

Barnsley CAMRA Survey of Wilthorpe, Gawber & Old Town

On March 4th members of Barnsley CAMRA went to the Wilthorpe & Old Town area of Barnsley to assess the current state of pubs in the area below are our findings.

The Wilthorpe

Cask Ale: John Smiths Cask

The only pub on Huddersfield road, the Wilthorpe is an imposing brick building. Inside the pub has an open plan layout with a dining area at one end. The large bar area is modern and tastefully decorated. The John Smiths Cask was the only cask ale on our visit however over recent times the occasional guest ale has made an appearance. The pub offers good value food and the staff were very friendly.

The New Inn

Cask Ale: None Available

Previously named as the Yorkshire Lass but now back to the old name, the new inn is situated on the main road through Gawber. The two roomed pub was very quiet with only a handful of drinkers. The interior was pleasant and traditional, but sadly the beer range on offer was limited to nitro keg beers and lagers. After a swift half of the old coca cola we left.

The Friendship

Just up from the New Inn is the Friendship, now closed and boarded up. However we had heard possible rumours that the pub may be opening as a Cantonese restaurant. This has to be better than the dreaded housing or Tesco Express!

Gawber Road W.M.C

Situated near to the hospital this traditional working men's club is keg only.

The Grey Horse

Cask Ale: Courage Directors

This pub is a real gem. Situated off a side road near to the hospital, the pub has recently undergone a major transformation. The pub now has a modern open plan layout with a games area at one end and large bar. Members commented on the excellent quality of the beer, and the new layout. On our visit a pool match was taking place and the pub was certainly one of the busier pubs of the evening. Sadly since our last visit a few years ago the pub has seen the death of its most famous regular and a Barnsley legend.

The Miners Arms

Cask Ale: Jennings Cumberland, John Smiths Cask.

Next door to the Grey Horse is another Old Town gem. The Miners is a traditional multi roomed pub with a fantastic exterior. The pub was busy with a good mix of clientele all enjoying the great cask ale on offer. The Jennings Cumberland was in great condition and enjoyed by all.

The Moulders

Cask Ale: Timothy Taylors Landlord

The last pub on our survey was the Moulders a previous GBG pub. The pub is situated off Summer Lane. This is a great local community pub with regular locals and sports teams etc. On our visit it was quiz night and we all soon settled in a quiet corner to enjoy the great beer and have a go at the quiz. The pub is currently up for let and over recent times has been through a difficult period. However the current licensee seems to be doing a great job.

This was a great survey with lots of sub urban pubs doing well in a harsh climate. The only one pub we found to be boarded up is hopefully soon to reopen its doors. This is area of Barnsley is often overlooked and in my opinion is well worth a visit.

Phil Gregg

Pubs & Clubs Officer