

Barnsley CAMRA survey of Birdwell & Worsbrough Bridge

On February 4th 2009 Barnsley CAMRA members visited Birdwell & Worsbrough Bridge to assess the current state of the areas pubs below are our findings:

The Cock Inn

Cask Ales: Tetley's Bitter & Black Sheep Bitter

This previous award winner and GBG entrant seemed a great starting place. The pub is situated on the outskirts of Birdwell alongside the M1 Motorway. The pub is a lovely unspoilt stone building with a lovely cosy interior. This is complimented by the large open fire which on a cold February night was very welcoming. Over recent times the pub has had a number of changes of licensees. During that period the quality of the beer declined. However on our visit the quality was good and the current licensee was very friendly and welcoming. This was certainly a good start to the evening.

Birdwell W.M.C

Cask Ales: None available

A large W.M.C situated on the main Sheffield Rd. This large club has gained a reputation as a live music venue and attracts some popular acts. The club comprises of a large lounge and even larger concert room. The club owners are currently planning a large guest suite at the rear of the club to provide accommodation for the acts. Sadly no cask ale is available.

The Travellers

Cask Ales: John Smiths Magnet

On the main Sheffield Rd lies The Travellers a typical traditional roadside pub. The pub has a two room layout which along with the exterior of the pub is looking tired. This is a shame as in my opinion with a little T.L.C this could be a great pub. On our visit the only real ale was unavailable something we will monitor.

The Edmunds Arms

Cask Ale: Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter

A lovely old stone pub found in the heart of the picturesque Worsbrough village. This is certainly a must for anyone seeking good value. Being a Sam Smiths pub the prices are always good value. The unspoilt interior with restaurant and small rooms give the pub a wealth of character. The pub is often a pub of the season nominee and it's easy to see why. The pub has gained a great reputation for food and is always busy with locals taking advantage of the great quality and value.

The Button Mill Inn

Cask Ale: John Smiths Magnet, Theakstons Best Bitter

We then moved onto the Button Mill Inn, yet another imposing stone pub on the main Sheffield road opposite the Worsbrough Mill country park. This large open plan pub is part of the FGL group of pubs. The pub on our visit was quiet however this may have been due to the recent bad weather. The two cask ale's on offer were in good condition and the pub was pleasant. This pub is well known as with other FGL pubs for its good food.

The Ship Inn

Cask Ales: None available

Our final pub of the night and like others in the area this pub too has had a recent change in licensee. The pub was had loud music but was friendly. Sadly keg only the licensee had tried cask ale but found there wasn't the demand. The licensee did report that since taking over trade had been ok. The pub has a large open plan layout with a fresh modern interior and although the music may not have been to everyone taste this was a very pleasant pub.

On a night of bad weather this was a very positive survey. All the pubs were open and although a lot had seen change of licensee's the fact that they were still trading in today's economic climate can only be positive.

Phil Gregg

Pubs & Clubs Officer