

The Didsbury Dozen

1300hrs – 19th November 2011



We hear men speaking for us of new laws strong and sweet.
Yet is there no man speaketh as we speak in the street.
It may be we shall rise the last as Frenchmen rose the first.
Our wrath come after Russia's wrath and our wrath be the worst.
It may be we are meant to mark with our riot and our rest
God's scorn for all men governing. It may be beer is best.
But we are the people of England: and we have not spoken yet.
Smile at us. pay us. pass us. But do not quite forget.

G. K. Chesterton



The Woodstock (Barlow Moor Road)

First you need to get yourself here. If you're travelling from Manchester centre by bus then get yourself on a 43 bus heading towards "West Didsbury" (not East!). DON'T GET THE MAGIC BUS (do they even do these anymore?) as it terminates half a mile up the sodding road! You need to get off at the main crossroads in West Didsbury where Barlow Moor Road intersects Palatine Road. Walk right down Barlow Moor Road (away from East Didsbury) and within a couple of minutes you will see the Albert's Shed (which used to be the dreadful Barleycorn) – The Woodstock is opposite. A good pint of ale can be found here and hopefully it will be sunny so you can sit outside.



The Nelson (Barlow Moor Road)

Come out of the Woodstock and head right down Barlow Moor road for about fifteen minutes (it's a fairly long walk). This will take you into the heart of Didsbury Village. The Nelson is the small pub lurking on the right hand corner as you approach Wilmslow Road.

A great pub, if you like your drinking establishments old fashioned and stuck in a time warp, which I do. The décor from the 70s has recently been updated to circa late 80s. Here you can watch the horse and dog racing simultaneously (on the longer distances I'd bet on the horse if I were you), have a pint of ale and chat to the 'friendly' staff! If you're a girlie I seem to remember the alcopop selection is surprisingly limited!



The (Famous) Crown (Wilmslow Road)

Right out of the Nelson and then walk right down Wilmslow Road in the direction of Parrs Wood. You'll see on the corner a big wide pub, with a black banner and gold lettering, called The Crown, on the right. Why it is (or used to be) the 'Famous' Crown we'll never know. You can sit outside to watch the traffic go by and breathe in some bus diesel fumes.



The Didsbury (Wilmslow Road)

Come out of The Crown and continue right down Wilmslow Road even though it looks like there aren't any pubs this way. It takes about ten minutes to walk it but the result is worth the wait(?). You will come to a square with two pubs in it as the road dog-legs left. The Didsbury is the one with the big sign marked "The Didsbury". ☺ For sunny days The Didsbury has a large beer garden and is packed solid, sometimes as much as twice a year.



Ye Olde Cock Inn (Wilmslow Road)

It's across from The Didsbury! Proof, if it were needed, that the English aren't ready for continental dining culture – this ex-pub cum fish restaurant has become a pub again! A large pub / restaurant – be interesting to see how accommodating this place is to pub crawls now. If they do food – I'd avoid the fish, might have been hanging around a while.



The Royal Oak (Wilmslow Road)

Now head back into Didsbury Village the way you came. The original guide notes that this is where the directions get a little hazy (as the bloke who compiled it got drunk at this point) but now most of us live in Didsbury if you need the directions best just get a taxi home! The Oak, a proper pub in the heart of the village, is your right just after The Crown.



Fletcher Moss (aka The Albert) (William Street)

The Moss is found down a little side street (not the street immediately on the right but the next one) BEHIND the Royal Oak. Watch your language in here as they FUCKING HATE STUDENTS / SOUTHERNERS! To get attention at the bar it's best to scream "Oi, Pinhead" at the bar staff, as demonstrated by Brum - who nearly got barred for that foul, abusive language. The following dozen I broke about 8 pint glasses by falling over an imaginary step.



The (John) Milson Rhodes (School Lane)

Head right out of the Moss and cross over School Lane to find that we've added a McSpoons to the pub crawl. Give 'em their due this normally means a quality pint but with cheap gimmicky décor. The website gives the pub history as "Coming Soon" - let's see, if after this experiment, we're still coming back soon. The history is (yes - I'll do their job for them) that Dr. Rhodes (for whom the Didsbury clock-tower is a memorial) was a forerunner in the

reformation of work houses. He was an expert in "Poor Law", improving the lot for the poor by overhauling the rules on work house food provisions. Fitting then that his name should be used for a Wetherspoons where the poor congregate for Victorian style nourishment and cheap all-day drinking entertainment.



The Dog & Partridge (Wilmslow Road)

Head up School Lane to the cross roads and turn right to find this just after the corner. Another Irish themed feel pub and one of Didsbury's most popular pubs - free peanuts and a great wooden floor though there is never anywhere to sit - it's strictly standing room only! If the blind bloke is in (is he still around?) watch his dog slyly eat all the peanut shells from the floor.



The Slug & Lettuce (Wilmslow Road)

Head right out of the D&P and walk for two minutes past the chain bars and restaurants. The nicest thing I can say is quote a website review "Large chain restaurant with a sun terrace in the heart of East Didsbury village". Drink your continental lager and get out quick - I don't recommend the salad for obvious reasons.



The Station (Wilmslow Road)

Let's do the pub time-warp again (and if the disco is on you really might)! Described as

looking like the Tardis from the outside, and the Tardis from the inside. It's a contrast to the neighbouring trendy new bars such as Via Vita(?) and Cafe Rouge. Apparently called 'The Station' because Didsbury railway station used to be opposite it - tbc whether the Metro will have a station here or if they will have to move the pub. Expect to end up talking to the locals whom seem friendly until we take over the disco with cheese and Stevie gets his tie on his head!



O'Neills (Wilmslow Road)

Big fake-Irish (which is about as Irish as I am) pub across the street, hardly any distance from D&P. Big blue banner sign that reads "O'Neills". Friendly locals avoid the place like the plague so you won't find any here. This is where the magnitude of twelve pints, on a hangover, starts to hit you (except Stig of course)!

WELL DONE - NOW TO THE CURRY HOUSE!!

Some Useful Numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous

0845 7697555

NHS Direct

0845 4647

Kashmiri Spice

0161 442 3000

Steve / Steve-o- / Morgs

07968 694745

Chimp / Tim / Monk

07712 590178