

# VISIT Barrow

THERE'S MORE HERITAGE THAN MEETS THE EYE

THE HERITAGE OF A PROUD NORTHERN DRINKING TOWN



THE BLUE LAMP



THE OLD BANK

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## Barrow PUBS

Like most towns, the Public House in Barrow has suffered significant decline in numbers, many disappearing over the last 10 years. Before 1869 there was a distinction between a Beer House, which could only sell beer, and a Public House, which was licensed to sell all types of alcohol.

This walk is a trip around several of the drinking establishments of Barrow. Many are now closed, some recently converted into flats for contractors, or disappeared entirely.



Source: 'The Beer Houses Barrow in Furness' Alan Wilkinson 2017 - barrowpubs.co.uk

## Barrow PUBS

### 1 The Gaza Strip

In the 1990s, Cornwallis Street was the hub of nightlife in Barrow, and was jokingly called the Gaza Strip after the Palestinian Territory. It had a number of nightclubs and bars, some of which had frequent name changes. Still identifiable in 2018 are The Cry, Circus Circus, Kavanna's, O'Sullivan's, Imperial Hotel, (housing the Aspire Cocktail Bar), Club M, (ex-Martini's) and Skint, (ex-Scorpio) on Lawson Street.



### 2 Hotel Majestic - Grade II listed

Opened in 1904, the 'Magic Stick' is currently a popular Italian restaurant called Francescas, as well as a hotel. It has a gracefully curved front, and striking Flemish gables.

### 3 The Albion - Grade II listed

Opened c1865, it lies opposite the New Empire, which is also a Grade II listed building next to the Fisher's Yard. The New Empire (opened 2017, having been 'The Empire and Sophia's from the 1980s) and is located next door to the Kings Arms. Fisher was the local landowner before the development of Barrow, and it is alleged was brought up in a farm on the site of the Albion, behind which is a small bit of sandstone wall, part of the original farmhouse.



### 4 The Britannia - Church Street

A pub rebuilt in the early 1930s by London Brewery Truman, Hanbury & Buxton in a characteristic style, with pale stone facing on the lower parts of the pub.



### 5 Greengate Street Working Men's Club

'The Greengate' was originally the 'Morning Star' beer house (1856-1934), and was directly opposite the very similar 'Union Tavern' (also 1856-1934 and known as 'The Blood Tub') on Greengate Street.



Apparently, the Morning Star was known as the 'Bucket of Blood', but this may be a mix-up with the Union Tavern. The building were originally identical, or at least very similar, but the Club has been altered and extended.

### 6 Last Orders - formerly the Waterloo

Built in 1874 for £3,500, the Haematite Hotel, (the Last Orders' original name), applied eight times (1874 - 1881), unsuccessfully for a licence, finally achieving an off-licence in 1879. At the licensing sessions in 1882 he was successful and the granting of the hotel licence was greeted by loud cheers. In 1884, the Haematite Hotel was sold by Robert Gardner to Samuel Scott for £5,700 who changed the hotel's name to the Waterloo, named after the Waterloo Cup, a coursing trophy. Scott was a greyhound fanatic. In 2003 it became 'The Last Orders'.

### 7 The Blue Lamp

Originally the 'Imperial Hotel'. One story as to the origin of the 'Blue Lamp' nickname originates from World War II when it was the "posh" place for locally based American soldiers to meet the local ladies, (Red lamp was a bit too suggestive). The pub remains a Thwaites' house.

### 8 The Peacock Inn

Fully refurbished in the 1930s, contemporary with the Britannia. Closed down in 2016 and re-opened in 2017 as a nail bar/ beauty therapy shop. The old doorway signs for 'The Saloon' and 'The Smoke Room' can still be made out.



### 9 Corner of Buccleuch Street

Buccleugh Street corner had two beer houses: The Lord Raglan Arms, (1864 - 1869) (with Fell's advert on the wall) and The Brick Moulders' Arms, (1865 - 1869). Both beer houses were shut using laws giving magistrates' powers to close premises without explanation.



### 10 The Brewery - Buccleuch Street

Originally the 'Brewery Tap', i.e. the nearest pub to the brewery. Case's brewery was in Cavendish Street, Barrow, and was built in 1866-67 by Wadham and Turner for Messrs. T. Thwaites and T. Hindle. The brewery was bought by Robert Fell Case on August 19th in 1867. The Barrow Times, (Oct 19th, 1867) reported the opening, calling it the most modern brewery in the North West. It closed in 1972.



### 11 The Robin Hood

Originally a greengrocer's shop which also sold beer, the 'Robin' appears to be the last surviving Robinson's, (formerly Hartley's), pub in the town centre.



### 12 The Theatre Bar (1877-date)

Built next to the Alhambra Music Hall, which was remodelled in 1937 as the Roxy Cinema and later the Odeon, before becoming Manhattan's night club in 2018. The Theatre Bar is still open today (2018) where it is used as a fun pub and karaoke venue.



### 13 Barrow Arms & Cross Keys

Located in Cavendish Street the Barrow Arms, (1862 - date) & The Cross Keys, William Street, (1862 - date) were originally just beer houses until 1873. The Barrow Arms had been built to the standard of a hotel, which was not uncommon for speculative owners hoping for a speedy upgrade to their licence. In the case of the Barrow Arms, the full licence was granted quite quickly.



### 14 The Crystal Palace - Dalkeith/Scott Street

Opened as a Hotel in 1874, but with only a beer licence, the building finally achieved a full licence in 1949. It closed down in 2014, having been renamed 'The Fire Station' for a short period. It is now apartments for contractors.



### 15 The Steelworks - Buccleuch Street

On this site stood a beer house called 'The Black Dog' (1862-1868), which was rebuilt and extended in 1869, reopening as a fully licensed premise named 'The Steelworks Hotel'. This was closed in 2016 and turned into apartments for contractors.



### 16 The Old Bank

The Old Bank on the corner of Duke Street & Parade Street, (c1980 - c2012) and the Odd Frog (ex-Drawing Room until 2018), located on Ramsden Square. The Old Bank became a 'World Food Buffet' for a short time, and is currently, (2018) still badged as such. The Odd Frog was designed by Paley & Austin, well-known church architects, who had an office in Barrow and designed many significant buildings in the town.



### 17 The Devonshire

The Devonshire Brewery, (now apartments), of George Heath operated from 1871 until its closure in 1960. The entrance to the Brewery can still be seen on the left-hand side of the Hindpool Road face of the building. The brewing tower was demolished in 1970. Brewery owner George S. Heath lived in a Victorian villa on Abbey Road called Rock Lea, (demolished 2017 - next to Chetwynde Hotel) and was Mayor of Barrow between 1903 and 1906.