## **DOWN TOWN** 120 years of Downpatrick's shops in photographs







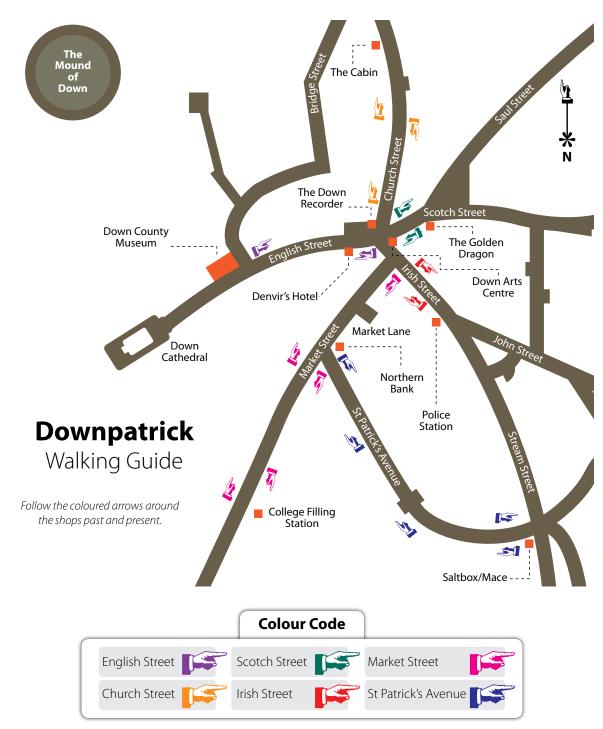
This project is financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the EU Programme for Peace & Reconiliation (PEACE III) managed by the Special EU Programmes Body and delivered by the North Down, Ards & Down Council Cluster.













The aim of this booklet is to show the richness and diversity of shops and businesses in the heart of Downpatrick over 120 years through unique photographs gathered from many different sources. It would not have been possible without the Downpatrick Lions Club, Downpatrick Business Forum and the many townspeople who have contributed photographs, information and stories so generously.

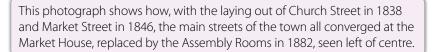
The booklet is not a history, but rather a journey around the town, taking in views of shops and businesses of the past and those of the present, many occupying the very same premises but with very different appearances. The route starts at Down County Museum, where copies of the booklet are available free, and leads down English Street, to explore both sides of Church Street, Scotch Street and Irish Street, before taking in Market Street and St Patrick's Avenue. The return walk up the other side of Market Street, round the corner into Irish Street and back up English Street, ends at Denvir's Hotel, the oldest business in Downpatrick.

It has not been possible to venture far from the centre of the town, or to include every shop, especially where old photographs have not yet been discovered. However, this booklet is just the start of the Down Town project, and new photographs and information will always be welcome in order to help fill out the picture. A Museum exhibition will follow in 2012, including objects from local shops as well as photographs old and new. We hope that you enjoy the tour, and that you might be able to add to the story of Downpatrick's shops and businesses in the future.



Down County Museum opened 30 years ago in 1981 in the buildings of the old gaol of Downpatrick, built between 1789 and 1796. After use as a gaol until 1830, the site was used as a barracks by the South Down Militia from 1838, by Royal Engineers destined for the trenches of Flanders in 1914-15 and by the US 1st Armored Division before it headed to North Africa in late 1942. It later housed a number of services and businesses, including William Thompson's butcher's store and auction room, Post Office facilities and storage for Hugh Dickson's hardware shop. Pictured from left to right are some of the Museum staff in 2011: Colm Gilmore, Dolores McAleese, Mary Denvir, Debbie McAdam, Lesley Simpson, Mike King, Elen Morris, Anne Kelly, Danielle Smyth, Linda McKenna and Michael McArdle.







Justine's Restaurant is located in the former Down Hunt Rooms, where a 'house of correction' stood from 1746 until the County Gaol opened in 1796.



This photograph of Downpatrick of about 1900 shows the ancient route to the town, known as Fryar's Lane in 1708, which had become known as Bridge Street by 1833, as it came from the Quoile Bridge. The long medieval 'rigs' of land can be seen behind each property, where animals were kept and crafts were practised.



Downpatrick Courthouse was originally built in 1735. A tunnel linked it to the New Gaol, now the site of Down High School, when it was opened in 1830.





Jean Welshman's Hairdressers on the corner of English Street and Bridge Street in the 1960s. Customers would have curtains drawn round them as they had their hair done. These buildings had housed Downpatrick Technical School until 1933, before it moved to the new Down High School. Paddy Bohill's Dairy stood on the left side of Bridge Street, and John Murphy the tinsmith lived and worked on the right hand side. Following demolition of the buildings. the area was named de Courcy Place, after John de Courcy, a Norman knight who captured Downpatrick in 1177 and later built the church now know as Down Cathedral.







Colin Crichton, son of W Y Crichton, former owner of the Down Recorder. The paper was first published as The Downpatrick Recorder on 31st December 1835. It was the first newspaper published in Downpatrick and was owned by Conway Pilson. It cost 4d per issue.

The Post Office was formerly situated in the Down Recorder Offices at the corner of English Street and Church Street, with the Telephone Exchange up above. The building dates to about 1860.



The staff of the Down Recorder in February 2011. Pictured left to right are: Anthea Hamill, Raphael Mason, Hugh Carville, Ciara Colhoun, Claire McCreanor, Joanne Fleming, Malcolm Crichton, Carolynne Rogan, Philip Kelly, Von Crichton, Patricia Walsh, Charlie McStay, Marcus Crichton, David Telford, Paul Symington, Teresa Teggart and Andrew Gibson.



Church Street was opened up in 1838. The Parish hall, with the tower on the left was built in 1863. A 2.2m thick section of John de Courcy's town wall of about 1180, called St George's Wall, was found here at the junction of Church Street and Scotch Street. In this photograph from the 1920s, J W Watterson's shop is on the corner, and George Borza's Cosy Corner Café next to it on the right. During the Second World War this corner was the site of the Western Union exchange, where Gls could send telegrams home to the USA.







Osfred D Hamilton's grocery shop was located to the right of the present Down Recorder offices, and specialised in Irish hams, bacon and pork sausages in 1938.



The tower of St Margaret's Church dates back to 1560.

In 1964 the Down Recorder moved to this building on the site of the medieval 'Castle Derras', a 3-storey tower which guarded the medieval entrance to English Street and had been demolished in 1847. Between the tower and St Margaret's Church entrance gate stood a Linen Hall with a portico of 24 arches from 1752 to 1819. On the right of this photograph can be seen Joe Blaney's Down Auto Services. This was later Ron Bishop's TV shop.



An early motor car standing outside William Denby's Carriage Builders in Church Street. In 1903 the speed limit was 20 mph.



The first TV set in Downpatrick is the centre of attention at the Black and White Garage, which Charlie Mees purchased from Charlie Thompson in 1956.



A timber yard with a steam saw mill is recorded on Church Street in 1856. Downpatrick Timber and Slate Company also brought in coal from ships docking at the Quoile Quay for distribution around the town. From left to right in the front row are: John Dickson, Hugh McGifford, P McCarthy, Thomas Donnell, Pat McCartan, S Maxwell, Thomas Mason, Mr McClurg, Mr Nixon and James Clements.



The staff of Brooks
Builders' Merchants in
2010. Pictured left to
right are: Mark Higgins,
Adrian Kinley, David
Hanna, Kevin Murray,
Philip McGarry, John
Ashenhurst and
Alan Johnston.







To the left are the Church Street premises of Hastings, Sculptors and Engravers, first established as a business in 1732. In 1938 the company made memorials in granite, marble and Irish limestone.



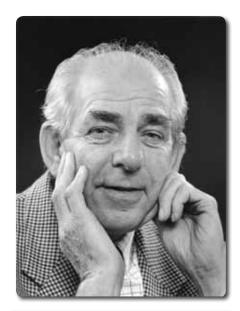
Cy Kearney and Son Motors and the Telephone Exchange on Church Street. Charlie Rourke worked at the Telephone Exchange between 1962 and 1983, where women usually worked during the day and men at night.





Patrick Mageean is pictured second from the left outside his bar on Church Street, which was later run by his son Dickie, giving it the name Dick's Cabin (more recently just the Cabin).

From right to left in this photograph are Patrick Mageean, his wife Sarah-Jane, and two daughters, Susan and Jinnie.



Charlie Rourke, founder of Charles Rourke and Sons, Funeral Directors. Charlie was a true entrepreneur, and ran a shop in Scotch Street and also at the Salt Box on St Patrick's Avenue, now both Mace shops.



Barry and Martin Rourke, sons of Charlie Rourke. Prior to being a Funeral Director's, the site was used by Inglis' Bakery.



The 'Tudoresque' Carnegie Public Library was built in 1908. When it was demolished the Museum received the marble foundation plaque, which is on display in the permanent 'Down Through Time' exhibition.



Downpatrick
Co-operative
Agricultural Society
pictured on Church
Street in 1968. It had
a mealyard at the
rear. Local people
remember Joseph
Magee who ran it, who
was known as'
Jo-Co'. It had
previously been used
as a police barracks.



The Emperor Chinese Restaurant is now located in the old Co-op building.



Vivien Yim and June Ni in front of the Chinese Emperor Restaurant, opened by Thomas Yim in March 1998.





Mervyn McKee's 'Mo-ee' Café formerly stood at the corner of Church Street and Scotch Street. Its name derived from a combination of the names Montgomery and McKee. Janet's Woolshop later operated from this site.



The Scotch Bar, with Stan and June Cogger (née Mageean) in the doorway with children, Allyson, Berenice and Geraldine.



John Thompson has run Ulster Property Sales on this site since 1995, taking over the Thompson Brothers' business established here in 1975.



George Borza in front of his Cosy Corner Café on Scotch Street in the 1920s. His shop had doors on both Scotch Street and Church Street. His brother had an ice cream shop in Millisle. Ottavia Borza lived in Downpatrick in 1915, and Ettore Borza appears on Downpatrick's War Memorial. The family came from a village near Monte Cassino in Italy.





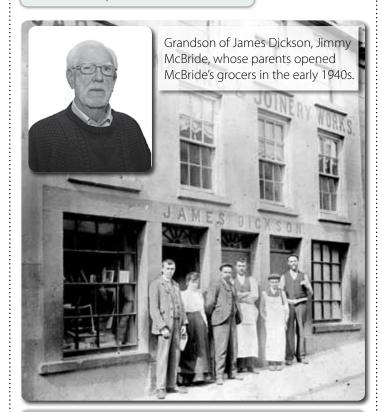
A winch still survives at the back of the Quoile Tavern premises, facing on to Church Street, used to lift bags of meal from street level.

Paul Kelly outside his Quoile Tavern. This was formerly the name of a Scotch Street bar located next to Tommy McGreevy's butcher's shop. It was pulled down when the link road to Church Street was constructed.

John McKee had a spirit grocery here 90 years ago. To the right was Cecil Bell's newsagents (known as Tack Bell's), where the 'Pink' newspaper with the football results was eagerly awaited on Saturday evenings in the 1950s.



Scotch Street pictured in the late 1800s.



James Dickson's Cabinetmakers and Undertakers. The premises were later divided between McBride's grocers and Vera Smyth, Cabinetmaker, Upholsterer and Funeral Director.



A Mace shop now occupies the Dickson premises. Pictured left to right are Emma Heslop, Sharon Skillen and Mary Pleasants.





Bell's Fruiterers, pictured early in the last century.

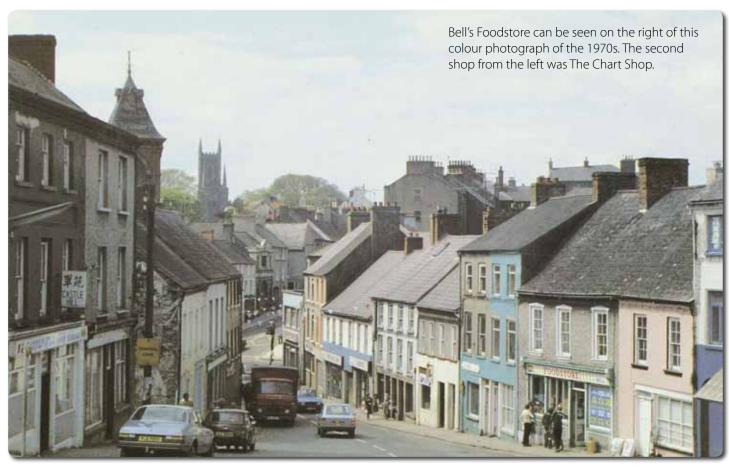




Mr Ho outside his Hong Kong Chinese Take-Away 'The Golden Dragon' in Scotch Street, which he took over in 1979. In the 1940s this site was occupied by Ben Bloomfield's Ice Cream and Fish and Chip Shop, and was remembered by Bob Dowell, a GI who returned to Downpatrick 63 years after being billeted in the Old Gaol in 1942.



On the right in this photograph from the 1970s can be seen Tommy McGreevy's Butcher's shop, demolished when the link road from Saul Street to Church Street was constructed. The gap on the left is where the Steak Inn stood until 1973, with the Woolshop, W McKeating's grocers and Peter McKenny's Spar Shop below it.





Bought of SAMUEL GIBSON,
FAMILY GROCER,
Tea, Wine, Spirit and Provision Merchant.

This receipt from Samuel Gibson, a grocer in Scotch Street, dates to 1876.

Joseph Madine's Bar in Scotch Street pictured early in the last century.



The staff of Kerr and Belshaw, grocers, in Scotch Street in the early 1940s. Third from left is Simon Waterman, manager, who also arranged war-time entertainment in the Assembly Rooms to keep spirits up. He even brought Gracie Fields to Downpatrick.



Peter McKenny stands in front of Chippy's, where he formerly ran his popular Spar Shop. He remembers finding an ancient well behind the premises.



Peter McKenny's Spar Shop still has part of the Kerr and Belshaw sign up in this photograph. It was run by Fred and Ernie Muldrew before it became a Spar Shop.





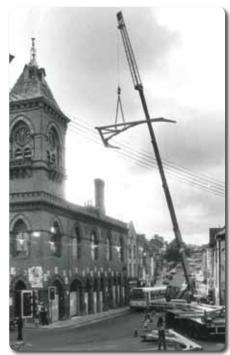
Phil and Ciaran Turley now run Turley's Bar where Madine's and later Muldrew's bar had been located.



The second building along from the Assembly Rooms in this photograph from the 1950s is the Cosy Café. Dan O'Hare and Mrs Henry ran a café here at various times. Later it was Cee Bees ladies' fashion shop.



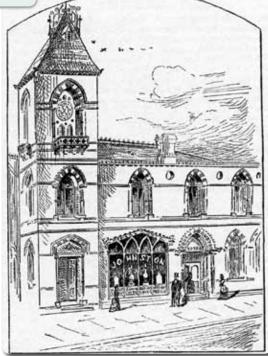
Martin Stewart House Furnishers is in the centre of this photograph, taken when Scotch Street was a busy road.



The Assembly Rooms were well known for the dances held on the first floor, when people remember paying two shillings and sixpence to attend a dance that ended at midnight, and signs warning: 'No Jiving or Jitter-Bugging'. After a fire in 1984 (see photo) the building was refurbished as an Arts Centre, and it is currently undergoing a new facelift, which will be complete in the summer of 2011.



The building next to the Assembly Rooms was run by Alec Ervine, who also ran a draper's shop in Market Street.



In 1886 Roden Johnston Chemists occupied the ground floor of the new Assembly Rooms, and this later became Ben Logan's Pharmacy and then Freddie Muldrew's Chemists before the fire of 1984.



Arts Centre staff lain Davidson, Denise Griffith and Rachel Kennedy pictured in 2010 shortly before vacating the Arts Centre prior to its redevelopment. The old Market House, shown on the left, was built in 1660 and its roof was slated in 1688. The ground floor, with arched entrances, was used for the sale of meal, flax and linen in 1853. It was demolished in 1882 and replaced by the Assembly Rooms. (Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



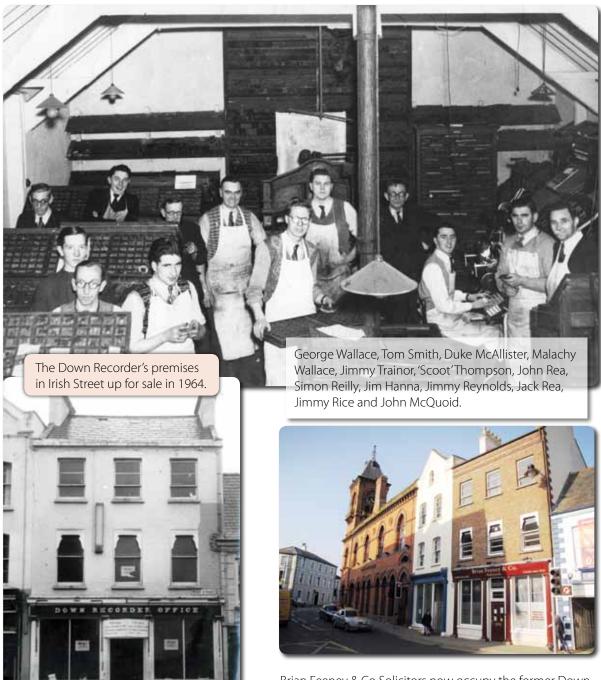


In the centre of this Victorian photograph of Irish Street are the low twostorey premises of R I Chambers, Painter and Decorator. To the right are Shield's Medical Hall and Patrick Starkey's grocery and public house.

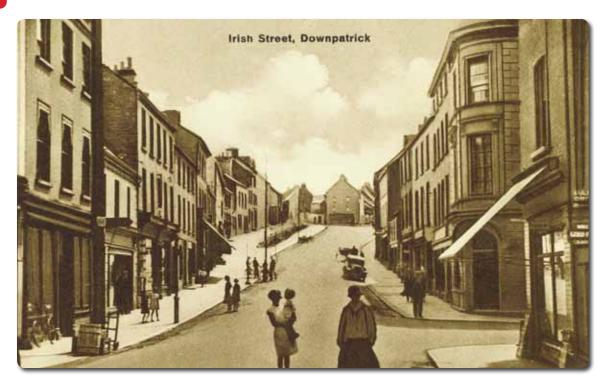


Breen's draper's shop to the right of the Assembly Rooms was later Margaret Briggs' stationery and sweet shop, and then Jean Briggs' hairdressers.





Brian Feeney & Co Solicitors now occupy the former Down Recorder offices.





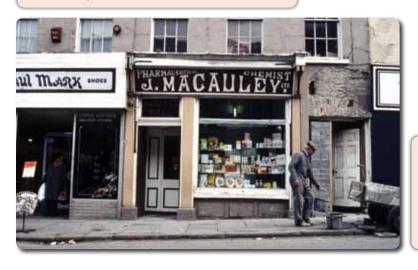
Here the former Down Recorder offices are being refurbished in about 1966-7. This building and the adjacent one to the left were later completely rebuilt. It was used for a time by Tom Savage as a furniture shop, and it is now a solicitor's office.



Roden Autoline now occupy R I Chambers' former shop. Pictured left to right are Nathanya Telford, Katrina Shaw, Katherine Dryden, Donna Vaughan and Corriena Curran.

Irish Street in the 1920s, with the old Ulster Bank building on the right.

J Macauley's Chemist's shop was taken over by Charlie Foy in 1960, and he ran it until 2002.





Brian Mooney's Chemist's shop occupies the site of former pharmacies including J Macauley's and, before that, Shield's Medical Hall, one of the oldest pharmacies in Northern Ireland.



This photograph of a Canon's Excursion parade on Irish Street in the 1960s shows Electrical Services in the premises now occupied by Peter Fitzpatrick Estate Agents, and Peter Fitzsimon's clothes shop where Plus 2 Print is located today.



Peter Fitzpatrick founded his business in Annadorn in 1890 and it has now been in the

family for four generations.

Here he is pictured with his

wife, Anne.







PETER FITZPATRICK • Estate Agent. Estd: 1890. •





McCord's was later Mrs Bradley's hairdressers and The Tzone.





Gavin Oaks in front of his Plus 2 Print shop.



Tommy Miley's barber shop is located fourth from right in this photograph, with Hinnon's Portofino Café to the right, now the Jade Garden Chinese Restaurant.



Marie Massey outside her Cathedral Gowns shop. Willie McMullan had his own painting and decorating shop here, after starting out in R I Chambers. He was known as 'Hearts McMullan', as he once dressed as the King of Hearts in a parade.



Martha McMullan in front of her paint and wallpaper shop with Tommy Miley, barber.

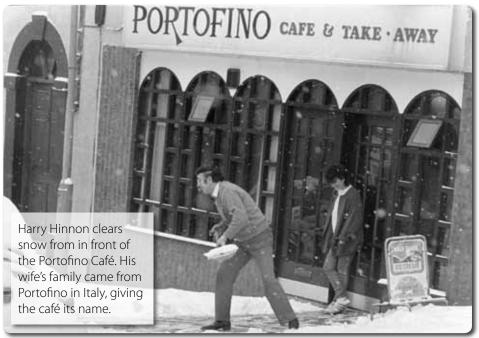


Damian and Colin McKee outside their Flixx Graphics shop. Joseph McCartan had this shop for a short time before moving his shoe shop to Market Street in 1936.



Tommy Miley's old shop in Irish Street.







Street stalls at the junction of Irish Street and John Street in the late 1800s. There were 'shambles', where animals were killed and meat was prepared, down the middle of Irish Street in the 1720s, but they had been moved to this area by 1833, explaining why the street leading off to the right was previously called Shamble Street.



This building in Irish Street was converted for use as a Police Station. It has a doorway of about 1780, with early Victorian additions made by James Cleland, chairman of the town commissioners.





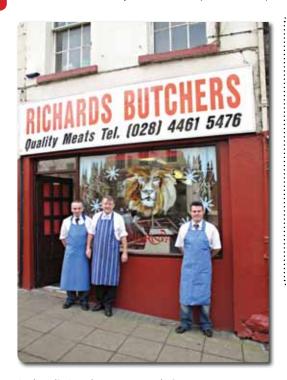
View down Irish Street in the late 1800s. The house to the right of the Police Station was later John Doris' chemists before the Police Station was expanded.



Barney McCartan gives a customer a haircut in his first barber shop on Irish Street just up the road from the Police Station.



A queue in front of McAlinden's at 49 Irish Street.



Richard's Butchers at 25 Irish Street was previously the location of Bobbie Hanvey's studio. Pictured from left to right are Eamonn Toner, Richard Trainor and Darren Trainor. This butcher's shop was formerly located in St Patrick's Avenue.



W & J Kidd, grocers, pictured on Irish Street, before it moved round the corner into Market Street.



Harry McAllister in his barber shop at 31 Irish Street, said to be the narrowest shop in Downpatrick.





The Arkle Bar is named after the racehorse Arkle, famous for winning many races, including the Grand National in 1964.







Market Street was first laid out in 1846 during the Famine to facilitate coach and horse traffic to Dublin, so avoiding the hill on Irish Street and the longer route along the Vianstown Road. This photograph from the late 1800s shows a circus arriving in the town.

## ASSIDY'S SHOES

Angela Harris and Patrick Cassidy are pictured here outside Cassidy's Shoes. This had been the location of Hugh Love's grocery, and before that Shield's Chemists. Patrick's uncle Maurice Cassidy ran a dental practice above this shop.

## MARKET STREET Sráid an Mhargaidh

Pictured in March 1982, after his shop was burnt out on the opposite side of Market Street, where J J Donnelly's is now located, Basil Coburn moved temporarily to premises in the Ulster Bank yard. Lecale House clothes shop had previously stood on this site and was run by the Morrisons. To the right, Horatio Croskery had a grocery, later taken over by W & J Kidd.





Ruby is set slightly back from the front of Market Street.





Fiona Hamill runs Decorum, formerly Clobber, which she took over from Jean Stratton in 1973. Her parents previously ran McAlinden's at 49 Irish Street.





Tracey Quail stands in front of her flower shop at 14 Market Street. Fleming's hardware shop had been here previously.



In December 1972 Malachy Doran's grocery was taken over by William Murphy, Jeweller, who opened his own shop here in July 1973.

Now vacant, No 18 Market Street had been a blacksmiths, Dickson's Public Bar, Nicky Burns' Stag's Head and a Manchester and Midland TV shop, before becoming the home of Downe Travel between 1991 and 2010.



J J Donnelly Shoes.



J J Donnelly Shoes was previously occupied by King's clothes shop, run by Gerry McMullan. King's later moved across the road to H W Kelly's former premises. Prior to 1968, this shop was a stationer's run by Kevin Fox, and before 1925 the Gracey sisters had a draper's shop here.

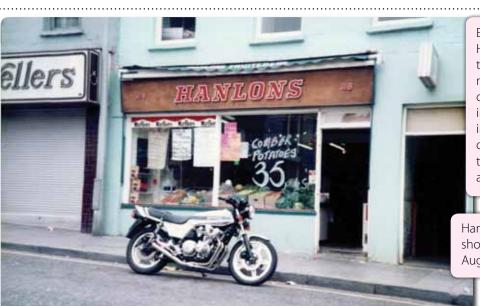


Treasures is located in the former Murphy premises. This was the home of former South Down MP, Eddie McGrady, from 1935 to 1959, and was a tailor's shop run by his father, Michael. Before the Second World War over a third of local shopkeepers lived over their shops - nowadays this is virtually unheard of.





Neal Hanlon established Hanlon's grocer's shop in 1902 after returning from the Boer War.



Eamonn and Ernest Hanlon point out that Hanlon's is now into its second century in business in the same location in Market Street. It is one of the few shops that has not moved around the town.

Hanlon's grocery shop pictured in August 1982.





Staff and customers in front of Holland's Mirabelle Bar. From left to right: Daniel Clark, Philip Curran, Kenny Coates, Damien Crummy, Camilla Austin, Jim Mageean, Anne Blackwood and John Epplestone.



John Magee's shoemaker's shop, where Alfred Vaughan worked in 1918. He walked to work every day from Killyleagh and walked back in the evening.



Work is under way here on Harry Blaney's furniture store. The right hand side was previously a barber shop run by Washy Watterson, so-called because his first name was Washington.



Kieran Small opened Small Things in Harry Blaney's former furniture shop, and moved premises to St Patrick's Avenue in 2011.



Paul, Fintan and Mel McCartan outside McCartan Sports shop at 34 Market Street, formerly Magee's shoemakers and Quinn's butchers.



Market Lane, pictured before shops were built on the left hand side.

## MARKET LANE LANA AN MHARGAIDH

B Laverty helping Pearce Wilson in his butcher's shop in Market Lane in 1976. Pearce Wilson had previously worked for B Laverty in his own shop on St Patrick's Avenue, where his son Billy Laverty later took over, and the Pizzeria Vesuvio is now located.



John and Pearce Wilson with Eamonn McGreevy outside Wilson's butchers in Market Lane.



Marianne Collins of Pet Newtritions.







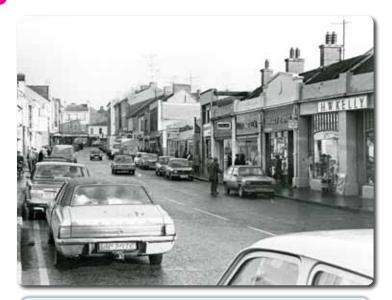
Kim and Emma Harris of Kim on In.



Gemma Brady of Retro, formerly Candy Lane Sweets.



Don Bradley, Marjorie Orr, Gillian Robinson, Laura Feenan, Emma Connelly, Jackie Newell, Stacey Gouldie and Megan Smith outside GiGi's Hair Graduates in Market Lane, which started business in the Downtown Shopping Centre in 1972.



In the middle of this photo from the 1970s is the Abbey Grill, opened by Joan Laverty. To the left of Oakley Fayre is Neill's ladies' fashion shop, which was taken over first by Tommy Ryan and then by Margaret Cassidy. To the left of this was Tommy Ryan's Konfedence Shoe Shop, later taken over by Norman Pentland and then Connelly's.



McCartan's Footwear, pictured in 1974.



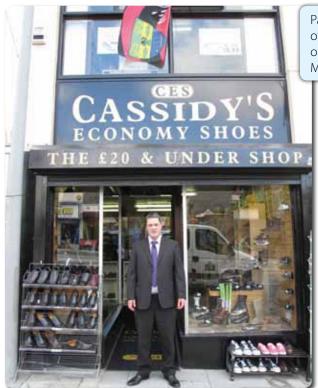




Seamus McCartan and his son Ciaran. Seamus's father, Joseph McCartan started up McCartan's shoe shop at No 40 in 1936, and took over No 42 Market Street from William Tweedie, a veteran of the Boer War, in about 1940.

Seamus McCartan holding up the Sam Maguire Cup with son Paul in his shop when it came to Downpatrick after the Down Seniors' triumph in 1991.

Paul, Nuala and Ciaran McCartan outside their family-run shop in 2010.



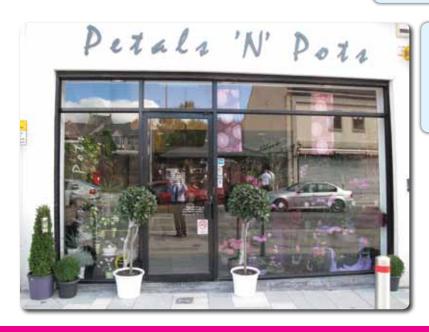
Patrick Cassidy, current Chairman of Downpatrick Business Forum, outside Cassidy's Economy Shoes in Market Street in 2010.



Patrick Cassidy shows examples of shoes and football boots sold in his family shop in the 1940s. He has also kept original tools used in the shop.



Jim Cassidy (Patrick's father), and his brother Joe in their shoe shop. As a youngster, Gerry Ryan remembers buying 'a pair of Joe Cassidy's best open-toed sandals' for the Canon's Excursion to Newcastle.



Petals and Pots flower shop on Market Street, which started life in the Downtown Shopping Centre in the 1970s. Neill's ladies' fashion shop was here, later run by Margaret Cassidy.

Mother and son, Dolores and Darren Kearney of Oakley Fayre, which was opened in November 1979. This was formerly Frank Rea's Northern Bar, later taken over by Jack Rea. It was called Oakley Fayre after the Oakley Estate south of Downpatrick.





Elizabeth O'Hagan in front of her confectionery shop in the 1920s, where Kelly's Hardware is currently located. Elizabeth was married to Jack O'Hagan, who had a dairy on St Patrick's Avenue.



Hugh Kelly in front of his hardware shop, which he took over in 1935 and which he expanded to include Mawhinney's former bicycle shop next door in 1954.



Hugh and son Fergus Kelly celebrate passing the shop from father to son with the handover of an original item from the shop in 1982.



Fergus Kelly in front of his old shop, now in new hands, in 2010.



Brian and Roz McClay in front of their NPO stationery shop at 56 Market Street, formerly Mawhinney's bicycle shop and part of Kelly's hardware shop. NPO occupied the premises now held by Easons, when they were first built and opened up by Harry Doherty.



St Patrick's Avenue was only given its name in 1932 to mark the 1500th anniversary of the arrival of St Patrick at Saul.

Before that it was known as the Circular Road, and many people continued to use this name long after the official change.



This photograph shows the former buildings on St Patrick's Avenue, long before the construction of the Northern Bank in 1932. The large building in the background on Irish Street was a doll factory.





When the Northern Bank was built in 1932, a row of shops was constructed on both sides, on Market Street and St Patrick's Avenue, which are still in existence today.



William King, known as 'Willpop', had a garage on the left and a petrol pump on the roadside. The Avenue Bar is in the 2-storey building. On the right, local people remember Joseph McGrady's blacksmiths, Inch Furniture Store and Margo Laverty's grocery here at various times.



Joe Melia's Electrical Shop, Joe Rea's Emporium and B Laverty's butcher's shop on St Patrick's Avenue. Peter O'Hare took over Joe Melia's shop when he retired.



Mark Bohill's Top Marx and Billy Laverty's Comprehensive Meat Centre on St Patrick's Avenue.



Murphy Jewellers moved to St Patrick's Avenue from 22 Market Street in 1990. William Murphy originally had a shop on Irish Street in 1961, and moved across the road in 1964, to where Miss Bell previously had a Tea Shop, and where the entrance to the car park is now located.



An old photograph of the inside of Murphy Jewellers.



William Murphy, pictured second from right, at a trade show at the Abbey Lodge Hotel in 1982, along with assistants Colette Smith, Elaine Moore and Vanessa Murphy.



William Murphy receives the President's Chain of Office for the Downpatrick Chamber of Commerce from Jim Cassidy in about 1980.



Joe Rea ran Rea's Emporium, a draper's shop, where The Health Store is now located. He was known as The Tiger - he was such a good salesman that if you went into his shop for a tie you would come out with a suit!





Julia Gill outside The Health Store, previously Rea's Emporium, Colm Turley's butchers and Jackie Johnson's and Siobhan Marner's health shop.



Crawford's Dry
Cleaners was
formerly Latimer's
gentlemen's
outfitters, run by
James Latimer.
Paddy Hamill,
butcher, bought his
first suit here.

The popular Passage to India restaurant and takeaway opened in 2001 and is run by Misba Uddin and his wife Linzi.







In 1995 Tom Gibney (right) wished to mark the opening of his new off-licence, after the destruction of his former premises by a mortar explosion in 1994, by commissioning a symbol of reconciliation in sandstone, recording his 20th year in business on the site. He is pictured with site foreman, Stephen Crilly, before the sandstone carving was placed high up on the front gable of the building.



Thomas, Philomena and Tom Gibney outside Tom's Wine Barrel in 2010.

Thomas Gibney Wallpapers and Paints next to Monan's Confectionery and Toys prior to 1994.

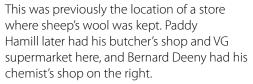


Tom and son Paul Gibney open their new paint and wallpaper shop in October 1995.



Tom and Paul outside Thomas Gibney and Son paint and wallpaper shop in 2010.







Barbara Kelly opened Kelly's Home Bakery in 2009. This was the location of Bernard Deeny's chemists, which he ran here between 1956 and March 1991.



Paddy Flynn collected milk for his round from Jack O'Hagan, who owned a house and dairy where Deeny's Pharmacy is now situated, and had the first electric milking-machine in Downpatrick. Paddy later had his own dairy on John Street. His competition was from Paddy Bohill's dairy on Bridge Street and Eric Patterson's on Church Street. Pictured with Paddy is Wild Bill Galbraith.



opened the first self-service grocery in Downpatrick here.



Paddy Flynn met his wife Bernie at O'Hagan's dairy, where she worked as a milkmaid. This is a photograph of them on their wedding day in 1947.



The staff of Deeny's Pharmacy in 2010, from left to right: Bronagh McCullough, Pauline Smyth, Sarah-Louise Kelly, Bronagh Moore, Eileen McCrissigan, Donna Gill and Deirdre Wells.



The shop in the centre is known as the Salt Box. George McClurg and then Charlie Rourke ran this and it is now a Mace shop. The old Downe Hospital of 1834 can be seen in the background. (Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



Geraldine Rooney and Anne-Marie Curran are pictured here outside the Mace store at the Salt Box



Staff outside the new Eclipse Cinema, which opened in 2009. From left to right between the Oscars are: McCartan Digney, Stephen Rooney, Christen le Bloas, Michael Leathem, Jason Magee, Elizabeth Brannigan, Roisin McManus and Laura Pleasants.



John Doris moved his opticians to St Patrick's Avenue from Irish Street when the Police Station was extended. From left to right are: Mary Swail, Sean Sealey, John Doris, Jackie Gilbride, Samantha Craig and Edel Mason.



King and Boyd Solicitors were previously located next to Paddy Hamill's butcher's, and staff could see his father's cattle in pens behind the building. Pictured here from left to right are: Bryan Oram, Roisin Branagan, Orla Ward, Anne Clerkin, Ursula Quinn, Mary King, Mary Gilchrist, Yvette Ferran, Kathy Abusow and Peter Stewart



Peter Mullan, Ciara Gallagher, Claire McGuigan and Louise Taggart – four of the eight dentists currently with the Mullan and Gallagher dental practice. Graham Chambers started the practice above Porter and Wylie's in Market Street in the 1930s, and was joined by Frank Boyle when he moved to 37 St Patrick's Avenue in the 1950s. Graham Dickson and Neil Hamilton were former partners in the practice.



Leah-Anne Shields-Curran and Deirdre Sharvin in front of their Platinum Recruitment offices in St Patrick's Avenue. The business first opened its doors in Irish Street in January 2006.



Sheep being brought to market down the Circular Road in the late nineteenth century.



A blacksmith's forge on the Circular Road early in the last century. Joseph McGrady had a smithy here in the 1930s.



Wellworths was located where Heatons is today.



Stewart's Motor Works and the Shell garage on St Patrick's Avenue in the 1950s.



Heatons staff, from left to right: Andrew Shaw (Manager), Aaron Ross, Janine Deegan, Noreen Duffy, Patricia Doran and Stephen Mullan.



The building with the stepped gable occupied by Stewart's Motor Works was originally the first picture house or cinema in Downpatrick, and had been run by William Tweedie. Florrie Bohill, who had a furniture shop where McCoubrey's is now situated, played the piano to accompany the silent films shown here. Does anyone have a photo of the building when it was used as a picture house?



In front of Gerry Hynes' Bargainland, in the old picture house building are Brendan Harper, Kieran Kearney and Lorraine Smith.



Celebrating the 10,000th Ferguson tractor sold in Northern Ireland outside Stewart's Motor Works in 1953. On the left are brothers and sister: Joe Stewart, Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Melia.



IK's butchers Mark Walsh, James Crozier and Ignatius Konnor appear to have an extra member of staff on hand!



John and Joseph Rea's Grocery and Spirit Store, established in the early 1900s, before they set up J & on the corne J Rea's Commercial Hotel further up Market Street in 1905, having bought the hotel from Henry Gilmore.



Harold Curran's Spinning Wheel soft furnishings shop on the corner of St Patrick's Avenue and Market Street in May 1977.



Pictured in 1966, from left to right, are Mick Breen's Sports Bar, Breen's Newsagents, Supreme Stores, Magee's sports shop and John Skeffington's butcher's, where a plank on two boxes was required for customers at the counter during severe flooding. Skeffington's had a café on the premises where Magee's later opened their sports shop.



Samuel Waterman escaped from conscription into the Russian army in Latvia in 1905 and took his fiancée, Rosa, to Manchester, and then to Downpatrick in 1921, where he established his shoemaking and repair business on Market Street. As the only Jewish family in Downpatrick at that time, Samuel and Rosa raised four sons, Lewis, Harry, Isidore and Simon, and they all started their careers helping in the family shop and working in other local shops. Harry Waterman was the projectionist at the Grand Cinema in Market Street



Samuel Waterman pictured in his back garden in 1937. He was very well respected in the town and won awards for the high quality shoes that he made. His original name was Solomon Wasserman, and he closed his shop on Saturdays to attend the synagogue in Belfast on the Sabbath





The Supreme Stores was run by Brendan Rodgers 7 days a week from 1965, while his wife Molly ran Zebedee's, successor to K & B Fashions, where Noel Traynor's Executive Cleaners is now located. Paddy Flynn later had a Toymaster shop where Supreme Stores had been.





Paddy Kelly had a hotel and bar here, which did good trade opposite the railway station, and he also ran a funeral business. Gls were billeted here in 1942. Paddy's son Joe kept a lion in a double cage in the back yard, one part to sleep in and one to live in during the day. Neighbours remember the roars! Joe's daughters later opened K & B Fashions here.







J & J Rea's Bar during a flood in the 1950s. Archaeologist and local historian A J Pollock noted that bollards for tying up ships had been found in the middle of Market Street. Successive barriers on the River Quoile, and local drainage schemes, have only gradually reduced the flooding of this low-lying ground.



Mickey Marley's roundabout outside Rea's bar and restaurant in the 1980s. Aubrey and Lenore Rea started serving food here in 1966, which drew farmers coming to the Livestock Mart, and punters on Race Day.



Lenore Rea feeding Mickey Marley's horse.

The Red Brick opened in the old Rea's Hotel premises in 2010. From left to right are: grandfather and grandson, Gabriel and Daniel Sloan, Michelle O'Prey, Chris Power, Grainne McCann, Rory Trainor and Conor Dumigan.





To the right of Rea's were Tom Lowry's gentlemen's outfitters (where farmers bought their longjohns), Acton's Bar and the Down Mart Bar.



The early nineteenth century Market House was originally a Corn Market and later became the Down County Livestock Mart for sales of pigs, sheep and cattle, to which farmers from the surrounding countryside would come on particular days. A clothes market is pictured here in a photograph taken in 1953, while in the 1960s Billy Smith and W J Vance used a neighbouring shed to launch a Wonderstore.



Willie Chambers distributed milk around the town from the Mart in the 1960s and had a store here. From the late 1960s, first the Quinn brothers had a dealership, and then Ken Dryden ran Downtown Motors at the Mart. The Livestock Mart came to an end in the early 1980s. After the Mart's demolition, Lidl opened here in 2001.



The circus is set up on the Fair Green in the late 1800s. The Technical College was later built on this site in the 1960s.



A cattle market on the Fair Green in the late 1800s. The Fair Green, opened in 1846, was the location of many different markets, including cattle and sheep, eggs and poultry, horses, and hay in 1853. Cattle fairs continued here up until the Second World War.

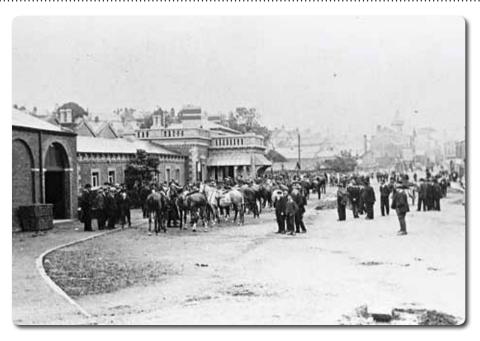
Stewart's garage on Market Street, pictured in about 1960. It later came into the hands of Brendan Rodgers, via Margo Linehan (née Laverty). The Gasworks' manager's house behind it was all that was left of the Gasworks, first built in 1846, but demolished in 1958. The building was given to the Downpatrick Railway Society and it was rebuilt as a railway station across the road in 1990.







A view down Market Street before the arrival of the motor car, with McBride's grocery on the right and Amage Steam Aerated Water Works next to it.



Horses arrive outside Downpatrick Railway Station for the Down Hunt. The Railway Station was built in 1858-9, closed in 1950, and was demolished in 1963, to be replaced by Downtown Shopping Centre in the early 1970s.



Buses wait to pick up railway passengers arriving at the station.



The new Downpatrick Bus Station. When the railway station closed, the bus terminal for Belfast moved to Church Street for a time, but it later returned to its more central site on Market Street. Pictured left to right are: Ronnie Wylie, Philip Mallon, Greg McKernan and James Smyth, Translink supervisors at Downpatrick Bus Station.





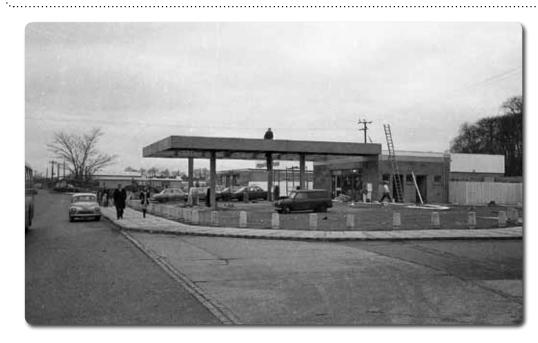
The redevelopment of the railway station site in the 1970s included the provision of a new library. Anne Chestnut and Bridie Keenan are pictured after the library opened on 1st August 1977.



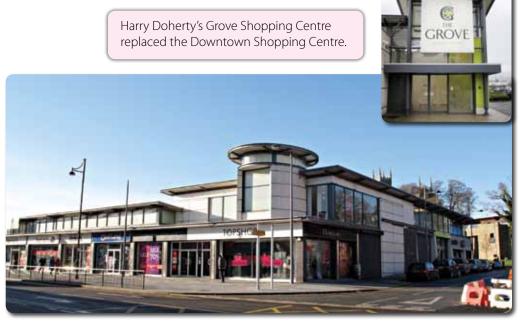
Staff at Downpatrick Library in 2010. From left to right: Rhona Smyth, Gemma Ward, Janet Arthurton, Mary Rice and David McKay. Downpatrick Library now has a Heritage Gallery, which holds important records and street directories for Downpatrick shops and businesses.



In the early 1970s a new supermarket and shopping arcade were built in the Downtown Shopping Centre, with an adjacent car park. GiGis Hair Graduates, Aldos, Petals and Pots and Down Jewellers all had shops here. The feature behind the digger was known as the 50p and was a meeting place for teenagers.



The garage next to the shopping centre was run by George McClurg.





To the right of the cars in this photograph, taken in about 1920, was the location of the railway turntable. An air raid shelter also stood here, opposite the entrance to St Patrick's Avenue, during the Second World War.



To the right of the left-hand car in this photograph of 1972 is the Post Office, which had been transferred from Church Street. The sorting office is in front of it and the garage for vans is on the left.



The St Patrick Centre opened in 2001. From left to right are staff: Donna McCrissigan, Andrew Gibson, Joanne McKeating and Director Tim Campbell.



Colman Magennis outside Down Jewellers in St Patrick Square. The shop was first established by his father Pat Magennis in the Downtown Shopping Centre, and it was opened by Eddie McGrady on 27th November 1972. The Down Recorder featured a piece entitled 'The Guy who came in for the Gold' to mark the opening.

Town Jewellers 🖶



James Dinsmore and Grainne Brannigan in front of Subway in St Patrick Square.





Sarah Kelly stands outside the Wild Orchid Candle Co. shop, part of Castlehill Candles, a Portaferry company that has been trading for over 20 years.



Easons and its neighbours stand on the site of the former railway turntable and 1960s Post Office buildings. From left to right are: Jason Dagens, Aisling Jamison, Bernie Black and Kathleen McCourt.



Boots the Chemists.

Danielle Smith, Ben Mullan (Assistant Manager) and Jade Leckey of Clinton Cards.





Beneath the tower of the Assembly Rooms can be seen the Milestone Supermarket (now McCoubrey's), one of a new breed of shops that appeared in the 1970s.





McCartan's Hairdressers at 43 Market Street. Pictured from left to right are: Elizabeth Orr, Rosaleen Holden, Olwyn McColl, Joan Burns and Michael McCartan. Jimmy Quinn, Pongo Mageean, Peter Mageean and Barney McCartan outside McCartan's Hairdresser's in Market Street in 1955.



Barney McCartan gives Jimmy Quinn a shave.



Muldrew's Down Perfumery and J P McGorrian Jewellers in Market Street.

Chris Quinn in front of McCoubrey's electrical store, successors to Florrie Bohill's furniture shop, the Milestone supermarket and Radio Rentals.











The tall building in this photograph is the Down Hunt Arms Hotel, which was converted into the Belfast Bank in 1927. In 1914 it boasted billiards, baths and a motoring garage. On the left is Porter and Wylie's cycle and motor agent.

Moses Porter ran this bicycle and motoring shop in partnership with Tom Wylie. Local people also remember leaving their glass radio batteries here on a Monday and they were re-charged and ready for use again on Saturday.

The local produce and Fairtrade focussed Market Street Cafe is located in the former Porter and Wylie premises. From left to right are: Ronan Kernan, Brenda Enright (owner), Matthew McCabe, Pearce Madine, Frances Murray, Deborah Smyth and James Patterson.





Pictured here in 1977, the Belfast Bank closed after merging with the Northern Bank. The site was later developed to house a row of new shops. In 2010 these were Marie Curie Cancer Care, Way Out, Adorn and Unique.



In 1980 the four new shops here included Hanlon's Downpatrick Music and Book Centre and Joe Cassidy's shoe shop.



Marie Curie Cancer Care staff outside their shop, formerly the site of the Down Hunt Arms Hotel, from left to right: Anne Crumley, Trevor Ringland, Sharon Magowan and Stacie McCormick.



These girls are Unique, from left to right: Michelle Hamill, Joanne Flanagan and Kirsty Green.



Staff in front of the Pricewise Superstore at 23 Market Street, from left to right: Siobhan McGeown, Patsy McDowell and Cathy Morgan.

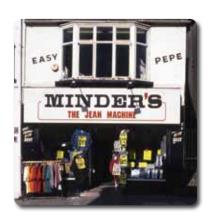


Thomas Kelly always wore a 'porkpie' hat in his butcher's shop, which was later occupied by the Belfast Savings Bank and First Trust Bank, and is now McElholm Optometrists. Before Thomas Kelly had his butcher's shop here, this was James Dougherty's shoe shop.

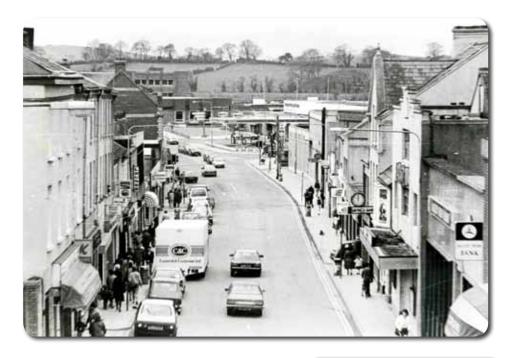
Downe Travel staff outside their new shop, from left to right: Laura Vaughan, Paul Gallagher, Michael Gallagher, Lauren Dickinson, Patricia McCawl and Marie Gallagher. Marie started up Dunlop Travel in Irish Street in 1983, and moved to Market Lane, opposite GiGi's in 1986, buying the well-established Downe Travel firm from Ray Hayes in 1991.



Hugh W Kelly, general ironmonger, hardware and iron merchant, in front of his shop on Market Street. It was later occupied by Stevenson's Chemists, Muldrew's Down Perfumery, Gerry King's draper's shop and Minders, before Marie Gallagher's Downe Travel moved here in 2010.









View down Market Street in the 1970s, with the gabled front of the Grand Cinema on the right, first opened by Tommy Breen in 1936, on the site of the lower yard of Denvir's Hotel. After a temporary closure for more than 10 years prior to re-opening in 1981, the cinema finally closed in 1990. Downpatrick was without a cinema until the Eclipse opened in 2009.

The Munster and Leinster Bank, pictured here in the 1960s, took over the Victorian premises of W Agar's grocery, purveyor of bonded whisky, and rebuilt it.



Tickets for the matinées at the Grand Cinema were 3d (queuing down the side) or 9d, while evening tickets cost 9d to sit at the front, 1s 6d in the middle and 2s 3d on the balcony. There were also three double seats up in the Crow's Nest for true romantics. The film Annie was showing when this photograph was taken. Can anyone tell us the year?

Paul O'Neill and Liam Smith in front of Minders. After occupying H W Kelly's former premises, a new enlarged shop was opened here in 2008. Liam Smith used to help Joe Melia in his shop and was given the nickname Minder by Fergus Kelly, explaining the name of his own shop.



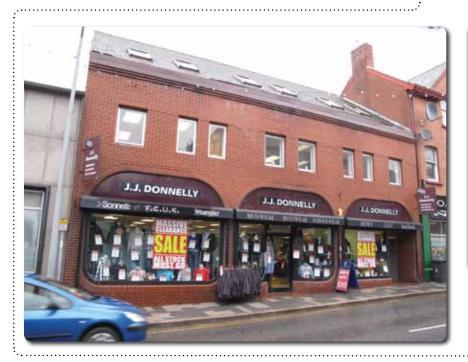


The shop on the right was Richard Whiteside's draper's shop, established in 1869 and named the 'Golden Lion', before becoming Montgomery and Mitchell and then Alec Ervine's. Girls bought their straw bonnets upstairs here in the summer. To the left was Dickson's hardware shop, which was linked to another shop front at No 1 Irish Street. Further along was W Agar's grocery.



Lewis Waterman and the staff of Montgomery and Mitchell drapers, pictured in 1926. Lewis Waterman - son of Samuel Waterman, shoemaker - windowdressing in Montgomery and Mitchell in 1924.





David Coburn's drapers moved from Irish Street (now Una's Salon) to this site, but his son Basil had to move out after it was burnt down. It is now rebuilt and occupied by J J Donnelly's shop. Coburn's Irish Street shop had previously been Willie Johnston's tailor's.



Tommy Breen, on the left, built the Grand Cinema in 1936. He is pictured with Frank Rea, who took over Rea's Hotel in the same year. They are standing outside Breen's shop on Irish Street, near the corner with Market Street, in 1930, which had previously been Morton's tobacconist's and ice cream shop. This was later Gardiner's newsagents. The Breens also took over the corner building which had been an inn run by John McIlheron and then a draper's shop run by the Denvir sisters.



From right to left in this photograph from the early 1980s can be seen Savage's Home Bakery, then Cusack's Fashion Centre, formerly John Gray's, and at No 1 Irish Street, Dickson's Ironmongers.



Ray Hayes' Down Travel Service in English Street.



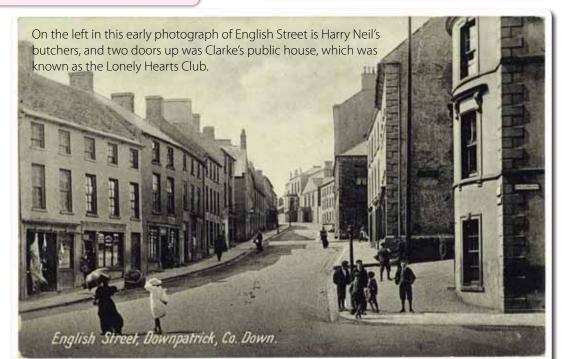
Hugh Dickson, owner of Dickson's Ironmongers, is pictured second from the left. He had two shops, one on Market Street and one on Irish Street which were linked to a rear store, with a tram rail for moving heavy items which local children used for rides when nobody was looking!



Dickson's shop at No 1 Irish Street, after taking it over from J M Tate and Co. in 1903.



Hugh Dickson's son, Jack, carried on the family business.



Derek Davidson took over the shop from his uncle, Jack Dickson, in 1969.



Hugh Press stands in front of Alexander, Reid and Frazer, Estate Agents in 2010. Savage's butchers had occupied the lefthand side of these premises.

> On the left is Cahal O'Hare's tobacconists, now the right-hand side of Alexander, Reid and Frazer. Cahal O'Hare himself is pictured to the right of his shop behind the car.





Molly and Joan Moore outside their Newsagents and Confectioner's shop in English Street. They took over the business from their father John Moore, and later emigrated to Australia.



Inside Moore's newsagents in 1976.



Moore's newsagents is now Downe Dental Care.





William Thompson, known affectionately as Beefy, ran auctions in part of the Cell Block in the old gaol, now the Museum, on Saturday evenings. He ran the butcher's shop on English Street from 1933 until the early 1970s, when Arthur Laverty bought it. In William's day, it was the only place where you could buy a semidetached house and a pound of sausages on the same premises!

The fine butcher's shop to the right was built by Thomas McClurg in 1910. It was modelled on a Roman arch design and was described as 'the best-appointed butcher's shop in Northern Ireland'.

Paul O'Kane, below, converted the former butcher's shop into an art gallery in the year 2009.







The internal fittings have been preserved as far as possible, though meat carcasses no longer hang from hooks in front of the tiled walls.



Denvir's Hotel was first opened as an inn by John and Ann McGreevy in 1642. It was called Price's Arms in 1778 and Denvir's Hotel in 1881. The large room upstairs was created in 1829 to accommodate a dinner for Daniel O'Connell, who made a speech to the crowd below. In 1842 the proprietor, James Denvir, was also the agent for the steamer Eclipse, which plied between Downpatrick and Liverpool, and Downpatrick and Dublin.



Maurice Hayes' family ran Denvir's in his youth, and he records much about Downpatrick in his fascinating book Black Puddings with Slim. His daughter Margaret wrote a fascinating account of the development of Market Street, which can be found in the Lecale Miscellany, volume 3 (1985), and has been invaluable in the writing of this booklet.



The recess in front of Denvir's is said to have been a debtor's sanctuary, moved down English Street to this spot in front of the hotel when the cathedral and monastery of Down lay in ruins and could no longer offer protection. There are no records of sanctuary being successfully claimed here!

David Sysun, Patricia O'Neill and Mark Hynds in front of Denvir's Hotel, now run by Botanic Inns.



## **Acknowledgements:**

The Down Town shops project was made possible by a PEACE III grant secured by Down County Museum and the Somme Heritage Centre in early 2010. A special partnership with the Downpatrick Business Forum and the Downpatrick Lions Club provided valuable assistance in the gathering of photographs and information. We are particularly indebted to Patrick Cassidy, Chairman of Downpatrick Business Forum, and Colin McKee, President of Downpatrick Lions Club, for their support for this joint project. Fergus Kelly of the Lions Club shared his unparallelled knowledge of Downpatrick's people and shops, and without his significant contribution this book would not have been possible. A number of local people also agreed to be filmed reminiscing about Downpatrick's former shops and businesses, and the footage has been edited to create a 30-minute film, which will be shown at the Museum. We would like to thank all of those who took part.

The photographs in this book come from a variety of sources. Many have been copied from prints and slides lent to the Museum by members of the community. Although it is not

possible to mention all by name, we wish to thank everyone who has contributed for their help and encouragement throughout the development of the project from March 2010 to March 2011. Some of the photographs from the 1960s and 1970s were taken by D J McNeill, while others from the 1980s to the present were taken by the Museum's own staff to record the changing character of the town. Jack Rea lent an important collection of Victorian and early 20th century photographs for copying, and John Riordan lent a remarkable collection of colour slides from more recent decades. Bobbie Hanvey has made a special contribution, with portraits of local people, for which we are grateful.

The response to the Museum's appeal for photographs and information surpassed all expectations, and this book is dedicated to everyone who helped to make it happen.

## Mike King, Curator, Down County Museum



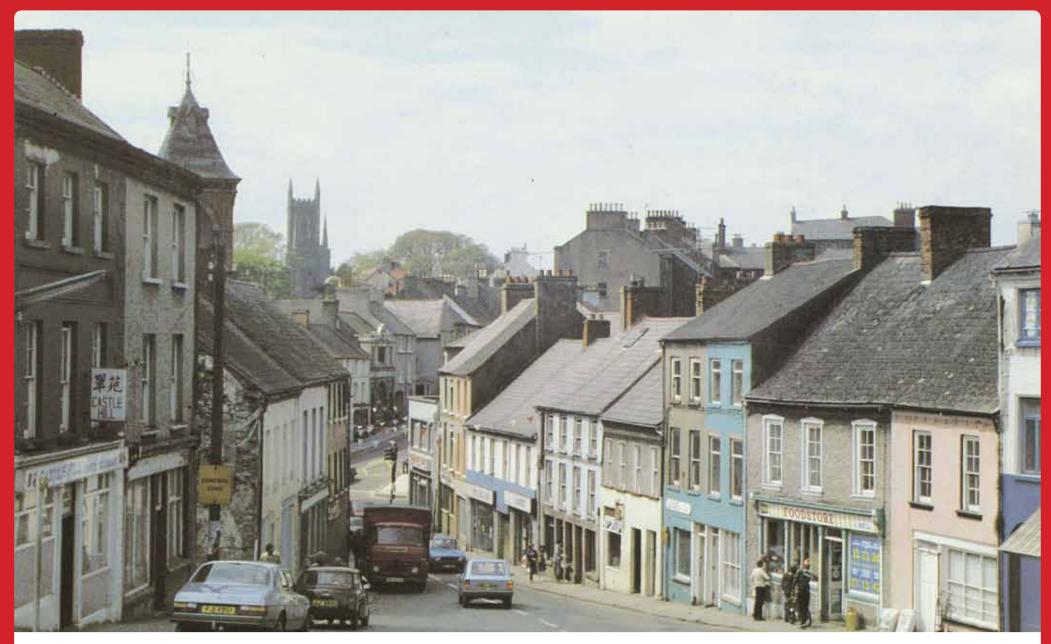
























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