

Barnsley CAMRA Survey of Darfield

On the 4th of June 2008, members of Barnsley CAMRA descended on the village of Darfield to assess the current state of the area's pubs, below are our findings.

The Longbow

Cask Ale: None available

This is a large estate pub situated on Darfield's largest housing estate. The pub is set out more like a dub with a large public bar and games room and a large concert/lounge room. This once popular local has struggled over recent times and this was evident on our visit. Could this pub be the next victim to the house builders?

Queen Victoria

Cask Ale: None available

The Queen Victoria is situated half way up Snape Hill near the new Doveside housing development. It's one of Darfield's oldest pubs. The Queen Victoria has been through many name changes in its life. It was a very popular real ale house when it was run by Rockside brewery. This has long since gone. Now the pub has been recently refurbished and no real ales are on offer.

The Cross Keys

Cask Ale: Tetley's Bitter, John Smiths Cask

The Cross Keys is situated in the old part of Darfield near the church. Alan is one of Barnsley's longest serving licensees and sadly is shortly due to retire. This in my opinion is a cracking pub with a large car park with outdoor seating and great floral displays. Inside the two roomed pub is traditional in appearance with a lounge and tap/games room. The pub offers good value meals. The cask ale's are always in good condition.

Darfield Village Dub

Cask Ale: None available

Traditional dub owned by Sam Smiths brewery of Tadcaster. This is a very imposing stone building in the heart of the village. Inside the dub has a large concert room and small lounge. Dubs host regular meetings here. No real ale's are offered.

Darfield Cons Dub

Cask Ale: None available

A Traditional dub situated opposite the Cricket Club on School Street. The 'Cons' is a popular local dub mainly due to their long opening times. The dub has a large concert room, snug, lounge and large games room. The dub has regular entertainment and can get very busy at weekends and bank holidays.

Darfield Cricket Club

Cask Ale: Changing Guest

This once Yorkshire Club of The Year still offers the real ale fan a good full pint of beer. Over recent times the club has seen a change in steward and a drop in demand for cask ale hence the reduction in the number of hand pumps. However with beers sourced from Yorkshire breweries a decent pint is still offered in very pleasant surroundings. The cricket club is a great asset to the village with numerous teams for all ages and is a tribute to the hard work of the committee & the steward.

The Darfield

Cask Ale: John Smiths Cask (Weekends only)

This club style pub is situated on the fringe of Darfield's large council estate, and just off Nanny Marr Road. The pub has two rooms a games room with snooker table and a lounge area. The pub is served well by local regulars and is a great community asset. Cask ale is available at weekends.

The Bridge Inn

Cask Ale: None available

Since our last visit the Bridge Inn has undergone a major transformation. The struggling pub is now a thriving Indian restaurant. Now part of the 'Thaal' chain of Indian restaurants it's nice to see a pub being made good use of instead of being demolished for housing. Sadly the restaurant is Keg only but at least the building is still standing.

The Station Inn

Cask Ale: John Smiths Cask, Seven changing guest ales

On our previous visit The Station has been renamed the Goldmine and was a food pub offering two cask ales. Since then the previous owners left and the pub was left unoccupied. The owner unsuccessfully tried to get planning for housing on the site. Then along came Rodger & Kris Smith who with lots of hard work transformed the pub back to its former glory. They also took the brave decision to turn their back on keg beer in favour of eight real ales. The decision seems to have paid great dividends. The pub has since gained heaps of praise and loyal customers. The pub is a great community pub and offers good value meals. Since our visit the pub has won a pub of the season award as well as the hearts of many real ale fans.

Overall a positive survey in comparison to other areas Darfield pubs & clubs seem to be doing well.

Phil Gregg

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