

WELCOME TO KIRKBY-IN-FURNESS

It is hoped that the information included here will be of value to you and gives you a flavour of the life of the Parish.

It includes:

- a) A brief history of Kirkby-in-Furness.
- b) Information regarding the various Churches.
- c) A list of the Parish Organisations
- d) Web site addresses
- e) Further information and telephone numbers.

A “Potted” History of Kirkby

The Domesday Book refers to this area as ‘Cherchebei’, which means ‘Village by the Church’. Although our knowledge of the area is of more recent times, i.e. from the 12th Century when the Abbots of Furness commanded the area, it would appear that there was life here before then. There are the remains of a stone circle on the fell side above the hamlet of Beckside and some of the place names and local expressions are of Viking origins.



The old Parish of Kirkby Ireleth was “ *bounded on the southwest by that of Dalton, on the west and north by the river Duddon, and on the east by the parish of Ulverston. It stretched from the Duddon Sands to the source of the Duddon, under Wrynose Mountain, a distance of about sixteen miles. It averages about three and a half miles in breadth. The area is computed at thirty five thousand statute acres and commands stunning views to the Lake District in the north and sea views to the south.*”

Although the Civil Parish is still Kirkby Ireleth, the area is now known as Kirkby-in-Furness. Once part of the Kingdom of Strathclyde and then Lancashire the boundary changes of 1973 placed it in the new county of Cumbria. Now since further local re-organisation the administration is now that of Westmorland and Furness Council with offices in Barrow.

Kirkby Ireleth is made up of a number of hamlets and small villages. At the northern end in the area of Heathwaite are signs of habitation from earliest days through to the 19th century. The hamlet of Woodland has its own small church and village hall to serve the dwelling houses and farms



The settlements of Grizebeck, Dove Ford, Marsh Side (built in the nineteenth century by Burlington Quarry owners), Wallend, Sandside, Soutergate, Beckside and Four Lane Ends form a long narrow loop of living areas, with settlements on the outer areas of Mere Beck, Pear Tree, Ghyll End and various ‘Grounds’.



The parish church is that of St. Cuthbert, and although ‘renovated’ in the late nineteenth century still retains its Norman arched doorway. It recently celebrated eight hundred years of Christian worship. It had a daughter church, The Church of the Good Shepherd, at Grizebeck. Non-Conformist establishments appeared with the influx of workers to the quarries in the nineteenth century being a Methodist Church, a Church of Christ and a Gospel Hall (now closed). There has always been good ecumenical co-operation between these Churches.



Kirkby Hall, once the residence of the Kirkby family, is still a working farm. The family owned much of the land in the area from the fifteenth century through to the eighteenth century when it eventually came in to the ownership of the Cavendish family. It remains so to this day.

The Kirkby family have played a major role in local and national politics. William Kirkby of Ashlack, a younger son, over saw the comings and goings of the coastal vessels on behalf of the King, from the Clyde in Scotland, down the coast as far as Liverpool. At one time the family seem to have had the area ‘ring-fenced’ by ownership of properties. Eventually the family fell into ‘disgrace’ by supporting the losing side during the Civil War but they hung on to their property. The Kirkby family were also active in the persecution of the Quakers and attempted to sequester the lands of Margaret Fell, a neighbour, and founder member of the Quaker movement.

Kirkby Hall is an outstanding house with large chimneys. It has a small chapel dating from the years of religious persecution in its roof space. There is a long driveway from the road where it seems there was a cross where the market was held. To day it would be impossible to hold such an event in that place due to the volume of traffic passing by.

Until the mid to late nineteenth century much of Kirkby’s industry was in farming. There is evidence of a small port on the coastline and some family members are listed as ‘mariner.’ There were public houses and ‘beer houses’ where people eked out their income by making and selling beer from their homes. Other goods such as tobacco, sweets and groceries were also sold. Three public houses survive – namely The Greyhound Inn at Grizebeck, The Commercial Inn at Four Lane Ends and The Ship Inn at Askewgate/Sandside.

The Quarries at Kirkby produce strong, blue-grey slate and many houses and roofs are clad with it.

As the Quarry expanded - boasting the largest man-made hole in Europe - and iron ore mines were excavated in other parts of Furness, the occupations of the inhabitants began to change. There was an influx of workers from other parts of the United Kingdom.

It was a hard life. The miners walked by the various footpaths to the mines at Roanhead near Askam. They returned home in the evening to work on their garden to provide food for their families. Agricultural workers often worked on the land in the summer months and at the Quarries during winter. Food was also obtained from fishing and cockling. When times were really hard they had recourse to the 'Select Vestry Committee' who administered the poor relief.



From 1841-1881 the three main sources of employment were agriculture, slate quarrying and iron ore mining. There were also some small businesses employing a few people. A survey taken today would probably show that only two of the old industries remain to any great extent - that of agriculture and slate.

The slate was initially brought down from the quarry by sledge or horse and cart – later there was a small tram-way - loaded on to flat bottomed barges and transported by sea, round the coast line or carted to Ulverston for transportation via the canal. It is still in the ownership of the Cavendish Family. who also own some of the local farms and a large mobile home site.

With the advent of the railway the slate was transported to and loaded on to wagons and then taken to Barrow-in-Furness to be shipped out to other ports. Business was good – a Reading Room was created alongside Marshside and the Non-Conformist Chapels were built. The Gospel Hall being built about 1916. The Churches were very active. A Temperance League, Girls' Friendly Society, Male Voice Choir and a Brass Band, alongside the Sporting activities, were formed. The original Police Station was at Beckside, then latterly on the A595 at the junction with Nuttery Lane. This property is in private ownership and the nearest part-time police station is at Dalton-in-Furness.

A group of forward looking men decided to form a Co-operative. This was housed in a cottage at Sandside and soon expanded into a larger purpose built store. Houses were built and let to the employees. A few farms were bought and a house provided for a resident doctor. The houses and farms are now in private ownership. The 'Co-op' also held a children's sports day every year. A Horticultural Society was formed and still holds an annual show in The Methodist Church, Sandside.





In the very early days, children were educated at Beckside School initially by the local Clergyman, and then by an appointed Master or Mistress. There is evidence of another school on the 'High Ground' above the village. There was a 'Dame School' briefly at Townfield on the edges of Sandside and Soutergate. In the nineteenth century a school opened at Grizebeck, and then The Burlington School was built.

Beckside School became the village hall. The children attended The Burlington Schools from five to fourteen years of age. After the Education Act of 1944 Secondary Education was available at Ulverston Grammar School or Dowdales School, Dalton-in-Furness

Electricity was provided in the 1920's, but no gas, except for the station and one or two houses, until the 1980's. A few people had their own generators. The provision of electricity must have made a great difference to peoples' lives. However, the countryside was marred somewhat by the overhead cables and pylons which are still in place today.

Because of its isolation the people of Kirkby had to be self-sufficient. Small shops were opened by local people selling various goods. 'Kirkby Potatoes' were well known over the whole of Furness. As rail travel grew more popular, and lately vehicle ownership, local people were able to travel further afield to work. 'K' Shoes opened in the area and provided more diverse employment for women as well as men. Vickers Armstrong in Barrow became more accessible together with other industries. Taking advantage of the 'New Prosperity' cottages were modernised and living conditions improved. However, the local industries such as the mill and the blacksmiths closed down and the properties converted into private dwellings. Ease of travel, though, also brought in people who wanted to live in the countryside.

The Co-operative Store is now closed as is a General Store and Post Office at Four Lane Ends. There is a Post office at Grizebeck and one in the Community Centre, albeit on reduced hours. There are two garages repairing, servicing and selling vehicles. Light industry includes a panel beating workshop, a joiner's shop and a stonemasons'. One farmer has diversified and opened boarding kennels, and there are various gardening services. There are local plumbers and builders and recently a publisher of educational books has been established. The doctors' surgery is still functioning now as a modern health centre and the railway station is used regularly for journeys to Barrow and further afield. There is also a local bus service to Barrow and Ulverston, usually on Thursdays.

A large mobile home site, owned by Holker Estates, is situated below the quarries. There is also a wind farm owned by National Windpower on the northern slopes of Kirkby Moor.

Housing, to all intents and purposes, has changed very little over the years. Some cottages were pronounced unfit for habitation in the fifties and the people were housed in prefabs built alongside Marshside. These have now been replaced by a small estate of privately owned bungalows and called Marsh Garth.

A small estate of council houses and bungalows was built in the late 1960's along and just off the A595. Many of these are now privately owned. Another estate of thirteen bungalows was built in the 1970's and in the 1980's some barns in Beckside were demolished and houses built. A small

estate of bungalows was also built at Wallend. Some farmers have converted their barns into living accommodation and ironically there are as many people living close to the farms as once were when farmers employed many workers. Other properties have been built as 'infill' to maintain a sympathetic approach to development. An estate of forty eight houses is being built next to Burlington School and should increase the population from its twelve hundred people.

The Burlington School is the Primary School, Grizebeck School having closed in the 1980's. Secondary children attend Dowdales School, Dalton, Ulverston Victoria, Ulverston, or Coniston School, Coniston. Some children travel to the Catholic or other schools in Barrow. Very young children are catered for by 'The Little Acorns'.

There is a Parish Council, Ladies' Supper Club, Ladies' Guild, History Group, First Responders Group and numerous other organisations. The Annual Horticultural Show having been held in The Burlington School for over a hundred years is now held in the Methodist Church, Marshside in August. There is a hall at Grizebeck, built in the 1920's and recently modernised with facilities for events such as Whist Drives, Dances, Shows and private parties. Woodland also has a small hall for local events.

A Community Centre was built in the 1970's and this too has been renovated to provide all modern facilities including separate changing rooms for sporting teams. There is an attractive play area for children, a 'Trim Trail' round the field, a bowling green and a MUGA for tennis, netball, basket ball, five a side football and keep fit classes. Visiting teams always admire the open aspect of this area as it looks down the coast to the Irish Sea and is overlooked by the clock tower of St. Cuthbert's Church.



CHURCHES

PARISH OF ST. CUTHBERT, KIRKBY IRELETH

Priest in Charge:	Rev'd Vic Sekasi	
Licensed Lay Minister/Reader:	Linda Dean	Tel: 889 630
Churchwardens:	Christopher Dean	Tel: 889 630
	Pam Anderson	Tel: 889 062

KIRKBY-IN-FURNESS METHODIST CHURCH

Minister:	Rev. Kate Hunt	Tel: 07821 801 528
Secretary:	Mrs. J. Lingard	Tel: 889 366
Treasurer:	Mrs. M. Wilkinson	Tel: 889 588

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, WALLEND

Secretary/Treasurer:	Miss R. Ide	Tel: 889 922
Elder:	Stanley Park	Tel: 462 002

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, DALTON

Parish Priest:	Canon Seamus Flannery	Tel: 582 205
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THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Contact:	Stella Barnes	Tel: 889 089
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ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WOODLAND

Church Warden:	Mr. S. Harrison	Tel: 716 578
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PRAYER FOR KIRKBY

Contact:	Gail Burns	Tel: 889 922
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Clubs and Organisations

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Multi use hall with full catering facilities, veranda, cricket and football pitches, children's playground, MUGA (tennis, netball, basket ball, five-a-side football) and county standard bowling green.

Contact: Mrs. A Holroyde Tel: 889 431

THE VILLAGE HALL, BECKSIDE

Large and small room available for Parties, Wedding Receptions, Concerts, Lectures, Displays, Meetings and Classes.

Contact: Mrs. E. M. Morrison Tel: 889 474

THE COMMUNITY HALL, GRIZEBECK

Large room available for Parties, Wedding Receptions, Concerts, Lectures, Displays, Meetings and Classes

Contact: Yvonne Frost Tel: 07905 779 584

WOODLAND PARISH ROOMS

Large room available for Parties, Wedding Receptions, Concerts, Lectures, Displays, Meetings and Classes

Contact: Mrs. J. Brocklebank, Hill Farm, Woodland,

KIRKBY LADIES' SUPPER CLUB

Meetings in the Community Centre for women of all ages and beliefs in a friendly atmosphere with a speaker or demonstrator.

Contact: Mrs. J. Bishop Tel: 889 311

KIRKBY CRICKET CLUB

Members of the Cumbria and Barrow and District Leagues. Matches played at the Community Centre

Contact: Alistair Bradley Tel: 889 492

LADIES' NETBALL TEAM

Ladies 16+ who play on Mondays at the Community Centre during the summer months

Contact: Vic Atkinson St. Mary's Well

KIRKBY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Members of the Rifleman's Furness Premier League. Matches played at the Community Centre.

Contact: Paul Fugler Tel: 07930 388 540

LITTLE ACORNS

All children are welcome from birth to starting school. Sessions are held on Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. in the Community Centre, Beckside.

Contact: Rachel Ritchie Tel: 889 091

THE BURLINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND CONTROLLED PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Head Teacher:	Mrs. S. Powell	Tel: 889 210
Secretary:	Mrs. E. Thompson	Tel: 889 210
Chair of the Governors:	Mrs. P. Anderson	Tel: 889 062
Clerk to the Governors:	Mrs. L. Dean	Tel: 889 630

FRIENDS OF BURLINGTON SCHOOL

A group of parents, teachers and governors who support the school.

Contact: Lauren Newby Tel: 889 912

KIRKBY LADIES' GUILD

Meetings in the Community Centre on the first Wednesday of each month except January.

Contact: Mrs. M. Morrish Tel: 889 780

HISTORY OF KIRKBY GROUP

Meetings are informal and take place on the third Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre.
Occasional evening meetings with speakers.

Contact: Trevor Lee trevor@teesandbees.org.uk

C.G.P. KIRKBY IRELETH PARISH COUNCIL TRUST FUND

Grants for groups or individuals in the Parish of Kirkby Ireleth. Application forms can be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from the Kirkby web site www.kirkby-in-furness.org

Contact: The Chairman Mr. G. Grieve Tel: 889 017

KIRKBY TENNIS CLUB

Members of the Duddon Tennis League playing at the Community Centre. Courses for primary aged children are held in the Easter and Summer holidays.

Contact: Fran Treloar Tel: 889 054

KIRKBY BOWLING CLUB

Members of the Barrow and Ulverston Bowling Leagues. Community Centre green open from dawn to dusk April to the end of October.

Contact: Allan Stevenson Tel: 889 073

KIRKBY IRELETH CHARITIES

Administration of three local charities:

The Kirkby Ireleth Ecclesiastical Charity

The Kirkby Ireleth Education Charity

The Kirkby Ireleth Relief in Need Charity

Contact: Andrew Laisby Tel: 889 393

KIRKBY FIRST RESPONDERS

Local volunteers trained by N. W. Ambulance Service to attend 999 calls if called out by the ambulance service. Trained in basic life support, are on pagers and carry defibrillators and oxygen.

Training every third Tuesday 10.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. in the Methodist Church.

Contact: Chris Roberts Tel: 889 282

1ST KIRKBY (ST. CUTHBERT'S) BROWNIES

The Brownies hope to reform their group in the near future

GRIZEBECK FLOWER GUILD

Floral demonstrations and workshops on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Grizebeck

Community Hall 7.00 p.m. Except June, July, August, December and January.

Contact: Mrs Karen Queen Tel: 889 500

KIRKBY PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

Meetings in the Burlington Inn every three weeks. New "snappers" welcome.

An informal gathering to exchange information, compare photographs and give hints on chosen themes.

Contact: Alison Going Tel: 889 598

WARM SPACE/SOUP LUNCH

Second Thursday October to March, 12 noon – 1.00 p.m. Community Centre.

Contact: M. McPherson 889 382

OVER 55'S LUNCHEON CLUB

Lunches on the third Wednesday of each month 12 noon, at The Commercial Inn, Four Lane Ends

Contact: Mrs. Linda Dean Tel: 889 630

FOOTPATH AND CYCLEWAYS GROUP

Conservation and development of footpaths and cycle ways throughout the Parish.

Contact: Vacant

KIRKBY FLORAL AND HOTICULTURAL SOCIETY

An Annual Show at the Methodist Church on the second Saturday in August.

Contact: Vacant

KIRKBY BOOK CLUB

Meetings every third Wednesday in the month, The Burlington Inn, 8.0 p.m.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Contact: Roger Rushton Tel: 889 354

FRIENDS OF GUIDING

Contact: Mrs. P. Pyne Tel: 889 327

WEB SITES

KIRKBY-IN-FURNESS

www.kirkby-in-furness.org/

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

<https://www.kirkbycommunitycentre.co.uk/>

HISTORY OF KIRKBY WEB SITE

<http://www.history-of-kirkby.org/>

THE BURLINGTON SCHOOL

www.burlingtonschool.ik.org/

KIRKBY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.clubwebsite.co.uk/kirkbyunitedfc01/

GRIZEBECK COMMUNITY HALL

www.grizebeckhall.co.uk/

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

www.stcuthbertskirkby.co.uk

THE METHODIST CHURCH

<http://www.urc.org.uk/>

THE PARISH COUNCIL

<https://kirkbyirelethpc.org.uk/>

FURTHER INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS LETTER

Published ten times a year within the “Kirkby Caller”. Reports of the Parish Council Meetings

“KIRKBY CALLER”

Produced by St. Cuthbert’s PCC and delivered to every household in the Parish ten times a year. It contains information regarding Church news and other events due to take place.

CALENDAR

Produced by St. Cuthbert’s PCC and delivered to every household. A diary of events and including details of the officials of the various organisations. Published in January each year.

POST OFFICE

Four Lane Ends	Closed
Community Centre	Thursdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Grizebeck	Tel: 889 259
	Tuesday 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
	Thursday 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

DOCTOR

Kirkby Surgery	Tel: 889 247
Broughton Surgery	Tel: 716 337

Furness General Hospital Tel: 870 870

The Samaritans Tel: 08457 909 090