Kilbeggan distillery

The distillery was founded in 1757 when it got a licence to distil, a copy of which can be found in the museum today. It’s the oldest of its kind in the world and is situated on the River Brosna. The whisky it produces is made from hard water and barley. By 1798 Matthias McManus owned it and by 1843 John Locke had possession of it. In 1947 The Transworld Trust bought it off John Locke’s granddaughters. In 1954, production of whisky ceased and in 1957 it closed completely.

25 years after its closure the community of Kilbeggan restored the distillery and opened it to the public as a whiskey distillery museum. Whiskey production recommenced in 2007, marking the 250th anniversary of the distillery. In 2010 it became a fully working distillery once again.

Today, the distillery includes a restaurant, *The Pantry Restaurant*, and a 19th-century waterwheel that is in working condition. The distillery can also be powered by a steam engine, which is in working condition but is only used to allow the distillery to continue operating in times of low water on the river.