plans to include it in the 2025 programme. Details of which can be found on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpLdglvWS98cmLf0sVBWhUw>

Charities and Bank Charges:

Seeing most of the small charities as an easy revenue stream, banks currently charge a monthly fee of around £5 per month plus transaction charges, based on the number of cheques and cash transactions paid in. As a result most charities pay more in charges than a standard domestic bank user, adding to the already difficult times being encountered by small local charities who would have difficulty moving their account, when domestic accounts can be incentivised to move etc. Charity banking attracts charges which are now usually at a higher cost than those made on individuals by the same banks.

Stop press, the DCS have been advised that our bankers the HSBC will with effect from the 1st July 2025 cease the fixed fee element on our account.

Graffiti and ASB:

Graffiti still remains a big problem in many residential areas. It invariably takes a long time to have the initial offending vandalism removed, only to find it re-graffited within days probably by the same vandal, spoiling both the environment and the community areas where we live. It is certainly not acceptable to most residents, especially as the perpetrators leave their calling card in the form of tags which can be seen far and wide across our post code areas. Again, it is further complicated by the outsourcing of council maintenance, with the understanding of responsibility for resolution never being clearly detailed and with responsibility sometimes even denied. The DCS believes there should be a central collation point within councils where problems can be submitted within their website, and for it to then be redirected to those responsible. Whether they be railway operators, bus or tram operators etc, for the franchisee companies to resolve and report back to the public via email with an allocated "job ticket number" to allow follow up and achieve resolution. After all they receive the associated fees applicable for their services, knowledge and expertise. The lack of actions to remove this anti-social vandalism can lead to visible social degradation problems, where the action is seen as acceptable, and that it can be added to if so wished. Similar to the U S broken window theory.

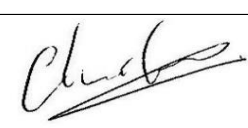
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Corlett', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mike Corlett
DCS July 2025

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

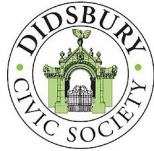
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

PAYMENTS	2024				2023	RECEIPTS	2024				2023
	Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total		Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total
Social events	2,975			2,975	2,796	Social events	3,098			3,098	3,217
Cenotaph and garden			20,469	20,469	1,547	Cenotaph and garden Donations			10,002	10,002	1,347
Ghost Art		328	2,000	2,328	500	Cenotaph and garden Grants			1,540	1,540	-
Committee expenses				-	144	Subscriptions		940		940	955
DCS Roller Banners				-	133	Gift Aid reclaimed				-	684
Public Health Meeting		119		119	110	Pride Stall				-	84
Office expenses		101		101	106	Donations		597		597	75
Didsbury Pride				-	63	Heritage books		5		5	60
Remembrance Day costs		24		24	22						
General expenses		40		40	-						
Insurance		101		101	-	TOTAL	3,098	1,542	11,542	16,182	6,422
						SUMMARY					
						Balances as at 31 Dec 2023	1,807	6,230	18,259	26,296	25,295
						Income	3,098	1,542	11,542	16,182	6,422
						Expenditure	2,975	713	22,469	26,157	5,421
						Balances as at 31 Dec 2024	1,930	7,059	7,332	16,321	26,296
TOTAL	2,975	713	22,469	26,157	5,421						
						Bank Balance at 31 December 2024				16,321	26,296
RESTRICTED FUNDS											
	2023	Transfer	Receipts	Payments	2024	<i>I certify that the above accounts are in accordance with the Society's books and records</i>					
Gargoyles	2,869	- 2,869			-	Mike Corlett					
Cenotaph and garden	13,390	2,869	11,542	20,469	7,332	Chairman					
Ghost Art	2,000		-	2,000	-						
Heritage filming	-				-	CJ Smail					
	18,259	-	11,542	22,469	7,332	Independent Examiner					

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Didsbury Civic Society Report to The Charity Commission for 2023

The year 2023 generally improved as life continued in its return to normality. With our members returning to our regular monthly face to face meetings along with the DCS returning to The Old Parsonage where we used to meet prior to 2020.

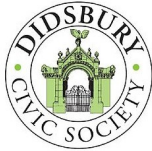
We also started our largest and most demanding project as a civic society with a fund-raising target of £40,000+ made up variously in donations from the local council, local businesses, charitable institutions and local community minded individuals. The project included a competition for local garden designers to create a new garden (The Garden of Contemplation) on the existing site of the tired and unkempt rough plot with little or no biodiversity to the surroundings or its support of wildlife.

The winning design was voted on and chosen unanimously by the community after several public displays around Didsbury. The first funds were secured from Manchester Parks in Partnership, along with another from the Manchester Realms Office which was to clear and level the site of its unexciting laurel bushes, and a not insignificant amount of dumped soil and rubble. We were also lucky to obtain community labour and materials donations rather than actual funds from a company called Equan`s which gave the team a tremendous start to Phase 1.

Underground electrical ducting was laid, along with the steel plate border edges and disability friendly wide bonded gravel paths with new paving stones laid in flowing lines. Several thousand pounds had also been raised in grants for plantings and perennial bulbs which were seasonally planted to complete Phase 1.

A minor crisis emerged at the start of Phase 2 when the main wall of a building which backs onto the newly created garden area owned by a 3rd party property company was found to be in a state of near collapse. Time was the spent tracing the ownership to request that the work was carried out as soon as possible as the problem was totally beyond our remit. After several months delay the wall has now been rebuilt as required. With new gutters added and missing roof slates replaced. Along with the ability to capture rain runoff from the buildings roof to water the perennial plants and trees.

We were then now fully into the second phase which will include the installing of the proposed seating. Along with the actual electric cabling for the newly installed Christmas tree pit and P A facility. A new flag pole and flange plate is to be installed to replace the wind damaged one, new screening for displaying school project work is also planned. The work programme is continuous and should hopefully finished during 2024.



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The Deterioration of Street pavements and driveway entrances:

The DCS remains concerned that Didsbury`s pavements continue to disintegrate both by wear and tear, poor maintenance, and builders damage from vehicles and the heavy skips placed during the perpetual building extension works which continuously take place and the lack of planning regulation to stop the large amount of flagging, concreting and tarmacking over taking place. Along with the lack of enforceable regulation to use permeable surfaces to ensure the return of rainwater to the ground water system rather than the waste water system. Importantly that builders do not use the water drainage system to dispose of plaster and concrete. After which, the drains seem to be blocked soon after the builders vacate site.

The Auto Enrol of Members:

We are working to devise and design a system to allow potential members to complete a membership application on line and pay by card using our Stripe payment facility. Which would reduce the need to have manual intervention to obtain the appropriate application form, a Gift Aid recovery agreement and of course their membership fee including agreement to auto charge subsequent recurring fees.

Our regular Social Trips:

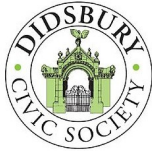
Our social trips remain ever popular and a regular feature of the society starting with usually a visit to a retail outlet for a coffee, a good lunch usually at a carvery which caters for all tastes, and a listed building private house tour when possible. Significant research is carried out into the venue`s history, with snippets of historical interest, the local land marks and regular information updates enroute. Including the house building costs where known, the number of years in build, it`s architect and the build style etc.

Support of Community Functions:

We continue to support functions in the community such as Didsbury Pride, Christmas Fayres, Garden Parties, the Didsbury Festival and the Didsbury car show. We also affiliate to and support Didsbury Mosque and Didsbury Synagogue who in turn have strongly supported our garden of Contemplation project

Green Issues, Climate and Pollution:

The DCS and the local Community fully support all of the issues contained in the package of Climate. Didsbury has several areas of green spaces in public areas which are not supported by the community groups. With the triangular park at Parrs Wood, close to Tesco, the Sandhurst Road and Wilmslow Road corner, and the area fronting Beaver Road school on Wilmslow Road and Barlow Medical Practise. Which all need some tender loving care There will be other similar areas to these across the Didsbury Wards.



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The community currently do not have any real knowledge of whether MCC are achieving reductions in carbon or pollution as they currently look to the community rather than industry and business to make reductions. Litter still remains an issue in the central street areas with inadequate and not fit or purpose litter bins overflowing, we do not have any on-street can crushers allowing simpler metal recoveries and recycling. The types and volumes of waste has changed since the bins were installed along with the significant increase in food and drinking taking place on the move. Which was not the done-thing in bygone years. There are groups of people who believe it is acceptable to leave their rubbish kerb-side for someone else to shift. There are also agencies being paid to manage our rivers and railway property etc, but they do not really want to have to take action or responsibility if possible. As there seems to be a case of profit before people.

Planning and Licensing:

We still take an active part in debating applications for planning approvals in the Didsbury electoral Ward. Though the number of big builds is reducing in Didsbury. As the larger plots suitable for development decrease. Though the Dandara Living Blackbird Yard development at Tesco`s Parrs Wood and the McCarthy and Stone development of Jessiefield have provoked significant local responses. Currently one of the main issues is that in Didsbury building land is in short supply. Which in some cases results in the demolition of perfectly good houses to deliver solutions. Whilst the new building will be greener environmentally and better insulated does this compensate for the damage and pollution caused when the bricks were originally cast, timber cut and energy used. We do also take responsibility at times in opposing some of the plans that we are asked to comment on, and passing many others. Especially those that are of the "affordable housing" variety. Which bring in younger residents and families to Didsbury.

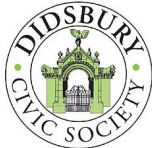
Heritage Open Days:

The society strongly supports the programme and has a good portfolio of local buildings included. We have done a large amount of video filming which have been posted to our YouTube channel recording heritage and history for posterity. We have recorded all of the historical blue plaques on a walk thru map, along with the name of those who made history or were involved in great writings or discoveries. The Programme usually starts off with a talk, with all charges going to charity. During 2024 we are also hoping to erect and add a plaque to the Spann`s business and family to the programme. Details can be found on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpLdglvWS98cmLf0sVBWhUw>

Charities and Bank Charges:

Most banks who in the past offered free Charity Accounts have now stopped offering the facility. Seeing most of the small charities as a revenue stream, with a monthly



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charge of £5 per month plus transaction charges. Where previously there was no cost to bank cheques or charges on the low-level transactions that most charities operate at. Such as membership payments received etc. Which in most cases is their life blood, charities bank charges are now usually at a higher cost than those made on individuals by the same banks.

Graffiti and ASB:

Finally, graffiti has become a big problem in many residential areas. It invariably takes a long time to have the initial problem removed only to find it re-graffitted within days. Spoiling both the environment and the communal areas where we all live. It is certainly not acceptable to most residents, especially as the perpetrators leave their calling card in the form of tags which can be seen far and wide across our post codes. It is further complicated by the outsourcing of maintenance, with the understanding of responsibility for resolution is never clearly detailed and responsibility denied. The DCS believes there should be a central collation point in councils to submit problems to within their website, for it to then be redirected to the railway operators, buses and trams operators etc for the franchisee companies to resolve and report back to the public via email with an allocated job ticket number. After all they receive the associated fees. The lack of actions to remove the anti-social vandalism creates a visible degradation problem, where the action is seen as acceptable, and can be further added to if so wished.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Corlett' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mike Corlett
DCS

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

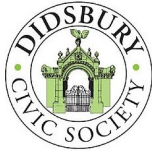
PAYMENTS	2023				2022	RECEIPTS	2023				2022
	Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total		Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total
Social events	2,796			2,796	2,395	Social events	3,217			3,217	2,422
Cenotaph and garden			1,547	1,547	3,250	Cenotaph and garden			1,347	1,347	16,790
Heritage Filming			500	500	-	Subscriptions		955		955	1,414
Committee expenses		144		144	144	Gift Aid reclaimed		684		684	415
DCS Roller Banners		133		133	-	Pride Stall		84		84	33
Public Health Meeting		110		110	-	Donations		75		75	332
Office expenses		106		106	102	Heritage books		60		60	58
Didsbury Pride		63		63	-	Ghost Art			-	-	2,000
Remembrance Day costs		22		22	27	Heritage filming			-	-	500
Jim Leeming Memorial Acer				-	180						
Insurance				-	101	TOTAL	3,217	1,858	1,347	6,422	23,964
Heritage Day Costs				-	83						
Postage				-	31	SUMMARY					
Fundraising Expenses		-		-	24	Balances as at 31 Dec 2022	1,386	4,950	18,959	25,295	7,668
						Income	3,217	1,858	1,347	6,422	23,964
						Expenditure	2,796	578	2,047	5,421	6,337
						Balances as at 31 Dec 2023	1,807	6,230	18,259	26,296	25,295
TOTAL	2,796	578	2,047	5,421	6,337						
						Bank Balance at 31 December 2023				26,296	25,295
RESTRICTED FUNDS											
		2022	Receipts	Payments	2023	<i>I certify that the above accounts are in accordance with the Society's books and records</i>					
Gargoyles		2,869			2,869	Mike Corlett					
Cenotaph and garden		13,590	-	1,547	12,043	Chairman					02 April 2024
Ghost Art		2,000	-		2,000						
Heritage filming		500	-	500	-	CJ Smail					
		18,959	-	2,047	16,912	Independent Examiner					02 April 2024



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Didsbury Civic Society Report To The Charity Commission For 2022

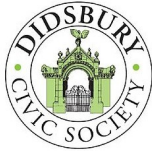
The year 2022 started to bring improvement to the Civic Society as we started to face the changes brought about during the Covid-19 lock down. The community started to communicate verbally and by meeting up rather than by incessant emails and messaging. Though we still used Zoom as a platform for our general meetings, and with other local community groups.

Increasing the membership is still slow and a recruitment campaign is planned at the local festivals and with a stall and event at the local library. The DCS is dependent on membership funds as it is our main source of income, we do apply for grants for which have to be attached to an appropriate project rather than for equipment type purchases. Which are more readily available from councils and easier to fulfil. Funding restrictions are also being applied to applications such as deprivation, the number of free school meals issued in your area etc. The DCS's key areas are history, culture, heritage and local infrastructure which many councils are not now really as interested in. The rapid deterioration to local infrastructure such as pavements and roads has become a serious restriction to the mobility of older residents and members alike. Especially those with disability who are clearly disadvantaged by uneven and broken pavements and water filled potholes. In many cases the Disability Act 2010 seems to be ignored and with a blind eye being turned. Along with the usual mantra of no budget or funding rather than looking to construct budgets for forthcoming financial years to address the problems.

Towards the end of 2021 we started to roll out our main and substantial project for 2022 which was a fully inclusive community project to improve the local War Memorial Garden into a Garden of Contemplation, for which we now have a fully operational project team. We have currently raised a proportion of the funding required to start the site clearance during autumn 2023 and we are still seeking funds from the larger notable heritage charities. We are also close to the provision of a wall plaque/storyboard for a second project called the Spann's Ghost Art using QR code technology for visitors to Didsbury. Allowing them to look up the full story of the associated family who were a key Didsbury family of the time.

Our website was fully upgraded during 2021 which now allows us to take payments directly via the website which has proved to be a hit to our members. Though, we now have to be more aware to the possibility of opening ourselves to fraudsters testing stolen cards making small donations to test if cards are still active. Which allows fraudsters to commit larger frauds. The cards being used are usually from South America and Russia and can be challenged, and the donations returned. Removing the possibility of penalty payments being charged to our bank account.

Our Social trips also still prove to be a big success with members, and are also open to the public with trips to the Liverpool old law courts, a lunch and Knowsley Safari



CIO 1181126

Park. We also made a trip to Wedgewood Pottery again with a lunch which was also a very successful trip with nearly 40 travellers out of lockdown.

We continue to support Didsbury Pride which is a great day locally with a large number of attendees. Which allows us a to meet and discuss many topics and interests with the public and display our collection of old local photographs. Attendees are not necessarily members of the civic society but always appear to enjoy viewing the past. The planning was also started for the follow up to our 2021 Climate and Pollution meeting for a future public meeting. This was scheduled for Spring 2023. With two eminent and recognised Manchester doctors who are specialists in pollution and it`s damaging effects on lungs. We also had the Didsbury based branch of Mums for Lungs speaking on children`s lung damage. Which can be caused by a variety of events from idling vehicles, local traffic jams, home deliveries and returns, school drop offs and pickups etc.

Our Heritage Open Doors filming successfully continues at a pace. Completed projects continue to be uploaded to YouTube for both members and public viewing by those who use and search this medium.

The DCS has agreed to ensure it works with all community groups within the local area. Without working together, it becomes very difficult for all groups to achieve the best outcomes for the various interest groups. Politics are not now necessarily always in the best interest of the local public for many and multiple reasons. With the achieving of best outcomes proving much more difficult. Such as the highly acclaimed Didsbury Civic Societies Didsbury Plan and Future Didsbury which remains far from Manchester City Councils agenda for our leafy Didsbury.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Corlett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Corlett
DCS Chair

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

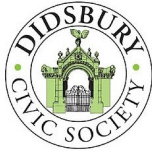
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

PAYMENTS	2022				2021	RECEIPTS	2022				2021
	Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total		Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total
Social events	£ 2,395			£ 2,395	£ 999	Social events	£ 2,422			£ 2,422	£ 881
Newsletter					£ 170	Subscriptions		£ 1,414		£ 1,414	£ 1,718
Heritage Day		£ 83		£ 83	£ 618	Donations		£ 332		£ 332	£ 115
Jim Leeming Memorial Acer		£ 180		£ 180	£ 85	Gift Aid reclaimed		£ 415		£ 415	£ 428
Fundraising Expenses		£ 24		£ 24		Fundraising		£ 33		£ 33	£ 23
Postage		£ 31		£ 31	£ 72	Heritage books		£ 58		£ 58	£ 158
Printing					£ 53	Cenotaph and garden			£ 16,790	£ 16,790	£ 50
Insurance		£ 101		£ 101	£ 101	Ghost Art			£ 2,000	£ 2,000	
Committee expenses		£ 144		£ 144	£ 168	Heritage filming			£ 500	£ 500	
Website costs					£ 112						
Remembrance Day costs		£ 27		£ 27	£ 20	TOTAL	£ 2,422	£ 2,252	£ 19,290	£ 23,964	£ 3,373
Office expenses		£ 102		£ 102	£ 160						
Notice Board					£ 2,361	SUMMARY					
Didsbury Plan					£ 48	Balances as at 31 Dec 2021	£ 1,359	£ 3,390	£ 2,919	£ 7,668	£ 9,977
Bench Refurbishment					£ 715	Income	£ 2,422	£ 2,252	£ 19,290	£ 23,964	£ 3,373
Cenotaph and garden			£ 3,250	£ 3,250		Expenditure	£ 2,395	£ 692	£ 3,250	£ 6,337	£ 5,682
						Balances as at 31 Dec 2022	£ 1,386	£ 4,950	£ 18,959	£ 25,295	£ 7,668
TOTAL	£ 2,395	£ 692	£ 3,250	£ 6,337	£ 5,682						
						Bank Balance at 31 December 2022				£ 25,295	£ 7,668
RESTRICTED FUNDS											
		2021	Receipts	Payments	2022	<i>I certify that the above accounts are in accordance with the Society's books and records</i>					
Gargoyles		£ 2,869			£ 2,869	Mike Corlett					
Cenotaph and garden		£ 50	£ 16,790	£ 3,250	£ 13,590	Chairman				23 March 2023	
Ghost Art			£ 2,000		£ 2,000						
Heritage filming			£ 500		£ 500	CJ Smail					
		£ 2,919	£ 19,290	£ 3,250	£ 18,959	Independent Examiner				23 March 2023	

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181126

Accounts



CIO 1181126

Didsbury Civic Society Report To The Charity Commission For 2021

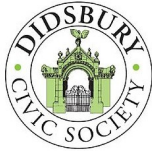
The year 2021 carried on much in the same vein as the previous year. Without, the benefit of live face to face meetings and relying on Zoom to transact our business with Trustees, members and local council members.

Our membership continued to reduce during the period along with the associated revenue. Though donations were still being received from generous supporters. We also received back our sequestrated funds held by the Duchy of Lancaster. Which were taken as a result of our changing from a Charity to a CIO and de-listing as a limited company at Companies House. Resulting in a very fraught time and a process that a small charity would generally be both unaware of or how to resolve. Resulting in the need for a Barrister to transact and negotiate on our behalf. The journey being navigated for us by a leading legal organisation on a pro bono basis. For, which we are extremely grateful for their generosity and help in the process.

We continued in the decision during 2021 to reduce the Restricted Funds which were held in the accounts, carrying out good works within the Didsbury area. We also decided after public and member consultation to embark on two major projects for which fund raising was required. These being namely the updating of the rundown Didsbury War memorial, to a garden of contemplation with biodiversity, new permeable paths, bee and bird attractive, new benching and a "reach out service", and suitability for community programmes. We are also working towards inclusivity of various religions within the area. This project subject to funding should start in Spring 2023. We are also working to save a local Ghost Advert on a landmark site in the centre of Didsbury. Again, we are in the fundraising phase, having selected a well-known artist specialising in this type of renovation. The landlords and residents have been fully consulted about the proposals and progress to date.

Our new and improved website was also launched with the added ability to pay memberships, make donations and purchase service such as the making of payments for events such as Social Trips. Which we returned to in September 2021. With a visit to Nostell Priory in Yorkshire with 34 members enjoying both a great day out and a superb lunch.

We continue to work with and share information with the South Manchester Civic Societies which all continue to have the same views, concerns and problems affecting their members. We also continue to attend and support local Council Ward Meetings for East and West



CIO 1181126

Didsbury meetings, Didsbury Pride and both the local Mosque and Synagogue activities.

During September 2021 we held a very successful Climate and Pollution seminar with acknowledged academic speakers from Manchester University, Friends of the Earth and Stagecoach local bus company updating the attendees on the benefit and

costs of electric powered vehicles v hydrogen powered and the current developments to reduce roadside pollution due to vehicle idling in queues and on bus stands. The meeting which was open to both members and the public was well received.

The DCS also embarked on a programme of filming the numerous buildings taking part in the Heritage Open Doors and hosting the videos of the various sites on our YouTube channel. We intend to carry on with this project during 2022. Reducing the use of paper leaflets, travel to sites and a reduction in the onsite attendance by volunteers.

In March 2021 the DCS purchased and installed a replacement noticeboard for members and residents replacing the old and tired one in the Didsbury library garden. Which has been a great addition to our communications tools.

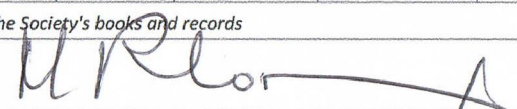

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. R. L.", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Chair Didsbury Civic Society

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

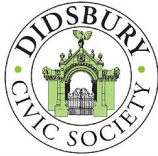
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

PAYMENTS	2021				2020	RECEIPTS	2021				2020
	Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total		Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total
Social Events	£ 999			£ 999		Income from Social Events	£ 881			£ 881	
Newsletter		£ 170		£ 170	£ 624	Subscriptions		£ 1,718		£ 1,718	£ 1,002
Heritage Day		£ 618		£ 618		Donations		£ 115		£ 115	£ 435
Jim Leeming Memorial Acer		£ 85		£ 85		Gift Aid reclaimed		£ 428		£ 428	
Banner					£ 521	Legacy					£ 1,000
Room Hire for meetings					£ 67	Fundraising		£ 23		£ 23	
Carol & Lights funds to Didsbury Traders					£ 535	Didsbury Friends					£ 280
Postage		£ 72		£ 72	£ 354	Heritage books		£ 158		£ 158	
Printing		£ 53		£ 53	£ 25	Cenotaph donation			£ 50	£ 50	
Insurance		£ 101		£ 101	£ 283						
Committee expenses		£ 168		£ 168	£ 16						
Website Costs		£ 112		£ 112	£ 437	TOTAL	£ 881	£ 2,442	£ 50	£ 3,373	£ 2,717
Remembrance Day costs		£ 20		£ 20	£ 16						
Companies House					£ 375						
Office expenses		£ 160		£ 160		SUMMARY					
Notice Board		£ 1,433	£ 928	£ 2,361		Income Less Expenditure	£ (118)	£ (1,244)	£ (947)	£ (2,309)	£ (536)
Didsbury Plan		£ 48		£ 48		Balances as at 31 Dec 2020	£ 1,288	£ 4,395	£ 3,473	£ 9,156	£ 10,513
Bench Refurbishment		£ 646	£ 69	£ 715		Balances as at 31 Dec 2021	£ 1,170	£ 3,151	£ 2,526	£ 6,847	£ 9,977
TOTAL	£ 999	£ 3,686	£ 997	£ 5,682	£ 3,253						
RESTRICTED FUNDS											
		2020	Receipts	Payments	2021	Bank Balances at 31 December 2021					
Gargoyles		£ 2,869			£ 2,869	HSBC Account		£ 9,977		£ 9,977	£ 7,108
NIF Grant- Noticeboard		£ 928		£ 928		NatWest					£ 2,869
Ballbrook NIF Grant		£ 69		£ 69							
Cenotaph refurbishment			£ 50		£ 50						
		£ 3,866	£ 50	£ 997	£ 2,919			£ 9,977		£ 9,977	£ 9,977
I certify that the above accounts are in accordance with the Society's books and records											
Mike Corlett						CJ Smail					
7 th June 2022						04 June 2022					

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181126

Accounts



CIO 1181126

Didsbury Civic Society Report To The Charity Commission For 2020

The year 2020 has been a hard year for the Trustees and members. As it has been for many small charitable organisations keeping the wolf from the door, protecting the membership numbers and of course dealing with Covid-19. Fortunately, we have been lucky with the Pandemic, but have seen our membership numbers reducing. Which has of course been reflected in our funding revenue, our main source of income in any financial year.

The Trustees decided fairly early in the pandemic to try and continue our good works to the members and local residents inbetween the lockdowns donating some restricted funds held to the Christmas Carols and Lights , the renovating a local bench and preparing a written paper to justify the purchase of vital life saving equipment.

We also re-wrote and relaunched the Didsbury Plan from 2017 and Incorporated Future Didsbury into it, to try and engage with our local council in its 2021 edition. Redefining Green Spaces, Infrastructure, Heritage xxxxxxxx. We also engaged with the Manchester School of Architecture and their 5th and final year students to produce a professional plan to try and improve our village and life generally for its residents. Copies were also Manchester City Council CEO, The Mayor, The Council Leader and our elected Member of Parliament. Like most people in public life it was not seen as constructive telling elected members where they were going wrong. As a result we continue to move this project onwards and try to engage with them.

Volunteering has also become harder due to Covid as there was no plan laid down within the DCS or our local council. All of our regular Meetings were transferred to online Zoom and Teams applications, but to be candid we coped with the lack of personal meetings quite well, by having our regular monthly meetings on line.

Importantly, we have successfully kept in touch with other local area volunteer groups as our strengths are better served helping each other, and supporting each other whenever required. We also hope that our problems and shortcomings will have improved when our next report is submitted for 2021.

Mike Corlett

Didsbury Civic Society Chair

DIDSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

PAYMENTS	2020				2019	RECEIPTS	2020				2019
	Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total		Social	General	Restricted	Total	Total
Social Events					£ 877	Income from Social Events					£ 1,066
Newsletter		£ 624		£ 624		Subscriptions		£ 1,002		£ 1,002	£ 1,578
Heritage Day					£ 660	Donations		£ 435		£ 435	£ 1,535
Pergola					£ 288	Legacy		£ 1,000		£ 1,000	£ 928
Banner		£ 521		£ 521	£ 137	Fundraising					£ 179
Room Hire for meetings		£ 67		£ 67	£ 478	Didsbury Friends		£ 280		£ 280	
Room Hire Didsbury Friends					£ 340	Heritage books					£ 118
Carols & Lights Funds to Didsbury Traders			£ 535	£ 535							
Didsbury Pride					£ 242						
Didsbury Festival					£ 65	TOTAL		£ 2,717		£ 2,717	£ 5,404
Postage		£ 354		£ 354	£ 235						
Printing		£ 25		£ 25	£ 123						
Insurance		£ 283		£ 283	£ 283						
Committee expenses		£ 16		£ 16	£ 122	SUMMARY					
Website & Software Costs		£ 437		£ 437	£ 148	Income Less Expenditure		£ (1)	£ (535)	£ (536)	£ 1,357
Remembrance day costs		£ 16		£ 16	£ 20	Balances as at 31 Dec 2019	£ 1,477	£ 4,635	£ 4,401	£ 10,513	£ 9,156
Companies House		£ 375		£ 375	£ 13	Balances as at 31 Dec 2020	£ 1,477	£ 4,634	£ 3,866	£ 9,977	£ 10,513
Office expenses					£ 16						
TOTAL		£ 2,718	£ 535	£ 3,253	£ 4,047						
RESTRICTED FUNDS											
		2019	Receipts	Payments	2020	Bank Balances at 31 December 2020					
Gargoyles		£ 2,869			£ 2,869	HSBC Account		£ 7,108		£ 7,108	£ 7,011
Carols & Lights		£ 535		£ 535		NatWest		£ 2,869		£ 2,869	£ 3,502
Ballbrook NIF Grant		£ 69			£ 69						
NIF Grant- Noticeboard		£ 928			£ 928						
		£ 4,401		£ 535	£ 3,866			£ 9,977		£ 9,977	£ 10,513
<i>I certify that the above accounts are in accordance with the Society's books and records</i>											
					Mike Corlett						CJ Smail