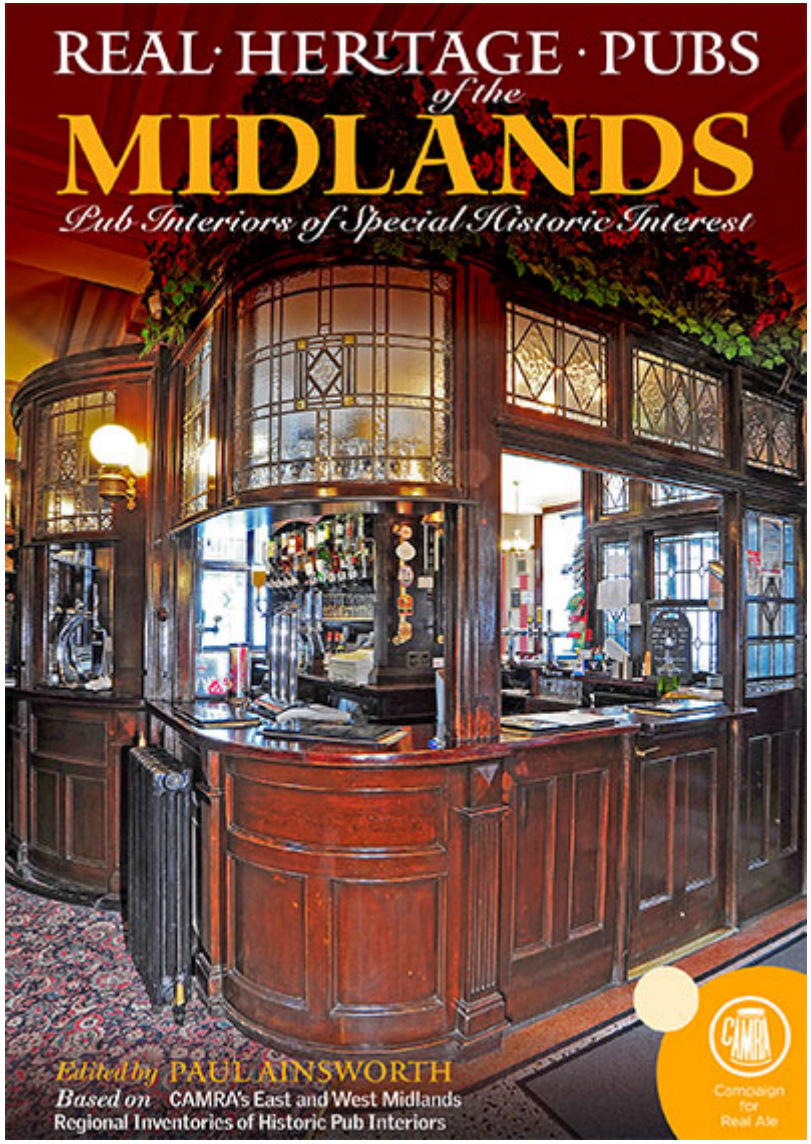

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All entries stand out as being of particular national heritage interest but there are inevitably notable variations in terms of intactness and quality, hence the ranking system we have adopted.

★★★ 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.

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Pubs to Cherish

Real Heritage Pubs of the Midlands celebrates the 201 pub interiors in the region which CAMRA has identified as having special historic interest. They represent an important aspect of the area's cultural and built heritage and several are treasures of national stature.

That said, they account for only 2% or so of all the pubs in the Midlands – why is that so? A major reason, of course, is that pub interiors have always been subject to change. The only pubs which are exactly the same as the day they opened are ones which came into being in the last few years. The pace of change, though, has accelerated. Most of our remaining historic pubs evolved slowly over time and clung on to their more endearing features. Recent times unfortunately have seen a mania for opening out, faddish theming, image change and general trashing. Consequently, many a pub has suffered regular makeovers during which most, if not all, vestiges of original or early features have been lost.

The irony here is that interest in historic buildings has never been greater. Lots of us are fascinated by our built heritage and spend many an hour visiting old properties from stately homes to the most vernacular of structures. This broadening of interest is reflected in National Trust openings like the Birmingham Back-to-Backs and Mr Straw's House, Worksop. All the sadder, then, that genuine pub interiors seem so under-valued by mainstream conservationists and that owners are often eager to tear them apart.

It is CAMRA that has picked up the baton on behalf of our pub heritage, filling the gaps in knowledge of what is out there and actively seeking to protect what is left. This is the seventh in a series of regional guides to our best heritage pubs and draws on many years of work by CAMRA members to track down and record those interiors which have escaped the attention of the modernisers and 'improvers'. Many also serve great traditional real ale but all offer much else for you to enjoy.

What Shaped Pubs in the Midlands?

Is there such a thing as a 'typical' Midlands pub? Given that the Midlands covers such a large and varied area and that the region's pubs have taken shape over many years, the answer is a resounding 'no'. By and large, pubs developed in much the same ways as in the rest of the country. Nonetheless, as we shall see, examples of distinctive local designs and layouts survive in some towns and cities, the result generally of particular brewers evolving their own house styles. But first, a bit of history.

In the Beginning

Most early public houses were literally just that – ordinary houses whose owners decided to open up a room or two to sell drink to neighbours. Pub keeping was a family business and, especially in the countryside, usually part-time. All you needed was somewhere to store the merchandise, someone to serve it and somewhere for customers to drink it. Nearly all these very homely pubs have gone now but the Midlands has perhaps the best surviving example – the Sun, Leintwardine, Herefordshire (p.32), which, until recently, had just a basic single public room with drinks fetched from the kitchen. Remarkably, this arrangement is preserved, albeit within the now-expanded pub.

An even simpler layout can be found at the Cider House, Defford, Worcestershire (p.109) (one of just four cider-only houses in the country) where, in good weather, the garden is the main bar, with service from a hatch. The other kinds of establishment up until the early 19th century were the tavern and the inn. The

former existed only in larger towns, catering for the more prosperous customer by serving wine and food.

They were never common and no former taverns survive in the Midlands. Inns provided meals and accommodation for the better-off traveller along with stabling for their horses. Two Lincolnshire pubs, the Angel & Royal, Grantham, and George, Stamford, are old inns though both have been refitted in modern times.

The Golden Age

The pub as we know it is mostly a Victorian creation. The first part of the 19th century saw the widespread adoption of counter service and the hand-pumped beer engine, heralding the change from an essentially domestic environment to a form of shop which could handle a greater volume of trade. This was overlain with the complexities of Victorian societal structure, hence compartmentalised interiors whose different grades of room reflected the many social distinctions which existed, even among working people. Later in the century, under the influence of social reformers and the powerful Temperance lobby, a drive to improve public houses took hold. This enhanced the multi-room principle with its ability to offer a choice of 'better' rooms and thus attract a respectable clientele. The years around 1900 proved to be the high point of pub-building and design, with grand, ornate 'palace' pubs arriving in the bigger towns and cities, but also with lesser variants being built elsewhere. Birmingham is blessed with one of the most spectacular products of this era – the Bartons Arms, Aston (p.83). On a more modest scale but still richly rewarding are the likes of the Anchor (p.85), White Swan (p.88) and Woodman (p.89) all in Birmingham's Digbeth area. The building of such pubs can be linked to an assertive 'fewer but better' policy on the part of Birmingham's magistrates (see p.86)

Of course, most Victorian pubs remained small, local affairs. The 1830 Beer Act made it much easier and cheaper to open a pub, hence the ensuing explosion in numbers – over 33,000 new ones in the next two years. These beerhouses (they couldn't sell wine or spirits) were generally the simple successor to the alehouse and most have vanished. As the century wore on, these local pubs became larger and less plain but without pretence of catering for other than the working chap. Pubs like the Vine, Stoke-on-Trent (p.78), and the Duke of York, Elton, Derbyshire (p.20), give a strong flavour of how such places looked and felt.

Between the Wars

During Edwardian times the pub-building spree tailed off and the Great War brought it to a full stop. After the war, pubs at first continued to be built on traditional lines, albeit with contemporary detailing. The Rose Villa Tavern of 1919-20 (p.91) in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, for instance, is a stripped-down version by architects Wood & Kendrick of the tile and terracotta pubs they had been building around 1900; it even has extensive wall-tiling very much in the Victorian mould. In the same city, the Villa Tavern, Nechells (p.93), of 1924-5 is in plain brick but the three separate rooms hark back to pre-war days and would be very familiar to Victorian drinkers, albeit with reduced decoration. At the Vine in Wednesfield (p.104), we find a no-nonsense working man's pub rebuilt in 1938 with detailing redolent of its times but a still deeply traditional three-room layout.

The inter-war years are best known, though, for the large-scale 'improved' pubs built for growing suburbs and main highways. Reducing the number of pubs but improving standards in what remained had been the mission of magistrates for some years and continued the objectives of the Victorian reformers. However, the 'fewer but better' slogan coined by Birmingham's magistrates now took on added significance with a concerted drive to broaden the appeal of pubs and reduce their dependence on alcohol sales alone. In contrast to being the haunt of 'disreputable' working-class drinkers, the idea was for pubs to offer a respectable environment whose range of rooms and facilities encouraged civilised behaviour and patronage by the middle-classes. And not only men, but

women too (albeit in male company). Bigger pubs might also provide a home for outdoor bowling clubs, or a children's playground to encourage family visits.

Architectural Styles Between the Wars

Brewers responded with a fresh surge of pub-building from the mid-1920s, whilst also remodelling many smaller existing houses – the Olde Dolphin Inne, Derby exemplifying how old pubs could be given a new (in this case, ye olde) look. Within this environment, it is not surprising that much pub-building had some architectural ambition. Perhaps the most emblematic inter-war architectural style was Art Deco but this was only rarely adopted for pubs. It was maybe thought that typical drinkers wanted something more traditional and homely. However, two Nottinghamshire hotels, the Vale, Arnold (p.52) and Test Match, West Bridgford (p.62) are splendid surviving examples of this sleek and elegant genre. Many of the new pubs sported a restrained 17th century or neo-Georgian appearance, such as the British Oak, Stirchley, Birmingham of 1923-4 (p.94) and the Crystal Fountain, Cannock, Staffordshire of 1937 (p.72). Some of these were truly vast, a magnificent, intact example being the sprawling Berkeley, Scunthorpe, opened in 1940 (p.46).

Rather more exciting was a Tudor-style evocation of an imagined Merrie England nicknamed 'Brewers' Tudor' for its extensive use of half-timbering. The most impressive Midlands example (if not in the whole country) is the Black Horse, Northfield, Birmingham (p.94), constructed in 1929 on a massive scale to resemble a half-timbered manor house and with suitably baronial trappings inside, some of which remain. In the same fashion, but much smaller, the Butchers Arms, Audley, Staffs (p.70) has much period-style detail within its brick and half-timbered exterior. A further good example is the Five Ways, Sherwood, Nottingham of 1936-7 (p.58).

Post-War Decline

After the Second World War, Britain was bankrupt and hardly any pubs were built for a decade. The new pubs that began emerging in the mid-1950s were typified, not surprisingly for these straightened times, by utilitarian design and use of low-quality materials. Layouts, though, still provided a choice of rooms and such customary features as off-sales and concert rooms. Needless to say, once the economy picked up, these cut-price reminders of the grey post-war years became highly unfashionable. Very, very few intact interiors of this period therefore remain but the Midlands has one of the best examples in the Punch Bowl, Worcester of 1958 (p.114). Although some may find it difficult to love, it's as precious in its own way as the Sun at Leintwardine.

The increased prosperity in the mid-1960s heralded a time of rapid and mostly regrettable change. The social divisions mirrored by the multi-roomed pub were vanishing whilst magistrates and police favoured direct supervision of all parts of a pub from the serving area – hence the widespread removal of internal walls to the great detriment of the atmosphere and attractiveness of most traditional pubs. At the same time, a series of brewery mergers brought the majority of pubs into the ownership of one or other of the 'Big Six' national brewing conglomerates. All of these, in thrall to their corporate accountants and marketing men, inflicted huge damage on the pub heritage they inherited. Smaller brewers and many private owners too shared this obsession to modernise. And still it went on. The rise of off-licence shops and supermarkets made off-sales departments in pubs redundant. Environmental health officers demanded changes to accommodate inside toilets and better food preparation facilities. Old bar-back fittings were hacked about to make space for more varied products – wines, spirits, refrigerated drinks. Fire officers insisted on adaptations to provide safer escape routes. These relentless pressures resulted in a much-depleted pub heritage.

The Aftermath

Recent years have seen a tragic decline in the overall number of traditional pubs in this country – down from around 70,000 to less than 50,000 since 1980. To some extent, this has been offset by the increase in bars, nearly all in town and city centres but, with some honourable exceptions, few of these have much merit in design terms and most will no doubt undergo a complete makeover every few years. New pubs are still being built though conversions from other buildings like banks and shops are much more common. It's noteworthy that in most years no winner can be found for the New Build category in CAMRA's annual Pub Design Awards – and also that at least two previous winners have subsequently been trashed and remodelled.

On the other hand, public interest in our built heritage has never been higher, as evidenced by the numbers of people visiting National Trust and English Heritage properties. The existence of this very book and the popularity of others like it published by CAMRA shows that this interest extends to our pubs as well. Sadly, we continue to lose historic pub interiors at an alarming rate. Mainly this is down to the aforementioned pub closures – about 30 a week in early 2015 - which affect heritage pubs just like any others. However, we also still have owners with no appreciation for or interest in the often precious interiors of which they are now custodians. The article on pages 13 and 14 looks at what can be done to help safeguard the treasures which survive.

CAMRA and Pub Heritage

Although CAMRA was initially founded (in 1971) to save Britain's traditional beer, it quickly became clear to campaigners that the best places to drink that beer, our pubs, were also under threat. In due course, CAMRA assigned equal importance to campaigning for real ale and for pubs.

The late 1970s saw a huge increase in the opening out of pubs and removals of fine fittings so preservation of historic pub interiors emerged as a key campaigning issue for CAMRA. After pioneering work in York, a specialist Pub Preservation Group was set up, which evolved into today's Pub Heritage Group. The first step was to identify the most intact interiors surviving across the country's (then) 65,000 pubs. This massive task involved following up thousands of leads, developing criteria for inclusion, recording what was found (both in words and photos) and creating a list – the National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors (NI). This focuses firstly on interiors which remain largely unaltered since before the second world war, though intact early post-war pubs are also included (but are extremely rare – the Punch Bowl, Worcester is the only Midlands example). Secondly, the NI covers pubs with specific features or rooms of national significance (e.g. an intact snug in an otherwise altered pub or examples of especially superb tiling or flamboyant bar backs.)

The first National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors appeared in 1997 and totalled 179 entries. Since then it has been continually refined and updated as new candidates were discovered and, sadly, existing entries lost. The present total stands at 270 and full descriptions can be found in our publication, Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs. 51 Midlands pubs are on the NI.

Regional Inventories were the next logical step. As would be expected, the bar for inclusion is set lower than for the NI though the same principles apply, with the emphasis on the internal fabric of the pub and what is authentically old within it.

Inventory pubs throughout the country can be found on our website www.heritagepubs.org.uk where clicking on the Search Here facility in the top left-hand corner will take you to easy-to-use drop down menus. CAMRA is now working on a third tier of Local Inventories. These will describe interiors which have

suffered significant damage or change but where vestiges of former glories are still ascertainable.

Pubs in Peril

The current plight of the British pub is only too well known. At the time of going to press, figures show 31 closing each week and, between 1982 and 2014, total pub numbers fell by 20,000. Heritage pubs are in no way exempt from this horrible rate of attrition. Since 2010, five National Inventory pubs in the Midlands have been lost forever whilst another four have been closed for some time and may never reopen. The casualty rate amongst Regional Inventory pubs is even higher.

There are several reasons for this gloomy state of affairs – changing social habits, the impact of the recession, higher prices, the rapacious behaviour of the big pub companies. A particular threat is the attractiveness of many pub buildings to developers. Conversion of rural pubs to houses has been all too common for many years but it's now our urban pubs which are really suffering. Many suburban pubs, for instance, occupy large plots of land, ideal for small supermarkets, and two a week are being lost in that way alone. All this is made worse by our feeble planning laws which allow pubs to be converted to restaurants, shops and most kinds of office without the need for planning consent. CAMRA's Pubs Matter campaign is addressing this problem – please give it your support (www.pubsmatter.org.uk).

This combination of negative factors has posed major problems for urban heritage pubs. Many of them are to be found in unfashionable, off-centre locations where they ticked along for donkey's years, serving the local community. As a result, their owners saw little point investing in the sort of major changes inflicted, in the pursuit of fashion, on many a town or city centre pub so heritage was preserved, more or less by accident. Sadly, though, when the recession began to bite, these pubs tended to drop the wrong side of the profits line – every one of the permanent and long-term closures mentioned earlier is an edge-of-centre or suburban pub.

Historic pubs in peril can, and have been, saved and CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group will fight for every one. One tactic is to draw a threatened pub to the attention of an enlightened small pub company – both the Woodman, Birmingham (p.89), and the Crystal Fountain, Cannock, Staffordshire (p.72), were saved in this way. We also seek to get pubs statutorily listed as this affords them an enhanced degree of protection. (For more on listings, see below).

Where we can, we use the planning system to resist unwanted changes to heritage pubs and encourage local folk to do likewise. Most of all, we aim to generate interest in these precious survivors. Pubs are first and foremost businesses and the more that people use them, the less likely are they to wither and die. You can do your bit by putting this guide to active use.

Statutory Listing

All parts of the United Kingdom have systems for protecting buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The process is devised not to prevent change but to manage it effectively, working with the grain of the building, not against it. Many of the pubs in this guide are statutorily listed and several have benefited from exemplary refurbishments or extensions where their listed status has ensured careful control. In turn, this has protected their futures as businesses, as without the changes, their viability might have been questionable. Examples are the Sun, Leintwardine, Herefordshire (p.32), the Crystal

Fountain, Cannock, Staffordshire (p.72), and the Test Match, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire (p.62).

In England, listings are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on the advice of English Heritage.

Grade I. This highest of gradings covers just 2.5% of all listed buildings: these are those that have ‘exceptional’, even international interest. Grade II* (spoken of as ‘Two Star’). Covers a further 5.5% of listed buildings. They have ‘outstanding’ interest. Grade II. 92% of all English listed buildings are at this grade. They have what is described as ‘special’ architectural or historic interest.

Most listed pubs are designated at Grade II. The only ‘Two Star’ pubs in this guide are the magnificent Bartons Arms, Birmingham (p.83), the inter-war gem that is the Test Match, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire (p.62), the Olde Gate, Brassington, Derbyshire (p.16), and the historic Greyhound & Punchbowl, Bilston, West Midlands.

Derbyshire

Belper

29 Chesterfield Road, Belper, DE56 1FF
Tel: (01773) 825525
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: Not listed

Queen's Head ★

Set in a terrace on the edge of town, this drinkers' pub retains three of its original four rooms and, unusually, seems to have had two off-sales hatches. On the right is the snug with simple bench seating. A further room on the far right and the adjacent quarry-tiled passage have been combined though the original fixed seating survives. More old seating can be found in the quarry-tiled bar to the left and in the lounge at the back. The three bar counters for the central servery are, however, replacements from around 1990.

Rear Room

Brassington

Well Street, Brassington, DE4 4HJ
Directions: near church
Tel: (01629) 540448
Email: GATE.INNE@GMAIL.COM
Website: https://www.theoldegateinne.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: II*

Olde Gate Inne ★★★

A most characterful stone-built pub of 1616, much altered in 1874 and with various minor changes since. The main bar on the right has a truly timeless feel with its pewter mugs hanging from the beams and an old ticking clock. Superb features include the inglenook fireplace with cast-iron range, quarry-tiled flooring and old benches and scrubbed-top tables. The bar arrangements were altered around 1953 when the larger left-hand opening was created (the original hatch is on the right) but the old frontage is still there and likewise the lower part of the bar back and the shelves next to the off-sales hatch. The other room on the right has an inter-war parquet floor and is fully panelled, the majority of this woodwork possibly even dating back to the 1616 build. The fire surround looks to be interwar and replaced the now covered-up original on the east side. The room on the left used to be a kitchen and entered pub use around 1952. The high-backed settle came from the nearby Queen Adelaide, Snelston Common, when it shut in 2001.

Main Bar

Buxton

40 High Street, Buxton, SK17 6HB
Tel: (01298) 23278
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Swan Hotel ★

Three small rooms surround a central servery which has good bar screens with leaded glass; the lower portion seems to have been rebuilt in situ. The rooms comprise a bar with 1960s panelling, a rear smoke room and a 'Scottish' style lounge with tartan décor, notable fireplaces and a large malt whisky collection. The entrance lobby has glazing over the panel work but the off-sales has disappeared.

Right Hand Bar

Crich

Town End, Crich, DE4 5DP
Directions: 150 yards from Crich Tramway Village
Tel: (01773) 852444
Email: mrsligster@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Cliff Inn ★

This three-storey gritstone pub may well have been a quarryman's cottage when built around 1800. Last refitted in the 1960s, it has changed little since. You enter past an off-sales hatch then, to the left, go into a small lounge bar; this seems to have been enlarged in the refit by absorbing a rear passageway, hence the wide arch cut into the wall. As with many a 1960s scheme, the bar counter is fronted in stone while the bar back, with its glass shelves, is also very much of the era. The brick fireplace and fixed seating date from this time as well and even the red Formica tables survive. On the right, service to the little Tramway Room is via a small hatch with double windows and a stone counter front. More 1960s features can be found here, including a Tudor arch-shaped ceramic fireplace.

Right Hand Bar

Derby

74 Silverhill Road, Normanton, Derby, DE23 6UJ
Tel: (01332) 342902
Website: http://www.falstaffbrewery.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Falstaff ★

Built in 1886 as a six-bedroom hotel, the Falstaff was designed by Derby architect James Wright for local wine merchants Pountain, Giradot and Forman. 1933 saw a switch to pub operation with some inevitable rearrangement. The public bar still has its Victorian bar counter and fine bar back, the latter in two sections. Part of the wall was removed to enable access to the original off-sales area. In the rear bar, with its old bench seating, you can make out the position of the original bar counter before replacement post-war. The wall to the former living room at the back has gone and this area now houses a pool table. The hotel front door formerly led to the main reception room with the residents' lounge on the right; the wall between them was taken out in 1933 and a small curved counter inserted in one corner. The current bar counter is from the 1990s but the fixed seating and fireplace are Victorian.

Lounge

Derby

Potter Street, Spondon, Derby, DE21 7LH
Tel: (01332) 653755
Email: enquiries@maltshovelspondon.co.uk
Website: https://maltshovelspondon.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Spondon) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Malt Shovel ★★★

This largely 18th-century red-brick building houses an impressive, traditional multi-room pub with off-sales, drinking passageway and three other public rooms. The snug is especially interesting, being formed by a full-height, part-glazed curved partition wall with seating attached - one of very few such spaces to survive (the Holly Bush Inn, Makeney, above being another). Like the corridor, it has a red and black quarry-tiled floor. The small room further down the corridor has old movable benches. On the right, the lounge is unusual in being accessed across a corner of the servery but otherwise contains little of heritage interest. The large Tudor or Long Room at the front was in use by 1939, though the Tudorisation was mostly done after 1960. The various rooms are identified by letters on the doors, rather than the customary numbers. The kitchen occupies the former brewhouse which ceased activityin 1918.

Snug

Derby

Village Street, Derby, DE23 8DF
Tel: (01332) 766329
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Peartree) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Norman Arms ★

A reasonably intact inter-war 'Brewer's Tudor' pub built on the site of an earlier one. In the front bar, the panelled counter and stone-arched fireplace are as-built, likewise the lower portion of the bar back and the decorative woodwork above the staff doorway. Other features are more recent. The lounge was extended backwards, perhaps in the 1960s, but the front part retains its fielded panelling with decorative strapwork - there is also decoration (three arches) in the panelling above the fine fireplace. The 'Ladies' stained glass door panel is original but must have been moved, given its position in the extension. Both gents' toilets sport original urinals and terrazzo floors.

Exterior

Derby

5a Queen Street, Derby, DE1 3DL
Directions: close to Cathedral
Tel: (01332) 267711
Email: thedolphinderby@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Olde Dolphin Inne ★★★

The Olde Dolphin is claimed as Derby's oldest pub and occupies a late16th-century building, but what we see inside today dates mostly from an inter-war restoration. The four bars are all to the left of a corridor passing right through the building and cluster round a central servery. The splendid small snug has a part-glazed partition wall to the servery and full-height fielded wood panelling with a painted grain effect; service is from a hatch to the bar. The lounge has similar panelling plus an inglenook fireplace and bar counter. The front right-hand bar and the ‘Offiler’s Lounge’ – so named after the eponymous Derby brewery that ceased production in 1966 – are less memorable but still have plentiful period features. Upstairs, the ‘1530AD Steak Bar’ (whose name inaccurately commemorates the date of the building) is only open Thu-Sat from 6.30; massive 16th-century timbers are visible and there is a very old brick fireplace with a brass hood.

Offiliers Lounge

Derby

97 King Street, Derby, DE1 3EE
Tel: 07979 746299
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Seven Stars Inn ★

Two roomed pub with built in seating. Interesting 1960s barrel fronted bar counter in the rear room.

Middle Bar

Elton

Main St, Elton, DE4 2BW
Tel: (01629) 650367
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Duke of York ★★★

This 200-year-old pub retains its Victorian interior with just a few minor changes made in 1985. A central tiled corridor leads to the main bar at the rear which is entered through a timber partition wall. It has a quarry-tiled floor, fixed bench seating, wood-panelled ceiling, a stone fireplace (now framing a glass-fronted multi-fuel stove) and unusual full-height draught screens each side of the door. The bar counter was extended to the window in 1985, albeit using existing panels and which formerly returned at a right angle. Left off the corridor is a plain pool room with a Victorian tiled fireplace and modern hatch to the servery. On the right is a further simply appointed room still with its old fixed bench seating. Upstairs is a large club room. Indoor loos have recently replaced the outdoor ones which have been demolished to create a flagged courtyard garden. Unspoilt village pubs of such simplicity, catering only for the ‘wet’ trade, are very hard to find nowadays. Only open Tuesdays to Sundays from 8.30pm to 10.30pm.

Public Bar

Glossop

142 Victoria Street, Glossop, SK13 8JF
Directions: on Hayfield Road out of town centre
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Glossop) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Crown Inn ★★★

An end-of-terrace traditional local with a little-altered four-room interior, the Crown was built in the 1840s and refitted both in later Victorian and inter-war times. Beyond the porch lies a lobby bar with an unusually ornamented bar counter and two sets of bar-back shelves, both of which could be Victorian but perhaps later (the mirror in the bar back blocking anoutside window suggests a change at some time). Three roomslead off the lobby, starting with the front snug, still with itsinter-war fixed seating and tiled fireplace. The rear snug was aliving room until the 1960s but is fitted out in suitablytraditional style. The long, spacious games room to the left hasfixed seating curving round it but has suffered removal of its fireplace. The three bracket-shaped features round the wallsare air vents (with cast-iron grilles outside).

Servery

Ilkeston

24 Station Street, Ilkeston, DE7 5TE
Tel: (0115) 932 9684
Email: dewdropilson2020@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Ilkeston) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Dew Drop Inn ★★

Built in 1884 and formerly the Middleton Hotel, the Dewdrop's current layout dates from a 1950s refit. The light oak counterin the public bar is very much a product of that time as are thetwo-part mirrored bar back and leatherette fixed seating withbaffle by the door. The large quarry-tiled lobby has a serverywith a sliding hatch (still operational but locked in the openposition) and windows either side plus a 1950s counter front.Another 1950s counter and bar back in the lounge, plus fixedand free-standing furniture from the period, but the fireplace ismodern. Off the lobby is a separate snug-lounge with benchseating around, but a modern reclaimed brick fireplace andunfortunate fake half-timbering. Note in the lobby, thememorial to Sir Barnes Wallis - inventor of the bouncing bombused in the 'Dambusters' raid - who slept here during the lastwar.

Passageway

Kirk Ireton

Main Street, Kirk Ireton, DE6 3JP
Directions: off B5023
Tel: (01335) 370306
Website: https://thebarleymowinn.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: II*

Barley Mow Inn ★★★

A 17th-century stone building with mullioned windows, the Barley Mow became an inn some 200 years ago. The undisturbed layout owes much to previous landlady Mrs Ford, who spent all her 89 years here and refused all things modern such as VAT and going decimal. On her death in 1976, her relatives sold the contents (apart from some fixed seating in the bar) so present landlady Mary Short was obliged to buy new furnishings - though these, such as the slate-topped tables, match the interior perfectly. The small low-beamed public bar, with its huge fireplace, exudes traditional atmosphere, heightened by service being via a small counter which is more like a hatch. Casks of beer are stillaged behind the bar and one beer is kept in the cellar and served via a jug - a great rarity nowadays. A passage beyond narrow doors takes you to asmall parlour, not brought into regular pub use until 1976. Upa short flight of steps to the right of the servery is the formerkitchen, pressed into pub service at busy times.

Public Bar

Makeney

Holly Bush Lane, Makeney, DE56 0RX
Tel: (01332) 841729
Email: Landlord@hollybushinnmakeney.co.uk
Website: http://hollybushinnmakeney.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Duffield) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Holly Bush ★★★

A marvellous village pub which, like many others, has grown from a small original core. Here this was the superb central snug, formed by a quadrant-shaped partition wall with glazing above and a double-hinged door in the middle. Benches are attached inside, focusing on the fireplace which houses a cast-iron range, albeit dating only from the 1990s. This wonderful space, fully enclosed when the door is shut, has a quarry-tiled floor that extends into the corridor. Here, a diagonal line in a corner near the snug supposedly marks the site of a counter where beer was served from jugs brought from the cellar prior to the present servery being created in the right-hand room (though Pedigree is still served from a jug kept on the bar back). This room has not changed significantly in the last 50 years, but the windows facing the lean-to extension are modern - the scars of the replaced single window are still visible. The left-hand room took its present form in 1981 when Holly Bush Cottage, beyond the central post, was incorporated into the pub. The inn sign is painted on the frontage - a once common, but now rare, sight.

Snug

Matlock

48 Jackson Rd, Matlock, DE4 3JQ
Directions: Up Bank Rd, left into Smedley St, 2nd right up Smith Rd, 1st left
Tel: (01629) 580295
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Thorn Tree Inn ★

Situated high above the town, this late 19th-century stone-built pub retains a traditional layout of entrance passage with off-sales ahead and small bars left and right. The distinctive dado panelling on most of the walls dates from a refit of about 1965 which is also when the servery was brought forward from the cellar steps. Little has changed since. The left-hand room has a chunky 1960s bar counter, fixed seating of the same era or a little earlier and a bar back of mixed vintage. In the other bar, the sloping counter and bar-back fittings are from the 1965 refurb but the tiled fireplace is of the 1930s.

Rear Bar

Ockbrook

55 Green Lane, Ockbrook, DE72 3SE
Tel: (01332) 662378
Email: royaloak_ockbrook@hotmail.com
Website: https://royaloakockbrook.com/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Royal Oak ★★★

A pub since 1865, this excellent establishment last saw significant alterations in the mid-1950s. From the front door, a ply-panelled passage with old settle leads to the public bar. This has a classic 1950s bar counter and the two sections of bar back with Formica shelves were added at the same time. The fine tap room (see p. XX), front left, has a quarry-tiled floor, old (but re-upholstered) fixed seating and a 1950s tiled fireplace. Another delightful room, the tiny snug, is on the right - it has an appropriately sized hatch to the servery and leatherette-covered fixed seating. The lounge at the back was doubled in size in 1999 but the original front section has what looks like an inglenook fireplace. To the rear left, the Assembly Room was added in 1911. The same family has run the pub since 1953.

Snug

Pleasley

Chesterfield Road North, Pleasley, NG19 7PA
Tel: (01623) 810235
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Nags Head ★

A Hardy & Hansons pub of 1935, built behind the original, hence the distance from the road. On the left, the original public bar is only opened for occasional functions while the off-sales further left is intact but unused. The bar in the middle is now the main room and has two sets of 1930s fixed bench seating with a bell-push. The present counter replaced a hatch in the 1960s. A passageway, rear right, has a dado of brown tiles and gives access to the nearly intact toilets. The smoke room (on the right) retains its original fireplace and bench seating - the counter is probably also from 1935, but the bar back is at least partly more recent. Throughout the pub the leaded-glass doors are original and have kept their room numbers, except the right-hand bar where the 3 has gone awol.

Saloon Bar

Rowsley

Bakewell Rd, Rowsley, DE4 2EB
Tel: (01629) 733518
Email: reception@thepeacockatrowsley.com
Website: http://www.thepeacockatrowsley.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: II*

Peacock ★

Converted to an inn in 1828, this was built as a manor house in 1652. Only the public bar is of any heritage interest. Last refitted in the 1960s, it has three distinct areas. The tiny first one has a superb tiled panel depicting a peacock, the second has a fine curved bar counter while the third has a similar counter, albeit straight.

Public Bar

Stanton in Peak

Main Street, Stanton in Peak, DE4 2LW
Directions: off B6056 Bakewell-Ashbourne road
Tel: (01629) 636333
Website: https://www.flyingchilders.com/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Flying Childers Inn ★

The pub occupies a late 18th-century gritstone building with a 19th-century extension and its unusual name celebrates a famous racehouse owned by the 4th Duke of Devonshire of nearby Chatsworth House. The inner porch, with red quarry-tiled floor and ply-panelled dado, has an off-sales window. On the right is the very small snug bar with old bar-back shelves but a recent counter. The fireplace and settle/pew seating are probably 1930s. The lounge on the left was formerly two cottages and came into pub use around 1950. Apart from the fireplace, most fittings are from that era or a bit later. Outside, the initials WPT in the doorway lintels refer to William Paul Thornhill of Stanton Hall - the family still owns the pub.

Right Hand Bar

Ticknall

27 High Street, Ticknall, DE73 7JH
Tel: (01332) 864392
Email: chequerstticknall@btconnect.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Chequers Inn ★

Much of what we see inside this 17th-century pub derives from a refit in the early 1950s. In the main room, both bar counter and bar back are typical of that time, the latter with small drawers still used as a till. A settle formerly almost encircled the inglenook fireplace but most was removed in 1968 so onlya tiny portion remains. Seats either side of the fireplace have head room scooped out of the breast beam. A second, small room has old dado panelling, 1950s brick fireplace and a piano which is still played on Sat nights. A third room markedprivate can see use at busy times. Sadly, the 50-year-old eggthrowing competition on Easter Monday was stopped in 2003 on health and safety grounds.

Exterior

Wardlow Mires

Mires Lane (A623), Wardlow Mires, SK17 8RW
Directions: jct A623/B6465
Tel: (01298) 872268
Email: thethree.stags@btconnect.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Three Stags' Heads ★★★

This remote country pub on the A623 used to be part of a farm but is now linked to a pottery business. The entrance leads to the basic main bar with a stone-flagged floor and huge stone fire surround. The counter was installed in the 1940s (the front is 1980s) along with the brown painted shelves which serve as a back-fitting. To the right is the 'Music Room', only recently brought into pub use but kitted out in a style which fully matches the rustic spirit of the main bar. The door on the left of the lobby, with a figure 3 on it, is to the original second public room and is pressed into service when the pub is busy. The Abbeydale beers include the ferocious Lurcher (8%), brewed only for the pub and celebrating its dog-friendliness. Open 7-11 Fri, 12-11 Sat, Sun and bank holidays.

Public Bar

Whaley Bridge

7 Old Road, Whaley Bridge, SK23 7HR
Tel: (01663) 308738
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Whaley Bridge) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Shepherds Arms ★★

On entering this stone-built former farmhouse, you encounter the six-foot square 'Lift Shaft', perhaps the smallest pub room in Derbyshire. However, the star attraction lies beyond on the right - the splendid flagstone-floored tap room. Old features here include the bar counter, two sets of fixed wooden seating, two oblong scrubbed tables and a cupboard in the wall. The replacement fireplace (2009) is in keeping with the traditional atmosphere and only the modern bar back shelves strike a jarring note. A flagstone passage runs along the back of this room from an outside door on the right and a window between the tap room and lounge entrances suggests a former off-sales. The lounge was previously two small rooms and only the dado panelling is not recent.

Lift Shaft

Herefordshire

Clodock

, Clodock, HR2 0PD
Tel: (01873) 860677
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: II

Cornewall Arms ★★

A rare example of an unspoilt village pub with no music, no TV, no fruit machine and no food - but good conversation. A pub since 1870, it once had a butcher's shop and slaughterhouse attached. On the left of a flagstone passage, there is a servery at a much lower level. It has old bar fittings and service through a hatch, with a window now open permanently and a Formica shelf. The bar comprised two rooms until 1960 when a wall was replaced with a wooden partition (always folded back nowadays). At the front is a flagstone floor, superb curved high-back settle, 1920s bentwood 'holey' seat and an old fireplace (with 1980s infill). The rear section features half-ply panelled walls and a modern fireplace with old mirror surround above. A venerable skittle table is always ready for play.

Bar

Craswall

, Craswall, HR2 0PN
Directions: On Longtown to Hay road
Tel: (01981) 510616
Website: http://www.bullsheadcraswall.co.uk
Listed Status: Not listed

Bull's Head ★

The public bar is the star at this 18th-century farmhouse pub. Two ancient stone steps take you down to the small flagstone-floored room which retains several old features - the stone fireplace, the stove and three settles, one of them high-backed. Service is from two small hatches cut into the wall to the cellar - the right-hand one replaced a door in 1997. The cellar servery has ancient bar-back shelves and casks on a stillage. Up well-worn steps on the left and through a low doorway is the second original room, now used for dining. It has a flagstone floor, beamed ceiling and old stone fireplace but the food counter is a recent intrusion. The third room on the left came into pub use quite recently. Please note that the pub is currently operating only as a restaurant and that opening hours are limited.

Public Bar

Hereford

36 Grandstand Road, Hereford, HR4 9NF
Tel: (01432) 345774
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Golden Lion ★

In 1938 the adjoining house (left) was incorporated into a much enlarged public bar and many fittings remain from then. An intact off-sales remains in the lobby. Through a door partition on the left is the public bar – note there are Victorian-style 'Public Bar' etched windows in both parts so that on the left has been moved (or is a copy). A new Formica frontage was added to the counter in the 1980s. On the right, the lounge / dining room has a counter that may be from the 1930s but it too has front panels added in the 1980s and the top looks to be of similar date; the bar-back fitting is post-war. Food only on Sunday lunchtime.

Off Sales

Hereford

111 Widemarsh Street, Hereford, HR4 9EZ
Tel: 07736 714823
Email: tamwoolley@aol.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Hereford) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Oxford Arms ★

A 17th-century timber-framed building, last refitted in the 1930s. The off-sales hatch remains intact in the entrance porch. Inside, the small bars to the left and right both have 1930s bar backs and panelled counter fronts (with new tiled tops) while the left-hand room also has its 1930s fireplace. The room to the rear-right came into pub use more recently. Look for the old bell-box within the servery of the lounge.

Left Hand Bar

Huntington

, Huntington, HR5 3PY
Directions: In village
Tel: (01544) 370656
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: Not listed

Swan ★★

Unchanged since a refit in the 1950s, this 17th-century cottage pub is blissfully free of such new-fangled gimmicks as food, TV, pool or fruit machines (or a juke box - removed by the present owners). In the quarry-tiled public bar, the counter front incorporates 17th-century panelling from an old chest and the bar-back shelves are topped with more such panelling. A big old stone fireplace, settle and quoits complete the scene. The lounge on the right has a 'front room' ambience. There are ply panels in an old counter, a Welsh dresser for a bar back, another venerable fireplace, settle and a grandfather clock.

Lounge

Kington

22 Victoria Road, Kington, HR5 3BX
Tel: (01544) 231417
Email: yeoldetavern22@aol.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Olde Tavern ★★★

This pub was in the hands of the Jones family from 1884 to 2002 and over the years they did little to change it. The entrance leads into a lobby which retains (behind recent glazing) a former off-sales facility. To the left is the public bar, which still retains a Victorian or early 20th-century feel thanks to the simple fittings – a high counter, bar-back, fixed seating, panelling, and a built-in cupboard to the left of the (probably) inter-war fireplace. Right of the lobby is a second room with a flagstone floor with some fixed seating and fairly rudimentary old panelling This housed a mighty settle which was sadly destroyed in 2002 to create more trading space. Here service is via a stable door and there is another (probably) inter-war fireplace. At the rear was a third room but this was converted into toilets in 2002. A new room was created in 2016 for restaurant use. In the public bar is an interesting framed plan of 1913 showing proposed refronting: this was never carried out in this form.

Public Bar

Ledbury

14 New Street, Ledbury, HR8 2DX
Tel: (01531) 632963
Email: talbot.ledbury@wadworth.co.uk
Website: https://www.talbotledbury.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Ledbury) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Talbot Hotel ★

The old dining room is the star attraction here, featuring some of the finest oak panelling in the country. There is a heavily carved frieze plus a number of pilasters while the east wall fireplace has a richly carved Jacobean overmantle. Two bullet holes in the panelling are said to be from the civil war whilst an officer's sword caused a slice in one of the beams.

Bar

Leintwardine

Rosemary Lane, Leintwardine, SY7 0LP
Directions: Off A4113, in village
Tel: (01547) 540705
Email: beer@suninn-leintwardine.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Sun Inn ★★★

This pub was kept for 74 years by Florence (Flossie) Lane, whose family took it over early in the 20th century. She died in 2009 a month shy of her 95th birthday and so legendary had both she and her utterly unspoilt pub become that obituaries appeared in *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph*. The pub, occupying part of a row of early 19th-century cottages, had been trading since at least the 1860s and was one of the last remaining beerhouses (Flossie only introduced wine in later years). In her time, right of the entrance lobby, was the 'Brick Bar' (named after the flooring material), equipped with basic tables and benches and a (probably) 1950s brick fireplace. Left of the entrance was 'Flossie's Room', where she sat, and beyond that, a ground-floor cellar where, in later years, regulars served themselves and put their payment in a tin. New ownership has seen all this scrupulously preserved but, in the interests of viability, a large, though very well-designed, extension (with bar counter) was opened in 2011 with access through the old lobby.

Red Brick Bar

Leominster

63 Etnam Street, Leominster, HR6 8AE
Tel: (01568) 612473
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Leominster) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Chequers ★

A characterful old coaching inn, still with three rooms, though most of the fixtures and fittings are of no great age - a thirties fireplace and some sixties bar furniture in the main bar and lounge are as old as they get.

Front Bar

Leominster

2-4 Broad Street, Leominster, HR6 8BS
Tel: (01568) 616747
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Leominster) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Grape Vaults ★

A small 19th-century town-centre pub with an almost intact three-room layout and a fair number of features from the early 1900s.The fittings include plenty of old tongue-and-groove half-height panelling, wall-benches, fireplaces and bar counter but the bar back is a replacement. The tiny room rear left is separated from the rest of the pub by a part-glazed partition.

Bar

Leysters

, Leysters, HR6 0HW
Directions: On A4112
Tel: (01568) 750230
Listed Status: Not listed

Duke of York ★★★

Modest and beautifully kept, this country pub still has a smallholding attached and has been in the hands of the same family since 1911. The interior, little altered since before the Second World War, comprises three rooms. The public bar has a fine, curved, high-backed settle (which predates 1911) beside the fireplace and simple dado panelling. Beneath the window, a bench is equipped for the local version of quoits - four quoits a go, five points for the pin, two for the inner ring and one for the outer (but they must land white side up). Right is a small darts room with a Victorian tiled fireplace, corner bench and hatch. The lounge on the left was added to the public rooms just before the war and feels like a domestic sitting room. The pub is open 11.30 (12 Sunday) to 14.45 and 19.00 to 23.00.

Public Bar

Pembridge

Market Square, Pembridge, HR6 9DZ
Tel: (01544) 388427
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

New Inn ★★

A fine 17th-century half-timbered building. The public bar on the left-hand side boasts a superb long settle, inglenook fireplace and a pair of handpumps against the wall . These suggest there was no bar counter until recent times (the present counter is certainly modern). A stone floor and a large stone fireplace. The hall area includes what appears to be an old bar-back (removed from elsewhere?) and a modern stone counter. Lounge on the right and restaurant downstairs.

Bar

Peterchurch

, Peterchurch, HR2 0SJ
Directions: On B4348, at NW end of village
Tel: (01981) 550179
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Nags Head ★

Few alterations have taken place at this three-roomed pub since a remodelling in the 1950s. The main, quarry-tiled bar once consisted of two rooms and the fireplace and counter date from the refit. The hand-pumps are actually dated 1954 but the bar-back, with its bevelled mirror panels and sturdy pillars, goes back to Victorian times; sadly, its lower shelving has given way to fridges. Off to the left is a tiny room (the 'Lincoln Suite') with a hatch to the side of the bar. At times up to ten people can be found crowded into here while the rest of the pub stays empty! The dining room has half-height ply-panelling but little else of interest and no doubt entered pub use fairly recently.

Snug

Rhydspence

, Rhydspence, HR3 6EU
Directions: On A438
Tel: (01497) 831262
Email: info@rhydspenceinn.co.uk
Website: https://www.rhydspenceinn.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: II

Rhydspence Inn ★★

A food-led 16th-century pub still with many small characterful rooms. The splendid timber-framed entrance porch is in a style seen only in the Welsh border area - the Welsh/English border is the insignificant brook that trickles through the garden. There is a room above the porch and an externally accessed open gallery. The original bar on the right was revamped c.1960 which is the date of the bar counter. The servery is in its original position, but the bar back shelves date from the 1980s. The rear lounge bar was created c.1960 from former living quarters. A number of other characterful rooms include one converted from the former kitchen. Look for the old coach jack in the hall from the pub’s days as a coaching inn.

RearBar

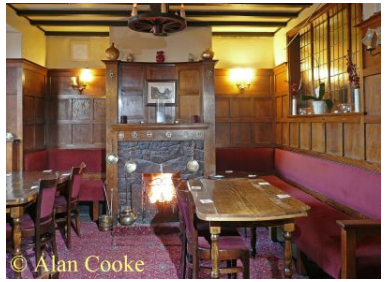
Leicestershire

Earl Shilton

72 Keats Lane, Earl Shilton, LE9 7DR
Tel: (01455) 396188
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: Not listed

Dog & Gun ★

The original layout and many fittings have survived well in this 1932 Tudor-style pub. From the porch are an off-sales and doors to the lounge and tap room. The lounge has its original bar counter, bar back, doors and door furniture but only part of the old panelling. The rear door leads into an attractive quarry-tiled and panelled corridor - note the 'Servery' brass plaque on the half door with serving hatch above. The snug at the rear right is the choicest room, retaining its panelling, fixed bench seating and fireplace with panelled surround. It now opens into the tap room where there were alterations to the bar area in the 1970s, mainly repositioning of the counter. The brick fireplace is original, albeit with 1970s inset, as is the fixed seating. For some reason, the pub once sold vast quantities of liquorice!



Snug

Hathern

49 Loughborough Road, Hathern, LE12 5HY
Tel: (01509) 842438
Email: dewdrophathern@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Dew Drop ★

The Georgian-style brick frontage was added to this small 19th-century pub in the 1930s, since when there have been few changes. On entering, you pass the intact off-sales then turn right into the public bar, which was doubled in size by the 1930s scheme. The counter here looks inter-war but both the bar back and fireplace are probably from the 1960s. The tiny lounge has a modern counter front added to what must previously have been just a hatch. The fixed seating is from the Thirties alterations but again the fireplace is later. Both gents' and ladies' have glazed white brick walls.

Lounge

Hinckley

318 Coventry Road, Hinckley, LE10 0NQ
Tel: 07815 095442
Email: wharfinn@hotmail.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Hinckley) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Wharf ★★

Another 1930s Tudor-style pub which has suffered relatively little at the hands of the modernisers. All three small rooms at the front retain their brick and wood surround fireplaces (now covered by radiators) but the middle one has lost a partition, opening it up to the servery area. This room also has settle-like seating created by a panelled partition. The servery in the centre of the pub has its original bar counter whilst the passageway alongside, with fielded panelling to picture-frame height, is a popular drinking area. In the larger lounge at the back, the brick fireplace and fixed seating are unaltered but not so the bar counter where post-war tinkering is in evidence. A door on the left-hand side of the pub once led to an off-sales but now accesses a kitchen.

Central Servery

Ibstock

71 Curzon Street, Ibstock, LE67 6LA
Tel: (01530) 262123
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Waggon & Horses ★

A Georgian pub whose original two rooms still exist within an expanded layout. Left of the entrance is the snug, or Mardy Room as the locals call it. This has a red quarry-tiled floor, Victorian fixed seating and inset cupboards plus a modern surround to an old fireplace moved from what is now the pool room. That room, also left of the corridor, was originally living quarters, then between the wars, a doctor's surgery. The third room is the bar with its still-used inter-war stove whose flue-pipe rises up and out of the side of the room - a rare sight indeed. In the Sixties, ply panels were attached to the bar counter along with a Formica top and the bar back was altered at the same time, only one piece of original ornate fretwork surviving. The ply wall-panelling is also from that period. Features elsewhere include ornate cornices and mouldings in the corridor, sash windows and original doors (with new glass).

Public Bar

Kegworth

139 Station Road, Kegworth, DE74 2FR
Tel: (01509) 672846
Website: https://theanchorinnkegworth.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Anchor Inn ★

Rebuilt in 1934 with a mock-Tudor exterior, the Anchor was barely changed until 2009, when the front rooms were combined; however, there are still many original fittings. The small public bar has a good original copper-topped bar counter, herringbone tiled floor, old fireplace and fixed seating and a bar back comprising just a few shelves. Removal of the wall between this room and the lounge saw two small sections of fixed seating disappear and the front right door fall out of use. A tiled passage at the rear leads to a splendidly intact gents'. Another small room at the back is served by a hatch and retains its parquet floor and wooden fireplace surround, albeit with an unfortunate 'Victorian' fireplace within. The off-sales is no longer in use but at least intact.

Right Hand Area

Kegworth

24 High Street, Kegworth, DE74 2DA
Tel: (01509) 672466
Email: info@redlionkegworth.co.uk
Website: https://www.redlionkegworth.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Red Lion ★

A four-roomed pub, still with much of its original layout and fittings. A rare feature is the split door hatch in the smoke room, complete with upper door. Old bar counters in the tap room and public bar and the former has screenwork up to the ceiling.

Exterior

Leicester

Glenfield Road, Leicester, LE3 6AR
Tel: (0116) 262 2633
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Sir Charles Napier ★

A 1938 brick-built pub, little altered since extensions around 1960. The curved bar counter in the front lounge is probably original, though the top is Sixties Formica. A stone-arch fireplace and the fixed seating also date from 1938 but the bar back shelves are later, as is the ply wall panelling. Another original bar counter is to be found in the rear concert room, again with1960s accretions in the form of leatherette padding plus other changes from that time like theglass bar back shelves and ply panelling. In the public bar, both bar counter (plain with formicainlay top) and bar back are from the 1960s when this room was extended into the house nextdoor.

Loughborough

21 The Rushes, Loughborough, LE11 5BE
Tel: (01509) 217014
Email: swanintherushes@castlerockbrewery.co.uk
Website: https://www.castlerockbrewery.co.uk/pubs/the-swan-in-the-rushes/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Loughborough) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Swan in the Rushes ★

A 1932-built town pub (originally the Charnwood Inn) with glazed stone frontage and retaining its two rooms plus lobby layout. The smoke room, to the left of the terrazzo-floored lobby, has an as-built fireplace, parquet floor, fixed seating and baffle with leaded glass. The bar back has seen some changes and the counter has a 1960s look. In the right-hand bar, the counter (with a rare shallow copper trough running round the base) and the fixed seating, with plain baffles at each end, are original. Sadly, the original leaded front windows have given way to modern replacements. A small back room was previously part of the living quarters.

Right Hand Bar

Whitwick

11 Leicester Road, Whitwick, LE67 5GN
Tel: 07736 677855
Website:
https://www.admiraltaverns.co.uk/pubs/threehorseshoes-whitwick/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Three Horseshoes ★★★

This completely unspoilt local, in a former coal-mining village, is nicknamed ‘Polly Burton’s’ after the former landlady’s grandmother who started the business well over a century ago. The pub has been sympathetically refurbished by by the new tentant who took over in June 2022. The 1882 date on the front records when it was created from four cottages. A small entrance lobby, complete with off-sales hatch, leads into the public bar on the left. All-over quarry-tiled flooring and extensive bench seating straddle the two former cottage rooms. The servery fittings and both fireplaces are original and the only change seems to be the boxing-in of the seating in the late 20th century. Right of the lobby, a small snug has a bare wooden floor, Victorian fireplace and basic bench seating; service is from a hatch to the back of the bar servery. If this room is closed a polite request at the bar will allow entry.

Public Bar

Lincolnshire

Cleethorpes

Balmoral Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 9ND
Tel: (01472) 698867
Website: http://www.crowsnestcleethorpes.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Crows Nest ★

This suburban estate pub of spacious proportions and some quality was built in 1957-8 as a pub-cum-hotel by Samuel Smith’s Brewery. The three original pub rooms, planned around a central servery, all have generous fitted seating and deep-windowed bays, giving good natural light. A further lounge bar was created around 1981 from the former hotel dining room (and its toilets) and a new opening, with sliding doors, was formed through to the original lounge. The off-sales became a kitchen some time later. Unspoilt ladies’ and gents’ toilets off both lobbies.

Snug

Cleethorpes

7 Seaview Street, Cleethorpes, DN35 8EU
Tel: (01472) 597181
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Cleethorpes) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Nottingham House ★

Old three-roomed seafront pub whose layout owes much to its remodelling, circa 1950, by the Sheffield brewers, Gilmour's. The 'Notts' mixes some good pre-war features with 1980s ferurbishment work by Tetley's. Sadly, the inter-war snug at the rear has recently been stripped of all its original fitted seating.

Front Right Hand Room

Grimsby

88 Freeman Street, Grimsby, DN32 7AG
Tel: (01472) 354373
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Grimsby Docks) andBus Stop
Listed Status: II

Corporation Arms ★

Once-proud Victorian town-centre pub which preserves, in its back smoke room, a truly splendid historic interior. This richly ornamented little room, which benefitted from some sensitive refurbishment in 2009, has superb fitted seating and wood paneling which was originally installed by the Hull furnishing firm of Frederick Eustace (whose fitters' labels are still insitu). The pub's other rooms have been altered considerablybut remnants survive of excellent etched and frosted windows.One of the upstairs rooms was used as a music hall in the1880s.

Smoke Room

Lincoln

Saltergate, Lincoln, LN2 1DH
Tel: (01522) 262998
Email: thestill.lincolnshire@pheonixpub.co.uk
Website: https://www.thestilllincoln.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Lincoln Central)
Listed Status: Not listed

Still ★

A rather grand pub, occupying part of a large range of early 20th-century buildings constructed for the Co-operative Provident Society. A small, somewhat altered lobby faces the narrow end of the counter and opens into bars left and right. Both the lobby and splendid turned wood central bar back are surmounted by leaded glass panels to ceiling height. Both bars are panelled but some matchboarding may be later and the bench seating is modern. Two more lounges can be found to the rear on the right, the smaller retaining its old bench seating and Art Nouveau-style glazed panels.

Right Hand Bar

Louth

62 Westgate, Louth, LN11 9YD
Tel: (01507) 606262
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: II

Wheatsheaf ★

A brick-built pub whose fittings date from several different eras, though there are strong signs of a comprehensive inter-war refurbishment. A flagstone passage runs from the front door to the rear patio. A snug at one end has a separateentrance and inter-war bench seating. The good-quality lowpanelled counter (possibly Edwardian) forms part of a squareservery, the rest of which features much later fittings. Behindthe servery, a small room with an oldish counter is now openedup to a rear lounge housing an inter-war brick fireplace. Afurther lounge lies across the central corridor - it has chunkybench seating and a curved servery, formerly in the opposite corner of the room.

Right Hand Bar

Scunthorpe

Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe, DN15 7DS
Directions: 1/2 mile from end of M181
Tel: (01724) 842333
Website: http://theberkeleyscunthorpe.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Berkeley Hotel ★★★

One of the country's best-preserved roadhouses, this local landmark on the outskirts of town will be familiar to generations of trippers to the Lincolnshire coast. Opened in 1940 and designed by West Midlands architects Scott & Clark of Wednesbury, it retains the original layout of three main rooms (one now a dining room), spacious entrance foyer, impressive ballroom and (disused) off-sales. Some fittings have been renewed in recent times by present owners, Samuel Smith, but with the emphasis, as usual with this brewery, on careful and sympathetic restoration. The foyer and public bar (the latter separately accessed, in keeping with its era) are still largely as-built and, elsewhere in the building, the joinery, ceilings, plasterwork and windows are also mostly original. The main lounge has its original counter, back fitting and bench seating but the entrance screenwork and Art Deco- style lighting are careful re-creations of how they might have appeared in the 1940s. The prominent fireplace, though a genuine Thirties product, is an import from elsewhere.

Public Bar

Scunthorpe

Derwent Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 2PE
Tel: (01724) 840827
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Queen Bess ★★★

Right Hand Bar

One of only a small handful of Fifties-era ‘estate’ pubs that still survives, anywhere in the UK, with such a high degree of intactness. Designed by Doncaster architects Wilburn & Son for the Tadcaster brewers, Samuel Smith’s, and opened in 1959, it incorporated certain technological advances that were new at the time, notably underfloor heating and an integral central sound system for recorded music with speakers (still visible) in each room. It preserves fittings and decor of a quality unusual for its period and a layout which is very little altered and comprises public bar and lounge, separately accessed from either side of a (now unused) off-sales shop, plus a spacious former concert room (‘Queens Bar’) to the rear. The latter, now used for snooker and pool, retained its original purpose as a concert and function room until late 2005.

All three rooms retain their original fitted seating and have striking, original bar-fronts in different styles - that in the lounge (which now functions as the pub’s main room) being on Art Deco lines, with curving counter and lovely light wood veneered panelled surrounds. The off-sales, still complete with counter and shelving, is a remarkable survival in itself, albeit no longer in use. The name ‘Queen Bess’ echoes the title given to one of the mighty blast furnaces at the nearby Appleby-Frodingham steelworks and the connection is further celebrated by a plaque in the Queens Bar, by tiled motifs in the public bar fireplace, and by the picture on one side of the (recently renewed) painted sign outside

Skegness

Vine Road, Skegness, PE25 3DB
Tel: (01754) 763018
Website: http://www.thevinehotel.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Skegness) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Vine Hotel ★

A late 18th-century hotel which retains much of the character imparted by a 1930s refurbishment. Off the panelled hotel hall is the ‘Tennyson Bar’ which has an all-round, low-level dado and a very attractive hatch counter with timber apron and surround. A passage leads to the ‘Oak Room’, which also has a separate entrance through a leaded-glass lobby. This fine room has panelling on all walls, almost to ceiling height and a 1930s brick fireplace, painted an unfortunate shade of maroon. The chunky counter and bar back are of more recent vintage but the tables and chairs probably date to the 1930s refit. Despite the alterations, this is a delightful and atmospheric place. The garden is claimed to be that into which Tennyson invited Maud to come.

Panelled Room

South Reston

Main Road, South Reston, LN11 8JQ
Tel: (01507) 450364
Email: nigel_riley@btinternet.com
Website: http://www.waggonandhorsesreston.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Waggon & Horses ★

A 1930s Tudor-style roadhouse built for Hewitt's Brewery of Grimsby, as can be seen from the stained and leaded windows in each of the original front rooms. That three-room layout is still clearly discernible but wide arches have replaced the doors (and with a puzzling change of level to the right). Original features include the oak panelling throughout, the oak-fronted bar counter and the Tudor-style stone-effect fireplace in the bar - but the bar back may be a reconstruction. A large rear extension houses the dining room.

Fireplace

Northamptonshire

Wellingborough

Finedon Road, Wellingborough, NN8 4AL
Tel: (01933) 276600
Website: https://the-locomotive.edan.io
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Wellingborough) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Locomotive ★

A former Quaker-owned house which became a pub in 1902, which is when the counter and bar back were installed. In 1973 both fittings were slightly reduced in size and the right-hand counter was put in. The rear room has a 1960s bar back, a disused hatch and a cheese skittle table.

Counter

Nottinghamshire

Awsworth

Main Street, Awsworth, NG16 2RN
Tel: (0115) 932 9821
Email: thegateinnawsworth@hotmail.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Gate Inn ★

A Georgian-style, mid-Victorian building, though only the snug on the left survives from the original layout - it has old fixed benches but the fireplace has gone. Most of what we see dates from a 1950s remodelling which brought two living rooms at the back into pub use. One is the main bar with a 1950s counter and plain bar back and fixed seating of the same vintage. The other room serves as a lounge - all the fittings seem to be from the 1950s refit. The central entrance leads into a T-shaped hall with staircase to a function room. This area is a popular 'drinking passage' with a few tables and chairs and the servery straight ahead with a small fifties-style hatch counter. The pool room is a recent creation in space previously occupied by toilets.

Passageway

Beeston

Church Street, Beeston, NG9 1FY
Tel: (0115) 967 8623
Email: crowninn@live.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Beeston) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Crown Inn ★★★

This pub retains a four-room, probably late Victorian layout. The front entrance leads into a quarry-tiled passage with a double door and a sliding hatch in a door to the servery. The tiny public bar (right) has a quarry-tiled floor and lateVictorian bar fittings (a panelled counter and a mirrored barback with a series of drawers). The furniture amounts to an oldbench and three small tables. At the far end is a tiny snugbeyond a glazed partition wall, an extraordinary small spacewhich was formerly an off-sales (so named on plans of 1953which show access from the adjacent covered passage – nowpanelled over). Back in the entrance passage, the small roomon the left has old fixed seating on three sides. The GamesRoom is the last of this suite of old rooms and has vintagedado panelling and fixed seating of different dates. The curvedbar counter might have replaced a hatch in inter-war times.Dating the panelling is made difficult but a long-standingcustomer insists that this area is unchanged since his first visit back in 1937. The pub was greatly extended in 1976. It serves a fine range of ales and ciders.

Confessional

Beeston

85 Dovecote Lane, Beeston, NG9 1JG
Tel: (0115) 925 4049
Email: vichotel@btconnect.com
Website: http://vichotelbeeston.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Beeston) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Victoria Hotel ★★

This large former hotel right by Beeston railway station was built by Ind Coope in 1899 and restored by its new owners, Tynemill, in 1994. You enter into a lobby with a former snugor off-sales straight ahead - now used for storage. On the rightis a good plain bar, self-contained with its own toilets. In themain bar to the left the back corner has been opened out togive access to two further rooms (mainly used for dining in theday). Doors, windows and benches look Victorian but therewas clearly a makeover in the 1930s when the bar serveries(largely intact and with Art Deco features) were added to bothmain rooms - the dado panelling, floors and fireplaces are ofthe same era. In the rear lobby is a staircase with a fine stained glass window.

Right Hand Bar

Caythorpe

29 Main Street, Caythorpe, NG14 7ED
Tel: (0115) 966 3520
Website:
http://www.caythorpebrewery.co.uk/the_black_horse.html
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Lowdham) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Black Horse ★

A very traditional early 18th-century cottage pub which has seen some modernisation but whose two-room layout is largely intact. Beyond the front lobby (a recent addition) the main bar is on the right. The lapped timber counter and benches are at least forty years old though the brick fireplace is new. A small snug is on the left. Instead of a counter it has just a small part of the bar back on which drinks are placed when poured. The wall bench seating is old but, again, the fireplace is a let down. Both rooms had separate entrances before the lobby was built. Home of Caythorpe Brewery.

Left Hand Room

Colston Bassett

School Lane, Colston Bassett, NG12 3FD
Tel: (01949) 81361
Email: martins_arms@hotmail.com
Website: http://themartinsarms.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: II

Martins Arms ★

A former farmhouse which appears to have become an inn in the first half of the 19c. It was owned by the village estate, from which its name derives; but privately owned since 1990. The interior has beam ceilings and restrained décor, but is very neat and has a modernised feel; nevertheless, probably not altered a great deal since the 1960s. There's a central hall with the main room on the right, in two parts. The counter is quite plain with a copper top; a 1960s brick fireplace is in one part of the room; the finest features are an extravagantly carved fireplace in the other half, and a set of similarly-carved bar shelves and cupboards behind the counter – these apparently were moved from the estate's Hall in the 1960s; there are a couple of fixed benches in this room. Left of the hall is a small square bar-parlour; some plain fixed benches here, a small fireplace - probably 1960s, and an old triangular cupboard. Beyond this is a restaurant, quite elegant with timber dados all round. Whilst this is very typical of many country pubs, the unaltered layout of several rooms, and the lack of alteration over the last 50 years makes it of interest. It has apparently never been brewery-owned.

Eakring

Bilsthorpe Road, Eakring, NG22 0DG
Tel: (01623) 870264
Listed Status: Not listed

Savile Arms ★

An early 17th-century brick-built corner pub with a lovely exterior. The porch entrance on the main road is out of use so you go in at the corner facing the car park. This entrance opens out into a central bar-lobby where the servery and bar back are quite modern but traditional in style. To the rear right, the lounge has a real fire and service through a hatch-counter but no fixed seating. A corridor on the left leads to the unused front door. In the corner is a small tap room with benches and hatch service while on the other side can be found a tiny snug-lobby and then a pool room with red-tiled floors. Note the numbers on all doors.

Left Hand Bar

Kirkby-in-Ashfield

Nuncargate Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 9EH
Tel: (01623) 753495
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Kirkby-in-Ashfield) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Cricketers Arms ★★

Most of what you see here dates from a 1950s Home Brewery refurbishment of what had been two distinct Victorian buildings. The lounge has its original copper-topped counter but was extended eastwards in the 1970s to create two seating bays and most fittings are from that time. The bar is more authentically a product of the austere Fifties - counter with a Formica top, simple bar back and fixed seating and period fireplace. The adjacent cricket ground is where the legendary Harold Larwood first played, hence the memorabilia inside the pub.

Lounge Bar 1

Linby

10 Main Street, Linby, NG15 8AE
Tel: (0115) 580 8515
Email: horseandgroomlinby@outlook.com
Website: https://www.horseandgroomlinby.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Horse & Groom ★

UPDATE 2017.

Star / Heineken have carried out a thorough refurbishment that has seen significant changes.

On the right-hand side where there was a back-to-backfireplace an enormous hole has been knocked-through here,and a wood-burning stove now stands in this space. The smallbar-serveryin the front room (this was relatively modern) hasbeenremoved, replaced by painted panelling. To give accessfromthe front room to a counter, a wide doorway has beenknocked-through between the two rooms. Although panellinghas beenretained in the front room, the inevitable ‘gastro’ grey-greenpaint has been applied. So the character of the right-handsideof the pub is ruined. Just about the only decent survival isthesmall snug on the left-centre.

Please note - the photos are therefore out of date and the description below is one written before the recent changes.

An old (possibly 17th-century) pub extended by HomeBrewery in the 1920s and again in 1937 - the multi-room layout dates from those last alterations. Entering the lobby, you originally faced the off-sales but this has now been absorbed into theright-hand lounge. That room still has its 1930s panelling andwood surround to the fireplace but the bar counter is 1960swork and the bar back even newer. Back in the lobby, the left-hand door takes you into a parquet-floored passage withpanelled walls; it is separated from a small snug by a rare part-glazed partition wall. The snug has much from the 1930s - thecounter, fireplace, wall panelling and some of the bar back.The left-hand lounge has seen a good deal of refurbishmentwith only the parquet floor surviving from 1937. Anotherpassageway leads from the lounge back door to the originalentrance door. The larger bar-lounge, rear right, was added in 1937 and has a large inglenook fireplace, original slatted benches and bar counter plus a bar back mixing old with new.

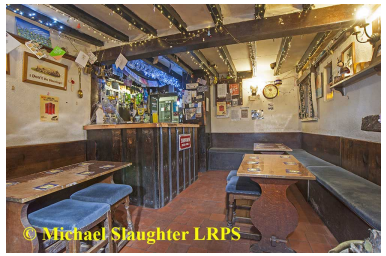
Front Right Hand Room

Maplebeck

Main Street, Maplebeck, NG22 0BS
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: Not listed

Beehive ★

Supposedly the county's smallest pub, the Beehive was built in 1803 and occupies a delightful setting on a bank above the road. Rooms are on each side of the central entrance with a small bar on the right and tiny snug with hatch counter to the left. The simple decor dates mainly from the 1950s or '60s though the fireplaces are more recent.



Right Hand Bar

Nottingham

St Albans Road, Nottingham, NG6 9JS
Tel: 07384 840781
Website: https://www.theabbeybulwell.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bulwell) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Abbey ★

A splendid large early 20th-century brick-built pub with a corner tower. Inside there has been some opening out but the original and unusual layout is easy to discern. This features a large plain bar on the left, an island servery with a wide drinking corridor behind and, front-right, an opened-out snug with unused bell-pushes.

Public Bar

Nottingham

Wollaton Road, Nottingham, NG8 2AF
Tel: (0115) 928 6970
Email: 6894@greeneking.co.uk
Website: https://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/nottinghamshire/admiral-rodney
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Admiral Rodney ★

A good number of early 20th-century fittings survive in this 18th-century pub, re-fronted and hugely extended by Home Brewery in 1924. The original part consists of the three rooms at the front right which were refurbished in the 1950s. The extension is of classic inter-war brick design and the panelling, counter and fireplace are from 1924. All this is overlaid with much more recent work.

Rear Left Bar

Nottingham

282-284 Arkwright Street, Nottingham, NG2 2GR
Tel: (0115) 986 4502
Email: embankment@castlerockbrewery.co.uk
Website: http://www.castlerockbrewery.co.uk/pubs/the-embankment
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Embankment ★

UPDATE 2018.

Following the purchase of the pub by Castle Rock a thorough refurbishment has seen significant changes.

The main bar is little-changed but the former Billiard Room is now half of its original size and called the Arkwright Room with toilets added behind it; billiard tables removed and the hatch that served this room is lost. The front left room is now a new bar called the Dispensary to reflect it is where the Boots shop was situated, New bar fittings added. Upstairs the managers office remains unchanged as does the ballroom but the bar here looks more modern? Downstairs the skittle alley remains but is out of use at present and the other room is used for storage.

Please note - the photos are therefore out of date and the description below is one written before the recent changes.

Formerly the Boots Social Club, this early 20th-century, Tudor-style building of 1903 by architect Alfred Nelson Bromley, reopened as a pub and conference centre in 2010. The mainbar, a baronial style halll, is lit my an ornamented skylight andhas a fine staircase. The old bar counter retains shutters and thebar back could be of similar vintage. At the rear is a glazedscreen with twin doors leading to a fully-equipped snookerroom. A hatch to the side of the bar has another old shutterthough the counter front looks to be of the 1970s. The loungeoccupies what used to be a retail branch of Boots. Upstairs, thesplendid Committee Room has a wood-block floor, panelledwalls, an inglenook fireplace and other period features. Thefine stained glass was designed by the well-known architectMorley Horder. Elsewhere are a ballroom and, in thebasement, a well-used skittle alley and a further, more recent,bar.

Main Bar

Nottingham

248 Carlton Road, Nottingham, NG3 2NB
Tel: 07522 386953
Email: sheenawalker12@live.com
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Nottingham) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

March Hare ★

The only significant change to this pub since it was built for Warwicks & Richardsons of Newark in 1958 is the absorbtion of the off-sales into the smoke room in the 1960s. All the bar fittings, fixed seating, toilets and even the furniture date from 1958, their longevity no doubt connected to the fact that the same tenant (George Dove) was in charge from opening until his recent death (and his widow still runs the pub). Even the till is dated 1959, having been converted to decimal in 1971. The weighing machine in the lobby still records pounds and stones - none of your foreign kilos here! Please note the pub keeps traditional hours, closing in the afternoon.

Lounge

Nottingham

11 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB
Tel: (0115) 874 7678
Email: info@thepeacockhotelnottingham.co.uk
Website: http://www.thepeacockhotelnottingham.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Peacock Hotel ★

UPDATE 2020.

A refurbishment has recently been carried out which requires a re-assessment.

Please note - the photos are therefore out of date and the description is one written before the recent changes.

Lounge

A very rare opportunity to experience something once common in pubs - table service. Sit on the bench seating in the right-hand lounge, press one of the numerous brass-plate mounted bell pushes and a member of staff will come and take your order (except on Friday or Saturday nights) The lounge itself is little altered since a 1930s refit and has carved bench seating throughout with turned legs and moulded arms plus a wooden-studded frieze above and the odd baffle. Non-table service is from a hatch/doorway at the back of the bar. The good-quality fittings in the public bar date only from 1993. What looks like an old glazed publican's office can be spied towards the backof the bar servery - only about a dozen of these survive countrywide.

Nottingham

Houndsgate, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham, NG1 7AA
Tel: (0115) 947 6580
Email: thesalutationvenue@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Nottingham) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Salutation Inn ★

The present pub is a combination of three buildings, the oldest of which has a 1240 date outside but is more likely to be a mix of 16th- and mid-18th century structures. The King Charles snug right of the narrow, flagged entrance passage is the oldest room, with genuinely ancient beams but fittings from the Thirties and Sixties. Left of the passage is an extension into an adjoining 19th-century building and the small, bare-boarded Cromwell Snug again features a mix of Thirties and Sixties work. The passage then widens into a lobby area with bench seating and a door to extensive cellars hewn from thesandstone (to which access might be possible at quiet times). At the end is the third building, a Tudor-style hall from the 1930s with a much-altered interior, including a later first-floor gallery.

Small Room 1

Nottingham

Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG5 3GG
Directions: At the junction of the A60 Mansfield Road and Thackerays Lane
Tel: (0115) 926 8864
Email: thevalehotelnottingham@gmail.com
Website: http://thevalewoodthorpe.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Vale Hotel ★★★

In the Vale and the Test Match Hotel, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire has two of the best Art Deco pub interiors in the country. The Vale dates from 1935–7 and was designed for the local Home Brewery by Nottingham architect T. Cecil Howitt. It is an example of the ‘improved public house’ typical of the time and which was seen as the antidote to undesirable Victorian drinking dens. The pub retains features such as the rounded projections on either end and its original metal windows. Also surviving is much of the sleek, Art Deco interior. Pride of place goes to the central parts. Here there is a lovely glazed entrance lobby and, left of this, a wonderful smoke room with original wall-panelling, counter and bar-back, and roundels bearing the Home Brewery initials: all this could be at home on a trans-Atlantic liner. Only very careful inspection will show that in 2011 the entrance directly from the lobby has been blocked and its doorway transferred to the far end, to create a link to what was the public bar (where the counter and panelling are not original). On the right is a spacious lounge, entered through what is now a wide opening from a drinking lobby area (relatively modern counter and fitment above). The rear room (now a carvery) was added in period style in 1964.

Snug

Nottingham: Central

Brewhouse Yard, Nottingham: Central, NG1 6AD
Directions: off Castle Road.
Tel: (0115) 947 3171
Email: 4925@greeneking.co.uk
Website: http://www.triptojerusalem.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Nottingham) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Olde Trip to Jerusalem ★★★

This is a truly remarkable pub and is one of the premier sights of Nottingham. Parts of it date back to the 17th century –forget about the 1189 date outside which is a matter of pureinvention! What makes it unique is a series of roomsburrowing into the soft sandstone of the rock beneathNottingham Castle: the city centre is riddled with such spaceswhich were used for storage. Alterations in 1997–8 did notimpact adversely on the historic core and, indeed, won aCAMRA/English Heritage design award. The entrance leadsinto a flagstone passage, which brings you to the Ward Room (the name recollects the family who kept the pub between 1894 and 1989). Here can be found the rare and fiendishly hard game of ringing the bull. Opposite is the servery, which seems of varied but fairly indeterminate dates. A few feet further on is a tiny rock-cut snug created during the alterations. Up a staircase is the Rock Lounge, a cavernous space refitted around 1930 with a quarter-circle counter and brick fireplace. Over the counter is the ‘cursed galleon’ which has not been cleaned for over 50 years following the mysterious deaths of the last three intrepid people who tried to do so! From here, a passage through the rock from 1997–8 leads to the Museum Room, once previously an office. Back downstairs, room no. 3 may have been a kitchen in the past and is known as Yorkey’s Room after ‘Yorkey’ Ward, licensee 1894–1914 (see his inn sign on the wall). The adjacent snug was converted from living accommodation in 1996.

Upsairs Lounge Bar

Rempstone

Main Street, Rempstone, LE12 6RH
Tel: (01509) 889111
Email: whitelionrempstone@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

White Lion ★

This small, traditional cottage-style village inn was probably built in the 19th century and refurbished in the late 1950s/early 1960s, since when little has changed. Two tiny rooms - apublic bar on the left and snug on the right - were combinedand the then-new fittings included the brick fireplaces, plainbenches all round, bar counter, simple bar shelves and tiled floor. The originally outside toilets are linked to the pub by an extension which houses a pool table.

Servery

Retford

64 Bridgegate, Retford, DN22 7UZ
Tel: (01777) 471803
Email: galwayarmsteam@gmail.com
Website: https://galwayarmsretfordpub.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Retford) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Galway Arms ★

Early 19th century former coaching inn that was owned by the Worksop & Retford Brewery in the past. The pub has a rare snug created by three old high-backed fixed settles one of which has an iron stay attaching it to the ceiling. The snug has a largish fireplace having a wooden surround and cast iron with glazed brick interior but disused. The mantle shelf almost reaches the ceiling and there are old wall cupboards to the left and right. The snug is a remarkable survivor but, sadly, in recent years all the historic woodwork has been painted a dull green colour.

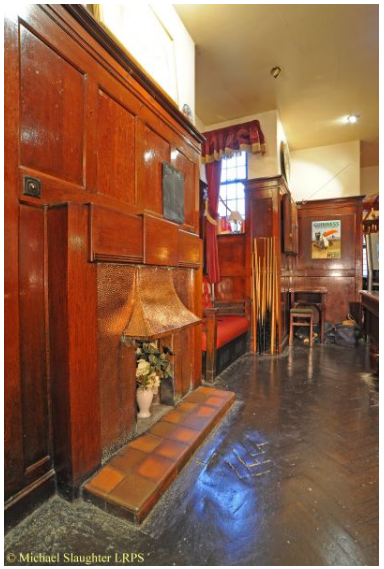
Snug 2

Retford

39 Grove Street, Retford, DN22 6LA
Directions: Off town centre away from the market area
Tel: (01777) 702742
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Retford) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Turks Head ★

This 1936 rebuild, with 'Brewers' Tudor' first floor and coaching arch on the left, retains many original fittings but its three rooms and off-sales have been knocked together. The walls throughout the pub have oak fielded panelling to picture-frame height and at the front are two original fireplaces - note the Turk's head symbols on the copper canopies. The counter is original, with more fielded panelling, as is the bar back but the servery may have been adroitly altered to serve the joined-up front rooms. The rear area now acts as a pool room with parquet floor, more original fixed seating and service bells above the fireplace. The rare pub game of ring the bull is played here.



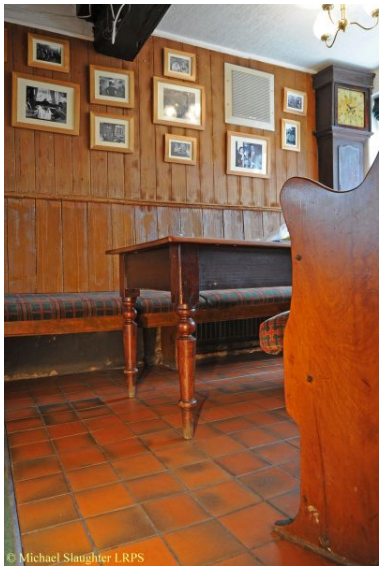
Rear Area

Watnall

40 Main Road, Watnall, NG16 1HT
Tel: (0115) 938 6774
Email: info@queensheadwatnall.co.uk
Website: http://www.queensheadwatnall.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Queens Head ★

The pub has evolved from a small, partitioned, basic tap room on the right, now opened up to the passageway - a section of partition was removed in the early 1990s and the 1930s fireplace replaced. The servery is a mixture of old and new, the glazed area at the top definitely being the former. A short passage leads to a small snug- type room with 1930s tiled fireplace and fixed seating - the room was supposedly in use in 1906. The large lounge occupies what was once a row of back-to-back cottages.



Snug

West Bridgford

Gordon Road, West Bridgford, NG2 5LP
Tel: (0115) 981 1481
Email: hello@testmatchhotel-westbridgford.co.uk
Website: http://www.testmatchhotel-westbridgford.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Test Match Hotel ★★★

In the Test Match and the Vale Hotel, Arnold,Nottinghamshire has two of the best Art Deco pub interiors inEngland. It was built in 1938 to the designs of A.C.Wheeler forbrewers Hardys & Hansons of Kimberley. The pub namederives from the nearby Trent Bridge cricket ground. Arevolving door sweeps you into a glorious two-storey, ash-panelled lounge with ceiling lighting reminiscent of a greatinter-war cinema. The (later) wall paintings by local artistT.L.B. Hutchinson have a cricketing theme. To the right is theformer gents-only smoke room with a striking arched approachto the toilets (obviously no provision for ladies): as elsewhere,they are as built. A wide staircase from the lounge leads up tothe beautifully preserved Boundary Bar, originally a cocktaillounge, with its semi-circular counter. During a major butsensitive refurbishment in 2001 the lounge was linked to whatwas an assembly room at the back. A side entrance takes youinto the remarkable public bar, complete with its jazzy terrazzo floor, tiered counter and angular slate fireplaces.

Public Bar

Shropshire

Bishop's Castle

The Square, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5BN
Tel: (01588) 638403
Email: stay@thecastlehotelbishopscastle.co.uk
Website: https://www.thecastlehotelbishopscastle.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Castle Hotel ★

An 18th-century hotel, notable for the splendidly cosy bar to the left of the main entrance. The fittings here are mainly late 19th/early 20th-century. Above the boarded dado is imitation boarding, a cheap substitute for the real thing often used at the time. The counter has a simple, match-boarded front while the bar back comprises old shelving on a mirrored backing. Glazed screen on the right and plain brick fireplace to the left. The lounge and panelled dining room are largely devoid of old fittings and the bar rear left is all modern.

Public Bar

Edgerley

, Edgerley, SY10 8ES
Tel: (01743) 741242
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: Not listed

Royal Hill Inn ★

This pub, with its fine views, was built in 1777 according to its date-stone, though the brickwork suggests a 19th-century refronting. The original rooms are the front bar, created by two high-backed settles to form a passage from the door, and the tiny rear servery with a Victorian counter. The lounge on the left and room on the right are converts from private accommodation; the former recently lost its 'front room' style with the introduction of modern furniture. Another change, in the bar, has seen a short passage created to access the right-hand room. Two further rooms to the left of the lounge were sculpted out of a former stables. Hatch service to two rooms.

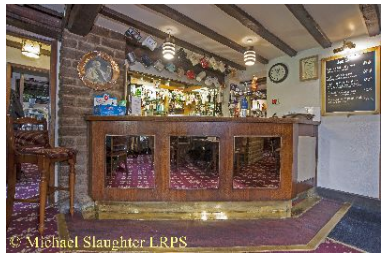
Interior

Much Wenlock

High Street, Much Wenlock, TF13 6AQ
Tel: (01952) 727212
Email: info@gaskellarms.co.uk
Website: https://www.gaskellarms.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Gaskell Arms Hotel ★

Built in the Regency period, the hotel sits on the stone foundations of the erstwhile Rindleford Hall. W. Butler & Co of Wolverhampton carried out a full renovation after buying it in 1960 and the bar fittings survive virtually unchanged. The small back public bar has an old painted dado, wood-panel counter with metal studs and inlaid Formica top, old bar back with glass shelving and a carved wood fireplace - but some fixed seating has recently been lost. The front lounge is in two parts each side of a back-to-back fireplace, the left-hand section having a counter with three large highly polished brass panels that look like mirrors and a bar back similar to that in the public. A split door in the passage between the bars bears the words 'Garden Service', being opposite a tiled passage to the garden. The reception opposite the car park entrance has a quarter circle counter of the same design as the one in the public bar. A dining room front left is served from a hatch.



Lounge Bar Servery

Oswestry

47 Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2SZ
Tel: (01691) 659254
Email: james.drs@btconnect.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Oak Inn ★

Most of what you see today in this early 19th-century pub is from a 1950s refurbishment. The small public bar, accessed from a porch front right, has a slatted wooden counter and period bar-back fittings, 1950s fireplace within an older inglenook and fixed seating. Back outside, a door in the left-hand wall labelled 'Gents Bar' on the passage side takes you into a quarry-tiled corridor with a partition to the servery and an off-sales hatch still with sliding door. The door at the end of this passage opens into the lounge, somewhat expanded in recent times - an advert on the wall shows the previous smaller version. 1950s features here include another slatted wood counter, similar bar-back fittings, brick fireplace and fixed seating. Note the sign 'Wrexham Lager Sold "On Draught" and Off the Ice'.

Rear Bar

Selattyn

, Selattyn, SY10 7DN
Tel: (01691) 653347
Website: https://www.thedocksselattyn.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: Not listed

Docks ★

UPDATE 2020.

A refurbishment has recently been carried out which requires a re-assessment.

Please note - the photos are therefore out of date and the description is one written before the recent changes.

Public Bar

A traditional village pub situated just a mile from the Welsh border and Offa's Dyke. The pub originally doubled as village shop up until 1994, hence the large window on the right-hand side of the building. Having only had three owners since 1939, the historic heart is the delightful small bar at the rear right beyond a tiled and dado panelled corridor.

It has some Victorian or early 20th-century fittings including the high bar counter and red and black quarry-tile flooring; the fireplace is perhaps of about 1970. Across the corridor is the Music Room, another atmospheric space with red quarry-tiled flooring. It is so called as it hosts live folk music on Thursdays and Fridays.

On the right are two further reception rooms, comprising a snug and small dining room which have been brought in to use whilst being renovated sympathetically and furnished in a contemporary style. A large function room occupies the former stables. The pub's nickname comes from wartime and subsequent austerity, and apparently means black market goods (docks, of course, being a major source thereof): no doubt this wasn't the only pub in the land where such wares were traded behind closed doors!

Shrewsbury

1 Church Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1UG
Tel: (01743) 362398
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Shrewsbury) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Loggerheads ★★★

A wonderfully unspoilt pub in an 18th-century building in the old heart of Shrewsbury and still with four separate rooms. Off the left-hand passageway are a serving hatch (right) and the venerable (former) 'Gents Only' bar (now an outlawed feature of pub life! – see below), formed by a timber and glass partition which doubles as a high-backed settle: the left-hand wall has some reused 16th- or 17th-century oak panelling. Here there are some old (non-working) bell-pushes and a traditional slate shove ha'penny board. The tiny front bar in the centre is a homely room with plain furnishings and at the rear left is a tiny snug ('Poet's Corner') with old padded bench seating. The corridor runs around the back of the servery to the lounge bar which occupies a (probably) inter-war extension and which has fixed seating on two sides, a brick fireplace, a hatch to servery and a parquet floor. The other floors throughout the pub are quarry-tiled. The pub name derives from the three leopards' heads on the Shrewsbury town arms (also adopted for the county in 1895).

Gents Only Room 1

Shrewsbury

32 Coton Hill, Shrewsbury, SY1 2DZ
Tel: (01743) 351007
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Shrewsbury) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Woodman ★

A brick and half-timbered pub, rebuilt in 1925, with the two shop windows around the jug & bottle door added in the 1960s. In the bar, the counter has attractive fielded panelling and the fixed seating and tiled floor are also original (but not so the bar top and fireplace). The lounge, once two small rooms, has inter-war panelled walls and the bar back could well be original. The brick and Formica-topped bar counter, though, is a 1960s insertion and the fireplaces have modern surrounds.

Right Hand Bar

Stiperstones

, Stiperstones, SY5 0LZ
Tel: (01743) 791327
Email: inn@stiperstones.net
Website: http://www.stiperstonesinn.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Stiperstones Inn ★★

A pub since 1840, the Stiperstones has been in the same family for 45 years and has changed little since a late 1950s refit. The lobby retains its off-sales hatch in a glazed screen then, on the left, is the lounge which is fully panelled in typical 1950s style. The counter appears to be from the same era, as do the fireplace and fixed seating, but the bar back could be somewhat later - the mirror mosaic in the fittings was popular in the 1960s. More 1950s work in the public bar (curved counter, plain bar back, brick fireplace and fixed seating) though the exposed brick dado seems to be of a later date. The two dining rooms at the back have a few old fittings. Out-buildings have been converted into a well-stocked village shop.

Left Hand Servery

Telford

Plough Road, Telford, TF2 7AL
Tel: 07562 347840
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Oakengates) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Bulls Head ★★★

Front Bar

According to an external metal plaque the pub was established in 1838, but its thrilling and colourful display of tiles and glazed bricks probably dates from about 1904. The ceramics are by Maw & Co. whose Jackfield tileworks, in the Ironbridge Gorge, was the largest in the world at the end of the 19th century. The frontage has bands of green and orange glazed brick on the upper floor. Below are highly unusual strips of mosaic dividing the windows and doors. In the front room the tiling extends from floor to ceiling in various designs and colours.

The floor too is tiled in patterns of brown, buff, blue and white. Some of the glazing is contemporary, including windows onthe first floor and the door glass inscribed ‘Bar’. A change isthat there used to be a corridor from the right-hand doorway tothe rear. The counter (with unusual strips of low-relief carved decoration) and the bar-back are, no doubt, Edwardian as well. The rear and left hand parts took their present form in 1984.A nine-month closure followed in the early 21st century but it was then rescued and brought back to a vibrant life in March 2005.

Staffordshire

Audley

Church Street, Audley, ST7 8DE
Tel: (01782) 722906
Email: thebutchersaudley@gmail.com
Website: https://www.butchers.pub
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Butchers Arms ★★

Public Bar

Rebuilt in 1933, this attractive brick-and-half-timbered pub has suffered few alterations. The entrance leads to a spacious corridor with panelling and quarry-tiled flooring, the latter continuing into the small public bar on the right. This has an impressive ceiling, divided into three deep compartments and with rich cornices bearing grapes and Tudor roses. The counter is original, albeit with a new top. It has recently (2021) been redecorated with a grey/blue colour scheme and green re-upholstery on the bench seating. Further back, the larger lounge also has a triple-compartmented ceiling and a similar frieze. Also on show are a Tudor-style fireplace (with heraldic crest above), good dado panelling and a counter ornamented with fleur-de-lys (but again a new top). Again, there has been recent re-decoration and the wood-slatting on the back wall will not please everyone. Rear left is the smoke room, still with original fireplace, fixed seating and bell-pushes; here the rather simpler ceiling has a border with oak leaves. In the large upstairs function room, only the fireplace is from 1933. The pub was built with an early form of electric-powered air conditioning and the vents can still be seen in the public rooms. The only major loss is the off-sales on the right side.

Burton upon Trent

43 Cross Street, Burton upon Trent, DE14 1EG
Directions: Off Station Street
Tel: (01283) 567246
Email: maddis626@gmail.com
Website: https://www.joulesbrewery.co.uk/our-taphouses/our-pub-list/coopers-tavern
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Burton-on-Trent) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Coopers Tavern ★★★

Tap Room 1

This remarkable pub is famous for being the former Bass brewery tap. It began life as an overflow store for special malts for the brewery and by 1826 was the repository for Bass's Imperial Stout, after which senior members of the brewery began using it as their private pub. Licensing as a public house followed in 1858 but the back area remained the fiefdom of the select few until about 1950, the hoi polloi being served at a hatch between this 'cellar' and the passage beyond. Nowanyone can drink there, perching on three benches or in a raised area in the corner; within the same space a large variety of beers and other drinks are stored, creating a drinking environment like no other. A large lounge occupies the front of the building, the two types of quarry-tiles suggesting it may once have been two separate rooms; it has old benches and the bell-pushes still work. The snug (front left) is a recent creation sculpted out of private quarters.

In a sympathetic refurbishment in 2017 a bar counter was added for the first time in one of two newly added small rooms.

Cannock

35 St Johns Road, Cannock, WS11 0AL
Directions: "jct" of Avon Road
Tel: (01543) 574812
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Cannock) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Crystal Fountain ★★★

This plain, neo-Georgian pub of 1937 retains its original four-room layout and Moderne-style fittings. The only significant changes are the opening of a link between the public bar and the snug and the addition of a small counter in the lounge. The latter is to the rear left and to its right is a function room (formerly the non-smoking dining room') with large windows opening to the garden. Many period features survive, notably the bar counter and bar-back, bench seating, sleek doors andthe fitting out of the loos on the left. The right-hand gents' isout of use and there never was a ladies' as the public bar wasvery much a male preserve. After a long period of decline, thepub was very carefully refurbished by Black Country Ales and reopened in May 2012. It changed ownership in 2019.

Lounge

Elford

The Square, Elford, B79 9DB
Directions: 600m E of A513
Tel: (01827) 383602
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Crown Inn ★

A charming, tucked-away, brick-built (mainly 18th-century) pub. On the right, a small public bar retains its Victorian bar back and counter plus old bench seating. The bar on the left suffered alterations in the 1950s but old panelling survives. The small room further left contains what may be an old cell - there was once a courtroom upstairs. It also has half-panelling, parquet flooring and a 1950s fireplace. There have been various extensions and incorporations at the back, including the vaulted Old Cellar.

Snug

High Offley

Peggs Lane, Old Lea, High Offley, ST20 0NG
Directions: By bridge 42 of the Shropshire Union Canal. OnA519 @Woodseaves turn W on High Offley Road by chapel ,turn L on Peggs Lane
Tel: (01785) 284569
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: Not listed

Anchor Inn ★★★

Public Bar

Probably the most unspoilt example of a canal-side pub, with the front door facing the water rather than the road. It was built around 1830 to serve the Shropshire Union Canal, England's last trunk narrow canal, completed in 1835 and the last major project of the great engineer Thomas Telford. The pub hasbeen in the same family since 1903. The right-hand room is theone that really counts, with its quarry-tiled floor, two high-backed settles, window bench and scrubbed tables; the ensemble creating a timeless atmosphere. The bar counter was installed in the 1960s and is decorated to resemble a narrow boat. The left-hand bar was also refitted in the 1960s in the taste of the time. Beer is normally served on hand-pump but, on request, can be fetched from the cellar in a jug. In winter only opens Fri evenings and Sat lunchtimes and evening plus Sun lunchtime but best to ring before a visit.

Leek

17 Market Place, Leek, ST13 5HJ
Tel: 07307 870276
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Bird in Hand ★

An impressive, market-place pub rebuilt in 1889 by local architects William Sugden & Son, also responsible for Leek's Nicholson Institute. To the left of the porch, with its mosaic floor, is the public bar with splendid carved and mirrored bar back and carved oak counter (with new top). On the right, the lounge has been combined with the lobby area around the modern counter but the fixed seating in the bay window and delicate wall-panelling are original. Rear-right, a small snug is used mainly for darts. A number of coloured and leaded windows add further interest to the interior.

Rugeley

19 Market Street, Rugeley, WS15 2JH
Tel: (01889) 586848
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Rugeley Trent Valley)
Listed Status: II

Red Lion ★★★

Last refitted in the inter-war years, this popular three-room drinkers' pub occupies a 16th-century timber-framed building. The small public bar in the centre has some very old re-used panelling, a red quarry-tiled floor and a beamed ceiling. The fireplace was modified in the 1970s when the typical Banks's metal inset was installed (as it was in the other two rooms).The tiny cupboard left of the fireplace kept dry valuable itemslike salt. The counter seems to be inter-war while the bar-back with turned shafts looks earlier. To the left, a snug has modern fittings but an inter-war fireplace. The games room on the right has panelling, old bench seating and a modern tiled floor.

Right Hand Room

Stoke-on-Trent

65 Lichfield Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3EA
Directions: opp Hanley Bus Station
Tel: 07876 144818
Email: coachmakersarmshanley@gmail.com
Website: http://www.coachmakersarms.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Coachmakers Arms ★★★

An early Victorian mid-terrace pub, which retains its layout of a central drinking passage with two rooms on either side. The passage has a brown Minton tiled dado, a red and black tiled floor and a hatch to the side of the servery. The tiny snug bar (front left) retains old benches but the original counter is somewhat marred by the over-large modern top and unsightly padded panels. The lounge (front right) has fixed bench seating and a cast-iron fireplace. At the rear right the small ‘Piano Room’ is quite plain except for a highly attractive, possibly Edwardian, fire surround with pretty Art Nouveau touches: the red and black flooring is the same as in the corridor. Rear left is the most altered room which has been extended back into former private quarters, perhaps in the 1960s or 1970s. At the time of writing, the pub is under threat of demolition due to redevelopment plans for the area.

Front Bar

Stoke-on-Trent

2 St. John's Square, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 3AJ
Tel: (01782) 915162
Email: thedukeburslem@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Longport) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Duke William ★★★

A prominent and largely intact pub from the 1930s. From the inner lobby, with its terrazzo floors, one door leads to an off-sales created by full-height glazed partition walls and a removed panel gives access to the public bar (the original door to this now being locked out of use). Another set of doors brings you to the lobby bar, also with a terrazzo floor and whose servery is surrounded by glazed screen-work up to the ceiling, with just the lower raising panels missing. Two rooms lead off the corridor - there has been some opening out here. The front room has fielded panelling with bell-pushes all round, mostly original fixed seating and original window glass. More panelling in the rear room but only on one wall and the fireplace has gone. Through the double doors at the end of the L-shaped corridor is another inner lobby. Going back to the public bar, this has mostly intact fittings - the bar counter, island gantry-style bar-back, fixed seating and glazed stone and wood fireplace. The Duke William Suite on the first floor is also worth a look (used as a restaurant).

Public Bar

Stoke-on-Trent

65 Old Town Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 2JS
Tel: (01782) 212605
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Golden Cup Inn ★

A lovely little pub, built in 1912 and carefully restored in 2004. You are greeted by a superb green-tiled frontage celebrating Bass, then you find more tiles in both the entrance lobbies. The bar counter with fluted pilasters is superior Edwardian work, as is the delicate mirrored bar-back whose superstructure is supported on elaborately turned posts surmounted by miniature acroteria. The snug, rear left, is a conversion from residential accommodation. Through an arch, the rear right-hand room has old fixed upholstered seating with bell pushes. Some of the original glass has been re-located.

Public Bar

Stoke-on-Trent

5-6 Manor Court Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5DW
Tel: (01782) 414800
Website: https://www.greyhoundpenkhull.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Stoke-on-Trent) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Greyhound Inn ★★

In 1936 Parkers brewery of Burslem reconstructed this late 16th-century timber-framed building (formerly a court house) and its three-roomed interior hasn't changed much since. The lounge bar on the right has a fireplace from the original building plus a Tudor-arch fireplace from the 1936 work - the counter also seems to be from that time though the bar-back is modern. A doorway on the right brings you to a superb snug with completely panelled walls from the first building. A red tiled floor and the fireplace and fixed seating (with barley-twist arms and legs) are from the 1936 scheme. At the back, a small area with period fireplace has a door to a passage leading to the public bar on the left. This has a dado of 1936 fielded panelling which extends to the counter front, both recently painted a cream colour, and the baffle by the front entrance and ceiling roses are also worthy of note (which is not the case with the fireplace and modern bar-back).

Lounge Bar Servery

Stoke-on-Trent

296 Hartshill Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7NH
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Stoke-on-Trent) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Jolly Potters ★

Built in 1827, this has the once common Potteries layout of four small rooms and a central passageway. The miniscule 'Victoria Ground Bar' (named after Stoke City's old ground) is the star attraction with its black and white tiled floor, old bar counter and bar-back shelves, half-height panelling and benches of uncertain vintage (early post-war?). The colourful quarry-tiled passage has a hatch to the bar (but modern counter). The front right snug has lost its door and fireplace and also its wall to the passageway - this was later reinstated, albeit with the upper part replaced by windows. The corner cupboard is the only old item. Rear right is the 'Teachers Lounge' with Victorian bench seating but no fireplace whilst the lounge rear left has some old panelling and less old seating.

Public Bar

Stoke-on-Trent

13 Hill Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 1NL
Tel: (01782) 868995
Website: https://whatpub.com/pubs/POT/1209/staff-of-life-stoke-on-trent
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Stoke-on-Trent) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Staff of Life ★

Three roomed pub with a central tiled passageway. The bar counter is in the left hand room with hatch service to the aforementioned passageway. The tiled floors in the passage and the two (now conjoined) snugs to the right are excellent, with that in the rear-right hand snug being exceptional. There is some original fixed seating in these rooms as well.

Stoke-on-Trent

248 Werrington Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST2 9AW
Tel: (01782) 911843
Website: https://www.marstons.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Travellers Rest ★

A 1930s build with four little-altered rooms. The lobby has a tiled dado on one side and the off-sales is still extant, albeit with a window replacing the hatch. The public bar has its original fixed seating and counter but the bar-back is partly modernised. The narrow, so-called 'Chapel of Rest' is the most distinctive room with its original wall panelling (with bell-pushes), counter and bar-back - pity the replacement repro fireplace apes the wrong period. The lobby bar at the back has a dado of fielded panelling and the old counter whilst the music room contains nothing of note (so to speak).

Lobby Bar

Stoke-on-Trent

40 Piccadilly, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1EG
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Stoke-on-Trent) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Unicorn Inn ★★

Many pubs were refitted in the 1960s but nearly all have had subsequent makeovers as tastes changed. This one-room town centre local is an exception. The mock-Tudor fake beams and half-timbering on the walls are redolent of the time, as are the copper-topped bar counter, red upholstered fixed seating and copper-top tables. Before the 1960s there would have been two rooms here, hence the now out-of-use centrally-placed front door. The pub operates as the bar for the Regent theatre opposite - look for the order forms for interval drinks!

Bar

Warwickshire

Alcester

37 Henley Street, Alcester, B49 5QX
Directions: Opp Town Hall and Church
Tel: (01789) 507370
Email: contact@thehollybushinn.co.uk
Website: https://www.thehollybushinn.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: II

Holly Bush Inn ★

A 17th-century timber-framed inn with an early 19th-century front range. Despite a thorough make-over in recent years, the old layout largely survives. From the entrance, a broad, bare-boarded passage leads to back rooms at either side, both with widened entrances and with tongue-and-groove panelling applied to ceiling height. Most other fittings are also recent although the floorboards and one of the fireplaces are older. The passage itself has a hatch to the bar. The small public bar at the front has bench seating but no other old fittings. The two rooms to the right of the passage only entered pub use in 2001; the rear one has some 17th-century panelling.

Atherstone

175 Long Street, Atherstone, CV9 1AH
Tel: None

Old Swan ★

Corley Moor

Common Lane, Corley Moor, CV7 8AQ
Directions: In centre of Corley Moor, 1 mile west of Corley
Tel: (01676) 540241
Website: https://www.bullandbutchercorleymoor.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: Not listed

Bull & Butcher ★

This is a good example of how to expand a pub (a rear extension for a restaurant in this case) whilst leaving the old layout mostly intact (here, three small rooms at the front). The snug on the left is full of character with its tiled floor, range-style fireplace and fixed seating against panelled walls.

Five Ways

Case Lane, Five Ways, Haseley, Five Ways, CV35 7JD
Directions: Off Five Ways Rd near A4141/A4177 jnct
Tel: (01926) 484206
Email: jwcaseisaltered@gmail.com
Website: https://www.caseisaltered.com/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: Not listed

Case is Altered ★

The pub occupies old cottages but the most interesting part, the low, beamed public bar, assumed its present arrangements in the 1950s when the bar counter was installed and the room extended into the area on the left. Some beers were, until recently, served using cask-pumps attached to the casks behind the counter - a very rare method nowadays. The pub entranceis by a tiled corridor wide enough to accommodate a 1930s bar-billiards table. To the right, the small lounge has, like the public, a tiled floor and whitewashed walls. A separate lounge on the other side of the courtyard was taken out of use in 2005. Around 2015, the shelving forming the bar back was renewed and modern wood added to the right hand side of the servery above the casks. The bar top is also now modern.

Public Bar

Leamington Spa

4 Campion Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV32 4SX
Tel: (01926) 426746
Email: thesomervillearms@gmail.com
Website: http://www.somervillearms.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Leamington Spa) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Somerville Arms ★

There is nothing architecturally memorable or historic about this interior, dating from a 1956 refit, but it has a no-nonsense simplicity which is becoming sadly rare. The long public bar, once two rooms, runs along the front of the pub and the fittings are pleasingly basic - lino-tiled floor, tongue-and-groove panelling to dado level, brick fireplaces and fixed seating. A sensitive refurbishment in 2010 saw the bar counter and back replaced but much else spruced up. A central corridor leads to a small back lounge which has a sturdy bar counter and bar back, bench seating and a brick fireplace, all from 1956.

Public Bar

Leamington Spa

4-6 Clarendon Avenue, Leamington Spa, CV32 5PZ
Tel: (01926) 426892
Email: enquiry@thewhitehorseleamingtonspa.co.uk
Website: https://www.thewhitehorseleamingtonspa.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Leamington Spa) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

White Horse ★

A fine example of how to expand a pub's trading area whilst keeping the old layout intact. The original pub here is on the left - the new bar on the right was added in 2006. The public bar, with old bar counter, is separated from the vaults by a wood and glass partition incorporating a door and narrow etched panels. The tiny vaults retains its Victorian two-sectioned bar back and the counter may well be its contemporary but has been raised. Both these rooms are normally only open for private hire but you might be able to arrange access by ringing ahead. The former snug on the other side of the front lobby is, in any event, the best surviving room with its colourful tiled floor and old fixed seating with bell pushes above.

Old Bar

Mancetter

Watling Street, Mancetter, CV9 1NE
Tel: (01827) 716166
Email: blue_boar@btconnect.com
Website: http://www.blueboarmancetter.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Atherstone) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Blue Boar ★

Many of the fittings now on view date from a rebuild around 1940. In the lounge, these include the counter, mirrored bar back with cupboards and drawers and the reupholstered fixed seating. A similar bar back survives in the public bar but the counter and fixed seating are later, perhaps from the time that the room was enlarged. Monty's Restaurant occupies the former smoke room and both bar and fireplace are probably from the 1960s. A 1997 extension houses another restaurant. An off-sales still exists but the entrance has moved.

Left Hand Bar

Rugby

1 Lower Hillmorton Road, Rugby, CV21 3ST
Tel: (01788) 544374
Email: mail@downthevic.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Rugby) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Victoria Inn ★

The public bar here is worth a look for its original Victorianbar back, slatted bench seating and splendid M&B decorative etched windows (three of the original six survive). An off-sales was incorporated into the room, hence the two doors. The lounge has modern bar fittings but part of the old bar has been turned into a feature on the wall.

Public Bar

West Midlands

Bearwood

Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5RA
Tel: (0121) 429 6067
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Abbey ★

This huge roadhouse was built in 1931 to a neo-Georgian design by Wood & Kendrick for Mitchells & Butlers. Predictably, much opening out and modernisation has subsequently taken place but sufficient remains to give a good idea of its former splendour. The public bar is dominated by a long bar counter and a mirrored bar back with paired pilasters and pedimented central bay. The wall formerly separating it from the smoke room has been removed. A separate side entrance leads into a hall with a smoke room off to the right. Ahead is a cavernous dining room/lounge where the counter and bar back at the far end have replaced a hatch to a servery behind. A loggia in the garden is currently boarded up and out of use.

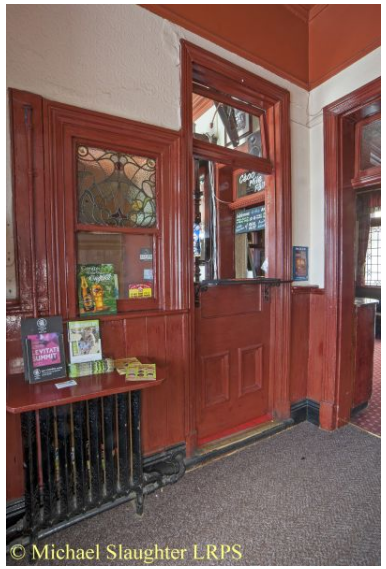
Public Bar

Birmingham

308 Bradford Street, Birmingham, B5 6ET
Directions: adjacent to Digbeth Coach Station
Tel: (0121) 622 4516
Email: julian@theanchordigbeth.com
Website: http://www.theanchordigbeth.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Birmingham Moor Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Anchor ★★★

A red-brick and terracotta pub built in 1902 for Ansells' brewery to the designs of renowned local pub architects, James & Lister Lea. Inside, a timber and glass screen divides the main public bar; a plan on display in the smoke room shows that this was one of several which formerly split up the interior into small compartments, including an off-sales accessed from Rea Street. The original counter and bar-back make up an L-shaped servery, with heating pipes running along the foot of the counter. The smoke room (now called 'lounge') behind has a hatch, modern counter, etched panels in the doors and fixed seating with baffles and bell-pushes. Between this room and the Rea Street entrance is a charming small drinking area. Typical of many of the city's pubs from this era is the Art Nouveau-style detail in the upper windows and geometric patterned glass in the lower ones.



Hatch

Birmingham

11 Old Church Road, Birmingham, B17 0BB
Tel: (0121) 428 4609
Email: bellharborne.birmingham@stonegatepubs.com
Website: https://www.classicinns.co.uk/thebellharborne
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (University) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Bell ★

The age of this building is difficult to judge as it has clearly evolved over many years but it has been a pub since around 1862, when this would still have been a rural location. The spine is a central corridor with red-tiled floor and timber dado plus, on the left, a remarkably small counter to the servery which has been formed at the bottom of the stairs. Rear left is a snug with fixed seating, more red-tiled flooring, glazed hatch to servery and a vast fireplace. The big room on the right probably took its present form in the inter-war period - the fixed seating and abundance of half-timbering is certainly typical of that era. At the back is a well-tended bowling green with an unusual L-shape.

Snug

Birmingham

16 Factory Road, Birmingham, B18 5JU
Directions: Turn right out of Soho Benson Road Metro station, cross road and walk 200 yards
Tel: (0121) 523 4008
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Jewellery Quarter) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Black Eagle ★★★

Built in 1895, this pub has five small rooms, four of them clustered round a central servery. The bar front left has its original counter (incorporating a row of Minton tiles) and bar back and this also serves the tap room on the right. The lounge at the front right has absorbed the former off-sales; it has its original counter but some tiles were damaged and the rest re-used on the rear smoke room counter. The former entrance to this room is blocked up and the fixed seating in front of it is modern, the rest being original. In the rear smoke room the counter has been enlarged to the right. The bar back fitting actually consists of what were the exterior windows, removed to create the doorway to the rear dining room (which has no old fittings). On the right are a 1920s fireplace and inter-war fixed seating.

Exterior

Birmingham

Bristol Road South, Birmingham, B31 2QT
Directions: Opp Sainbury's
Tel: (0121) 477 1800
Website: https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/pubs/all-pubs/england/west-midlands/the-black-horse-birmingham
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Northfield) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Black Horse ★★

Without doubt one of the greatest and most magnificent pubs created between the wars, this enormous ‘Brewers’ Tudor’ roadhouse dates from a rebuilding in 1929 for Birmingham brewers Davenports by Francis Goldsbrough of architects Bateman & Bateman. The extravagantly half-timbered exterior has gables, carved woodwork, leaded glass and barley-sugar chimneys. Inside, the ground floor has experienced much change, especially at the front, including some refitting in its latest incarnation as a pub in the J.D. Wetherspoon chain, which took over in 2010 after a period of closure (the bar fittings are of this time). The most notable spaces on the ground floor are the former gents’ smoke room (rear right) and the dining and assembly room (rear left): the first is a romantic evocation of a baronial hall with a sturdy tie-beam roof (the servery is modern), while the latter has a series of low ceilings punctuated by tall two-light windows. Among the details to enjoy on the ground floor are three grand and very different fireplaces in the ground-floor spaces. The first floor is less changed and definitely worth a visit. The first space is a barrel-vaulted lobby area which leads to a huge function room (with three-sided ceiling) and beyond this is a conference room with a fine circular plaster ceiling. The former verandah, overlooking the well-manicured bowling green, is now glazed in as a seating area.

Assembly Room, now lounge bar

Birmingham

1364 Pershore Road, Birmingham, B30 2XS
Directions: On main A441 close to Bournville station
Tel: (0121) 758 5855
Email: bookingsbritishoak@gmail.com
Website: https://www.britishoakstirchley.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bournville) and BusStop
Listed Status: II

British Oak ★★★

Designed for Mitchells & Butlers by prolific pub architects James & Lister Lea and built in 1923-4, this large brick pubhas an asymmetrical frontage in a 17th-century domestic style, behind which are no less than five substantially intact public rooms. Double doors in the centre lead into a lobby with tiled dado, behind which is the large public bar with a terrazzofloor, original fixed seating and oak bar counter. Sadly the bar-back now suffers from yellowish paint. Front left, the narrow lounge (formerly ‘gents only’) has its original fireplace and panelling, fixed seating with bell-pushes and a couple of baffles. The assembly room at the rear has a parquet floor, marble fireplace and small hatch to the servery. Also at the back is the smoke room with an alcove, wall-panelling to two-thirds height, and a three-sided servery (but is the latter original?). Finally, back to the front of the pub, where the right-hand room again has its original fireplace and seating. Both gents’ toilets have their original tiling, as has the ladies’ on the right. The attached bowling green is still in regular use. Listed in 1998 following a pilot study of Birmingham pubs by CAMRA for English Heritage.

Rear Lounge Bar

Birmingham

1 Saint Mary's Row, Birmingham, B13 8HW
Tel: (0121) 449 0811
Email: enquiry@thefightingcocksmoseley.co.uk
Website: https://www.thefightingcocksmoseley.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Fighting Cocks ★

Built in 1898-9 by architects Newton & Cheatle for Holt's Brewery, the Fighting Cocks has endured various corporate refurbishments, including Firkin branding in the 1990s and Goose branding later - but it's still a fabulous building, inside and out. The superb brick and stone exterior is in a mixed Tudor/Arts & Crafts style with a clock tower, big stained and leaded glass windows and a barometer and windspeedindicator by the corner entrance. Inside, the three roomssurround a central servery which has a fine heavy mahoganygantry, etched mirrors and good plain counter. Along the frontare original timber entrance lobbies with etched glass. The L-shaped corner bar has green Craven Dunnill wall tiles and a decorative ceiling. The modernised lounge retains two picture-tile panels, one showing a pub called the Fighting Cocks, no doubt the current building's predecessor, and the other a church in a rural setting - is there more beneath the wallpaper?

Tiled Painting

Birmingham

106 High Street, Birmingham, B14 7JZ
Tel: (0121) 444 2081
Email: info@hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk
Website: https://hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Hare & Hounds ★★★

This prominent corner-site pub had been sadly abused by the mid-1980s but still deserves recognition for some spectacular tiling and other specific features. It was rebuilt in 1907 under architect Samuel Owen of Owen & Ward for the HoltBrewery. What really counts is the abundant tiling by Maw &Co. of Jackfield, Shropshire. Best seen in the staircase-hall onthe York Road side, this extends from floor to ceiling and rightup the stairs and into a corridor. Stylistically it might bedescribed as Moorish meets Art Nouveau. A special feature inthe dado is Maw's tube-lining technique in which areas ofcolour are separated by thin ribbons of clay. Above, with floralmotifs, are creamy green tiles broken by strips of flower forms.The public bar is now one L-shaped room, but until 1983 therewas a series of separate spaces. The double-sided clock,complete with Holt Brewery squirrel, is a delightful feature.The mahogany bar counter and bar back have both been tinkered with, but much survives. The lounge used to be two smoke rooms but its bar back and fireplace are mostly original. This pub is very much a music venue.

Staircase

Birmingham

Dads Lane, Birmingham, B13 8PQ
Tel: (0121) 472 8630
Email: HighburyPub@hotmail.co.uk
Website: https://www.highburypub.co.uk/index
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Highbury ★

A typical large Birmingham suburban pub, built in the 1920s for Mitchells & Butlers. The public bar at the front corner of the pub still has its original counter, an elegant bar back (with 'M&B' carved in the pediment), wall-panelling to two-thirds height, and a decorated fireplace. The door to the rear lounge has given way to a wider opening and this room is now used for pool. The wall panelling here is a little more elaborate and the beams are decorated. The small curved counter is probably from the 1950s or 1960s. A separate side entrance leads to a mostly modernised lounge (formerly gents only in the days when it was still legal to exclude women from parts of a pub) and a plain function room with panelled walls and a segmental-shaped ceiling. A former off-license can also be discerned between the two entrances.

Birmingham

165 Shirley Road, Birmingham, B28 9LA
Tel: (0121) 777 8444
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Maggies ★★

Built 1935 as the Three Magpies, this is a rare surviving reasonably intact example of a 'reformed' Birmingham public house in the moderne style. When built the plan consisted of a lobby with the beer store on the right, public bar on the far right, Outdoor Department on the near left, Gents Smoking Room on the front left and Assembly Room on the rear left. The last three of these have now been amalgamated into a large lounge but the curved counter of the off-sales just inside the room remains as does fixed seating in the former Smoking Room area. Also, the wooden floor and small stage with counter on the left in the former Assembly Room area appear to be original and the bar-back of wood panels and mirrors is a mix of old and new. This area retains its plaster cornice and mouldings, moderne smoke extractor grilles and metal windows. The public bar, on the right, has a wooden floor and seemingly-original counter but again the bar-back is part old (the main shelf) and part modern (the top section). More moderne plaster ceiling mouldings and original fixed seating here. The bowling green is still used.

Right Hand Bar

Birmingham

71 Summer Road, Birmingham, B23 6UT
Tel: None
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Erdington)
Listed Status: Not listed

New Inns ★

Behind the excellent brown faience frontage of this Edwardian pub lies, firstly, a good plain bar with vestibule entrance and original counter and carved bar-back. To the left, a passage has a timber and etched glass partition to the bar. The bar fittings in the rear lounge are modern but the cornices and the bench seating with bell pushes above are original. Further back is a small area with more old bench seating and a tiled fireplace.

Servery

Birmingham

53 Tindal Street, Birmingham, B12 9QU
Directions: 400yds off Moseley Rd
Tel: (0121) 440 1954
Email: oldmoseleyarms@gmail.com
Website: http://www.oldmoseleyarms.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bordesley) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Old Moseley Arms ★★

Very traditional pub rebuilt in 1927-8 (Architect W. Norman Twist.) The left bar has interwar fielded panelling, the original sloping bar counter and an Art Deco part-mirrored bar back fitting. Both the fixed seating and wood-surround fireplace look original, though the latter has modern tiles. The room at the rear right has fielded panelling to two-thirds height, original brick fireplace, fixed seating and bell pushes all round. Similar panelling adorns the front right room and there is another original fireplace but the bar counter looks to be more recent than that in the left hand bar. The pub was subject to a refurbishment in 1988 and the bar back in this room no doubt dates from that time.

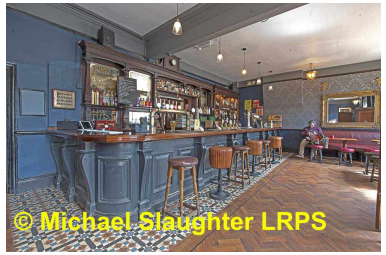
Left Hand Bar

Birmingham

118 Alcester Road, Birmingham, B13 8EE
Tel: (0121) 449 4198
Email: diane@theprincemoseley.co.uk
Website: https://www.theprincemoseley.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Prince of Wales ★

An excellent community boozer with several rooms. The plain bar across the front has an especially good bar-back with etched and gilded mirrors plus old panelled counter (somewhat shortened) and benches. The two doors from the lobby indicate that there were once separate rooms here. Behind the servery, with service through a hatch-counter, is a long corridor with brick-tiled floor and original window panels at the end. Two small lounges lie off this passage, both plushly and traditionally decorated and with good ceilings and, in one case, panelling and bell-pushes above the seats plus an ornate fireplace.



Public bar

Birmingham

105 Station Road, Birmingham, B23 6UG
Tel: (0121) 377 2921
Email: redlionerd@gmail.com
Website: https://www.redlionerdington.co.uk/
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Erdington)
Listed Status: II

Red Lion ★★★

Built in 1899, this is a corner-site pub with a prominent square clock-tower. The architects were Wood & Kendrick for their regular clients Mitchells & Butlers. Internally the star feature is the servery which sweeps round through 90 degrees and has a ceramic bar counter by Craven Dunnill of Jackfield, Shropshire. The design is the same as that used at the contemporary Crown Bar in Belfast. The bar-back is a lavish affair with a corner clock and glittering ornamented glasswork and a large unusual mirror promoting 'Cragganmore Finest Liqueur Scotch Whisky.' Over the entrance lobby is a lovely glazed dome. The floor in this bar is modern. To the right it is evident, as a sharp tap will prove, that the wall is a flimsy stud partition. It seems the counter has been cut back and it is said that, until fairly recent times, an off-sales lay beyond. At the rear of the pub is a large lounge where the bar back, with beaten copper panels, seems original whereas the counter (for some reason) is modern. Off this area is a wide staircase, which would have been used by guests when the pub doubled as a hotel. There is also a large glazed hatch to the back of the public bar servery.

Servery

Birmingham

172 Warstone Lane, Birmingham, B18 6JW
Tel: (0121) 729 9851
Email: info@rosevillatavern.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Jewellery Quarter) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Rose Villa Tavern ★★★

An interesting building of 1919–20, built for Mitchells & Butlers by their regular architects Wood & Kendrick. It seems poised between florid late-Victorian taste and the simpler architecture of the inter-war years. The interior has undergone much change so that it is now possible to circumnavigate the central servery, not to mention the incongruous ‘contemporary’ decorations from a ‘refurbishment’ in 2011. However, thegreat attraction here is the extensive tilework by Carters ofPoole with dominant tones of cream and dull green. This is atits most dramatic in the small area behind the servery with itsfloor-to-ceiling tiling and the embellishment around theinglenook fireplace. Other notable features in this area are the tile painting over the fireplace and the stained glass in the skylight. The main front bar has plenty of tiling too, including panels, some covered over, with scantily clad damsels disporting themselves. The other highlight is the exterior window glass with its colourful representations of galleons (why galleons in the middle of England?). The bar counters are mostly new. Grade-II listed in 1998 following a pilot study of Birmingham pubs by CAMRA for English Heritage.

Tiled Fireplace

Birmingham

104 Warwick Street, Birmingham, B12 0NH
Tel: (0121) 772 3822
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bordesley) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Spotted Dog ★

A small 1930s corner pub which retains three rooms though the two at the front are now connected by a wide opening rather than a door. The left hand of these bars is fairly plain with simple multi-shelved bar back, original counter, bench seating and Art Deco fireplace. The next bar has a minimalist bar back and original counter, a dado and two benches - the dog window is a recent replacement for a corner door. The third room, at a right angle, has similar bar back and counter, half-height panelling and bench seating. Modest but charming.

Exterior

Birmingham

34 Macdonald Street, Birmingham, B5 6TG
Directions: Off Sherlock Street.
Tel: (0121) 622 4423
Listed Status: Not listed

Town Crier ★

The austere exterior, with modern upvc windows, of this early 1960s pub promises little but inside surprisingly little has changed. From the entrance corridor, the public bar is on the right and has original furniture and benches, bar shelving and counter, though there is some more recent timberwork attached to the counter and side wall. At the back is a little-used lounge/function room with fake timbered walls.

Rear Bar

Birmingham

307 Nechells Park Road, Birmingham, B7 5PD
Directions: 400 yards from Aston station off Lichfield Road
Tel: (0121) 326 7466
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Aston) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Villa Tavern ★★★

A red-brick and terracotta corner pub built for Ansells in 1924-5 to designs by Matthew J Butcher. The public bar occupies the angle of the site and retains its counter and bar-back, the latter with round arches an mirror glass. Typical 1920s dado tiling decorates the lobby area between bar and club room. Behind the servery, the small smoke room is complete with fixed seating, bell-pushes and old fireplace (but new bar counter). Some original seating clings on in the club room. The sign outside saying 'Built 1897' is simply wrong!

Public Bar

Birmingham

276 Bradford Street, Birmingham, B12 0QY
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bordesley) and BusStop
Listed Status: II

White Swan ★★★

The prolific local pub architects James & Lister Lea designed this ambitious red-brick and terracotta corner pub of 1899-1900 for Ansells' brewery. The tiled corridor on the left-hand side is a joy to behold and widens into a stand-up drinking area with a serving hatch. The L-shaped public bar sits in the angle of the roads and has its original counter and bar-back, the latter with a distinctive balustrade on top. Tiling covers the walls, including a pretty, swirling cornice similar to that in the corridor, whilst the ceiling is covered in copper tiles, albeitnow painted over. The main internal changes are the loss oftwo low partitions in the public bar and insertion of a moderncounter in the smoke room. The off sales, closed in 2005, stillexists but is used for storage.

Public Bar

Bloxwich

1 Bell Lane, Bloxwich, WS3 2JN
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bloxwich) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Bell ★

This is an early 20th-century corner-site pub with rooms leading off a central corridor. The door to the public bar bears the name 'Vaults', an alternative term quite commonly used in the past. It still has its original counter, bar-back and fixed seating though the tiled floor is new.The smoke room (with an etched door window) has old fixed seating as has the games room. In the passage, a hatch has a sliding window. The inner half-doors have etched panels.

Bloxwich

97 Elmore Green Road, Bloxwich, WS3 2HN
Tel: 07966 272434
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bloxwich)
Listed Status: II

Romping Cat ★★★

A community corner local of 1900 which retains its three-room layout and outdoor department (still with its original sliding sash window). The bar occupying the rounded corner of the centre of the building has an unaltered counter, bar back and fixed seating. The small smoke room on the left has a hatch to the servery, original bench seating and bell-pushes but a modern fireplace within the old wooden surround. A passage with service hatch and colourful tiled flooring runs round the back of the servery to a further room described in an etched window as a 'Coffee Room' (a rare but by no means unknown pub room name). This has an old fireplace but the fixed seating has recently been removed. The pub was formerly known as the Sandbank Tavern and its sign showed a heraldic lion from the arms of Sir Gilbert Wakering, an Elizabethan lord of the manor: the (inevitable) nickname became official in 1957. The Grade II listing in 2004 was prompted by an application from CAMRA.

Public Bar

Brierley Hill

10 Delph Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2TN
Tel: (01384) 78293
Website: https://bathams.co.uk/pubs/the-vine-inn/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Lye) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Vine ★★

A renowned four-roomer, attached to Batham's Brewery, and rebuilt in 1912 because of subsidence. The small front bar on the right is splendidly unaltered, retaining the Edwardian counter, bar-back, fixed seating and terrazzo floor. Front left, the two-part room has been extended and modernised but still has old bench seating and an inter-war fireplace - the stained and leaded windows are also notable. A terrazzo passage from the front door leads to a small room, rear left, with old tiled fireplace and later bench seating. The rear-right room is an inter-war convert from domestic use and retains fittings from that time.

Public Bar

Coventry

214 Binley Road, Coventry, CV3 1HG
Tel: (024) 7644 3196
Email: mickbown61@btinternet.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Biggin Hall ★★

A suburban pub/hotel built in 1923 in 'Brewers' Tudor' style. The front bar has been knocked about a bit, including shortening of the bar counter and installation of a new bar back - it has also been extended to incorporate the former off-sales area . The corridor area is served by a small curved, glazed counter. The rear right room has a fine array of panelling but was opened out to the corridor in 2005. The large back room is opulently panelled and dominated by a magnificent inglenook fireplace. The counter is original (but bar-back new) as are the leaded windows, bench seating and some of the tables and chairs - the coffin-shaped table in the middle of the room is worthy of note. Some inter-war fittings can also be found in the upstairs function room, an amalgamation of formerly separate rooms.

Smoke Room Servery

Coventry: City Centre

22-23 Spon Street, Coventry: City Centre, CV1 3BA
Tel: (024) 7625 1717
Email: info@theoldwindmillcoventry.co.uk
Website: https://www.theoldwindmillcoventry.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Old Windmill ★★

A 16th-century building, entered down a long, flagged, panelled corridor. A small room on the left has inter-war panelling and fireplace plus a hatch to the bar. To the right is a delightful suite of three small rooms. First is a snug with recent panelling and a curious copper-topped counter. The gem of a second room is entered through a narrow door and has ancient panelling, old leaded windows, a splendid black-brick open fire and a patterned tiled floor. The third room has been opened out on both sides though the skeleton of one wall survives. It has a very large and fine fireplace. The area further back is a former yard now covered with a glass roof. A former outbuilding, containing the remains of an old brewery, has been incorporated into the pub.

Right Hand Room

Coventry: City Centre

Bond Street, Coventry: City Centre, CV1 4AH
Directions: Behind Belgrade Theatre
Tel: (024) 7622 0963
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Coventry) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Town Wall Tavern ★

The must-see here is the 'Donkey Box', one of the country's smallest snugs, measuring just six feet square It has a bare wood floor, a couple of tables, some panelled walls and a small counter. The record number of customers squeezed in is 30. In the public bar, most of the fittings seem to be recent other than the 'Bar' window in the rear door. The smoke room on the right, which was extended around 2000, still has a hatch with a copper top plus some old seating.

Donkey Box

Netherton

89 Halesowen Rd, Netherton, DY2 9PY
Directions: In Netherton centre on A459 Dudley-Old Hill Rd
Tel: (01384) 258799
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Old Swan ★★★

This was one of just four surviving pubs with home brewing when CAMRA was formed in 1971. It takes its nickname from Mrs Doris Pardoe, licensee until 1984, who took over from her husband in the early 1950s. Brewing stopped in 1988 but started again in 2001. The building dates back to 1863 and the wonderfully evocative servery seems little touched since Victorian times, apart from the gloriously over-the-top red paint. The enamel-panel ceiling is an extraordinary rarity and its eponymous swan a stunning feature, as are the old stove (still used) with its flue running across the room, and the old weighing machine. A rear smoke room also retains its historic fittings: originally it was entered from a corridor door on the right. The drinking area to the right of this smoke room, known as the ‘ladies’room’, was converted out of a former office during 1980s changes. A tiny off-sales-cum-snug lies between the public bar and ‘ladies’ room’ and has a single bench for customers seeking a quiet drink. In the 1980s, the pub expanded into a former shop to the left, but without compromising the historic core. The brewery is in the yard behind the pub. It is said that in Mrs Pardoe’s day the pub nickname was simply Pardoes and that she would not have appreciated the present widely used prefix.

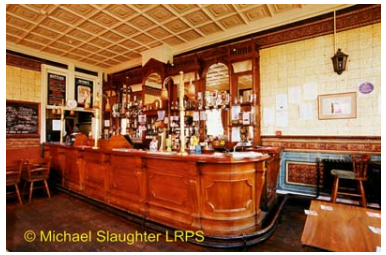
Public Bar

Oldbury

17A Church Street, Oldbury, B69 3AD
Directions: Opposite Sandwell Council House
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Sandwell and Dudley) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Waggon & Horses ★★★

A corner pub built about 1900 by Holt's Brewery in the brick and terracotta style so typical of the area. When it comes to internal tiling, it's in the top league anywhere. On the corner, as usual, is the public bar with mainly cream tiles but also colourful bands lining the walls and a richly-treated bar backno doubt dating from the building of the pub. The ceiling is remarkable for being clad with sheet copper tiles,unfortunately painted over more than once. The side entranceleads to a fabulous tiled corridor, with a hatch to the servery,which makes an L-shape round a smoke room with original fixed seating, plentiful bell-pushes and a 1930s tiled and wood surround fireplace.



Public Bar

Oldswinford

Brook Road, Oldswinford, Oldswinford, DY8 1NQ
Directions: on the B4186, opp the roadway to the front entrance of Stourbridge Jct station.
Tel: (01384) 441566
Email: sevenstarsbca@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Stourbridge Junction) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Seven Stars ★★

Built for Mitchells & Butlers Brewery and opened in January 1905, The Seven Stars has an outstanding collection of M&B etched and painted windows and there is lots of Maw & Co wall tiling. The entrance hall has lots of light blue and cream dado tiling, which extends up the stairs and into the public bar. That room has its original counter and a superb four-bay, mirrored bar-back with a clock-adorned pediment. Below the pediment is a recently-reopened hatch to the smoke room behind. This is modernised but bell pushes remain above the benches as do fine etched windows. The restaurant left of the hallway has nothing of historic interest bar a couple of windows.

Tiled Passageway

Historic details courtesy of Pevsner Architectural Guides: Birmingham and the Black Country', by Andy Foster, Nikolaus Pevsner and Alexandraa Wedgwood. Yale University Press, forthcoming (2022).

Rushall

Park Road, Off Daw End Lane, Rushall, WS4 1LG
Directions: Off B4154 At Canal Bridge
Tel: (01922) 642333
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Manor Arms ★★★

This is one of the very few pubs in the country with no bar counter. It is a three-room canal-side establishment, opened as a beerhouse in 1895 within an 18th-century building. The central corridor is a favourite place for a drink with many regulars and on its left is the public bar, where the hand-pumps and taps are set against the back wall, beneath rows of shelving for glasses and bottles. Customers and serving staff are therefore not segregated as happens with a conventional bar counter. This warm and welcoming room has simple dado panelling, a boarded ceiling, a fixed bench and a (possibly) inter-war brick fireplace. The front right-hand room has an old quarry-tiled floor, fixed seating (possibly from the 1930s) and a modern brick fireplace in an old inglenook. At the back is the lounge, a small room brought into pub use in relatively recent times and with no historic fittings. Food consists of cobs.

Public Bar

Sedgley

129 Bilston Street, Sedgley, DY3 1JE
Directions: A463
Tel: (01902) 883380
Email: beaconhotel2@gmail.com
Website: http://www.sarahhughesbrewery.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Coseley) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Beacon Hotel ★★★

Snug

An unspoilt gem of a four-room pub with a working mid-Victorian tower brewery attached. Sarah Hughes bought the business in 1921 and little has changed since the Twenties, apart from additional space being created at the back. The most remarkable feature is the highly unusual serving arrangement,a tiny glazed-in cubicle which sits between the front snug andthe much larger smoke room. Both these have a small hatch for service, as does the adjacent corridor and at all three of these hatches customers have to bend down to communicate their requirements to the staff. The largest room is the smoke room which is boarded all over but this boarding had been covered over and was only revealed during refurbishment in 1987: its date is hard to determine but it may well be part of the 1920s changes. Near the servery you can see what appears to be1920s lino flooring. The tap room at the front right may oncehave been a kitchen (see the range) and some of the fittingslook Victorian. The brewery lay idle from about 1950 until reopened in 1987 by John Hughes. The famous Dark Ruby Mild, at 6% ABV, is still brewed to his grandmother’s recipe. Brewery tours can be arranged by prior appointment (01902 883381). Food consists of cobs. Listed in 2010 after an application by CAMRA.

Stourbridge

Lower High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1TS
Tel: (01384) 395374
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Stourbridge Town) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Mitre ★

Panelled Room

Occupying an awkward, wedge-shaped site, this imposing example of 'Brewers' Tudor' has especially good originalleaded and painted windows all round - these have animportant influence inside as well, being ornamented withheraldic designs and, of course, the eponymous mitre. The restof the interior has suffered from low-grade alterations over theyears but some old features are still in place. The triangularservery reflects the shape of the site but it's difficult to workout the former arrangements of the now-interlinked roomssurrounding it. Apart from the public bar, they were no doubt quite small. The aforementioned features include the dumb waiter in the servery, carved bar counter with glazed screen behind, and panelling in a couple of rooms. The fireplaces - two stone, one timber-framed and one brick - make an interesting collection.

Upper Gornal

109 Kent Street, Upper Gornal, DY3 1UX
Directions: on A459
Tel: (01902) 883253
Website: http://www.bathams.co.uk/pubs/the-britannia-inn/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Britannia ★★

At the rear left of this pub is a very special room, very likely fitted out in the 1920s. The ‘wood’ panelling is, in fact, imitation (like embossed wallpaper) and there are fixedbenches together with some stained glass. The real points ofinterest, however, are the shelving, drawers and bank of fourhand-pumps (with pewter drip-tray) set against the corridorwall and thus a now very rare arrangement of a servery withouta counter (and still often used at weekends). The hatch withpewter ledge to the corridor would probably have been used asan off-sales and also by customers in the former second room(now in the area of the ladies’ toilet). The pub has had a veryinteresting development. It opened as a beerhouse about 1832.Then, after he purchased it in 1864, Henry Perry opened abutcher’s shop at the front and had his beerhouse at the rear.Beer was brewed in the buildings behind (until 1959). ThePerry family kept the pub until 1991 and it is still sometimesknown as ‘Sallies’ after the landlady from 1942. It waspurchased by Batham’s brewery in 1997. Now customers have to be content with a roll and a pint rather than stocking up with a pound of sausages!

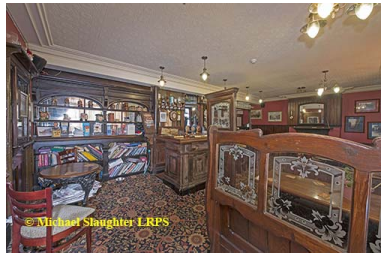
Rear Old Bar

Walsall

5 John Street, Walsall, Walsall, WS2 8AF
Directions: Near Magistrates Court, off B4210
Tel: (01922) 612553
Email: prettybricks54bca@outlook.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Walsall) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Pretty Bricks ★★

Known locally as the Pretty Bricks because of its very attractive glazed-brick frontage, this 1840-built pub was much altered in 1924 and most of the resulting features are still there. The entrance leads into a passage (with the front bar off to the right) which opens out into a rear lobby, then a rear lounge with a new fireplace. In the centre is an irregularly-shaped servery (not quite its original layout), with good stained glass screens on the lounge side.



Saloon Bar

Wednesbury

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, WS10 9AX
Tel: (0121) 537 7146
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bescot Stadium) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Horse & Jockey ★★★

Built in 1898 to designs by Wood & Kendrick, this pub is included here for one reason – the servery in the public bar. This has a ceramic bar counter, one of only 14 left in the UK, which is organised in a series of layers as if on a cake, each with a different colour and different detail. It also has brown pilasters, each terminated by a grotesque mask with a protruding tongue, dividing the counter front up into a series of bays. Unfortunately the counter has been cut back on the left to create space for an entrance from the corridor. Behind the counter is an elaborately treated back-fitting of six bays housing some fine mirrorwork. At the back of the servery is a hatch which would have been used for off-sales. The large rear room is almost wholly modern and is an expansion of the original smoke room.

Bar counter

Wednesbury

19 Hall End, Wednesbury, WS10 9ED
Directions: Just off B4200 Whitley Street.
Tel: (0121) 556 0197
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Old Blue Ball ★

The layout of this small Victorian pub is relatively unaltered, the last changes probably dating from the 1970s. From the entrance corridor, with its tiled floor and hatch service, a plain front bar is on the right and has an old counter with mosaic glass front (perhaps applied in the 1970s) and plain old bar shelves with delicate spindle supports and mosaic glass. Across the corridor, the room now extending front to back was once two snugs and only the benches survive. Rear right, behind the servery, the small snug was converted from living quarters in the 1970s.

Wednesfield

35 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, WV11 1TN
Tel: (01902) 733529
Email: thevineinnwednesfield@yahoo.com
Website: https://www.blackcountryales.co.uk/pubs/the-vine-inn
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Vine ★★★

This simple yet highly attractive brick pub was rebuilt in 1938 and serves as a friendly community local with a good range of ales. It is a rare and intact example of a modest inter-war working-class pub which remains complete, apart from the loss of the off-sales hatch facing the front door, and the insertion of a small counter in the smoke room. The public bar on the left has a colourful terrazzo floor although carpeting laid down in 2014 covers much of it, but we have the original bar counter, seating and fireplace. The stools, both high and low, look as though they date back to 1938. On the right is a smoke room, with a wood-block floor and a further original, Tudor-style fireplace plus fixed seating with bell-pushes. A second smoke room lies at the back across the terrazzo-floored (now carpeted) hallway and has similar original features to its namesake. The toilets are scarcely altered since 1938. An unfortunate recent addition, however, has been the anachronistic Victorian-style embossed paper applied to the dadoes. Listing at Grade II in 2002 following an application by CAMRA recognised that even straightforward locals can have significant heritage value.

Public Bar

Wolverhampton

90 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton, WV3 0TY
Directions: on A41, Tettenhall Rd
Tel: (01902) 421880
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Wolverhampton) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Combermere Arms ★

Built in 1860 but the current layout mainly dates from alterations in 1925. To the left of the central corridor (which has hatch service) is the main bar, which suffers from crude post-war interventions. The best rooms are the two snugs on the other side of the corridor - one in lounge-style with simple fireplace and benches, the other plainer with red-tiled floor and brick fireplace. A substantial tree grows within the outside gents!

Wolverhampton

17 Riches Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DW
Tel: (01759) 307592
Email: thenewhamptonwv6@gmail.com
Website: https://newhampton-wolverhampton.craftunionpubs.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Newhampton ★

Originally built in 1864, this bustling corner local was much extended on the Riches Street side in 1922 by Atkinsons' Brewery - hence the internal door with an etched window bearing the brewery triple A trademark. Further changes in 1981 saw part of the servery removed, opening up the hall into the front bar area, and closing a door in the middle of the old bar. This area has a terrazzo floor, old fixed seating and possibly old fireplaces but the bar furniture is all modern. At the back, the quiet and elegant smoke room, served by a hatch, is largely intact whilst the former snug, now used for pool, also retains some 1922 features. The crown bowling green behind is served by a separate 'Pavilion Bar' built in 1912 - note the unusual bowls boxes.

Wolverhampton

48 Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DG
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Wolverhampton) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Posada ★★★

Public Bar

An elegant town-centre pub of 1886 though the notable faience frontage is from a 1900 remodelling by local architect Fred T Beck. The public bar, entered through a vestibule added in 1983, is a very special room with its fabulous tiled walls and ornate bar back fitting, the latter with mirrored panels and a row of snob screens, now very rare in British pubs. Above them are three Art Nouveau leaded and green-stained panels. The ornate plasterwork ceiling is now painted brown. In 1983, an opening was created to the rear smoke room, previously accessed by a passageway running behind the bar back (still there but used for storage). This room retains a good proportion of its old fixed seating with bell pushes above; the 1983 alterations created an alcove on the right in what had been the rear passageway and an access was cut through to a new, small room at the back. Despite these changes, there is much to cherish here.

Historic details courtesy of Pevsner Architectural Guides: Birmingham and the Black Country', by Andy Foster, Nikolaus Pevsner and Alexandraa Wedgwood. Yale University Press, forthcoming (2022).

Wolverhampton

3 Harrow Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, WV1 4PB
Directions: off Newhampton Rd East/Fawdry St
Tel: (01902) 425336
Email: stileinnwolves@gmail.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Wolverhampton) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Stile Inn ★

A late-Victorian back-street pub, with a seemingly unaltered layout, though some changes were apparently made in 1921. On the corner is an excellent plain bar with a chunky counter and old bar-back, fixed seating and dado panelling. An L-shaped corridor snakes round the back of the bar and rear left is an old-fashioned smoke room with service to the bar through a door. Across the corridor on the right, a plain room is used for pool. Another small room off the passage has a Victorian fireplace but nothing else. Outside, between the bar and smoke room is a good etched window for the (unused) 'outdoor department'. Unusual L-shaped bowling green behind.

Worcestershire

Birtsmorton

Birts Street, Birtsmorton, WR13 6AP
Directions: off B4208
Tel: (01684) 833308
Email: farmersarms@farmersarmsbirtsmorton.co.uk
Website: https://www.farmersarmsbirtsmorton.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Farmers Arms ★

Bar fittings were installed, probably for the first time, at this 17th-century pub around 1950, since when time has largely stood still. The small left-hand bar has a plain bar counter and period bar back with glass shelves and old till drawer. Note the dates on the handpumps (1951 and 1952). More 1950s fittings - seating and fireplace - are found in the lower-ceilinged area left of the servery. In the right-hand bar are a chunky bar counter with more date-stamped handpulls and old bar-back shelving, fireplace and settle. Further right, and slightly opened out to a passage, the dining room has more fifties seating, another old settle, beamed ceiling and half-timbered walls.

Right Hand Bar

Bretforton

The Cross, Bretforton, WR11 7JE
Directions: near to the Church
Tel: (01386) 831173
Website: https://thefleeceinn.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: II

Fleece Inn ★★★

This legendary pub was owned by the same family for generations, with the last of the line, Miss Lola Taplin, bequeathing it to the National Trust on her death in 1977. Inside the 17th-century building, the three stone-flagged rooms retain Lola's extraordinary assemblage of old furniture and other artefacts. The 'Pewter Room' takes its name from an impressive collection of antique pewterware and has a large settle with doors at the back for storage; note the 'witches circles' near the inglenook fireplace - supposedly efficacious in stopping witches coming down the chimney. The 'Dug Out', down two steps and with a stone fireplace, is the former games room, popular for darts in Lola's time. The 'Brewhouse' is the most striking room with its vast inglenook fireplace and indentations in the wall for feeding in water from the well outside in the days of home brewing. After fire damage in February 2004, the Fleece was carefully restored and reopened in May 2005.

Brewhouse Room

Claines

Claines Lane, Claines, WR3 7RN
Directions: Next to church.
Tel: (01905) 456649
Email: judy@themug.co.uk
Website: http://www.themug.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Foregate Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Delisted

Mug House ★★

Hidden away behind the village churchyard, this three-roomed pub occupies a part-timber-framed 15th- or 16th-century building. The original plain brick frontage was replaced in the 1980s by false timber-framing with new brick infill, with the 1980s Tudor theme replicated in the front right snug, which does retain a red brick floor and fireplace.The interior dates mostly from the 1930s with some older panelling. In the quarry-tiled, part-panelled passage, a leaded glass screen with intact sliding hatch for service is a real highlight.The pub was popular with employees of the local Rackstraws furniture works and an apprentice there reputedly made the counter and other furniture in the smoke room; this has an inter-war brick fireplace, but panelling on the two outer walls has been replaced by plasterboard. At the rear, the lounge is served by a hatch and has a fireplace and baffle from the 1930s but post-war seating from the 1970s or 1980s.

Servery

Clent

Holy Cross Green, Clent, DY9 9QL
Directions: In the centre of Clent on the five way crossroads.
Tel: (01562) 730319
Website: https://www.thebellandcross.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Bell & Cross ★★★

A pub for nearly 200 years, the Bell & Cross has grown over time to five separate rooms and, despite the current emphasis on food, a strong sense of the traditional small village pub can still be captured. The central quarry-tiled corridor runs to the rear and the tiny hatch on the left was, no doubt, used for off-sales. Behind is the little public bar with a possibly Victorian counter and bar back plus some old fixed seating; the fireplace is probably inter-war. Right of the entrance, a delightful snugis created by a pair of full-height timber partitions which formthe backs to the fixed seating within. Thousands of pub roomsup and down the country would once have resembled this cosy space. Room '6' beyond was apparently once the landlord's living room while Room '4', facing it, was the gentlemen's smoke room. At the back, a further room was created out of a barn in 1998. These last three rooms have been refitted in recent years.

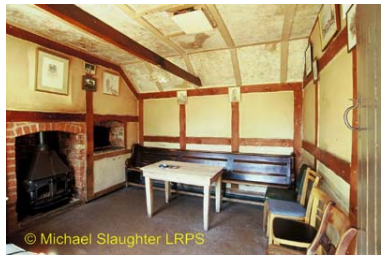
Partition

Defford

, Defford, WR8 9BW
Directions: At Woodmancote on the A4104
Tel: (01386) 750234
Real Ale & Cider: Real Cider
Listed Status: II

Monkey House ★★★

One of our most unspoilt pubs, the unique Cider House occupies part of a 17th-century thatched, half-timbered building. It has been in the family of landlady Gill Collins for 150 years and is one of four remaining cider-only houses in the country. The main bar is actually outside viz. the front garden! If the weather disappoints, customers drink in the former bakehouse at the side. Service is through a hatch in a stable door on the left of the cottage with the cider casks stillaged behind in a ground floor 'cellar'. The loos are outside and the ladies' even has a roof!. The nickname supposedly derives from the tale told by a well-mellowed customer on returning home - he claimed he was covered in cuts and scratches not because of a self-induced collapse into a bramble patch but rather an attack by a tribe of monkeys.



Bakehouse

Grimley

Camp Lane, Grimley, WR2 6LX
Directions: One mile off A443
Tel: (01905) 640288
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Listed Status: II

Camp House Inn ★

Much of what we see dates from around 1936 when the pub was enlarged and a bar added for the first time. During this period, it served a section of the River Severn known as Grimley Lido, popular for sunbathing and swimming. The right-hand bar, slightly extended in the 1970s, has several 1930s features - fireplace, bar counter and hand-pumps dated 1936 - but modern bar back. The larger left room also has a Thirties fireplace plus a high-backed settle and service from a hatch cut into the wall. The panelling had to be replaced quite recently after flooding. The entrance on the car park side brings you into a small hall with intact off-sales hatch and split door leading to the staff servery. An uneven tiled-floor passage takes you to the public bar and a small snug, the latter with more flood-replacement panelling but old-looking benches. Plenty of 1930s Crittall windows throughout. Regular floods mean the pub is often closed so best to check ahead before visiting.

Left Hand Room

Hanley Castle

Church End, Hanley Castle, Hanley Castle, WR8 0BL
Directions: signed off B4211
Tel: (01684) 592686
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Three Kings ★★★

Public Bar

This pub has been held by the same family since 1911. The oldest part, a cruck-framed hall now encased with brick, is on the left where, to the right of the corridor and through a sliding door, you find the gloriously unspoilt public bar. It has aquarry-tiled floor, high-backed settle (doubling as the partitionto the corridor), a huge copper-hooded fireplace and a hatch tothe servery. Left of the corridor is a little-used smoke room,also with sliding door. The pub's right-hand side houses 'Nell's Lounge', added in 1982 and named after the schoolmistress whose house it was. It retains the range from her formerkitchen and, at the front, a high-backed settle and an inglenook fireplace with bread oven. The inn-sign depicts the three biblical kings in all their finery but the idea of the name probably originates from a former family of pub-keepers. In 1710 a Richard Kings (sic) sold a property called the Three Kings (but at a different location). The present building, with fabric going back to the 16th century and probably with earlier remains, is known to have been a pub in 1841.

Pershore

Church Row, Pershore, WR10 1BH
Tel: (01386) 554038
Listed Status: Not listed

White Horse Hotel ★

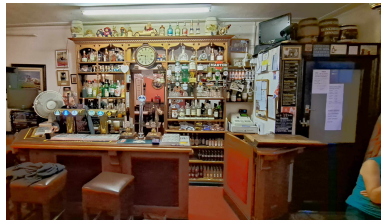
Three–storey of red brick rebuilt 1898 as a hotel. Just after it opened it had its own brewery; the business William Henry Knight White Horse Brewery had four tiled houses when itwas sold to Hunt Edmunds Brewery of Banbury in 1919 andclosed – note the Hunt Edmunds plaque on the exterior. Itappears to have had a refurbishment in the interwar period butis barely changed since then. Not listed.

Main hotel entrance leads into a hall with terrazzo floor and open staircase to five bedrooms and a function room on thefirst floor.

On the front right is the bar in use having a ‘Lounge’ wording with a terrazzo floor covered by carpet. It has a panelled bar counter which is quite plain so assumed to be from theinterwar period. The five-bay bar back with ornate pillarsholding up the shelves also looks to be from the interwarperiod; and has no loss of shelves for fridges. There is a brickfireplace that looks interwar and some old seating in the frontwindow area otherwise there is pew seating. A vestibule on theright leads to a short passage with the off-sales hatch having alower rising section still there and the public bar entrance fromthe street (no longer in use).

At the other end of the passage is a door leading to another bar which looks like the original public bar with another plain bar counter and a bar back of two sections being shelves on a mirrored back so much plainer than the left-hand bar one but both could date from the interwar period; no loss of lower shelves. This bar has an exposed terrazzo floor, decorative cornice, and another interwar brick fireplace with 1960s Gas Miser fire in front of it. This bar has old fixed seating re-upholstered and at the end of the servery is an attractive screen with eight leaded glazed panels depicting birds.

On the left of the entrance passage is the two-part dining room on different levels with, in the first part, a decorative cornice and another interwar brick fireplace. On the first floor is a function room which the owner says was originally a billiard room. It has a decorative cornice all the way around and ornate



Lounge Bar

Stoke Works

Shaw Lane,Stoke Works,Nr Stoke, Stoke Works, B60 4BH
Tel: (01527) 861291
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Bowling Green ★

Originally two cottages, this became a pub in 1892 and retains two small front rooms and a rear main bar overlooking an active bowling green. The front left room, created by a curved partition wall, is especially fine with its ancient door, red tiled floor and unusual curved bar counter with small windows above. The fixed seating is old but re-covered and there are old wall cupboards and modest baffles by the door. The front right-hand snug is served from a small hatch/bar and also has venerable fixed seating. The main lounge bar has been extended but probably many years ago as the panelling and bench seating looks old, though other fittings are modern. Nice stained glass in the inner door.

Tap Room

Worcester

35, St. Johns, Worcester, WR2 5AG
Directions: W side of the Severn off A44
Tel: (01905) 424570
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Foregate Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Bell ★

The pub is part of a late 18th century terrace and has a most unusual arrangement of rooms. The entrance door is in the centre of the pub and opens on to a Victorian floor tiled passageway . There is a hatch from the bar on the left hand wall and a glasses shelf on the same wall which indicates passageway drinking at some in the past. There are two wooden sliding doors at either end of the passage that both lead into the main room, an suggestion that is was formerly two separate rooms. The bar counter with its rustic black & white wood and plaster frontage was installed in the 1980s to replace the previous counter but the bar back with plain wooden shelves and mirror mosaic back appears to be 1960s work. There is fixed seating along the three walls opposite the bar area.

Passageway

Worcester

31 Friar Street, Worcester, WR1 2NA
Tel: (01905) 724006
Email: info@the-cardinals-hat.co.uk
Website: https://the-cardinals-hat.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Foregate Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Cardinal's Hat ★★★

Built originally around 1760, the interior of this pub exemplifies the 'Olde English' style popular between the wars. A passage runs from the front door to the back and has a dado of old panelling. The best of the three small rooms is the rear left bar (numbered 6) whose walls are fully covered in Tudor-style panelling with a stone fireplace to match. Fixed benches line the walls, with bell-pushes above, an intact hatch accesses the back of the servery and the top section of the outside windows sports some colourful glasswork. The original floor has been replaced with modern large stone tiles. Front right, a small snug has imitation half-timbering and lots of leaded window glass but no old fittings and an unused outside door. The same half-timbering appears in the main bar, front left, alongside a stone chimney-piece with a four-centred arch and plaster cardinal's hat above. The old-looking counter dates from a sensitive refurbishment by Banks's in 1996. The loos retain their tiled walls from the 1930s..

Rear Panelled Room

Worcester

2 Friar Street, Worcester, WR1 2LZ
Tel: (01905) 863592
Email: eaglevaultsworcester@outlook.com
Website: https://www.theeaglevaultsworcester.com/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Foregate Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Eagle Vaults ★★

The spectacular glazed tile frontage here dates from around 1890 but the building itself is about 150 years older. In the lobby are a colourfully-tiled dado and a mosaic floor runningto the back of the pub. There were once walls either side of the passage but changes took place in 1983, hence the wide gap in the left-hand wall. The bare-boarded bar on the right retains its fixed seating, Victorian counter and fine bar back with gilded glass panels and clock on top but the etched windows are replacements. When the wall was taken out, the left-hand curved section of the counter was added and by-and-large carefully matches the original part. In the smoke room is more old fixed seating in bays, with panels above and bell-pushes all around. The fire surround, with bevelled mirrors in the mantlepiece above, is original as are two splendid etched and frosted windows. A function room upstairs has no old fittings. Closes 7pm Tue & Sun.

Bar Counter

Worcester

6 The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PA
Tel: (01905) 28992
Email: info@paulprywr1.com
Website: https://www.paulprywr1.com
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Foregate Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Paul Pry ★★★

Public Bar

This wedge-shaped building of 1901 is the work of architect Frederick Hughes. Beyond the vestibule, through decorative double doors, is the glorious entrance hall with terrazzo floor and wonderful multi-coloured wall-to-ceiling tiling. The right-hand side is a mahogany partition which forms the bar back fitting and has leaded panels along the top. An inner door on the far right accesses the old off-sales with two-part sliding hatch. Nearer the entance, the door with a 'Bar' etched panel leads to a virtually intact room with mahogany bar counter and an elaborate mirrored and columned bar back which has aclock in its pedimented centrepiece plus cupboard andbalustrade. Other fine features are the Victorian fireplace,panelled dado, original (but re-upholstered) benches, Lincrusta-moulded ceiling and, beneath the carpet, a terrazzo floor. Threeof the etched windows survive. The former smoke room on theleft still has its old fireplace, Lincrusta frieze and embossed ceiling but other fittings have been modernised. A second entrance, in Infirmary Walk, was closed some years ago to create a ladies' toilet.

Worcester

Lichfield Avenue, Worcester, WR5 1PE
Tel: (01905) 863054
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Shrub Hill)
Listed Status: Not listed

Punch Bowl ★★★

A true rarity - a post-war pub which has barely altered since opening (1958 in this case). It serves the local housing estate and is located on a circular site in the middle of the estate with a church in the centre and shops round the perimeter. The smallish public bar faces the circle and has fixed seating, quarry-tiled flooring, brick fireplace, counter and bar back, all of simple, straightforward design. The unusual projection on the right was evidently for darts-playing and the fixed seat was for players and spectators (asimilar feature exists att he Peartree, St Denys, in Southampton, also dating from the 1950s. To the rear right is a small pool room then, at the back,a large function room, extended to accommodate a skittlealley. Finally, on the left, are a small smoke room and a former off-sales, now converted into an office. The plain fittings throughout reflect the austerity and desire for simple clean lines at the end of the 1950s.

Public Bar

Closed Pubs

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

Derbyshire

Barlow

32 Commonside Road, , Barlow, S18 7SJ
Directions: from B6051, turn up hill at Commonside Rd
Tel: (0114) 289 0464
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Hare & Hounds ★

Although much modified in the mid-to-late 1950s, this pub has now gained the charm and patina of what the motor trade likes to call an older restoration. The two front downstairs rooms and an old rear extension form the core and share an irregular quadrilateral servery which has picture window service to all bars. In the L-shaped top room on the right, the fixtures (as elsewhere) are not exactly of great quality, e.g. the Formica bar top, but such period features are becoming rare - likewise the sliding door to the small bar next door and, elsewhere, the tiled fireplaces, leatherette fixed seating and, in the back room, the counter with a copper top.

Front Left Bar

Chesterfield

1 The Shambles, , Chesterfield, S40 1PX
Directions: Middle of the shambles in the town centre
Tel: (01246) 234886
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Chesterfield) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Royal Oak ★

A most attractive town-centre pub, made up of two distinct parts - the 16th-century half-timbered building above was incorporated into the rest of the pub in the mid 19th century. This top part houses a very small high-ceilinged bar with a 1950s bar counter (but newer top) and fixed seating from (probably) the 1930s. Note the small Royal Oak stained glass panels high up in the outside windows. The lower, larger bar was the original inn and once had two rooms; the bar fittings are about 50 years old. Back in 1967, the pub was scheduledfor demolition because of a huge redevelopment scheme. An outcry led to a proposal to hoist the building onto rollers and move it to a new site. Thankfully, neither plan came to fruition.

Top Bar

Cromford

47 The Hill, , Cromford, DE4 3RF
Tel: (01629) 822102
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Bell Inn ★

Around 1800 this pub was added on to a terrace of houses built in 1776-7. These, however, aren't any ordinary old houses - they were the first to be erected by Richard Arkwright to accommodate textile workers at his pioneering Cromford Mill and also have workshop space running the whole length of the top floor The Bell itself has not changed much in 50 years. The tiny snug, accessed from Cromford Hill, has a quarry-tiled floor, old fixed seating and service from a hatch - there was an off-sales hatch in this area until 2009. The old benches in the public bar still display their maker's labels (T. Greaves & Co) but the bar counter in here is modern. The lounge on the left has its own entrance and was created from a private sitting room in the 1950s; many of the fittings (counter, fixed seating, fireplace) date from that time.

Snug

Earl Sterndale

Off B5053, , Earl Sterndale, SK17 0BU
Tel: (01298) 83211
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Quiet Woman ★

This simple, stone-built pub evolved from a farmhouse or cottages many moons ago. On the left, the public bar has an old counter and bench seating, modern fireplace and panelling and bar back shelving of indeterminate vintage. The Marstons mirror and undertaker's laying-down table are worthy of note. A small room on the right serves as the lounge; it has a parquet floor, fireplace and dado panelling probably all dating from 1930s. The unusual small canted panelled counter, surmounted by a glass-fronted display case, looks to be from the 1960s. The pub sign is splendidly incorrect, both politically and grammatically.

Public Bar

Hassop

Hassop Road, , Hassop, DE45 1NS
Tel: (01629) 640390
Email: info@oldeyrearms.co.uk
Website: https://oldeyrearms.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Eyre Arms ★★★

Lounge

Originally built as a farmstead in 1632, this has been a pub since at least 1753. The interior enjoyed a high quality complete refit in the 1950s and very little has changed since.

From the small entrance lobby with 1950s tiled floor, an oak latched door on the left leads to the public bar. Notablefeatures here, all from the 1950s refit, are a quarter-circle barcounter, a bar back with roughly-hewn wood on the frame andno loss of lower shelving, attractive fixed seating on two sidesand a stone Tudor arch-style fireplace. To the right of thelobby is the lounge bar which had been two rooms before therefit, hence the differences in the ceilings. The front part has acurved bar counter with a small linenfold section and a barback similar to that in the public. Above another 1950s stonefireplace is a huger plaster coat of arms belonging to RowlandEyre, a Royalist officer in the Civil War. 1950s bench seatingcan be found in both portions of the room, and the rear part hasa 'beamed' ceiling typical of the period. A door rear-left leadsto a snug (once the site of the servery) with a modest counter (almost a hatch) and more bench seating.

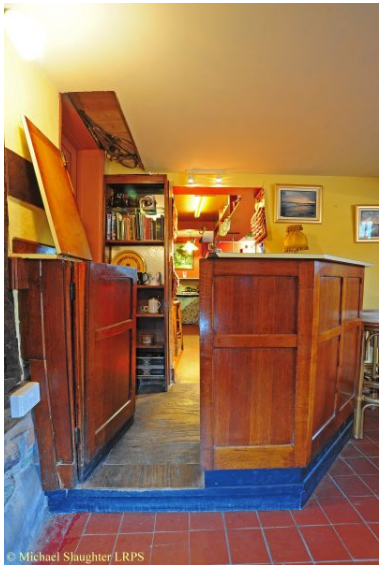
Herefordshire

Norton Canon

, , Norton Canon, HR4 7BH
Directions: On A480
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: Not listed

Three Horseshoes ★

A single storey brick built pub retaining three-rooms. The red quarry tiled floored bar on the right has bar fittings from the 1930s. On the left the lounge has an exposed piece of wattle and daub on one half-timbered wall, a small bar counter with a Formica top which looks 1930s but could be 1950s, which could be the date of the bar back. The large pool room at the rear is also a venue for the North Hereford .177 Air Gun League. This is the home of Shoe's brewery established in 1994.



Left Hand Bar

Leicestershire

Coalville

72 High Street, , Coalville, LE67 3EE
Tel: (01530) 833278
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Stamford & Warrington ★★

An excellent and little-changed example of how pubs were refitted in the late 1950s/early 1960s. Just beyond the entrance is an off-sales with sliding window hatch and Formica shelf. The public bar on the right has a lino-tiled floor and plenty of features from the refit - bar counter with ribbed hardboard frontage, period bar back and tiled fireplace, fixed bench seating and tables topped with red formica. The little-used lounge is on the left, with leatherette bench seating and a hatch-like counter to the back of the servery. Formerly a coaching inn, the pub retains stables behind and a coach arch on the left hand side. Considering its town centre position, this is a remarkable survivor.

Exterior

Sileby

Swan Street, , Sileby, LE12 7NW
Tel: (01509) 814832
Email: enquiries@WhiteSwanSileby.co.uk
Website: http://www.whiteswansileby.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Sileby)
Listed Status: Not listed

White Swan ★

The set back position of this 1937 pub results from it having replaced an older building. The right-hand passage has an inter-war tiled dado and five of the six doors still have glass panels etched with the room names. The off-sales has become a kitchen but the entrance remains, tucked away on the right. In the bar, the bar back is original but the counters have been replaced and extended into the smoke room and lounge, where the bar back is 1960s/70s. Fixed seating and a baffle in the bar and smoke room are from 1937 but not so the fireplaces - the surround on the lounge fireplace does, though, look genuinely old.

Main Bar

Lincolnshire

Scunthorpe

Grange Lane South, , Scunthorpe, DN16 3BJ
Tel: (01724) 840068
Listed Status: Not listed

Sherpa ★

This 1960-vintage pub has an unaltered three-room layout. The lobby is outstanding with its original woodwork, doors and a screen which features mountaineering figures in frosted glass. The large main bar (formerly the concert room) retains its original curved bar counter and bar back. On the left, the smoke room also has relics from the 1960s - the small counter, mirrored bar back, fixed seating, curved bay window and wall-panelling. Also on this side is the lounge, now accessed via the smoke room, again with counter front, bar back and seating intact. The old off-sales can be seen opposite the disused door to the lounge.

Former concert Room Servery

Nottinghamshire

Gotham

Leake Road, , Gotham, NG11 0JL
Tel: (0115) 648 9477
Email: bookings@cuckoobushgotham.co.uk
Website: https://www.cuckoobushgotham.co.uk
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Cuckoo Bush Inn ★

An 1858 building with an unusual layout. The main entrance leads to a drinkers' lobby, then a smoke room on the left - the modern fittings here suggest it is a recent addition. On the right is a wonderful, largely unaltered bar with old narrow benches, old counter (but new top and bar back), wood surround fireplace and cast-iron tables. A narrow passage takes you to a large rear lounge which is an amalgamation of two small rooms. The counter is genuinely old but not so the other fittings.

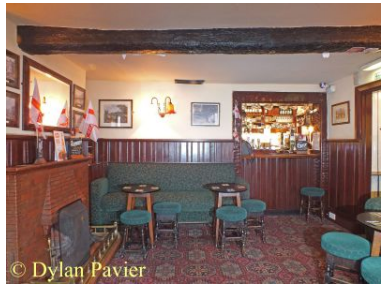
Snug

Nottingham

Thurgarton Street, Sneinton, Nottingham, NG2 4FA
Tel: (0115) 911 0069
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Lord Nelson ★

Originally farm cottages, this delightful building long predates the surrounding development. A passage from the garden leads to the main bar, small and square, with servery behind. Through an arch on the left is a snug whilst at the rear left is a snug bar with a small counter and separate street entrance. Finally comes a plain room on the right. Most fittings are from a refurbishment in the 1950s.



Rear Room

Shropshire

Pentreheyling

Churchstoke, Montgomery, Powys, , Pentreheyling, SY15 6SP
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Blue Bell ★

The public bar here was refitted in 1949 since when nothing much has changed. It has a quarry-tiled floor, Formica-topped bar counter, plain bar-back shelves, brick fireplace and bare oak seating. The front lobby also dates from 1949, the bar door being the original front door. The lounge was converted from a stable in the 1960s from when most of the fittings can be dated - lapped bar counter, glass shelves on the wooden bar-back, leatherette bench seating, chairs and Formica-topped tables. The same family has owned the pub since 1926.

Public Bar

Shrewsbury

Wyle Cop, , Shrewsbury, SY1 1UY
Directions: From south or east, pass Abbey, cross River Severn and continue up Wyle Cop. Hotel near top on left. From north or west follow one-way system for Telford. Hotel faces you at endof Dogpole
Tel: (01743) 353107
Email: info@thelionhotelshrewsbury.com
Website: https://www.thelionhotelshrewsbury.com/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Shrewsbury) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: I

Lion Hotel ★

This historic hotel has parts dating back to the 15th and 18th centuries and there was clearly a significant refurbishment in the inter-war years. It is included here primarily for the Oak Bar, situated just inside the hotel on the left hand side.

Servery

UPDATE 2019 - The Oak Bar is currently not in regular use. If planning a visit please ring the hotel to check that it is possible to view this room.

Twin multi glazed doors lead to a small room with a bare wood floor and walls of oak panelling to picture frame height all around. The shape of the servery matches the ornate plaster cornice all around the room and appears to be from the inter-war renovations. The counter is oak panelled and above are a series of five working shutters with multi glazed panels matching the doors. The shutters are closed at the end of every day – something very rare in pubs nowadays. The bar back displays a tapestry which looks like it was always there and in recent years some shelves to form a bar back have been placed in front of it.

The other public rooms have a few historic features - an inter-war brick fireplace with old fireback in the rear bar, an impressive stone fireplace plus dado panelling in the lounge and, at the back, a magnificent grand ballroom of 1770 in the style of Robert Adam.

Staffordshire

Stoke-on-Trent

13 Naylor Street, Pittshill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 6LS
Tel: None
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Vine ★★★

An archetypal small, unspoilt back-street Victorian local with three little rooms. In northern towns and cities, hundreds if not thousands of such working-class pubs once existed but only a handful are still with us. A passageway runs from the front door with, on its left, a partly-glazed partition and two small rooms - a lounge at the front and a games room at the back, both with original fixed seating and 1950s tiled fireplaces. Opposite the games room is a hatch with a sliding window. The public bar on the right has an etched window inscribed 'Vaults' and original bar-back shelves, counter and fixed seating. The bar top and tiled fireplace are, however, later arrivals. Only open from 7.30pm onwards and Sunday lunchtimes.

Lounge

West Midlands

Bilston

51 High Street, , Bilston, WV14 0EP
Directions: (01902) 498659
Tel: (01902) 498659
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Coseley) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Greyhound & Punchbowl ★★

This splendid 15th-century timber-framed building started life as Stoke Heath Manor House but has been in pub use for at least 200 years. In 1936, Wolverhampton brewers W. Butler & Co. employed architect James Swan to restore it. He was so careful to retain all the sound old woodwork that it's now difficult to distinguish the new work from the old. He also kept the 17th-century plaster ceiling (front left) and the Jacobean carved woodwork over the left-hand fireplaces. The public bar was located front right with a smoking room front left and a 'parlour' behind. Since the war there has been much re-ordering with partitions between the latter two rooms and the corridor taken out and the servery moved to the back of the public bar. However, much of Swan's panelling and seating survives in this remarkable building as do impressive fireplaces in the public bar and rear-right room.

Front Bar

Birmingham

144 High Street, Newtown, Birmingham, B6 4UP
Tel: (0121) 333 5988
Email: manager@thebartonsarms.com
Website: https://www.thebartonsarms.com/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Witton) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Bartons Arms ★★★

One of our most impressive pubs from the close of the Victorian years, the Bartons dates from 1900–1, designed by James & Lister Lea of Birmingham for Mitchells & Butlers whose monogram recurs in the glasswork. It is built of stone and red brick in a loosely Jacobean style and has shaped gables and a prominent clock tower. Alterations in 1980 created interconnecting spaces but nonetheless these are still spectacular, due especially to the grand display of Minton Hollins tiling. Two tiled vestibules at the sharp end of the building lead into the public bar, originally divided into three by partitions. Another vestibule, also tiled, leads to the richly decorated, staircase hall, salon (right) and former smoking room (now used for diners). The first two of these spaces have snob screens which gave better-class clients a sense of privacy. In the hall is a large tiled hunting scene giving very urban Edwardian Aston a romantic taste of country life. On the stairwell is a grand window dated 1901. The woodwork in the public bar echoes the Jacobean external detailing. Upstairs, the club and billiard rooms are still used for functions and meetings. The pub survived a serious threat of demolition in 1969 when the area was being cleared. After three years' closure it was rescued by Oakham Ales of Peterborough and reopened in 2003.

Tiled Arch

Birmingham

Rookery Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9QY
Tel: (0121) 554 0957
Email: jaswinderjosen@googlemail.com
Website: http://thefarcroft.co.uk/
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Listed Status: Not listed

Farcroft Hotel ★

This mighty essay in 'Brewers Tudor' is one of Birmingham's largest inter-war pubs, but it's an early example, built around 1921 by Holt's Brewery. The vast public bar, with high decorated ceilings, is split in two by an original timber partition. It has two doorways, both with plain timber lobbies, though the rear one is out of use. The counter of the large L-shaped servery is original, as is the carved bar-back with mirrors and a corner clock (but a few new shelves added). At the back is a now modernised small square lounge along with function rooms.

Birmingham

210-212 Moseley Street, Digbeth, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6LE
Tel: (0121) 622 5998
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bordesley)
Listed Status: II

Market Tavern ★

A most impressive, corner site tile and terracotta pub built 1899-1900 and typical of others in the area. Tiled corridor on the left. L-shaped public bar (note the unusual fixed seating with horizontal slats). Original bar counter and bar-back, the latter topped with a balustrade (cf. the White Swan): wall tiling, including a pretty frieze to the same pattern as that at the White Swan. Rear smoke room with fixed seating. Impressive tiled stairway hall. There appears to be what was an off-sales corridor leading off the side road. Currently closed with no indications as to its future, although the interior appears so far to be undisturbed.

Off Sales

Birmingham

270 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9LX
Tel: (0121) 554 5159
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (The Hawthorns) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Red Lion ★★★

Public Bar

Birmingham

305 Lichfield Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 7ST
Tel: (0121) 326 0771
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Aston) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Swan & Mitre ★★

The fine brick and terracotta exterior here reveals the hands of those prolific local architects, James & Lister Lea, who rebuilt the pub for Holt's Brewery in 1898. The interior was well refurbished in 1984 and the fittings in the main front bar are largely restored originals. The impressive bar counter has been truncated on the left though the decorated plaster ceiling and benches with mirrored glass above are authentic. The lobby at the side and the rear tiled hall are unaltered. There is extensive floor-to-ceiling tiling in the rear passages and stairs.

Public Bar

Bloxwich

13 Wolverhampton Road, Bloxwich, , Bloxwich, WS3 2EZ
Directions: Opposite Bloxwich Park
Tel: (01922) 407745
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Bloxwich) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Turf Tavern ★★★

Few, if any, terraced pubs have experienced as little change as the Turf, which has been owned by the same family since 1871. The simple two-storey frontage has a bay window either side of a central entrance and quarry-tiled passage. A couple of hatches to the servery line its right-hand side. The public bar has more quarry-tiling and a simple Victorian bar-back (with drawers) and counter (but 1960s Formica top) plus hand-pumps which are date-stamped 1927. There is bare seating and a couple of moveable low benches. The front left-hand room has window glass inscribed ‘Smoke Room’, ‘Wines’ and ‘Spirits’, and unusual fixed seating with padded benches divided into individual seats by arm rests. The rear left-hand room has leather-covered bench seating with baffles. The outside gents’ are worth a visit for their massive old urinals and among the other outbuildings are a malt room (part of the former home brewery) and three pig-sties. The rarity of such unaltered, modest public houses led to the Turf being Grade II listed in 1996 following a CAMRA/English Heritage study in the West Midlands.

Public Bar

Smethwick

Waterloo Road, , Smethwick, B66 4RQ
Tel: None
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Rolfe Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II*

Waterloo ★★★

The Waterloo was built as a flagship pub-hotel in 1907 for Mitchells & Butlers whose now-demolished brewery was close by. Their architects, Wood & Kendrick, whom they often employed, provided a lavish Edwardian Baroque exterior for this prominent corner site. The interior features stunning tilework. It covers the walls of the public bar and even the ceiling. The counter and bar-back are good, original work too. However, the really spectacular room is the Grill Room in the basement which was a restaurant and has its original grill and all-over tiling. The pub was sold in late 2012 but still nothing is known of its owner's intentions. The listing was upgraded to II* in 1999 following joint CAMRA/English Heritage fieldwork.

Public Bar

Walsall

55 Old Birchills, , Walsall, WS2 8QH
Directions: (off A34)
Tel: None
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Walsall) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Rose & Crown ★

Constructed in 1901 for Highgate Brewery, this former small hotel was sympathetically refurbished in 1999. Passing through a full-height, etched screen, you enter a very fine drinking passage with a multi-coloured tiled dado round most of it and a hatch to the bar. On the left, the sizeable public bar has original counter, bar-back and fixed seating plus a tiled frieze round four-fifths of the room. More tiles adorn the counter front. To the right of the passage are two rooms between which doorways were cut some years back. The 1999 refit added a small piece of new fixed seating to the original benches in the front room to block off one doorway. The rear room has no old fittings.

Servery

Willenhall

77 Gomer Street West, , Willenhall, WV13 2NR
Directions: off B4464, behind flats
Tel: (01902) 633378
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Falcon ★★

Since it was constructed in 1936, only the lounge has seen significant modernisation. The corridor leading all the way through from the front door has a splendid, boldly-patterned tiled floor and half-height terrazzo wall tiling. The same flooring extends into the excellent public bar which has embossed wallpaper on the walls and ceiling, a heavily embossed frieze with vaguely organic patterns,a sturdy pine bar counter with matching bar back and plentiful original bench seating. In the same family ownership for over 30 years.

Public Bar

Worcestershire

Worcester

4 Bull Ring, St Johns, , Worcester, WR2 5AD
Tel: (01905) 339640
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale and Real Cider
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Foregate Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: Not listed

Bush ★

A pub built in 1879 which contains two old rooms and some fine fittings. The public bar was once divided into three as evidenced by scars on the counter; it has a couple of bell-pushes and original seating. The star feature, though, is the wonderfully ornate L-shaped bar back, with prominent pediment, twisted columns, mosaic-style mirrors and a clock which helpfully names the bar fitters, Yates & Greenways of Birmingham. The counter itself has well-crafted fielded panelling. On the left, a now-closed tiled corridor has an off-sales hatch to the servery. A curiosity is that there was formerly a second outlet for take-home supplies - the 'outdoor department' with service through another hatch. The side door and rear corridor lead to a small smoke room with fixed seating and bell-pushes.

The pub was acquired by the Cannon Royall brewery in 2015.

Public Bar

Worcester

6 Angel Street, , Worcester, WR1 3QT
Tel: (01905) 21395
Email: the_cricketers@live.co.uk
Website: http://www.thecricketersworcester.co.uk/index
Real Ale & Cider: Real Ale
Public Transport: Near Railway Station (Worcester Foregate Street) and Bus Stop
Listed Status: II

Cricketers ★

Although the ground-floor layout of this old inn has been compromised, much remains from a quality 1950s refit. In the main bar, panelling on the left-hand walls is in a distinctive 1950s style while the semi-island bar counter and brick fireplace are also redolent of the era. On the right a smaller room/area has a different style of panelling, another period fireplace and fixed seating likely to be of the same date. A baronial-style function room upstairs has more dado panelling in the same style (but painted over) plus some pargetting on the walls depicting heraldic devices.

Upper Room

Ringing the Bell

Table Service

A man walks into a pub. He wants a drink. What does he do? Simple, he goes to the bar, orders it, pays for it and enjoys it. Few of us would ever think that things were otherwise, but they were. And the clues are there! If you visit some of the multi-room pubs in this guide you will see what look like door bells. You won't find them in the public bar but you will in the 'better class' rooms, such as the lounge, saloon or smoke room where customers expected to pay a shade more for their drinks in return for somewhat smarter surroundings.

Adding to the sophistication was the chance of being served at your table, something that would make you feel good about yourself and impress your wife or girlfriend (escorted women were welcome in the better rooms of pub). You pressed the bell and it rang in the serving area and the barman or a waiter would come and get your order (a small tip seems to have been the order of the day). The bells were usually linked to an indicator box which showed where service was required.

An alternative method providing table service came home to the present writer, when after starting my drinking career as a sixth-former in Birmingham in the early 1960s, a move to Manchester provided a new experience where waiters moved around the pub taking orders. As far as a I know, such a practice seemed to have disappeared in Brum by that time. Maybe some readers can tell otherwise.

Table service has all but disappeared in the UK but is still practised at one pub in this guide, the Peacock, Nottingham (p.58), where, except on Friday or Saturday night, you can sit down in the lounge bar, press one of the bell-pushes and get served. Apart from table service at a number of the new breed of micro-pubs, it is also to be found at the National Inventory-listed Volunteer Canteen, Waterloo, Merseyside, and the Clep Bar, Dundee (for both see www.heritagepubs.org.uk).

A curious thing about bell-pushes is their geography. They are common from the Midlands and northwards but are very rare to the south. It is impossible to conjecture why this is so since we know that waiter service was commonplace in many London pubs a century ago. We would be most interested to hear of examples south of, say, Coventry (info.pubheritage@camra.org.uk) .

The moral of this story for our man who goes into a pub – don't do what you are expected to do on the continent and sit down waiting to be served. It won't happen. The bell-push and the days of table service in the British pub are long gone, although a few of our smarter bars seem to bringing back the tradition – good for them.

Gents Only

1st January 1976 was a momentous day for women's rights. This was when the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 came into force, making it illegal, among many other things, to exclude women from all or part of a public house. It exposed the nonsense that many a public house was anything of the sort if it refused to admit half the population to all or some of its bars!

Traditionally public bars were always very much a male preserve but the 'better' rooms usually welcomed female customers provided they were accompanied by males or other respectable ladies. Now and again you can still see the odd reminder of the old, unenlightened ways. The best example at a pub in this guide is at the Loggerheads, Shrewsbury (p.66), where, on a baffle at the entrance to the left-hand room, is written the legend 'GENTS ONLY until 1975'. We also know that at the Bell & Cross, Clent, Worcestershire (p.109), there was a men's smoke room. At the mighty Black Horse, Northfield, Birmingham (p.94), a back room there was another gents' smoke room, while at the British Oak, Stirchley, also Birmingham (p.94), there was a single-sex, male space in the lounge at the front left of the pub.

Celebrating Ceramics

A very distinctive feature of some of the pubs in this guide is the use of decorative ceramics. Of course, every pub building uses ceramics of one sort or another even if it's just in the loos where they provide hard-wearing, hygienic surfaces for the walls, floors and the sanitary ware. But here we are concerned with the smarter end of the market and, in particular, the golden age of pub-building around 1900.

At the end of the Victorian age and into the early twentieth century, great efforts were made in the direction of pub embellishment as breweries and pub-owners sought to attract customers by providing appealing surroundings. Decorative ceramics were one way of doing this. Some pubs were even provided with tiled paintings and the best place in the Midlands to find them is Birmingham. The Fighting Cocks in Moseley was rebuilt in 1898-9 by Holt's Brewery and has a couple of pictorial scenes, one showing what was presumably the predecessor pub (it's named the Fighting Cocks), the other a village church (entry p.93, photos p.2). The makers were Craven Dunnill of Jackfield, Shropshire, a firm which is still in existence. Across the city, the splendid Mitchells & Butlers' Bartons Arms was going up at the same time as the Fighting Cocks and here Minton Hollins provided the extensive tilework, including a huge hunting scene – not exactly an everyday occurrence in Edwardian Aston (p.83)!

Tiled paintings in pubs were in vogue about 1900 but the Rose Villa Tavern, also for Mitchells & Butlers, has very late examples (p.91). It was built in 1919-20 and its floor-to-ceiling tiling includes a whole series of panels showed scantily-clad girls disporting themselves in Arcadian surroundings. The makers were Carters of Poole. Apart from some 1930s examples by Lacons Brewery in Great Yarmouth, they seem to the last tiled paintings installed in a British pub.

Another spectacular use of ceramics in the pub is for bar counters. There are thought to be fourteen of these in the UK and three are to be found in the West Midlands: the Gunmakers Arms (but just a fragment: p.92) and Red Lion, Erdington (p.90), both in Birmingham; and the Horse & Jockey, Wednesbury (p.103).

Full-height wall-tiling adds distinction to the rooms and passages in a number of pubs in this guide and, apart from the Rose Villa Tavern, the following can be singled out: the Bull's Head, Telford, Shropshire (p.68); Swan & Mitre (p.84), White Swan, (p.88), and Woodman (p.89), all in Birmingham; Paul Pry, Worcester (p.114); Seven Stars, Stourbridge (p.102). Other more modest use of ceramics included mosaic floors at the entrance to pubs and tiled dadoes. Three West Midlands pubs with splendid tilework ought to find their way into the main body of this guide but sadly they are currently closed. They are the Waterloo,

Smethwick, famous for its wonderful tiled basement room (originally a restaurant: p.116); the Red Lion, Handsworth, Birmingham, with tiled walls and a whole series of tile paintings (p.116); and the Market Tavern, Birmingham, with full-height wall-tiling.

Taking it Home with You

Where did you last buy a drink to take home? Chances are it was a supermarket, perhaps a convenience store or possibly a high street drinks shop. It's hardly likely to have been down at your local pub. But fifty years ago or more it would have been a very different story. Pubs sold drinks of all kinds for customers to enjoy at home and very often there was special provision in the layout of the building to cater for this. Then legislation changed in the early 1960s to enable supermarkets to sell alcohol freely and the rest is history. The 'offie' at the pub is now a thing of the past.

The 'off-sales' at pubs went under a bewildering variety of names: off-sales (of course), jug and bottle (and vice versa), outdoor department, family department, retail department, order department, and so on, and you can sometimes still see the old names fossilised in etched glass or door-plates.

Occasionally there was a bench in the space in question: typically this would be occupied by women popping down to get beer for their dad or husband and stopping for a quick one with their friends. Where there was no special enclosed small space for off-sales, there might be a hatch facing the front door or one in a corridor.

With the demise of off-sales from pubs, so many small rooms or compartments devoted to the purpose have been incorporated into another pub room or turned over to storage. So, when next you see what appears to be a spare door on the outside of a pub, ask yourself this question - was this for off-sales?

Fewer but Better

The sheer number of pubs in our towns and cities was a matter of concern to many, especially those of Temperance persuasion. It was perceived as a major cause of drunkenness, especially in the large number of 'low, small, not secret houses' of inner urban areas. In 1896 Birmingham had no less than 1,703 beerhouses and full-licensed public houses. Back in 1877 the Council persuaded itself to take over the drink trade, just as it had other utilities. Mayor Joseph Chamberlain, who had successfully municipalized gas and water supply, proclaimed 'I want to treat the drink question as we have treated the gas question.' In fact nothing came of this and it fell to Joseph's brother Arthur, as Chairman of the licensing magistrates from 1894 , to start the process of license reduction through the innovative Birmingham Surrender Scheme.

This was a voluntary compensation scheme created in 1897 by a group of brewers in Birmingham and members of the Birmingham Licensing Committee who formed the Birmingham Property Company. This purchased old run-down houses in the centre of the city with multiple licenses being surrendered to build, as the slogan associated with the scheme put it, 'fewer but better' pubs further out. The scheme established a fund which compensated those giving up licenses and it was copied in other towns such as Sheffield and Blackburn. In Birmingham about forty licenses a year were given up between 1898 and 1903.

Then the Licensing Act of 1904 provided a national framework for license reduction. Closures, except those made because of bad conduct or structural unsoundness, were to be compensated from a fund levied on all licensed properties. In all some 600 on-licences nationally a year were removed between 1905

and 1935.

Many and Varied

Rooms in the historic pub Until the late 20th century pubs almost invariably consisted of two or more public rooms. They varied in the quality of surroundings on offer and with this went a differential in pricing. You paid less for your beer in the public bar which was the most simply appointed and often very much a male preserve. This was the domain of the working man. Here there would be a bar counter, no carpet on the floor, lots of smoke in the air, and the standard drink would be mild (which has now all but disappeared from our pubs). The public bar was sometimes termed the vaults, especially in the north (however, the Bell, Bloxwich, p.96, has a vaults).

Better-appointed rooms went under a variety of names. Private bars (more common in London than the Midlands) did not involve a requirement of membership (after all they were in public houses) but were smaller than public bars and the name suggests occupancy by regulars known to one another. The snug was similar – a smallish, cosy space. The lounge and saloon tended to be larger and one might expect carpets, panelling and service at your table (see p.28). Much the same might be expected in the smoke/smoking room. These latter names are a little mysterious since there was no restriction on smoking throughout a pub. Maybe the idea was to suggest somewhere where people could take their ease in the way they would have done in a smoking room of a gentleman’s residence?

Then there were club rooms, function rooms, music rooms, billiard rooms and off-sales compartments, for all of which the purpose is self-evident. Commercial and news rooms featured more in the north than the Midlands and were places where one might do business or relax for a quiet read. One puzzling name, however, is the tap room. One might be forgiven for thinking that this was where drinks were dispensed but examination of old plans of pubs, and the evidence from ones where tap rooms exist, shows this was not the case in the vast majority of instances because the room was separated from, and often at a fair distance from, the servery (an exception was at the now-closed Shakespeare, Dudley, West Midlands, where what we would normally call the public bar was known as the tap room). One long-serving licensee has suggested that in tap rooms regulars would tap a coin or their glass to attract attention to summon service. Well, maybe!

Geoff Brandwood