

BAR-fly Lands At Wentworth, Elsecar & *BAR-Fly* Hemingfield



Whilst the Barnsley Beer Festival will offer a magnificent range of beers, it is, unfortunately, only open for 4 days. Fortunately, for the other 361 days of the year, Elsecar and the surrounding area offers a wealth of good pubs for the real ale fan.

A short distance from Elsecar, the village of Wentworth is our starting point. Here, there are 2 wonderful pubs, either of which make the trip here worthwhile. The first, The Rockingham Arms, is a charming pub, built in 1814 and still has, we are given to understand, some of the original seating. It offers accommodation, meals and, of course, a fine range of up to 6 real ales, including Wentworth WPA and Theakstons Best.



Just down the road, we then come to the George and Dragon, a pub which is in the 2009 edition of the Good Beer Guide. Again, up to 6 beers are served, including offerings from the local Wentworth Brewery, along with an excellent

range of food. Apparently, it was to this pub that Jamie Oliver sloped off when he had finished his day's filming in Rotherham for his most recent television series, so the food must be good, although we would like to have seen the chefs



face when he found out who was sitting in his pub!

Moving on, we visit the adjoining village of Hemingfield. Unfortunately, many of the pubs here when we visited on a Monday evening were closed so it might be best to choose another night for your trip.

The first pub, The Elephant and Castle was sadly closed. Looking through the window, we can report that it appears that 2 guest ales are offered in relatively plush surroundings. Again, an extensive menu is available for those looking for food. There is also an excellent beer garden, ideal for visits on a summer's evening.

The next pub, The Albion, had no cask ale and we moved quickly on to The Tavern which was also closed. However, it is known to serve cask ales and, given the 'olde worlde' charm of the pub, a trip here is certainly worthwhile, just check the opening hours first.

Finally, we find a pub open on Monday night. The Fiddler's Arms is a traditional local pub, serving John Smith's cask and one other guest ale. Speaking to the Landlady, the pub is keen to promote cask ales which have, thus far, been selling well. Given that many of the other pubs in the village were closed, the Fiddler's Arms proved very popular, with a game of bingo being played as we walked through the door.

We then move back into the village of Elsecar. The first two pubs we visit, The Ship Inn and the Clothiers Arms offer no cask ales so we carry on by. The next pub, The Fitzwilliam Arms has no cask ale on when we visit, but there are handpumps on the bar which were covered with bar towels. We are hopeful that the absence of ale is to do with when we visit, and that weekends will find the pumps in use!

Finally, we find a pub offering something worth drinking. The Crown, only a short walk from Milton Hall – our beer festival venue, offers Tetley's Cask and one other guest ale, usually black sheep.



We now end our trip with two little gems, both of which are in the Good Beer Guide and both of which are within a couple of hundred yards of Milton Hall.

The Milton Arms is a comfortable and welcoming pub, offering three real ales, including Stones Cask and two changing guest

ales. The landlord is also an accomplished chef and an excellent range of food is also on offer. Our final pub is the Market Hotel, a previous Barnsley CAMRA pub of the year. A fine range of four ales are offered, including Wentworth WPA. The pub's pricing policy is



that all ales are sold at the same price, irrespective of strength which, at only £2.00 per pint when we visited, is excellent value for money. Add to this a large, well kept beer garden, Elsecar Heritage Centre next door and wonderful unspoiled countryside nearby and you have the recipe for a great day out.

