

## Barnsley CAMRA Pub Survey of Royston & Athersley

This survey on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 took the CAMRA stalwarts to Royston and Athersley hence the below report being in two parts.

### Royston

#### Ring O'Bells

Real ales: None available.

The Ring O'Bells is a Thwaites pub that sadly offered no real ales. The pub has a fresh clean natural pine decor with comfortable seating. The pub has two rooms with one being large open plan. To the front of the pub is a patio drinking area. For a Thwaites pub we were really disappointed and all felt that the pub could be a lot better.

### Pack Horse

Real ales: John Smith's Cask and two guest beers.

After a short walk up the road we then arrived at The Pack Horse. The pub has a large open plan layout with a raised area. The Packhorse was one of Barnsley's first no smoking pubs before the introduction of the smoking ban. The large back room is a restaurant which can be busy as the food is very good. The Pack Horse offers three real ales, Johns Cask and two guest beers, all in excellent condition.

### The Cross

Real ales: John Smith's Cask

The Cross is situated on a corner amongst traditional houses. This is a typical multi roomed community local. The pub appeals to all age ranges and has recently undergone a light refurbishment that has made the place look a lot cleaner. Inside the pub has a large screen TV showing the latest sports. The cask beer on offer is John Smiths cask and on our visit it was found to be in good condition.

After leaving The Cross we then passed three pubs that have recently closed the Railway, Cobby's and the Bush. This seemed quite alarming!

### The Station

Real ales: None available:

The Station was the typical run down pub. With a tired run down interior that didn't work. The fixtures and fittings were either missing or broke. The pub had one large open plan room which had been altered from the original layout and sadly didn't work. On our visit to the pub the entertainment was in the form of a poker game, where it seemed we were intruding and putting them out. The whole ambiance was asking us to leave, the one long bar offered only keg beers so we soon did.

### Athersley

#### The Wellington

Real ales: None available

Like many pubs in the area The Wellington is a large two roomed friendly local. The lounge was quiet with a few people watching the TV and reading the paper. The tap room was a lot busier with a sports team planning their next games. The bar only offered keg beers, however bottled beers of a more interesting choice were available from the fridge. These however were not bottle conditioned.

#### The Acorn

Real ales: None available.

Recently re opened after being closed for 3 years and having planning permission granted for housing. The large two roomed pub was busy and friendly. The only beers at the bar were keg, and sadly even the Double Diamond Bitter had been removed. Although only recently re-open The Acorn still managed to have possibly the worst toilets in Barnsley, complete with graffiti decor an air freshener would also have been nice.

#### The Athersley Arms.

Real ales: None available.

The last pub of the evening was the Athersley Arms, another keg only pub. From the outside the pub looks more like a working men's club. The pub has two large rooms and on our visit was very busy in the tap room. The decor was clean and tidy but used. However the lounge bar had been recently refurbished and was a split level open plan area with comfortable seating, this offered pub meals through the day. Outside to the front the pub had a large road side patio area with picnic bench style seating.

Overall this was a good survey with some excellent local community pubs. It was a pity there was no real ale in the Athersley area as I'm sure it would be very popular.

Phil Gregg & Nigel Croft