

43rd YEAR

# DIDSBURY FESTIVAL

DIDSBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**DIDSBURY PARK**

**Procession leaves St Catherine's School at 11am**

**Stalls • Food • Entertainment • Dog Show**

**Fun for all the Family**

[www.didsburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.didsburyfestival.co.uk)



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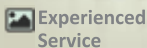


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## CHAIRS MESSAGE

**The Didsbury Festival is one of the biggest annual events in the village and the largest community**

**platform for charities to come together to raise funds for their chosen charities or causes.**

I'm proud to be Chair for the 43rd Festival, and I'm also very proud of the volunteers we have, who work incredibly hard throughout the year to help put this event on. It's remarkable that we have continued and survived all these years and we are now planning this year's Festival in Didsbury Park on Saturday 8th June 2024.

The day will begin with the Procession leaving St. Catherine's R.C. Primary at 11.00 am on School Lane, then it will lead its way through the village and then into Didsbury Park.

We have every group in the procession from all local schools, bands, dancers, theatre groups, rugby and football representing themselves.

Waiting for us in the park will be our Compere Peter Chapman who has helped with the Festival for the last 30 years, he will get the day started, with our Events Team headed by Mitchell Brough.

Didsbury Park lends itself to this wonderful Family Fun Day thanks to Manchester City Council and The Friends of Didsbury Park organised by Brian Johnson and his Team.

Highlights in the park throughout the day include music from local bands and groups in the Arena and the funfair run by the Harrison Family. There is also the Dog Show which this year will be judged by local dog walking business owners Candie from Purple Paws and Janey Leonard-Myers from We Make Fetch Happen. The show is coordinated by Eloise Crawshaw who has run the dog show for the last 16 years. The Dog Show is one of the big highlights of the Festival.

We can't wait for you to check out our vast array of stalls which include local crafts, food and drink from local businesses and our charity / community stalls.

Young and old, we hope everyone has a great time. Please come along and help raise money for local causes and feel a part of the spirited Didsbury Community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody involved in helping put this day on. My further thanks goes to our Volunteers, Family, Friends, Traffic Management, Didsbury Blues, Manchester Medics, Security and Didsbury Traders who support us year in and year out.

For anyone that might like to join the Festival Team, Didsbury Community Association, we would love for you to get involved. We are a fun team so don't be shy to seek me out on the day or contact me via the details below. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the planning or marketing activities and help raise vital funds to host the Didsbury Festival for the community each year.

The support we receive from the local community is amazing and we couldn't do this without you. It is much appreciated.

Thank you to the local businesses in the village, whose contributions to advertising make it possible for us to produce this programme.

Sunshine or rain we will see you in the Park!

Best Wishes,  
**Jayne Crawshaw**  
Chair, Didsbury Community Association

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**DIDSBURY FESTIVAL**  
DIDSBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION





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# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Didsbury Festival is organised by a team of intergenerational volunteers from Didsbury Community Association (DCA) - a Charitable Incorporated Organisation No.1156857. The DCA has run the Didsbury Festival for 43 years, as well as Didsbury's Christmas carols and lights for 15 years.

This year the Festival will be hosted by Peter Chapman, to make sure all visitors are kept informed of the events in the park throughout the day.

The Festival begins with a procession that leaves St. Catherine's school at 11am and travels through the village down to Didsbury Park. The procession includes children from schools and groups from the local area including Broad Oak Primary School, Didsbury C of E School, Beaver Road Primary School, Moor Allerton School, Cavendish Road School, St. Catherine's RC Primary and the 5th Manchester Boys Brigade.

Didsbury Festival has always supported local charities to raise funds for great causes. This year we'll see stallholders from the Women's Institute, Blood Cancer UK, Tools for Self-Reliance, the Woodland Trust, alongside other charities, food vendors, businesses, schools, and community groups.

In 2024 our Funfair will be returning to Didsbury Park (Thanks to Scott Harrison and his Team) alongside the main Festival. Expect whizzing waltzers and bumper cars, and smaller rides for the youngest in the family.

This year we have nominated a junior committee to help the older committee! The junior members are as follows: Isobel Harrison, Harrison Brough, Taylor Brough, Maisie Robins.

We are so proud to be bringing younger members on board who are passionate about the history of the festival and really embedded in supporting the community. Look out for where they will be in the years to come !

Whilst they can often be spotted in the fair - They will also be wearing the Festival high vis - or helping in certain areas. please give them a high five if you see them, there enthusiasm for creating a memorable day for the community is second to non.



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# PARADE ROUTE

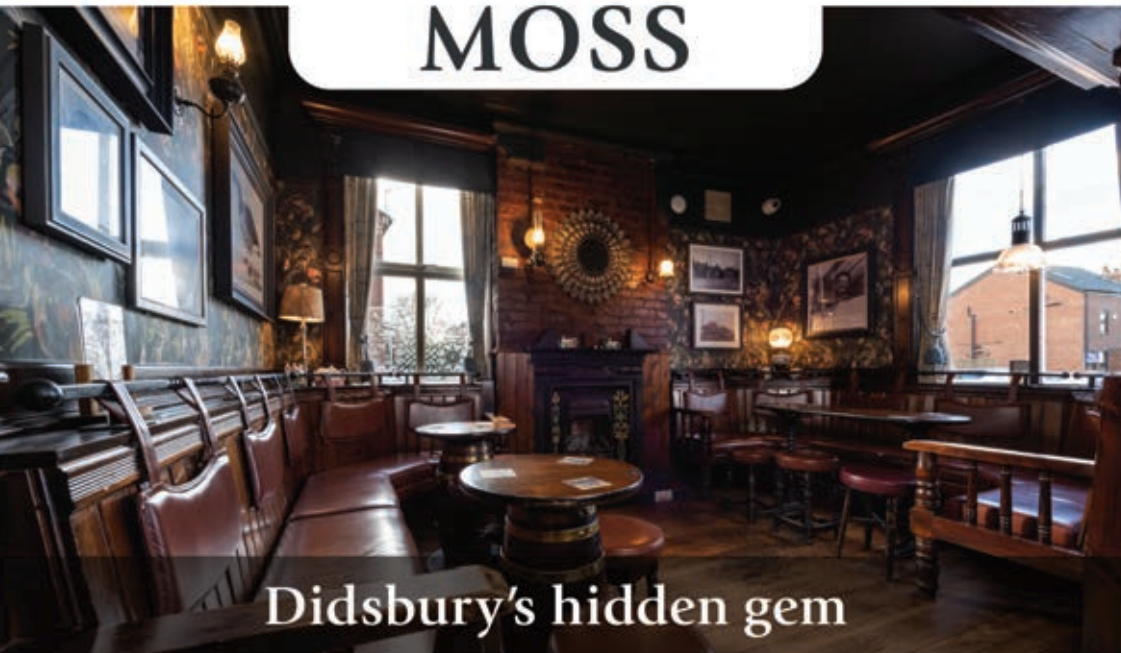


**Start:** St. Catherine's RC Primary School, School Lane, Didsbury M20 6HS **Leaves 11am**



[www.didsburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.didsburyfestival.co.uk)

# THE FLETCHER MOSS



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# MORE ... ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

**The Didsbury Community Association is a charity that is run by local residents and supported by many long-term members of the wider Didsbury community.**

For all the incredible years we have been running, we have seen some significant change. Like many businesses, charities and communities nobody would ever of thought we would be faced with anything like the Covid 19 pandemic - obviously meaning we had 2 years where we were unable to put the Festival on.

Even though the pandemic seems long ago - we have certainly seen the fallout from the pandemic directly impact our Charity. Whilst we were very much focussed on charity stalls at the Festival - many of these charities are struggling themselves with donations and volunteers and more and more are struggling to man stalls themselves. Not only do we continue to support the charities themselves but we have also had to adapt to support the community in different ways and have now begun supporting local Didsbury business's and independents more and more, as it is clear they need the help just as much as local charities do.

As we are all experiencing the current cost of living crisis - this has truly affected some of our running costs too. The Festival costs us now circa £12,000. We have seen the costs of insurance, licenses, toilets, amenities, and services rocket. This has meant we have also had to find different ways to raise funds to support the rising costs whilst trying to keep costs low for the stall holders and the community visiting us on Festival day.

We not only support the Festival but hold an Annual Gala to raise money, where once again our fabulous community of shops, bars and restaurants support us with donations of raffle prizes etc - without the support of all of these and our fabulous stall holders we wouldn't be able to continue. However even this year the Gala did not raise enough money to cover even half of our running costs.

We are focussed on this years Festival and the coming years of Festivals and will continue to adapt and diversify so that we can continue to deliver a successful Festival for the community, supported by the community and run by the community.





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# FUN DOG SHOW

Didsbury Park

Saturday 8th June 2024 at 1pm

## Rules:

All entries must be on the grounds by 12.45pm. The judging of classes will begin at 1pm.

**Dogs must be under the control of their handlers at all times.**

**Children under the age of 16 years must be accompanied by an adult.**

The organisers accept no responsibility for loss, damage or accident caused by or to any dog on the grounds.

## Entry:

Please register your dog between 10.30am and 12.30pm on the day at the registration stand in the Dog Show Arena.

**Fees £3 per class.**

All profits are donated to animal charities.

## Classes:

Loveliest Lady (Best Female Dog), Most Fabulous Fella (Best Male Dog), Best Look-a-like, Best Fancy Dress, Musical Sits, Junior Handler, Best in Show

## Awards:

Prizes and rosettes will be awarded for the first four places in each class.

[www.didsburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.didsburyfestival.co.uk)

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# DIDSBURY FESTIVAL

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## THE FESTIVAL MAP

Events every half hour



[www.didsburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.didsburyfestival.co.uk)



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STALLS STALLS

MAIN ARENA

STALLS STALLS DCA MARQUEE

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# MEET THE TEAM



**Lord Keith Bradley**  
President

Lord Bradley has been involved in Didsbury Festival as President since 1988 when he was an MP in the area and involved in local

community events. He is proud to support the Festival, the wonderful committee, and the local charities it supports.



**Jayne Crawshaw**  
Chair

Jayne has been a part of Didsbury Festival for over 30 years. Her Great Grandparents, Grandparents, Great Uncle and Mother were all Didsbury born

and bred, growing up in one house on Gillbrook Road. Her Great Uncle, Eddie Johnson was the park keeper for Didsbury Park for most of his life after being in the Navy. Jayne loves that the Festival has grown over the years into a diverse family community event for young and old, and hopes it continues for many years to come.



**Eloise Crawshaw**  
Secretary

Eloise works for a law firm in Manchester and has helped with Didsbury Festival since she was 10. Eloise has always helped run the Dog

Show and recently became Secretary on the Committee. Helping with the Dog Show is something she has grown up doing and it is what she loves. Seeing all the entrants turn up on the day come rain or shine is always the highlight of the Festival Day and as a dog lover and owner enjoys raising as much money as possible for the chosen animal charity.



**Martin Hoysted**  
Treasurer

Martin joined Didsbury Community Association as Treasurer 6 years ago. Whilst he lives a couple of miles down the road in Fallowfield,

he's been a regular in the bars and restaurants of Didsbury for many years. He really enjoys the buzz of planning for the Festival and appreciates all the hard work that goes into putting it on.



**Helen Robins**  
Arena Events

Helen moved to Didsbury in 2014. After spending a year renting she and her husband loved the area so much they bought a house in

the heart of the village. She has grown a real love for Didsbury, is proud to support local businesses and can often be spotted in the local bars, shops and restaurants! She is thrilled to be on the committee and to be playing a part in bringing the much loved Festival together. She is hoping that her 9 year old will follow in her footsteps and will be helping out on the day too.

## Junior Committee

Isobel Harrison

Maisie Robins

Harrison Brough

Taylor Brough

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# MEET THE TEAM



**Becky Harrison**  
Stalls

Becky is “the lady butcher” at the Little Pigs in Didsbury. As both a local resident and business owner, mum of two Becky is passionate about creating a Didsbury for everyone. She’s bringing her

experience, organisational skills and energy to the committee to continue the success of the Festival.



**Mitchell Brough**  
Sound & Staging

Mitch has been helping out at Didsbury Festival for as long as he can remember! He has supported the sound and staging in the main arena for many great

performances come rain or shine and looks forward to seeing you all on the day.



**Mike Brough**

Mike has been involved in Didsbury Festival since it started over 40 years ago and is looking forward to being back after 3 years without it! Mike started out by providing sound system support, and today works closely with his son Mitch to provide sound staging, tents,

and gazebos.



**Scott Harrison**

Scott has been providing Funfair rides to the Festival for around 25 years. He likes supporting and attending the Festival to help the local community and charities that are involved.



**Carl Austin-Behan (he/him)**

Carl is the former Lord Mayor of Manchester, the LGBTQ+ Advisor to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, and a Deputy Lieutenant of Manchester. He is involved in many community events including Didsbury Pride.



**Jeff Ball**

Didsbury Blues & Stewards

Born in Didsbury, Jeff has spent most of his life here apart from a few years working away in Sweden and Germany. He joined the Festival Committee in 2009 and has supported activities

including bringing Manchester City’s FA Cup trophy to the Festival through liaison with Didsbury Blues, and supporting banner production.



**Geoff Bridson**

Dog Show

Geoff has been involved in Didsbury Community Association for many years and is the chief organiser who created the first Dog Show and has continued to organise it ever since with the help of Jayne and Eloise.



**Peter Chapman:**

Compère

Many years working in Theatre around the country, both plays, and musicals, a distinguished actor who has appeared in films, TV, radio and also voice overs. He has been involved with the

Festival for the last 30 years, he is and delighted to be part of the team, bringing the Festival to the Park once again !!!!!

# THANK YOU

**There are many people to whom we owe our gratitude** – Traffic Management for their invaluable help and advice with the procession route; our park warden and the parks department at Manchester City Council; the members of Didsbury Blues who do a fantastic job of stewarding the procession; Mersey Medics for providing medical support on the day; local residents and businesses for their support and co-operation, especially those who have been directly involved in the day; and I'm sure you will join me in thanking all the entertainers, local

groups, schools, traders and charities for providing so much enjoyment for the community at the Festival.

Finally a huge thanks to the wonderful committee, volunteers and our President, the Right Honourable Lord Bradley of Withington, who make the Festival possible each year through their hard work and commitment.

**We hope you will be able to join us and have a wonderful time on Saturday 8th June 2024.**

**Jayne Crawshaw  
Chair**



## DIDSBURY FESTIVAL

DIDSBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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# DIDSBURY FESTIVAL

# THE DIDSBURY FESTIVAL GALA EVENING

The annual Didsbury Festival Gala Evening was held in October at Northenden Golf Club to raise the £11,000 needed to run the Festival each year. The grants the Festival has relied upon in previous years are reducing and the funds raised at the Gala are increasingly important. The themed Gala Evening brings together over one hundred local people from the community to enjoy a complimentary glass of fizz, a three-course dinner, great wine, a raffle, an auction, and entertainment.

If you'd like to come to the Gala on Saturday 23rd November 2024 please drop us an email at [didsburyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:didsburyfestival@gmail.com).

[www.didsburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.didsburyfestival.co.uk)



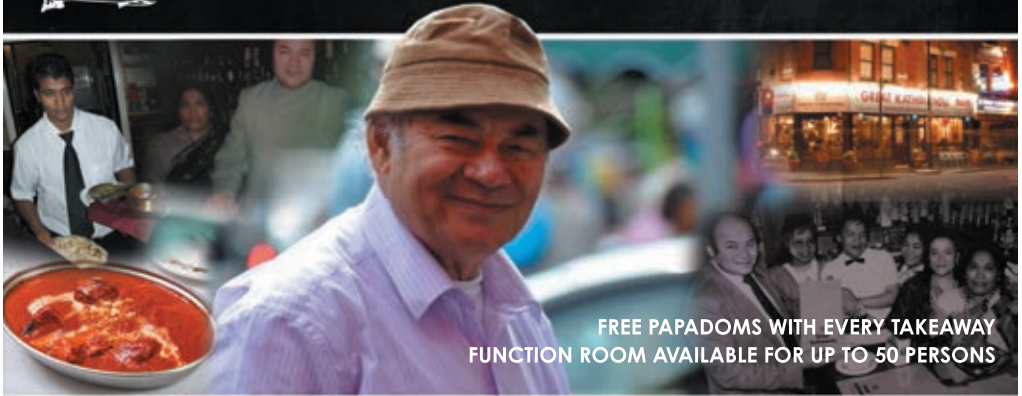
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