

## The Holts Eight. Eccles Crawl

Take the **67** (stops outside the Grapes) or **100** bus from Manchester or the **68** from Bolton (alight at Patricroft Bridge/ Barton Road) to Peel Green.

First port of call is the **Grapes** in Peel Green an imposing Edwardian building with a decorative interior of wood, tiles and grand fireplaces.

Come out of the pub onto Liverpool Road (A57), turn Right and march towards Eccles crossing over Patricroft Bridge (with the Bridgewater canal beneath) and on the right opposite the Fire Station you come to a small street corner pub, the **Stanley Arms**. This pub is a rarity these days in that the original interior layout is unchanged and has some interesting features. The Stanley has long featured in the Good Beer Guide and is a past winner of the Neil Richardson award.

On leaving the side street exit cross Liverpool Road and near the Fire Station you find the **Bird in'th Hand**. This is another fine Joseph Holts pub, full of character/s and fine mild and bitter.

Leaving the Bird turn left towards Eccles and after passing the Fire Station you arrive at the **Bridgewater** on the corner of Green Lane. Note: On the opposite corner stands A.V. Roe House. This property was once the home of Englands pioneer of aviation. Exiting the Bridgewater on to Liverpool Road cross Green Lane then cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and walking in an easterly direction towards Eccles you will pass the site of a demolished locally famous old Holts pub, the Golden Cross, more commonly known as Cloudys! Now a Garage, sadly.

The demolition of Cloudys means we have to walk for a few minutes before we arrive at our next pub, The **White Lion**. This was the pub where all the locals with operatic ambitions would come and sing their hearts out over a piano.

Leaving the White Lion by the Liverpool Road door turn right towards Eccles town centre and after passing St Marys church you will pass another former Holts pub, the Crown and Volunteer (instantly recognisable as a pub) and the Sally Army building which brings you to a road junction with traffic lights. Turn right here down Corporation Street and at the bottom on the Junction with Barton Lane you arrive at the imposing **Royal Oak**. This is yet another Holts pub full of architectural features.

Coming out of the Royal Oak cross Barton lane and head towards Church Street with the Library on the left and the Sports hall on the right then once on Church Street cross the road and bear up past the Town Hall pub to the pedestrianised street where you will find the **Old Bulls Head**, the next pub on your itinery.

Leaving the Old Bulls head cross the pavement towards the Bus interchange and turn left on to Regent Road. You will pass a Wetherspoons on your left and then arrive at the **Lamb Hotel**. Many drinkers reckon the Lamb to be the flagship Holts pub in the area and shares a similar exterior and decor to the Grapes but the Lamb retains an original Snooker table and serves a seasonal beer in addition to the mild and bitter. This pub has featured in Film and Television productions.

If you have the time and the capacity you might want to visit the two remaining Eccles Holts pubs, the **Ellesmere**, 26 King William Street, Winton, M30 8HZ is about a mile from the Grapes and the **Park Hotel**, 142 Monton Road, Monton, M30 9QD and are both on the **68** Bolton to Trafford centre bus route.

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NB: Two more Holts, the Ellesmere (Winton) and the Park (Monton) are on the 68 bus route.

