

Barnsley CAMRA Pub Survey of Worsbrough Common

One Wednesday night in early October a few CAMRA stalwarts descended on the Worsbrough Common area of Barnsley to undertake one of our many monthly surveys. The area has recently been blighted by pub closure and below is our findings.

Silkstone Inn

Cask Ale: None Available

The first pub on our survey, the Silkstone Inn is a former Barnsley Camra stalwart and Good Beer Guide entry. The pub lies on Park Rd just off the Sheffield road junction. On arriving at the pub first impressions were good this large fronted public house has a huge deck seating area to the front with parasols for 'al fresco' drinking. The Pub has a traditional layout with two large rooms comprising of a lounge and tap room. The tap room has a large pool table and plenty of seating. On our visit the pub was quiet with only the tap room in use. The Licensee was only temporary and informed us that if he hadn't taken up the post the pub would have closed. The pub is sadly keg only but offered a good range and had a friendly atmosphere.

Warren Hotel

Cask Ale: None Available

It was then just a short walk across the road to our next stop The Warren Hotel. The Pub is a Thwaites pub with a nice exterior. On entering the pub we found a large open plan layout with brick a brace adorning the walls. The pub was busy with a good clientele mix the majority of who were participating in traditional pub games such as pool and darts. Although open plan the pub had designated drinking & games areas. The pub was sadly keg only but as with the previous pub had a large range of drinks on offer. The pub has previously sold Cask ale but as with the majority of Thwaites pubs in the area sadly this is no longer. For such a high profile Cask ale brewery this seemed such a pity.

Highstone Rd Club

Cask Ale: None Available

The next stop was to be the only club of the evening and was a pleasant surprise. Highstone Rd W.M.C is a large traditional multi roomed club. As with the majority of clubs we were made very welcome. The club was busy with lots of local residents making the most of the cheap prices. The club like most W.M.C comprises of a tap room, lounge and large concert room. On entering the club the walls are covered with posters promoting future acts and gigs. The bar offered the discerning drinker a good range but sadly no real ale. We opted for the cold filtered Sam Smiths Sovereign. A half decent substitute and good value too. The club had a great atmosphere and was certainly one of the better hostelrys of the evening.

Prince of Wales Feathers

As we continued down Highstone Rd we passed the derelict Prince of Wales Feathers. The image of the closed down former community local seemed to typify what seems to be happening throughout the borough and nationwide over recent months.

The White Bear

Cask Ale: None Available

Next on our survey was the White Bear. This roadside public house had recently undergone a full refurbishment. The red patterned carpets and modern decor weren't to my taste and didn't give the feeling of a traditional local more of a town centre boozery. The loud music was also a little of putting. The licensees were obviously trying hard and had a pc offering free internet access which I did think was a good idea. The bar range was small and sadly keg only the licensees informed that they were soon to leave. The pub had the modern style open plan layout with a seating area to the front and games area at the back. The pub was very quiet with loud music. A few members commented that the presence of the licensee's young child was a bit 'off putting'. Whilst having a drink we found a beer mat advertising the pub co. owners 'Quality Taverns', this was a new name to both ourselves and the area.

The Rose & Crown

Cask Ale: None Available

It was then a short trip on to Mount Vernon Rd for the last pub of our survey the Rose & Crown. The large stone fronted Victorian roadside pub is very impressive from the outside. Inside the large pub have two rooms at either side one a comfy lounge with lots of seating and the other a traditional tap room. On our visit the tap room was busy with locals watching the football on the TV and playing darts and pool. This is what a community pub should be like where anyone is made to feel welcome and the pub is always busy. The pub is sadly keg only but as with other pubs in the area offered a large range of drinks as well as food. Being such a traditional pub suited to most clientele it seemed such a pity the pub didn't offer any cask ale as I'm sure it would prove very popular with the locals.

On the whole this was a disappointing survey for Cask ale. On the positive side the situation could have been a lot worse if it wasn't for the hard work of the publicans who do seem to be trying hard to keep the pubs open and trading.