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Real Heritage Pubs Online Guide

Using this guide - The Rankings

All entries stand out as being of particular national heritage interest but there are inevitably notable variations in terms of intactness and quality, hence the ranking system we have adopted.

★★★ Three Star pubs have stayed wholly or largely intact for the last fifty years, or retain particular rooms or features that are truly rare or exceptional, or display a combination of the two.

★★ Two Star pubs have interiors where the intactness and quality levels will be somewhat lower than for Three Star

★ The interiors of One Star pubs will have either readily identifiable historic layouts or retain rooms or features of special interest but more significant changes are allowable.

These online guides provide you with up-to-date descriptions, on a region by region basis, of pubs listed on our National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. Please note that the content will differ from that in the hard-copy guides where the pub information dates to when that guide was published. The hard-copy guides also contain more editorial material.

Cead mille failte (a hundred thousand welcomes)

Belfast & Lisburn Pubs - see under Belfast; Falls (Belfast); Lisburn; Ormeau (Belfast)

County Antrim Pubs - see Ballycastle; Ballyeaston; Bushmills; Cushendall; Cushenden; Mallusk (near Belfast); Portrush; Randlestown. in More To Try section - see Ahoghill; Ballymena; Carncastle

County Antrim Pubs -

Closed Pubs

More to Try

Cead mille failte (a hundred thousand welcomes)

‘The Irish Pub’ is a must-do attraction for any visitor to Northern Ireland. Here you will find a huge variety of them – big and small, town and country, the richly embellished and the very simple. But they all share one thing in common – they retain historic interiors. Whilst most pubs have seen sweeping changes in recent years, these have not.

Many pubs have long histories and they may be situated in very old buildings. It therefore comes as a surprise to most people to learn that the physical things in the pub that really give it its character – the layout, the furnishings and the decoration – are rarely more than two or three decades old. This is not something confined to Northern Ireland. It’s the same throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland where well-crafted, durable old fittings have been often ejected only to be replaced some years later with imitation Victorian work once tastes swung back! In fact, of the 1,526 premises with a pub licence in Northern Ireland at the end of 2005 we could only find 45 we considered had enough historic work for us to include here – put another way that’s less than 4%. With so few genuine historic interiors left we believe they are worth preserving and seeking out.

The pubs included here are very largely as they were before the mid-1960s (when an orgy of pub refitting and opening out began) or, if they have been expanded, this has been done sensitively and without destroying the historic heart. The survival of multiple rooms and old furnishings and fittings has been crucial to the selection. This is not to say that pubs not included here are not worth a visit: it’s just that what they contain is quite new.

Northern Ireland has six counties and we have placed Belfast & Lisburn in a separate section. The towns and villages are arranged alphabetically and the main pub entries have details of their addresses, phone numbers, if there is public transport access, traditional Irish music or food.

To help you make the most of your visits, here are a few of the things that make Northern Irish pubs in general, and these ones in particular, special.

Advertising mirrors. Many Northern Irish pubs, like Scotland's, are embellished with old mirrors, usually advertising long-vanished spirits but also ales, other drinks and sometimes tobacco products. Some, like those at the West End Bar in Portadown and the Central Bar in Irvinestown are of epic size. Not surprisingly, most are devoted to promoting various brands of Irish whiskey.

Casks behind the bar. Both Ireland and Scotland have a long tradition of spirits drinking and this finds expression in casks mounted in bar back-fittings. In times gone by pubs took bulk supplies and decanted them into casks of varying size. Many still survive and you will find them mounted both vertically and on their sides. They seem to have generally gone out of use in the interwar period, although two 'working' examples are still known, one in Co. Kildare and one in Scotland.

Craic. The craic (pronounced 'crack') in Irish pubs is inescapable and it will be among your happiest memories of them. It's an Irish word with no ready English equivalent but what is it about? Other customers and the staff will bring you into the conversation in no time and you'll find there is banter, jokes and the general feeling of people enjoying one another's company – that's the craic. Irish pubgoers are a really sociable, friendly lot and it is often said 'you'll never be alone in an Irish pub!'

Live music. Traditional Irish music (often nicknamed 'fiddly dee') is a marvellous feature of the local pub scene and we tell you where you can find it. You will also encounter other styles according to the mood and tastes of the players. They tend to assemble mid-evening on regular days, usually from the middle to end of the week. The ad hoc nature of most live pub music means we strongly recommend you phone ahead to check times and days to avoid disappointment.

Nicknames. Don't be surprised if you ask about a certain pub and are met with 'Oh, you mean So-and-So's Bar?' It's quite usual for Irish pubs to have two names, an 'official' one and a nickname. The second, popular name is usually that of an owner, living or sometimes long dead.

Opening times. The standard pub opening hours in Northern Ireland are from 11.30am till 11pm plus 30 minutes drinking-up time (Monday to Saturday). Some pubs in the towns and cities have late licences which allow drinking often until 1am. On Sundays the normal hours are 12.30pm until 11pm. Where we know of very restricted opening hours or different times between summer and winter, this is mentioned but we cannot guarantee completeness. Also, licensees may change their opening hours so, if travelling a distance, you are advised to phone ahead.

Snugs. At the world-famous Crown, Belfast, and some other pubs listed here, you will find a delightful historic feature that is special to Northern Ireland – a row of tiny snugs facing the counter across a wide alleyway. They usually date from late Victorian times and are wonderful places to have a secluded drink with your friends. In a snug at the Crown, at quieter times, you can press the bell-push to summon a drink to your table, just like the Victorians. Other pubs, while not having a whole row of snugs, may have just one, usually near the entrance, so that a customer could pop in for a quick one without the notice of the rest of the clientele.

Spirit-grocers. At a few pubs, such as the House of McDonnell, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim you can see traces of the traditional Irish combination of a shop and drinking place. A few still exist in the Republic of Ireland but they were made illegal in 1923 in the north in an attempt to dissociate the sober business of shopping from the less reputable one of drinking.

Uncorking the beer. Most beer in Northern Ireland today is a pasteurised, carbonated product delivered in aluminium kegs. But at several of the pubs listed here you will see reminders of how things were very different just half a century ago. The majority of pubs used to bottle their own from bulk supplies delivered by the brewery. They used corks (later metal crown corks) and applied labels with the name of their premises. So the de-corkers found on or near many a bar counter were originally for beer, not wine bottles. At O’Kane’s, Randalstown, Co. Antrim and the old bottling equipment is on show and at the Harbour Bar, Portrush, Co. Antrim they display one of the last labels printed for the pub before in-house bottling ceased. At the otherwise modern Moran’s Bar in Spencer Street, Londonderry/Derry City, you can see the pub’s corking machine.

Statutory Listing. A third of the pubs here are statutorily ‘listed’ which aims to protect them from damaging change. Grade A indicates a building of national importance, B+ indicates a relatively minor alteration etc. otherwise it would have merited A status. Grades B1 and B2 indicate buildings of local importance. We hope this guide will lead to more of these pubs being awarded ‘listed’ status in the future.

Public transport. We indicate where pubs are close to a railway station and also those on a Goldline express coach route. For Belfast pubs we show the number of the new Metro bus service, all of which run from City Hall. In addition there are many local bus services so it is possible to reach the majority of the pubs in this guide without driving. Bicycles can be taken on all Goldliner buses and NI railways for quarter adult fare. Unlimited travel passes are available for 1 Day, 3 days out of 8 consecutive days and 7 days unlimited travel. Full details on how to reach the towns and villages can be obtained by contacting Translink for all rail and bus information on 028 9066 6636 or by visiting their website www.translink.co.uk

Real Ale. Sadly, the number of pubs in this guide selling real ale is tiny and we encourage visitors to ask for real ale as demand will result in more outlets. For an up-to-date list of all known draught real ale outlets in Northern Ireland, some of which offer locally brewed beers. and also details of the successful annual Belfast Beer & Music Festival held in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, each autumn visit the CAMRA Northern Ireland branch website www.camrani.org.uk

A Word of Advice. If you are visiting Northern Ireland’s pubs for the first time you will find genuine local hospitality from both customers and staff and in recent times we are not aware of any problems for tourists visiting these pubs. However, please be aware that as a few of the pubs are still used predominately by one side of the community or the other you are strongly advised to avoid getting into discussions on such subjects as politics, religion or football.”

Why a Guide to Historic Pub Interiors?

This guide develops work started by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) in the early 1990s to identify those pubs throughout the United Kingdom which still retained their historic interiors more or less intact. This pioneering initiative resulted in the National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors, the current edition of which is printed in the 2006 Good Beer Guide. Such has been the rate of change that there are just 183 cases of interiors (out of 60,000!) that have remained much as they were prior to the Second World War. In addition it lists 61 pubs, which although altered, have rooms or features of national importance. Within the total of 244, XXtenXX 12 of the pubs are in Northern Ireland (and are identified in the guide by XXX)***. CAMRA has widened the quest to include pubs that have experienced just modest amounts of change and this has led to the publication of Regional Inventories of historic pub interiors for both London and East Anglia in the past two years. Guides to other regions of the UK are planned.

Michael Slaughter and Geoff Brandwood have been actively involved in preparing the National and Regional Inventories and the present guide is due to

research by Michael over several years to identify the most unspoilt pubs in Northern Ireland. Both Michael and Geoff would like to express their thanks to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board for publishing the guide and so bringing these historic gems to a wider public. They would also like to thank the FLRT for many helpful suggestions of pubs to be included.

Real Ale in Northern Ireland

Only 26 of Northern Ireland's 1526 pubs and bars currently sell real ale. The number of outlets for real ale has been boosted by the opening of nine J.D. Wetherspoon's pubs over the past few years.

The small number of outlets is mainly due to the domination of the local pub scene by brewery giants Guinness and Bass who produce no real ale. Relief is provided by two local small breweries, who also act as wholesalers bringing cask beers from Scotland and England 'across the water'.

The successful annual Belfast Beer & Music Festival held in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, each autumn shows local drinkers' appetite for real ale. Visitors can sample over 100 different beers from all over Ireland and Britain, as well as several ciders. This three-day festival has a wide range of music, good food, pub games and a quiet room. The 2006 Festival is due to be held from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th November (see the Northern Ireland CAMRA Branch website for more details www.camrani.org.uk).

Breweries in Northern Ireland

College Green Brewery, Molly's Yard Restaurant, 1 College Green Mews, Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1LW, Situated in the heart of the university area, it started on-site brewing in April 2006. The tiny brew house has been set up in a restored 19th century coach house to supply 3 real ales to the adjoining restaurant. 028 9032 2600.

Hilden Brewing Co., Hilden House, Hilden, Lisburn BT27 4TY. Hilden Brewery, established 1981 by Ann and Seamus Scullion in restored Georgian stables, is now the oldest established independent brewery in Ireland. 3 real ales are available in selected outlets in N Ireland including the Brewery Tap restaurant, which holds a beer festival in August. To arrange a brewery tour and sampling ring 028 9266 3863.

Whitewater Brewery Co. 40 Tullyframe Road, Kilkeel, Co. Down BT34 4RZ. Whitewater Brewery was set up in 1996 by Kerry and Bernard Sloan and following an expansion in 2000 it now the largest real ale brewery in Northern Ireland. It owns one pub and is about to install equipment to produce 'real ales in a bottle'. 028 4176 9449.

Where to Drink Real Ale

The best source of information about pubs that sell real ale in Northern Ireland is CAMRA's online pub guide, [WhatPub](#). From the main landing page, check the option Search only for pubs and clubs that serve real ale, enter a place name (town/village) in the search box, and Click on Search.

Northern Ireland

Ahoghill

191 Largy Road, Ahoghill, BT42 2RH
Listed Status: Not listed

Gillistown House ★

Prior to 2003 this was a simple, one-room bar with a red diamond quarry tiled floor and newer ones on the left where the shop counter was situated. There is a 'Gillistown House' frosted and etched front window - note the '1' on the back of the front door - the bar back is a splendid carved and mirrored affair with a ballustrade - the bar counter front was covered up with the original underneath - had some old benches from a bank.

In 2003 the **Bar** was expanded sensitively by extending to the right by removing a small store room and is now some 25% larger than previously but clever use of old quarry tiles means this is not obvious - there is a tongue 'n' groove ceiling throughout - dado panelling on the left and front is original on the right (store room side) is new. The bar front (possibly inter-war) is now exposed, but has a new bar top; the bar back has some additions e.g. modern finishes to shelving, also one fridge replaces some shelving.

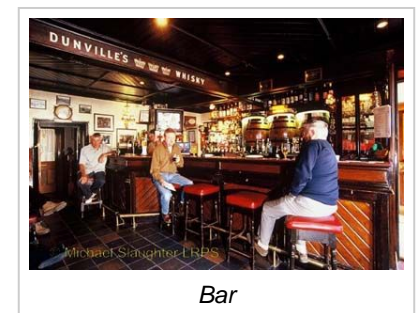


Ardglass

2 Kildare Street, Ardglass, BT30 7TR
Tel: (028) 4484 1236
Email: theoldcommercial@btinternet.com
Listed Status: B1

Old Commercial Bar ★

The immediate attraction is the three upright spirit casks in the bar back but there are plenty of other old features too – the counter, panelled ceiling and a copper heater for water to warm and dilute spirits. The second room (lounge) has been refitted apart from the panelled ceiling and is remarkable for a well which you can peer into. It was reopened in 1994 and re-piped to supply the pub.



Ballycastle

4 The Diamond, Ballycastle, BT54 6AW

Tel: (028) 2076 2364

Listed Status: B+

Boyd Arms ★★★

This three-storey building once also accomodated a hotel but it's now just a pub. Fixtures and fittings from various periods are on display.

The right-hand front door leads into a wide corridor with a red and buff tiled floor, dado panelling, a couple of basic benches and narrow shelves for stand-up drinking. Note the annunciator box in the corridor showing where service was required, including what were five former letting bedrooms. Through the left-hand door is a typical, simple bar stretching back from the street; it includes some Victorian or early 20th century work, although the counter was revamped, probably in the 1950s or 1960s. Attached to the servery is a delightful tiny glazed-in snug with a little hatch through which drinks can be served. The small room at the rear with a figure 2 over the doorway was refitted in 1998. Across the corridor is another room but here the fittings, including the Victorian-style fireplace, are modern.



Interior

Ballycastle

71 Castle Street, Ballycastle, BT54 6AS

Tel: (028) 2076 2975

Listed Status: B1

House of McDonnell ★★ ★

A great classic among Irish pubs, it has been in the hands of the same family for fourteen generations since 1766 and is thus one of the oldest businesses in continuous ownership in the UK.

The interior was probably mainly created around 1896 and displays a typical arrangement for a spirit grocers, where a shopping trip could be combined with one to the pub, until such 'mixed trading' was banned by law in 1923. The grocery part is at the front and has a panelled counter, diamond cream and dark brown tiles laid about 1927 and two large advertising mirrors. The screen formed the division between the two spheres of operation and behind it are a brown and cream tiled floor (dating from the mid-1950s), panelled counter and an impressive bar back fitting which houses two pairs of end-on spirit casks. Both areas of the pub have panelled ceilings, differing in detail from one part to the other. On the rear wall, a large mirror advertises Coleraine 'HC' whisky. Why HC? It stands for House of Commons, as Victorian Irish MPs are said to have been very partial to this brand (the 'e' to denote Irish whisk(e)y is a convention only started during the 20th century). A small snug with old panelled seating leads off to the left, while the other small rear room was a storeroom until the 1950s. The lounge upstairs is only used at busy times. Open approximately 3pm to late Fri and Sat only (traditional music on Fri).



Spirit Grocers Shop part

Ballyeaston

14 Ballyeaston Village, Ballyeaston, BT39 9SH

Tel: 07802 668847

Listed Status: Not listed

Carmichael's ★★★

Behind the modest grey exterior of the property lies a simple, homely village pub, barely changed for many years.

As you enter, the public bar is on the left and has a high, two-sided counter with rows of tiles at the top and bottom. The attractive, delicate bar-back fitting is said to have been introduced in 1937 and was probably brought in from a domestic setting. It has marquetry and balusters in the lower part, mirrored panels and a small central cupboard. A pair of interesting McConnell's glass whisky vats sit on top. The other room, across the hallway, is plainly appointed and brought into use on Saturdays which are normally very busy. Beer is only sold in bottles.



Interior

Belfast

46 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BA

Directions: opp Europa Hotel and Great Victoria St station

Tel: (028) 9024 3187

Email: crownliquorsaloon@nicholsonspubs.com

Website:

<https://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk/restaurants/scotlandandnorthernireland/thecrownliquorsaloonbelfast>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Great Victoria Street) and Bus Stop

Listed Status: A

Crown ★★★

Together with Liverpool's Philharmonic and the Vines, this is one of the UK's three most spectacular pubs. Built in the 1840s, it was refitted in late Victorian times.

. The exterior, with its exotic tiling, gives a hint of the treasures within. On one side is the servery; on the other a row of small drinking booths lettered 'A' upwards with working bell-pushes, which register at an amazingly ornate annunciator box halfway down the bar (booth J, in the vicinity of what is now the gents', was removed in the 1970s). The booths are guarded by gryphons and lions bearing shields with Latin inscriptions which translate as 'True love of country' and 'Fortune favours the brave'. All the snugs have charming back-painted mirrors. The bar-back contains a series of casks and also two banks of taps which dispensed spirits in times gone by, as at the Haunch of Venison, Salisbury and the Bull Inn, Paisley. The magnificent ceramic counter was made by Craven Dunnill and probably dates from around 1898: the pattern reappears at the Red Lion, Erdington, Birmingham: the granite top is later. A large advertising mirror of about 1898 adorns the snug to the left of the main door (bomb damaged in 1993 and restored 1998). Much of the lighting is by gas (though it's uncertain if the fittings are old and have been in continuous use) and this means of illumination adds greatly to the atmosphere. In the porch, a mosaic crown gives rise to the saying that here you can trample on the British Crown with impunity! Owned since 1978 by the National Trust which has undertaken exemplary restoration work.



Bar and snug

Belfast

312-320 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2GE

Tel: (028) 9064 1410

Email: info@errigle.com

Website: <https://errigle.com/>

Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale

Public Transport: Near Bus Stop

Listed Status: Not listed

Errigle Inn ★

Hidden away in the rear right of this large complex of bars are two rooms that retain fittings from 1935. The very stylish Oak Lounge retains its original wall-panelling with decorative strapping at the top all around the room, rustic beams and lovely Art Deco stained and leaded glass windows behind the bar. It has a recently restored original Irish Oak floor, a lot of the original furniture remains but the heavily carved bar counter front was installed in 1995. From mid-evening you can sit down and receive table service - something that's always happened here, but a rarity in pubs these days.



Oak Bar

Belfast

130 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2EB

Tel: (028) 9043 8764

Email: info@hatfieldhousebelfast.com

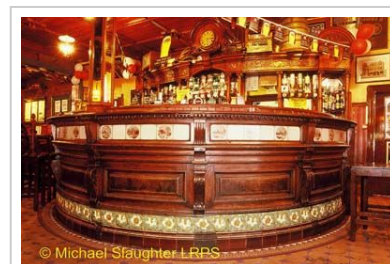
Website: <http://www.hatfieldhousebelfast.com/>

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Botanic)

Listed Status: B1

Hatfield House ★

The frontage, with plenty of ceramic work, is as ornate as at the more famous Crown. It was put up in the 1880s by entrepreneurs, Braithwaite and McCann whose names are commemorated in elaborate ironwork over the front doors. The interior has a stunning bar-back in a mixture of styles, and an impressive semicircular bar counter. You can trace in the floor the evidence of former snugs, like those at the Crown which ringed the sides of the pub – they would have presented a superb sight: one open snug has survived between the two front entrance doors. The area on the left has been opened up: it is said that originally it was a doctor's surgery!



Bar counter

Belfast

30-32 Bank Street, Belfast, BT1 1HL

Tel: (028) 9024 6058

Email: kieran@kellyscellars.co.uk

Website: <https://kellyscellars.co.uk/>

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Belfast Great Victoria Street)

Listed Status: B2

Belfast

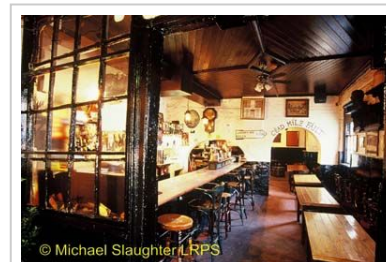
79-83 May Street, Belfast, BT1 3JL

Tel: (028) 9031 0375

Listed Status: B2

Kelly's Cellars ★

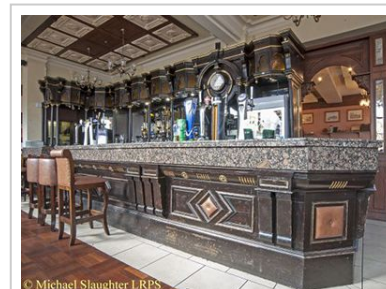
A famous old pub dating back to the eighteenth century and full of atmosphere. Naturally a good deal has been changed and replaced over the years but the rough, painted brick walls, dark woodwork and basic servery all add to the old feel of the place. The L-shaped servery with its low counter straddling the two brick arches is known from photographs to have been like this by the middle of the twentieth century. But the screen adjacent to the servery with its warped and twisted glazing bars may even go back a couple of centuries (in contrast to the neat modern work parallel to it).



Bar

Ronnie Drew's ★

Built c.1920 and increased in size in 1998 by combining the former solicitor's office on the right. The original bar on the left still retains a row of 5 (was 6) snugs. The snugs lost their doors and have new seating following the relaying of the floor in recent years. The original seven-bay bar back with eight-sided niches remains as does the bar counter but with a new polished stone top. The right-hand side is cafe-bar in style and there is a upstairs bar also with modern fittings including a X-rated brass statue.



Servery

Bushmills

72-74 Main Street, Bushmills, BT57 8QD

Tel: (028) 2073 1240

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bushmills)

Listed Status: B

Cairncastle

120 Brustin Brae Road, Cairncastle, BT40 2RL

Tel: (028) 2858 3252

Website: <https://matties.co.uk>

Listed Status: Not listed

Bush House ★★★

A three-room terraced pub where most of the interior work probably dates from just before WWII or possibly the 1950s but there is some earlier work as well.

The small front bar has a terrazzo floor and a fine Victorian bar-back fitting with four mirrors advertising various whiskies: the panelled counter is of the 1930s or 1950s and has a terrazzo trough along its base. The lounge at the rear of the pub has more terrazzo flooring, panelling and bell-pushes for service. The elegant mahogany fire surround is said to have been brought in from the former Arcadia ballroom in Portrush. The old kitchen (rear left), complete with white glazed brick and 'Fairy Esse' cooker, was pressed into public use later as the bell-pushes indicate. In recent years the wall separating the kitchen from the small front room (now games room) was removed. The ladies' toilet penny-in-the-slot-device was still in use until the late 1990s.



Bar Back

Matties Meeting House ★

A passageway runs from the front door to the rear and on the left are two snug-like bars which along with Mary McBride's are some of the smallest in Northern Ireland.

Just inside the front door on the left is a tiny bar with old split door which was cut due to an old bench where the fruit machine is now situated. The bar counter is old but more modern panels have been added to the front. The bar-back features two narrow spirit casks last used a long time ago. Shelving is old. Has a modern tiled floor but dado panelling is old? Note the small old 'Office' area on the bar counter left side which is now painted cream with modern colourful glass.



Bar Back

Camlough

12 Main Street, Camlough, BT35 7JG

Tel: (028) 3083 0515

Listed Status: B1

Carraghers Bar ★★

Behind the plain red frontage lies a most important and intact historic interior. The pub, originally built in 1862 and in the Carragher family's hands since 1888, appears to have been refitted around 1890.

. Much of the main bar is taken up with three snugs. Each has its own number, with panels of stained glass in the doors. The bar-back is a seven-bay affair with mirrored strips and four spirit casks (two were for rum, two whiskey). The bar counter has a row of coloured tiles near the top. A fine mirror advertises whisky (no 'e') from Kirker Greer & Co. of Belfast. Note the copper heater, still in use occasionally, for warming whiskey. The only significant change since Victorian times has been the laying of attractive terrazzo flooring with a spittoon trough in the 1920s. A door at the rear leads into a small room, also terrazzo-floored and beyond that is a room with a full-size snooker table (the fixed bench seating here was replaced in the 1980s. At the front right, the small room numbered 1 (hence the snugs are numbered 2 to 4), was refurbished in the 1980s. The front windows are modern replacements for ones destroyed in the Troubles. Listed in 2008 following a successful application by CAMRA.



Bar Back

Castledawson

27-35 Main Street, Castledawson, BT45 8AA

Tel: (028) 7946 8778

Listed Status: Not listed

Garvin's Hotel Bar ★★

Built as the Dawson Arms Hotel (the etched front window is inscribed 'Hotel Bar'), it dates back to the late 18th century and has been owned by the Garvin family since that time. This is a totally unspoilt bar situated next door to the Garvin Funeral Services which is also run by the same family. The spartan bar with its black and red quarry tiled floor and few tables and chairs has been a single space since the removal of two tiny snugs at the rear left corner of the room in c.1921. On the left as you enter is an old screen forming a small open snug.

The last changes were in around 1960 when fresh mirrors were placed on the bar back fitting which has some simple shelves and a new counter added with a red Formica top. There is a small 1950s tiled fireplace (disused) on the left and tucked away around to the rear right is another 1950s tiled fireplace. At the rear the gents' and the ante room have dado of what looks like 1930s tiled walls but possibly added in the 1950s. The ladies toilet is situated outside in the back yard – “Not many ladies drink here” says the landlord! The Dawson Arms Hotel inn sign has recently been refurbished and is on show in the bar in its full glory. Also retained are the Guinness bottle filler and both crown corks & original cork tops.

Currently only open on Friday and Saturday evenings and sells craft beer from the nearby Heaney Brewery.



Servery

Castlewellan

76 Main Street, Castlewellan, BT31 9DL

Tel: (028) 4377 1355

Listed Status: Not listed

Fountain Bar ★

Notable for a superb bar-back, said to have been brought in from a pub in Lurgan during the rebuilding of 1906. It sports four oval spirit casks, set end on, each with a lozenge-shaped mirror naming the contents – ‘Fine Old Jamaica Rum’ etc. Two of the casks still have their highly unusual, original taps which acted like optics – one turn for a quarter gill, two for a half. There are another four taps which dispensed soft drinks. Wood-panelled ceiling and two rather oriental-looking cast-iron columns supporting the building above. There was, sadly, a thorough-going refurbishment in 1967 when the snugs were removed.



Bar

Castlewellan

19 Main Street, Castlewellan, BT31 9DF

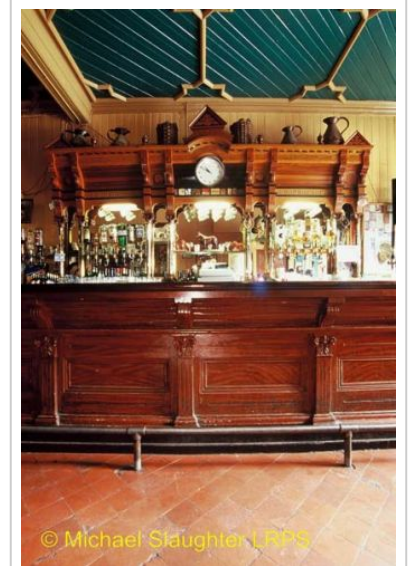
Tel: (028) 4377 1200

Website: <https://savages-bar-castlewellan.business.site/>

Listed Status: Not listed

Savages Bar ★

Built 1894 when it was owned by the King family – see the name in the two-tone granite façade to the ground floor. It has changed by the incorporation of the neighbouring shop but a good deal of original fittings survive: bar-back (bearing the date 1894), counter, a few original seat ends and the red tile floor. Note also that the walls are entirely wood-panelled, as is the ceiling. A particularly fine mirror advertising Wilson's 'Old Irish Whisky'. Objects on display include a copper apparatus used to dilute high proof spirits with hot water.



© Michael Slaughter L.P.S.S.

Bar counter

Coalisland

28 Main Street, Coalisland, BT71 4NB

Tel: (028) 8774 8107

Listed Status: Not listed

Cushendall

23 Mill Street, Cushendall, BT44 0RR

Tel: (028) 2177 1876

Email: johnnyjoesbar@outlook.com

Listed Status: B1

Central Bar ★

Don't be put off by the modern frontage and the look of a refitted pub, the Central Bar's public bar at the front retains a 100 year old bar back fitting. There is a panelled bar counter with brackets running along it. 6 bay bar back, mirrored with ornately carved broken pediment at the top, columns and capitals and decoratively carved brackets. Only two small fridges have replaced some lower shelves. Tiled floor, dado paneling and bench seating are modern. The Central Bar runs a well stocked off license shop on the right with its own entrance. A number of pubs in small towns in Northern Ireland do have seemingly popular / successful off sales shops despite the proliferation of supermarkets. Modern bar with pool at rear.



Bar Counter

J. McCollam ★

One enters into a bar with a most unusual L-shaped counter, red and black floor tiling and a fixed bench down the side. The plain bar-back houses three vertical spirit casks. To the left a formerly private room has been incorporated into pub use and behind it the domestic kitchen with its range has also been turned into a drinking area. At the rear the former bottling store has been converted to another room and has an old fireplace. The pub won the Traditional Irish Music Award in 2002 and 2003. As at December 2005 a dining room is planned for upstairs.



Interior

Cushendall

7 Bridge Street, Cushendall, BT44 0RP
Tel: (028) 2177 1730
Listed Status: B1

Cushendun

2 Main Street, Cushendun, BT44 0PH
Tel: (028) 2176 1511
Listed Status: B

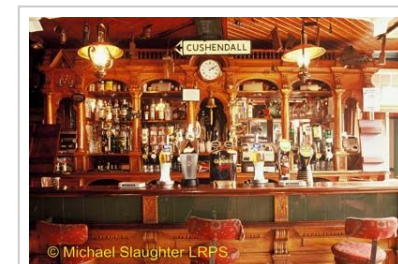
Donaghadee

33 High Street, Donaghadee, BT21
0AH
Tel: (028) 9188 4595
Email: info@graceneills.com
Website: <http://graceneills.com>

Grace Neills Bar ★

Mc Mullan's Central Bar ★★

A thoroughly spectacular bar-back, dating, probably, from a refitting of 1883. It has seven bays and is a riot of decoration: it houses three vertical spirit casks (a fourth serves as a table). Also there is a good bar counter and some remnants of timber and glazed snugs. These were removed but were then put back, albeit in an unauthentic arrangement. Also note the advertising mirrors and external etched windows.

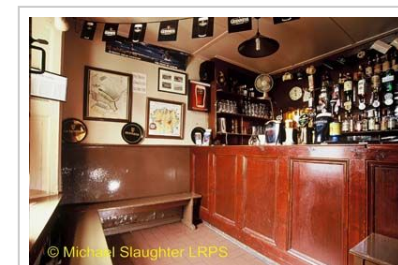


Public Bar

Mary McBride's ★

This pub is included for the original public area that amounts to just a single tiny bar, 5ft x 9ft 6ins, and, as such, it was one of the smallest pubs in all Ireland. It is barely altered but in recent years it has been joined by more rooms including a new bar at the rear and a room on the right converted from living quarters.

The porch has a modern tiled floor and there is a passageway that runs to the rear. On the left is a latch door that has a painted-out figure '1' and leads into the tiny bar. It has no tables or chairs and just very simple fittings – a plain bar counter, simple shelving and a basic bench round two walls. The floor tiles and seating are relatively modern. As part of a St Patrick's Day competition the total number of customers who could be crammed in was found to be 42!



Bar

Downpatrick

14-16 English Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6AB

Tel: (028) 4461 2012

Email: info@denvirs.com

Website: <https://www.denvirs.com/>

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Downpatrick)

Listed Status: Not listed

Denvir's Hotel ★

This hotel retains a little altered small bar. On the right the door leads into an old hall with black and white tiled floor, old dado panelling, a good cornice and two part ceiling with a shallow arch between them, and two old 'Bar' windows. Through the inner door and on the right is a very small bar. It has an old possibly Victorian bar counter painted white and an old bar back with mirrored panels.



Servery

Behind the servery look for the burnished copper wash basin. The old stone fireplace to the right of the servery was blocked off by a wall and only uncovered in 1985 by the then owner Patsy Reynolds. There is a photo on the wall possibly taken in the 1960s showing the bar in its present position with a wall where the fireplace is now. The dado panelling on the walls is old but the flagstone-like tiled floor is modern. The rest of the hotel is modernised.

Dungannon

4 Castle Court, Thomas Street, Dungannon, BT70 1HJ

Directions: SE end of Thomas behind a modern pair of shops/offices.

Tel: (028) 8772 2983

Listed Status: Not listed

Feeneys Bar ★

Situated near the Square down an alleyway off Thomas Street this small single bar is all that remains of a hotel that had its entrance on the Square but was sold off in the 1960/70s. This wee man's bar has a 100 year old bar back fitting with decorative carved wood at the top, narrow mirrored panels down the sides of the seven bays. Note the barrel shaped wooden areas where spirit casks were situated originally. The room has a rare copper ceiling painted red. The counter front is possibly post-war as is the fixed seating and the timber-effect on the walls; modern brick fireplace. The bar did have a row of snugs at the rear which were lost when the land was sold off for shops.



Exterior

Dungannon

68 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 1BJ

Tel: (028) 8772 2053

Listed Status: Not listed

Enniskillen

6 Church Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7EJ

Tel: (028) 6632 2143

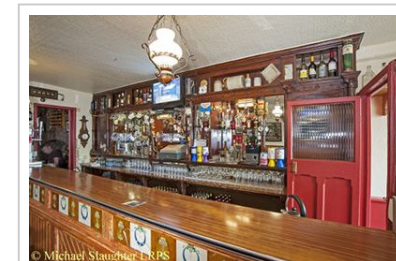
Email: blakesofthehollow@hotmail.co.uk

Website: <http://blakesofthehollow.com/>

Listed Status: B

Quinn's Bar ★

Held by the Quinn family for over 50 years. The distinctive features are a tiny snug by the entrance, and the old counter (with pretty tiling at the top) and bar-back which date from about a hundred years ago. There is an indicator box high up at the far end of the servery, which showed where customers were looking for a drink in the days when table service was on offer. The rear room brings into use what was previously family accommodation.



Servery

Blakes of the Hollow ★★★

The interior of this fine pub retains its Victorian layout and fittings which probably date from a refurbishment of 1887. It was run by the same family from 1929 to 1996.

The front bar is full of character, with the walls and ceiling being entirely wood-panelled. It has four large spirit casks set vertically in the bar-back; and the panelled counter has a rare white marble top. High up on the right-hand wall the box showed where service was required elsewhere in the pub. The first of these places is a tiny snug by the entrance which no doubt doubled as an off-sales and somewhere for a quiet drink without attracting general attention.. At the far end of the servery is another snug with a venerable cast-iron fireplace. Further back still and up a flight of steps is the publican's office, complete with the desk from which he could keep an eye on proceedings. Behind this is another snug and then a further larger (now games) room. At the rear, a massive 21st-century extension with a Gothic theme has been built on several levels and includes bars and a dining room.



Bar

Falls

491 Falls Road, Falls, BT12 6DE
Tel: (028) 9032 8026
Email: gmrockbar@outlook.com
Listed Status: B2

Hilltown

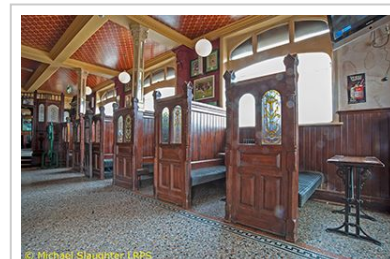
22 Kilkeel Road, Hilltown, BT34 5XZ
Directions: 1m E of Hilltown on B27
Tel: (028) 4063 0342
Listed Status: Not listed

Hilltown

45 Castlewellan Road, Hilltown, BT34 5YJ
Directions: 1½ m E of Hilltown on B8
Tel: (028) 4063 0811
Listed Status: Not listed

Rock Bar ★★

Built in 1901 by entrepreneur Frank O'Neill and closely resembling the Crown and the Fort in the way it was fitted out. There are five snugs (one still has a door) facing the servery across an area of open, terrazzo flooring. There is evidence that there was a sixth at one time. The counter is original but the bar-back is a replacement. The old one was a casualty of the Troubles like other parts of the pub (e.g. note much new woodwork in the snugs, and the damage on the corner of the building caused by a rocket). The upper parts of the building are supported by three fine mirror-faced columns.



Snugs

Doran's Bar ★

A friendly, simple two-room pub in the same family for 60 years and, as the name suggests, with a fine vista over the Mourne Mountains. Very popular with walkers. There is an old panelled counter and basic shelving. Fine old mirror advertising 'Millin & Rankin's High Class Mineral Waters, Belfast'. The lounge bar has changed little since the 1960s when it was decorated with a painting of Carlingford Lough. But the Mourne View is more than just a pub - you can also buy petrol at the filling station or even arrange a funeral with the undertaking side of the business!



Bar

Horseshoe ★★

A warm welcome awaits you in this unusual bar. What makes it unusual is the vast semi-circular bar counter where customers sit on stools. Its date is uncertain but may be inter-war. Victorian style bar-back and two old Kirker, Greer whisky mirrors. Panelled ceiling and a cast-iron column.



Bar

Hilltown

29 Main Street, Hilltown, BT34 5UJ

Tel: (028) 4063 1265

Email: Clonduffbar@outlook.com

Listed Status: Not listed

Irvinestown

38 Main Street, Irvinestown, BT94 1GJ

Tel: (028) 6862 1249

Listed Status: Not listed

Lowry's ★★

A beautifully preserved small town, two-room bar. Plain fittings including a typical counter with diagonal tongue-and-grooved-boarding. Plain boarded ceilings. Lounge refitted 1968 but with an earlier fireplace. In the hands of the Lowry family since 1953.

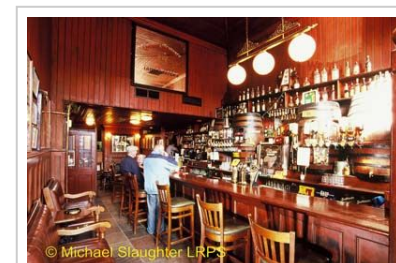


Bar

Central Bar ★★★

Behind the modest yellow facade of this popular drinkers' pub can be found a really impressive Victorian interior. The pub was refitted in 1895 and has been in the Reihill family since 1924.

A tiny snug lies to the right of the entrance for off-sales and taking a discreet drink; it has service via a ticket booth-style opening. In the main bar not only are the walls panelled but so is the ceiling (high at the front, low at the back), thus creating a very distinctive warm atmosphere. There is a huge Cantrell & Cochrane advertising mirror plus other smaller ones. Set behind the 25ft -long counter are four mighty barrels, set vertically and which are thought to have last dispensed spirits in 1953. On the left-hand wall is an annunciator box for the staff in times past to see where table service was required. Behind is another, smaller room (no doubt the 'Back Room' mentioned on the annunciator box), also fully panelled. Further back still, another room was brought into use in relatively modern times. On the left is a moderately large 'sitting room' (now coffee room), also named on the annunciator box.



Bar

Killyleagh

2 Cross Street, Killyleagh, BT30 9QR

Listed Status: Not listed

Killyleagh

35 High Street, Killyleagh, BT30 9QF

Tel: (028) 4482 1182

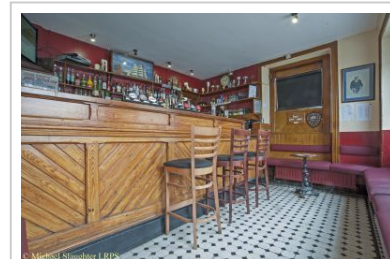
Email: dufferinarms@hotmail.co.uk

Website: <https://www.dufferinarms.co.uk/>

Listed Status: B1

Central Bar ★

From the front door there is a colourful Victorian tiled floor. A door on the right leads to a small public bar with a black and white tiled floor, old panelled bar counter with diagonally laid panels and an added top section to bring the counter from a grocery shelf height to bar level. The old bar back shelves remain except some lower shelves which have been replaced by fridges. Note the unusual two slim drawers in the shelving on the right. The fixed seating is just post-war and recovered. The passage has a hatch to the side of the servery which looks like it was added in the 1960s. On the left two small rooms have been combined – the rear room was a domestic kitchen and old range cooker remains – and apart from the panelled ceiling there are no old fittings. It still retains an off license shop in Shore Street.

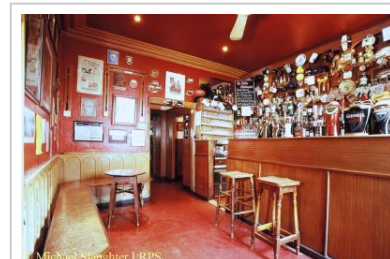


Public Bar

Dufferin Arms ★★★

The main attractions at this former hotel are the splendidly basic public bar on the right of the entrance and the two tiny snugs behind it, on opposite sides of a corridor.

In the public bar, the counter is now faced in plain boarding of about 1960 but behind this is the old, probably Victorian one (with a row of tiles at the top). The other furnishings are simple enough and include bench seating with unusual arched detail to the backs. The right-hand snug accesses the servery via a tiny opening; while that on the left has a bell-push to summon a drink. The rear room was refitted about 1960 but note the bell-push near the doorway with an enamel plate saying 'Service'. The gents' at the rear has a terrazzo floor and three big urinals. On the left the raised area was created in 2007 after the introduction of the smoking ban in pubs so as to give access to a smokers' area outside.



Public bar

Limavady

50 Main Street, Limavady, BT49 0EU

Tel: (028) 7772 2328

Listed Status: B2

Lisburn

1 Young Street, Lisburn, BT27 5EA

Tel: (028) 9266 3061

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Lisburn)

Listed Status: Not listed

Owens Bar ★★★

Opened in 1852, this bar was thoroughly refitted in 1929, although the conservative design could easily be mistaken for something earlier. It has been in the hands of the Owens family since 1960 with no significant change since

A large square servery, with two spirit casks in the back-fitting, takes up much of the main bar, but this is made up for by three further cosy rooms. A fully panelled corridor leads to the rear and panelled ceilings adorn all except the rear left-hand room. The etched windows at the front are replacements. The Owens family have cherished the pub – for example, see the way the illuminated fridges are tucked under the counter, and their refusal to encumber the counter with the large, ugly, modern advertising founts that sprout up in most Northern Irish pubs.

Alexander's ★★

The public bar has an old bar back of five bays and no loss of lower shelves. The sloping bar counter of ply with a wooden top is only 10 years old – actually two counters with one in front of the old bar back and left one having only some lower shelving behind it. The fixed seating looks to date from the 1960/70s. Look for the old bell box above the window on the Young Street side which still works.

Behind the public bar is a small room that was formerly the family kitchen with 1960s fixed seating around a large table. On the right Young Street side is a small room that acted as the ladies snug also with 1960s fixed seating around a round table.



Bar



Lounge Looking Towards Servery

Lisburn

9 Chapel Hill, Lisburn, BT28 1EP

Listed Status: B2

Lavery's ★

The public bar (on the left) retains its richly decorated five-bay Victorian bar-back and the remains of five spirit casks. The bar counter is contemporary, as is the overall panelling on the walls and ceiling. There used to be two snugs down the right-hand side but these were removed in the 1960s. There are also the vestiges of a tiny snug between the end of the bar counter and the window which is said to have been used by ladies nipping in for a surreptitious drink. The lounge, forming the right-hand part of the pub is all modern but has been carefully fitted out in traditional style. If the doors are closed in the evening, knock on the right-hand one.



Bar back

Lisburn

15 Smithfield, Lisburn, BT28 1TH

Tel: (028) 9279 3906

Email: smithfieldhouse15@gmail.com

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Lisburn)

Listed Status: Not listed

Meigh

2 Drumintee Road, Meigh, BT35 8JT

Directions: B113

Tel: (028) 3084 8789

Listed Status: Not listed

Smithfield House ★★

The front bar is a real time-warp, refitted in 1954 with sleek detailing, typical of its time, and hardly changed since. It is really a single space but, on the left, are a couple of screens which mark out what are effectively three snugs (that at the rear, which used to have a pair of doors, is nicknamed 'the confessional'). The smooth, curved convex plywood panelled counter stands on a plinth, which, like the rest of the flooring, is of terrazzo. The black counter top has what is claimed to be one of the first uses of Formica in Ireland (however, as the material had been around for several decades, this may be something of an exaggeration!). The bar-back has an elegant curved centre-piece with inset clock. Painted-over wooden panels to the ceiling. Don't miss the front door with its attractive sun-burst motif in the glazing. There are, inevitably, some later but minor alterations. At the rear is a large modern lounge, popularly known as 'The Room'.

Johnny Murphy's ★

This pub has expanded considerably to accommodate a thriving trade but still retains the historic core. On the right is the public bar which has a fine old bar back and counter, also fully panelled walls with benches attached. Separated from the old drinking area by a timber and glass screen is a bar on the street corner that was a post office until the mid-1990s and also has panelled walls. The counter in the former Post Office part was added in around 2000. To the right of the public bar was a snug but little used room and in 2009 the area was transferred to the fish and chip shop next door who has used the extra space to add an off license.



Rear Snug



Bar

Moy

9-10 The Square, Moy, BT71 7SG

Tel: 07526 252796

Website: <https://tomneys.com/>

Listed Status: B2

Newcastle

71 South Promenade, Newcastle, BT33 0EY

Tel: (028) 4372 3430

Website: <https://mackensnewcastle.co.uk/>

Listed Status: Not listed

Newry

16 Upper Water Street, Newry, BT34

1DJ

Tel: (028) 3026 4563

Listed Status: Not listed

Jean Crozier's

★★

Tomney's Bar ★★

This 300 year old pub has been in the same family ownership all that time and is virtually untouched since a refit in 1946. The front bar, dominated by the servery with its Art Deco styling, is unique among Northern Ireland's pubs. The sides and top of the bar-back glitter with a myriad tiny mirror tiles on a large cylindrical feature with red and black stripes. The virtually semi-circular counter originally had shiny panels in Vitrolite all along the top but, sadly, this deteriorated and has been replaced by a new strip of material. There are two old leatherette benches and the central light fitting also glitters from the tiny mirror tiles. All you see is what you might expect in a plush 1930s cinema - only in miniature. Through the 'French Room' behind this bar can be found the lounge, open only on Saturday evenings. This has a plainer, sloping counter and bar-back and fireplace from the refit period. Two more small rooms are on the right, one a former kitchen (hence the Aga cooker) and the other with a classic inter-war fireplace.



Art Deco Bar

Mackens Bar ★

A small narrow bar facing the sea. There is a tall bar counter, plain, painted shelving in the bar-back and a panelled ceiling. Two vintage mirrors advertising whisky. Plain lounge on the right and covered-in patio at the rear for a semi-al fresco drink.



Bar

Newtownabbey

584 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 4RF

Tel: (028) 9083 2889

Email: info@crownandshamrock.co.uk

Website: <https://www.crownandshamrock.co.uk/>

Listed Status: Not listed

Crown & Shamrock Inn ★

A simply furnished public bar with a high counter and a plain back-fitting. The premises were expanded to the rear in the 1960s when the lounge was fitted out with furnishings so typical of the time. Back in 1901 the disreputable character of the pub led to its being taken over by the Ulster Public House Reform Association, one of many organisations at that time intent on improving the character of pubs and encouraging the sale of non-alcoholic drinks in preference to intoxicating ones. When the Association sold it in 1925, it was taken over by the O'Boyle family who have run it (respectably!) ever since.



Bar back

Newtownards

38 Frances Street, Newtownards, BT23 7DN

Email: roisintrice@gmail.com

Listed Status: Not listed

Rice's International Bar ★★

Portadown

1-3 Mandeville Street, Portadown, BT62 3PB

Tel: (028) 3835 2266

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Portadown)

Listed Status: B1

Portadown

58 West Street, Portadown, BT62 3JQ

Listed Status: Not listed

McConville's ★★★

This pub was owned by the McConville family from 1865 to 2005 and, in a rebuild of the 1890s, they provided Ireland with one of its great pub interiors.

In the long public bar, the decorated, mirrored bar-back incorporates four spirit casks; the counter has a typically Northern Irish fringe of tiles at the top and also another at the base. The most distinctive and, again, almost exclusively Northern Irish feature, is the survival of no less than ten snugs which are provided with bell-pushes used for ordering drinks in former days and tiny fixed tables on which to place them: the associated annunciator box is at the end of the room. A screen with double doors divides this bar into two. A colourful tiled floor, a fine plaster ceiling and lots of original stained glass complete the impressive picture. Don't miss the wonderful brass cigar-lighter (sadly disconnected from its gas supply in recent years), representing the Tichborne Claimant, an impostor whose attempts to prove he was the vanished Sir Roger Tichborne – the ninth wealthiest man in Britain – captivated public attention during two high-profile court cases in the 1870s. The other part of the pub, taken in from a neighbouring shop, offers extreme contrast, having been being fitted out as a young persons' night-life bar in 2008.



Interior

West End Bar ★

A smaller and more altered version of nearby McConville's. Splendid original bar back with six disused spirit casks, and a counter with a fringe of decorative tiles. The bar is divided into two by a screen and has a tiny snug at the north end. There were other snugs facing the servery but, sadly, they were removed in the 1970s (the position is still visible). Match-boarded ceiling. The pub was extended to the rear in the 1990s.



Servery

Portaferry

9 Ferry Street, Portaferry, BT22 1PB

Listed Status: Not listed

Dumigans Bar ★

A compact locals' pub with three small rooms. The tiny public bar at the front right has an old bar back shelves but the counter was replaced with a modern one in 2008 and a laminate floor added. The dado has some ribbed hardboard panelling. Note the old bell-box above the front door with four windows – the second being 'Room No. 1' and the third 'Room No. 2'.

Across the red and black quarry tiled passage is a left-hand room that has been brought into use. It has a bare wooden floor, a Victorian tiled, cast-iron and polished stone fireplace with green glazed brick shaped tiles in front. It has been refurbished with modern fixed seating and panelling added to two-thirds of the walls.

The rear room has a door, bare wooden floor, a range fireplace with tiles around it and a fine mahogany surround. There is a small shelf with Formica top by the hatch to the back of the servery and the dado here is of 1950s ribbed hardboard and there are wall cupboards on the fireplace side. Nice and airy outside toilets - the sky's the limit in the gents'!



Servery

Portrush

6 Harbour Road, Portrush, BT56 8DF

Tel: (028) 7082 2430

Website: <https://www.ramorerestaurant.com/restaurant/harbour-bar/>

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Portrush)

Listed Status: Not listed

Harbour Bar ★★

A friendly two-room pub. The front bar seems to have been revamped in the 1950s or 1960s, hence the all-over hardboard panelling. There is a small, cosy room behind with interesting Bass and other advertising material. Red tile flooring in both bars. Much expanded at rear and upstairs. Note the framed Guinness label in the front bar from the days (until the late 1950s) when they used to bottle it on the premises.



Snug

Poyntzpass

7 Railway Street, Poyntzpass, BT35 6SN

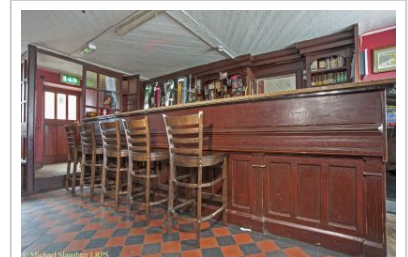
Tel: (028) 3831 8271

Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Poyntzpass)

Listed Status: Not listed

Railway Bar ★

Unspoilt, basic bar on the left with original bar-back, tall counter and red and black tiled floor. The area at the front was, until the 1960s, a minuscule snug for private discussions and business transactions: the change in floor treatment shows where it was separated from the main bar. New granite counter top and fireplace. On the right a further room which is the amalgamation of two small ones.



Bar

Randalstown

22 Main Street, Randalstown, BT41 3AB

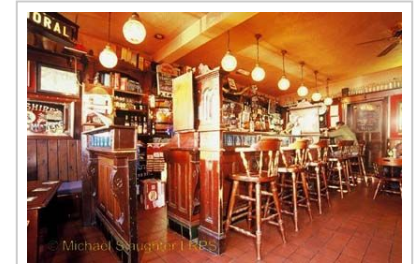
Tel: (028) 9447 3101

Email: okanesbar@btconnect.com

Listed Status: Not listed

O'Kane's ★

Owned by the same family for 150 years and originally a spirit-grocers (see introduction). After Irish Partition, they redeveloped the bar so the counter and back-fittings date from the 1920s: note especially the striking blue fringe of C.R. Mackintosh-style tiles on the counter. The public bar was expanded to the right and the two rooms at the rear were brought into use in the mid-1980s (the Victorian back-fitting was reused from a pub in Strabane). Note the Guinness bottling equipment (used until the 1960s) in the games room.



Public Bar

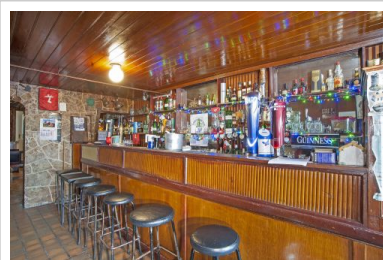
Rostrevor

26 The Square, Rostrevor, BT34

3AZ

Listed Status: Not listed

Fearon's ★★



Public Bar

Rostrevor

10 Bridge Street, Rostrevor, BT34

3BG

Tel: (028) 4173 8601

Old Killowen Inn

★

Strabane

19-23 Railway Street, Strabane, BT82 8EG

Tel: (028) 7188 5205

Listed Status: B2

Tassagh

80 Dundrum Road, Tassagh, BT60 2QE

Tel: (028) 3753 8647

Email: info@basilsheilsvenue.com

Website: <https://basilsheilsvenue.com/>

Listed Status: Not listed

Farmers Home ★★

The intimate, original bar on the left is a wonderful survival. It has a most unusually shaped counter with a panelled front, an old cast-iron fireplace and bench seating round two sides. Four vertically-mounted spirit casks in the back-fitting. The pub has developed substantially to the right, including taking in the former kitchen whose cast-iron range remains in place. Remarkably, the pub consists of some ten rooms in all, including one with a bar counter upstairs (in use only at weekends).



Bar

Basil Sheils ★

The original small bar is little changed with a quarry-tiled floor, old bar-back with advertising mirror, and diagonally-boarded counter. Minor changes in the 1960s with some ply-panelled walls added and the fireplace replaced. Despite converting the former shop to a new lounge bar and adding inside toilets the family have continued to sell no draught beer at all, just bottled ones - one of only two pubs left in Northern Ireland to do so (the other being Carmichael's in Ballyeaston, Co. Antrim, an unaltered basic pub). Owner Terry Shiels says the only draught you get here is when it's time to open the doors at closing time!



Bar

Closed Pubs

The following pubs would have been main entries in this guide had they currently been open

Northern Ireland

Belfast

25-27 Springfield Road, , Belfast, BT12 7AB

Tel: (028) 9023 1348

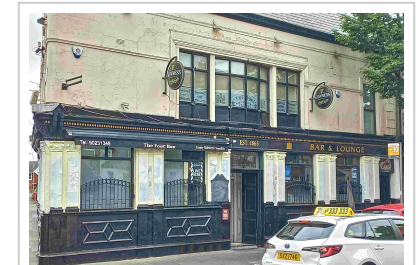
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Belfast Great Victoria Street)

Listed Status: B1

Fort Bar ★★★

The Fort was fitted out in 1885 and the name of the McGuigan family, who ran it for 77 years, is enshrined in the mosaic at the entrance. Many of the Victorian fittings survive, most notably a row of snugs parallel to the servery.

There are now five snugs though once there were more. Each has a number painted on a small glass pane in the door. No. 1 snug has been opened-up (it was situated on the rear right and traces on the black and white tiled floor indicate where it was). Snugs 7 and 8 were situated on the front left and were lost when the toilets were brought inside in, it is thought, the 1970s: their doors have been relocated to the left-hand side of the servery. On the rear left is what looks like a snug, but was originally the ‘Grocery Department’ (so-named in the door glass), something which would have ended after partition in 1922 when the quintessentially Irish institution of the spirit grocers was made illegal. The Victorian fittings also include a splendidly ornate seven-bay bar-back fitting (but with the addition of cask-ends all along in the 1970s). The counter front has a typical Northern Irish fringe of tilework, the left-hand part including three lakeside scenes. . The McCartan family took over in 2015. A refurbishment in 2022 saw the bar counter and snugs repainted in shades of black, white and yellow.



Exterior

Dungannon

55 Irish Street, , Dungannon, BT70 1DQ

Tel: (028) 8772 2316

Listed Status: Not listed

Dungannon

90 Scotch Street, , Dungannon, BT70 1BJ

Tel: (028) 8772 3779

Listed Status: Not listed

McGrath's ★

A small, cosy pub with a simple Victorian or Edwardian bar-back containing three vertically-mounted spirit barrels: the counter is no doubt contemporary. A row of typical Northern Irish snugs ran parallel to the servery but these were removed in the 1960s when the pub was enlarged towards the rear. A further room is situated at the rear.



Bar

McKee's ★

A single-room bar that shows clearly how thousands of many small Irish pubs once looked and worked. A change in design half way along the bar counter betrays the fact that the room was originally split by a partition / screen with the front part serving as a grocers while the rest functioned as a bar. This useful type of institution survives at a few places in the Republic but in the north they were abolished in 1923 on the puritanical grounds that they led shoppers into disreputable ways! The counter and bar-back are Victorian or Edwardian (with some later embellishments such as the ribbed hardboard). The seating was revamped in the 1960s but the rear compartment is the reworking of an old snug. The tiny hatch from the servery to the corridor was for customers drinking in the now little-used rear room - plus anybody not wishing to advertise their presence in the pub.



Bar

Mullaghbawn

1 Maphoner Road, , Mullaghbawn, BT35 9TP

Tel: (028) 3088 8759

Listed Status: Not listed

Bridge House ★

Although this four-room pub is located in an eighteenth-century building the real interest is in some very unusual, quite recent work. In 1964 a completely new set of floors and bar counters was installed. The material is terrazzo – small pieces of marble set in a coloured matrix and ground flat. This hard-wearing material is quite common in pubs but here the extent and quality of the display is remarkable. Quite apart from various patterns and different colours there are emblems of the O’Hanlon family who claim to have been here since the sixteenth century. They also run an undertaker's business from the pub. But before availing yourself of this service try some of the Strangford bottled real ales which are on sale here!



Bar

