

Walstock 2- "Our children were fair and had lice in their hair"

By Alan Miles [[Email](#)], Jan 2014

The local poly was where it was at.

In the late 60s and early 70s there came a large influx of Northerners, I think the greatest thing that the Northerners did was to almost, forcibly demand that northern ales, and real strong ale came into being. They referred to Red Barrel, or Double-Diamond or whatever as Cockney Piss, or London rubbish. The men removed their caps and mufflers and became 'Londonised'. I learnt some of their tongue, 'the chippeh' meant fish n chip shop. 'Chinkeh' meant Chinese take-away. They assimilated much of the dress of the natives, and the men began wearing flairs, denim-jackets, and those horrid platforms. All the men were bearded and now wore long hair, and no longer talked about racing-pigeons.

It was in the Poly bar on a quieter night, that Dave a Yorkshire lad called in. He joyfully said "You want another jar mate", I replied "yeah, I'll have a pint of Stella thanks". I now recall that playing on the jukebox was Strawberry Fields forever by The Beatles.

I said to Dave "I like this one it's about acid, you know the bit about 'living is easy with eyes closed, misunderstanding everything you see', really trippy stuff man." Dave said "no, it's about a place in Liverpool". Angrily I replied "so man, cause you're a bloody northerner it doesn't make you a Beatles expert. Did you live near there man?" he replied "eh eh lad, I'm from Yorkshire".

I replied "Far out man, that's near Liverpool I guess". Dave replied "get stuffed", I said "why should I get stuffed" he replied because "that's f*c*in Lancashire is Liverpool". I continued "well what about the line 'nothing is real and nothing to get hung about, Strawberry Fields forever man". Dave replied "eh I dunno lad, want another jar" I replied "sure man, another pint of Stella".

I then said "yeah man, you know about Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds?" Dave said "oh yeah". I said "that is definitely about acid man because it's LSD and it's all about tripping out". Dave replied "eh man here's your Stella get it down you". He continued "any road the song is about a little girl called Lucy who drew a picture of a little girl floating in the sky with diamonds, and Paul Mc Cartney asked the little girl what was the picture about. The little girl said "It's me, Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds".

At this point I got really uptight, "I don't dig your jibe, and I really don't dig it". I continued "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds is a surreal mystical, psychedelic, mind-blowing work of sonic art". Dave answered " comin down chippy?".