

Area Guide Knutsford

Knutsford History

Knutsford was recorded in William the Conqueror's Domesday Book of 1086 as Cunutesford (Canute's ford). Local tradition says that in the early part of the 11th Century, King Canute (then King of England) blessed a wedding that was taking place and forded the River Lily,

which still meanders through the town. Knutsford has been the home to many notable people, including the author Elizabeth Gaskell, for which the town was the inspiration for her famous novel 'Cranford'.

Living in Knutsford

Knutsford is a very pretty historic town, located 14 miles south-west of Manchester and 9 miles north-west of Macclesfield. The town is immediately bordered to all sides by open countryside, giving it a charming rural feeling, and there is an abundance of open green space within the town itself, including The Heath, which is thought to have hosted horse racing for nearly 200 years, ending in 1873, and Tatton Park, which can be accessed from the town centre entrance at the end of King Street, and hosts a large variety of events throughout the year, including the RHS Flower Show. Horse racing still takes place to this day, within the grounds of the Tabley House Estate which is located less than two miles to the west of the town.

Property in Knutsford

As one of England's most attractive country towns, Knutsford possesses a picturesque assortment of former coaching inns, Georgian townhouses, black-and-white gabled buildings and whitewashed cottages, but it also has a totally unexpected extra ingredient including the imported Italianate architecture of Richard Harding Watt, built after the turn of the 20th Century, and of which there are many examples throughout the town, including some magnificent mansion houses within the much sought after 'Legh Road' conservation area. Across the town, there is a wide variety of properties serving all sectors of the market, including terrace cottages and larger Victorian townhouse, and a number of mature residential developments offering semi-detached and detached properties ranging from £300,000 up to £1M.

Shopping in Knutsford

Knutsford is the perfect place for some afternoon shopping. With three streets lined with a great selection of independent boutiques and popular high street stores there is plenty on offer. The Indoor Market is open every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and we have the award-winning Artisan Market on Princess Street on the first Sunday every month. There is a selection of regional and national supermarket chains, including Booths supermarket located close to the heart of the town, and a new Aldi store situated at the entrance of King Street.

Days out in Knutsford

Knutsford is popular with families looking for the outdoor life, with ample green space within the town, including Tatton, Park, The Heath, as well as Sanctuary Moor, which boasts an excellent outdoor play area and duck pond. There is a cinema, as well as an indoor play barn, and a fantastic Heritage Centre, often showcasing exhibitions within its two galleries and beautifully maintained gardens.

Food and Drink

There is a huge choice for dining out in the town, with an abundance of establishments positioned within the charming cobbled streets and historic buildings, including a number of café's, bars and excellent pubs, including a number of exceptional restaurants and brasseries.

Sports and Lesiure

There are excellent facilities within the town, including a leisure centre with a swimming pool and gym, indoor and outdoor sports pitches. Knutsford Sports Club is a thriving, amateur sports club with around 550 members to date. Facilities include both indoor and field archery ranges, a cricket pitch and practice nets, two squash courts and seven all-weather recently re-furbished, floodlit tennis courts.

Schools in Knutsford

There are a number of excellent state and independent schools within Knutsford and the surrounding area, catering for all age groups. Knutsford Academy provides a good level of education from year 7 through to sixth form, as well as a studio school teaching both academic and employable skills.

Commuting and Transport

Knutsford occupies a superb location, often considered at the gateway between Cheshire and Manchester, which is within easy commutable distance, as are the commercial centers of Chester and Warrington. The Railway Station offers a direct train service in 45 minutes to Manchester Piccadilly. Both the M56 and M6 Motorway networks are easily accessible, as is Manchester International Airport which is only a 20 minute drive away by car.

