

# a sense of place

There's always something fascinating going on in the streets of *Ulverston*, whether it is **Flag Fortnight**, the **Lantern Procession** or the **Dickensian Festival**. This festival and market town of **South Lakeland** combines special events with an assortment of specialist shops, cosy pubs, traditional markets and cultural hotspots. Add in the colourfully rendered houses, cobbled streets and inviting side alleys and there's enough of interest to keep you enthralled for days.

Ulverston boasts a wealth of independent shops, offering a tempting array of food, crafts and fashion. The indoor market is open every day except Wednesday and Sunday, with a bustling outdoor market every Thursday and smaller market on Saturday.

Surrounding the town is the gently rolling farmland of the Furness Peninsula. Along the seashore are the coastal villages of **Bardsea**, **Baycliff**, **Aldingham** and **Newbiggin**, all with beautiful vistas over Morecambe Bay. Nestling in the interior you'll find the ancient rural villages of **Great and Little Urswick**, **Gleaston**, **Leece**, **Scales**, **Stainton-with-Adgarley**, **Pennington** and **Broughton Beck**.

For centuries, the Furness Peninsula was an isolated outpost of the kingdom, with all activity focused on its great **abbey** at Furness, founded in 1127. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537, Ulverston came to prominence as a market town, whilst nearby Dalton declined in importance. The fast-flowing **Gill Beck** (now culverted under the town) provided water power for mills making cotton, paper, candles and other commodities.

Goods including local iron ore and slate were taken by packhorse to loading bays at Ulverston, Bardsea and Baycliff. This slow and laborious means of transport was replaced by the **Ulverston Canal**, opened in 1796, which allowed vessels to sail directly into the open waters of the Leven Estuary. Canal traffic declined following the opening of the **Furness Railway** in 1846 and eventually ceased operating in 1916. Today, the lock gates at Canal Foot have been replaced by a concrete dam, sealing the canal from the sea and providing a wildlife haven for freshwater fish and waterfowl.

By the 19th century, Ulverston was a busy commercial port, exporting **cotton** from Ellers Mill, **slate** from Burlington Quarries, **iron** from its foundries, **limestone** from Stainton and **leather** from its numerous tanneries (there is still a Leather Lane in Ulverston). Other industries included brick making, paper manufacture and brewing beer. Today, Ulverston is thriving with local industries and independent retailers, giving the town a special character for visitors to enjoy.

Approaching Ulverston, a prominent memorial on the top of **Hoad Hill** announces your imminent arrival. The Sir John Barrow Monument was modelled on an earlier version of the Eddystone Lighthouse and built in 1850 in honour of John Barrow, one of the town's most famous sons, naval explorer and Second Secretary to the Admiralty. The uphill climb is well rewarded by breathtaking views over Morecambe Bay and the Lake District fells.

Cover image: **Laurel and Hardy Statue, County Square, Ulverston**

## Getting around

### By Bus

There are regular bus services to Ulverston from the Central Lakes, Barrow-in-Furness and Kendal.

**Services 6/6a.** Ulverston to Barrow (via Swarthmoor, Lindal and Dalton). Daily. **Service 10.** Barrow to Ulverston linking the rural villages of Roose, Gleaston, Scales and Urswick. Mon–Sat. **Service 11.** Barrow to Ulverston (via the Coast Road). Mon–Sat. **Service X12.** Ulverston to Coniston (via Greenodd, Lowick Green and Blawith). Mon–Sat. **Service X35.** Barrow to Kendal (via Dalton, Ulverston, Newby Bridge and Grange), Mon–Sat (reduced service on Sundays and public holidays). **Service 511.** Ulverston to Broughton/Millom (via Broughton Beck, Grizebeck and Foxfield). Mon–Sat. **Service 618.** Barrow to Ambleside (via Dalton, Ulverston, Haverthwaite, Newby Bridge, Bowness Pier and Windermere). Daily (reduced service Sun and public holidays).

### By Train

The **Furness Line** from Barrow to Lancaster (via Dalton, Ulverston and Grange-over-Sands) is a daily service with a link to Manchester Airport. There is also a rail service from Barrow to Carlisle (**Cumbria Coast Railway**), which goes via Ravenglass, Whitehaven and Workington. Mon–Sat service only.

For more information on all bus, rail and ferry timetables and fares, contact **Traveline** on **0871 200 2233** or **www.traveline.org.uk**

### By Cycle

**Walney to Wear (W2W)** (Regional Route 20) is a 151 mile (243 km) coast-to-coast cycling adventure between Walney Island (near Barrow) and Wearmouth (or Whitby – 171 miles/275 km) on the North Sea coast. The route passes through Ulverston. For more information, go to

**www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk** or **www.cyclingw2w.info**

**Cycle and See** describes five leisurely rides in the beautiful countryside around Ulverston and the Furness Peninsula that can be done in a day. Leaflet available from the Tourist Information Centre.

**Bike hire available at: Gill Cycles, The Gill, Ulverston, LA12 7BJ**

**Tel: 01229 581116 www.gillcycles.co.uk**

For more information on cycling in Cumbria, go to **www.cyclingcumbria.co.uk**

For advice on local events, where to eat, where to stay and what to do in Ulverston, please call or visit:

**Ulverston Tourist Information Centre, Coronation Hall, County Square, Ulverston, LA12 7LZ Tel: 01229 587120**

**Email: ulverstontic@southlakeland.gov.uk**

Visit **www.southlakeland.gov.uk/tourism** for opening times.

See also **www.ulverstoncouncil.org.uk**, **www.explorelowfurness.co.uk**

and **www.lowfurnesspeninsula.co.uk**

Alternatively you can check availability or book accommodation

on **www.golakes.co.uk**

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Ulverston Traders' Association



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# ulverston



**the lake district**  
Cumbria

[www.golakes.co.uk](http://www.golakes.co.uk)

experience  
englandsnorthwest



Ulverston Lantern Procession



Laurel and Hardy Statue



Sir John Barrow Monument

## Festival Town

There is always something exciting going on in Ulverston. From Printfest to the international music festival, there is a host of special events throughout the year for you to enjoy.

### Ulverston Walking Festival (April-May)

Walks to suit all ages and abilities in a packed programme of events. [www.southlakeland.gov.uk/events](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/events)

### Printfest (May)

Coronation Hall, Ulverston. An exhibition of original prints by contemporary artists including wood cuts, engravings, etchings, lithographs, silkscreen printing and digital prints. Admission charge. [www.printfest.org.uk](http://www.printfest.org.uk)

### Flag Fortnight (May)

Admire the colourful spectacle of over 200 decorated flags fluttering from buildings all over town. [www.southlakeland.gov.uk/events](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/events)

### Ulverston International Music Festival (June)

Internationally renowned musician and Ulverstonian Anthony Hewitt leads this world-class event. [www.ulverstonmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.ulverstonmusicfestival.co.uk)

### Furness Tradition Folk Festival (July)

A celebration of the folk art of the area including dancing, music and local crafts. [www.furnesstradition.org.uk](http://www.furnesstradition.org.uk)

### North Lonsdale Agricultural Show (July)

Agriculture and farming are very important to the culture and the economy of the area. The annual show features local baking, competitions, show jumping, cattle and sheep. [www.northlonsdaleshow.co.uk](http://www.northlonsdaleshow.co.uk)

### Ulverston Lantern Procession (September)

A magical sight as 'rivers of light' weave their way through the streets of Ulverston. The procession is the culmination of the fortnight-long Ulverston Charter Festival, a celebration of the granting of the town's Market Charter in 1280. [www.southlakeland.gov.uk/events](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/events)

### Dickensian Christmas Festival (November)

This two-day free family event brings together hundreds of festive stalls, street entertainers and Victorian costumes to enjoy. [www.dickensianfestival.co.uk](http://www.dickensianfestival.co.uk)

## Stan Laurel (1890–1965)

The town's most famous son is legendary comedian Stan Laurel who, with comedy partner Oliver Hardy, became one of the best-known slapstick duos of the 20th century. Stan Laurel was born in Ulverston in 1890 and christened Arthur Stanley Jefferson. He teamed up with Oliver in 1926, changed his name to Stan Laurel and went on to produce over 100 films.

### 1 Laurel and Hardy Museum (SD 287 783)

The founder of the museum, Bill Cubin, devoted his life to these world-famous comedians and collected an amazing treasure trove of memorabilia, including letters, photographs, personal items and furniture. Classic Laurel & Hardy films are shown all day in the cinema. This privately run museum has re-located to the Roxy Cinema Complex, near to the Laurel and Hardy Statue, situated just behind the Coronation Hall. Open every day Feb – Dec, 10.00 – 4.00

Tel: 01229 582292 [www.laurel-and-hardy-museum.co.uk](http://www.laurel-and-hardy-museum.co.uk)

### 2 Laurel and Hardy Statue (SD 286 783)

A bronze statue immortalising the comedy genius of Laurel and Hardy was unveiled by legendary comedian Ken Dodd in April 2009 outside the Coronation Hall in County Square. The statue, two life-size figures leaning on a lamppost with their dog Laughing Gravy, was designed and created by sculptor Graham Ibbeson who is well known for his statue of comedian Eric Morecambe on Morecambe seafront.

The statue was commissioned and paid for by The Sons of the Desert, the International Appreciation Society for Laurel and Hardy. It was presented to the Mayor of Ulverston as a gift to the town. On the slate pavement around the statue are engravings of some of the pair's most famous sayings and of course the titles of many of their films. The Sons of the Desert selected these.

## Sir John Barrow 1764-1848

Sir John Barrow was a naval administrator and traveller, born at Dragley Beck, Ulverston. He was Second Secretary to the Admiralty (1804-45), and promoted British exploration, official and semi-official, most notably of West Africa and the North Polar Region with attempts to find a north-west passage from east to west through the Canadian Arctic. Sir John Barrow was a founder member and key figure in the foundation of the Royal Geographical Society in 1830. He also wrote the official report on the Mutiny on the Bounty and was responsible for sending Napoleon into exile in St Helena.

### 3 Sir John Barrow Monument, Hoad Hill (SD 294 791)

Ulverston's famous monument stands as the gateway to Furness, overlooking Morecambe Bay and the town of Ulverston. There are magnificent views from Hoad Hill and the top of the monument, where on a clear day it is possible to see across to the Yorkshire Dales and the fells of the Central Lakes. The monument was erected in 1850 as a tribute to Sir John Barrow and is a replica of a former Eddystone Lighthouse.

The monument is currently undergoing restoration by its owner, Ulverston Town Council, with funding from the community and the Heritage Lottery Fund. It will re-open to the public in Summer 2010. Please contact the Tourist Information Centre for details of times.

[www.sirjohnbarrowmonument.co.uk](http://www.sirjohnbarrowmonument.co.uk)

### 4 Sir John Barrow's Cottage, Dragley Beck, Ulverston (SD 291 776)

John Barrow was born at Dragley Beck in Ulverston, the son of a journeyman tanner. His birthplace is a simple, single-storey cottage that originally had a thatched roof and oak mullioned windows. The Barrow family gave the building to the town and Heritage First opens the Cottage to visitors on occasion (normally every Sunday, May – September, from 11.30 – 3.00 and by appointment). Tel: 01229 580172

# what to see & do...



View across Ulverston



Flag Fortnight



Cumbria Way marker



Market Street



Market Place



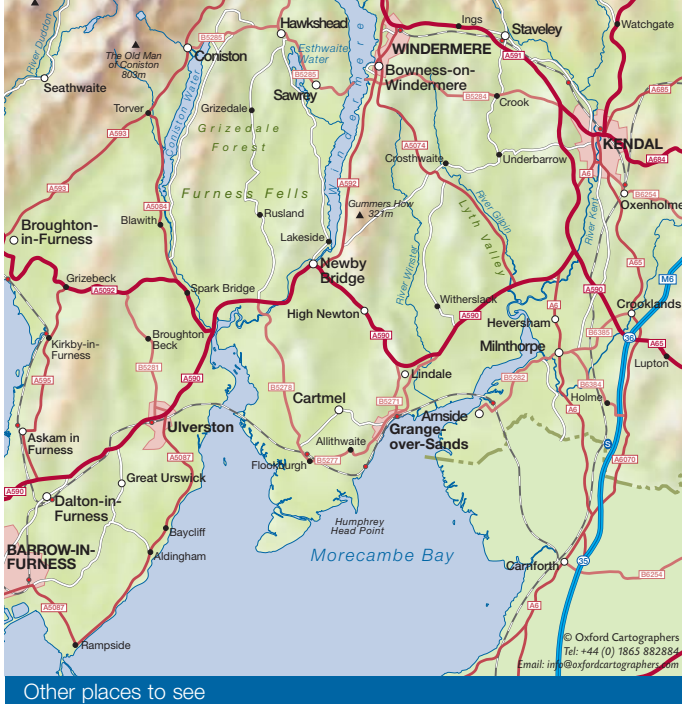
Conishead Priory



Shops



Lanternhouse



### Other places to see

#### 5 Conishead Priory (SD 303 758)

Tel: 01229 584029 [www.manjushri.org](http://www.manjushri.org)

Home to one of the largest Buddhist communities in Europe, this Buddhist Temple and historic mansion is set in 70 acres of woodlands and gardens on the shores of Morecambe Bay. The original Conishead Priory was founded by Augustinian monks in 1160 as a hospital for the poor, and demolished in 1537 following the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The current Gothic revival house was finished in 1836. Conishead now provides a place of spiritual rest and reflection for thousands of visitors each year. Entry to the Kadampa World Peace Temple and gardens is free and guided tours are available.

#### 6 Swarthmoor Hall (SD 282 774)

Tel: 01229 583204 [www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk](http://www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk)

In the late 17th century, this Elizabethan manor house was at the centre of the developing Quaker Movement. George Fox, founder of the Quakers, made Swarthmoor his base from 1652 to 1654. Meetings were held in the great hall, and George would sometimes preach from a balcony to a gathered congregation below.

#### 7 Gleaston Water Mill (SD 260 709)

Tel: 01229 869244 [www.watermill.co.uk](http://www.watermill.co.uk)

Restored corn mill and waterwheel dating from 1774 (records indicate an earlier mill was here in the 1300s). Much of the intact milling machinery is on view, along with displays on milling and the self-sufficient lifestyle of the early miller. Downstairs there is a display on beekeeping with an observation hive (beekeeping demonstrations on Saturday mornings in spring and summer). Visit the Pig's Whisper Country Store for local crafts and enjoy wholesome meals in the tearoom. Admission charge. Open all year, Tue–Sun (and Bank Holidays), 10.30–5.00.

#### 8 The Lakes Glass Centre (SD 295 786)

Tel: 01229 584400 [www.cumbriacrystal.com](http://www.cumbriacrystal.com)

Cumbria Crystal is renowned for its sparkling leaded glassware that is sold all over the world. At the factory in Ulverston it is possible to watch the craftsmen producing exquisite and finely cut pieces of crystal glassware. Café and restaurant. Open Mon–Fri for factory viewing, 9.00–4.30 (closed on Sat & Sun). Shop and exhibition open Mon–Sat, 9.00–5.00 (Sun, 10.00–4.00). Free admission.

#### 9 St Mary's Church, Ulverston (SD 289 787)

Parish church with the unforgettable date of 1111 AD as its foundation. The church was totally rebuilt in Victorian times, with the exception of its Tudor tower at the west end and a Norman arch over the inner door.



### Things to do

#### 10 Coronation Hall (SD 286 783)

County Square, Ulverston, LA12 7LZ Tel: 01229 587140 [www.corohall.co.uk](http://www.corohall.co.uk)

Built to commemorate the coronation of George V in June 1911 and affectionately known as 'The Coro', this treasured building with a seating capacity of 660 offers a year-round programme of entertainment, from music and drama to ballet and opera.

#### 11 Lanternhouse (SD 289 783) The Ellers, Ulverston Tel: 01229 581127 [www.lanternhouse.org](http://www.lanternhouse.org)

Venue for occasional exhibitions, theatre, music, dance and workshops. Free admission.

#### 12 Roxy Cinema Complex (SD 287 783)

Brogden Street, Ulverston Tel: 01229 582340 [www.roxyulverston.co.uk](http://www.roxyulverston.co.uk)

Traditional cinema with the largest screen in Cumbria, featuring a variety of art house and feature films. The Roxy Cinema Complex also hosts The Laurel and Hardy Museum 'On Stage' at the Roxy (see no.1) and the Roxy Music and Entertainment Centre.

#### 13 Ford Park, Ulverston (SD 291 786) Tel: 01229 581845 [www.ford-park.org.uk](http://www.ford-park.org.uk)

Outdoor venue for theatre, music festivals and carnival events. A community garden and good base for access to Hoad Hill.

#### 14 Lakes Leisure Ulverston (SD 293 774)

Priory Road, Ulverston, LA12 9HT Tel: 01229 584110 [www.lakesleisure.org.uk](http://www.lakesleisure.org.uk)

25m swimming pool, gym, astro-turf pitch, bowling and the largest indoor tennis centre in Cumbria.

#### 15 Birkrigg Common

Bracken-covered and sheep-grazed limestone upland to the south of Ulverston. Remains of ancient settlements, tumuli and a double stone circle, known as the Druid's Temple (c. 2500–2000 BC) testify to the occupation of Neolithic and Bronze Age peoples in this area.

#### 16 Cumbria Way

The Cumbria Way long distance walk starts in The Gill at the Cumbria Way marker sculpture. This 70 mile/112km walk is relatively low level, runs through the Central Lakes and finishes at Carlisle. For information on where to stay contact the Tourist Information Centre.

#### 17 Ulverston Golf Club (SD 300 753)

Bardsea Park, Ulverston, LA12 9QJ Tel: 01229 582824 [www.ulverstongolf.co.uk](http://www.ulverstongolf.co.uk)

Set in parkland that formerly belonged to Bardsea Hall (now demolished), this 18-hole golf course enjoys magnificent views in all directions. Visitors welcome.

#### 18 Ulverston Canal

Fishing Permits from Rods and Sods, The Gill, Ulverston. Tel: 01229 582367

An easy and accessible walk down the towpath from Canal Head near to Booths Supermarket. This privately owned freshwater canal is a haven for wildlife. Easily accessible coarse fishing. Fishing rights in the area are managed by the Ulverston Angling Association [www.ulverstonangling.org](http://www.ulverstonangling.org) For more information on fishing in the Lake District visit [www.lakedistrictfishing.net](http://www.lakedistrictfishing.net) and for details on licences visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



### Local facilities

**PO** Post Offices – County Square, Ulverston; Great Urswick.

**★** Parks and Play Areas – Lightburn Park, Ulverston (skateboard and bmx facility, children's playground). Mill Dam, Ulverston. Swarthmoor. Pennington. Rose Garden, Ulverston. Great Urswick (play area). Bardsea (next to village hall). Baycliff. Scales. Gleaston (play area and riverside walk).

**P** Car Parks – Ulverston: Buxton Place, Brewery Street, The Gill, Stockbridge Lane, Theatre Street, Daltongate. Free parking off the coast road at Bardsea.

**WC** Public Toilets – The Gill car park, Ulverston\*. End of Brogden Street, Ulverston\* (at the side of Coronation Hall). Canal Foot, Ulverston. Priory Road, Ulverston (by entrance to Ulverston Leisure Centre). Bardsea (on coast road). Aldingham (next to church)\*. \*Disabled – RADAR-key operated.

**⛽** Petrol Stations – Canal Head, Ulverston. Mountbarrow, Ulverston. Little Urswick. Newland.

### Did you know?

The name Ulverston is derived from 'Wulf's tun' or 'wolf's town'.

Ulverston Canal is the shortest canal in England at 1¼ miles (2 km), and also the deepest and widest.

Pole vaulting as a competitive sport originated in Ulverston in 1879 as part of Flan Sports Day when competitors vaulted over the canal.

Tank Square is named after a battle tank that was placed here after World War 1 (though by World War 2 it had been removed for scrap). In the centre is a large stone surrounded by a low stone wall, which is thought to have been used during wool auctions and later as a washing stone.

Rack Alley (behind Benson Street) was used to stretch out and twist long lengths of rope for the shipping trade. Another ropewalk can be found at Outcast to the east of Ulverston (next to Dragley Beck).

The monks of Conishead Priory built a chapel on Chapel Island as a place of rest for weary travellers and to offer daily prayers for the safety of those crossing the treacherous sands of Morecambe Bay. A light was kept burning at night or in foggy conditions to guide travellers to the island.

Barrow Strait, Barrow Sound and Point Barrow in the Arctic and Cape Barrow in the Antarctic are all named after Sir John Barrow of Ulverston.

The famous Cumbrian cooking apple, the Keswick Codlin, was found growing on a rubbish heap at Gleaston Castle in 1790. The sapling was nurtured by a Keswick nurse/serfman and became one of the most popular early cooking apples in Victorian England.