



The Blacksmith Arms, Everton (Doncaster)

by Vincent Allen

We decided to try the Blacksmiths Arms in Everton (just outside Bawtry). The pub has always had a good reputation and has that traditional country pub feel, but has restaurant quality food served in a purpose build extension to the rear of the pub.

We had been on several occasions and always had a good meal with a good menu selection. The prices were a little higher than anywhere else, but the standard and quality made it worth paying the extra.

I believe that since our last visit, new owners have moved in. The prices were a little higher, the quality was still high but the portions and menu selection was not as it once was. The menu now reflects the modern trend for Organic produce and sadly the price reflects that. We arrived at 7:30 pm to a very empty pub (Not a good sign). After ordering drinks at the bar we went into the restaurant area and took a look at the menu.

The selection was not what you would expect to find in a pub, it was mostly Venison, Fillet Steak and the like, all organic with prices to match nothing much for under £10. Luckily they had a specials board (or what felt like the cheap board) with a selection of Curries, and Scampi for.. wait for it £9.95 (finally something under £10).

We decided to order the Scampi and two Chicken Tika's. When the food was brought to our table you could see the disappointment on everyone's face. Don't get me wrong everything was well presented and tasted great, but the portions were on the small side. I am not the biggest eater in the world, but even I was not full after my meal.

Maybe we have been spoilt by all the great pubs in the area that provide value for money, we don't mind paying more for quality or organic but do the portions really have to suffer. It's not a good sign that when after a meal out, you want to go looking for the nearest McDonalds to satisfy your hunger.

Come on Blacksmiths arms, you have lots of competition around you, make up your mind; are you a country pub that delivers quality and value for money or are you a London city centre ala-carte restaurant with a price tag to match?

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