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Sir John Barrow

Sir John Barrow was a naval administrator and traveller. He was born at Dragley Beck, Ulverston on 19 June 1764 and was the only child of Roger, a journeyman tanner and Mary Barrow.

Excelling in Mathematics, he left Town Bank School, Ulverston at 13 and worked as a clerk in an iron foundry in Liverpool. At 16 he joined a whaling expedition to Greenland. A deep interest in astronomy led him to develop a useful appreciation of navigation methods.

He taught Mathematics at a school in Greenwich before accompanying Lord McCartney's expedition to China in 1792 as Secretary to Sir George Staunton. He became fluent in many languages, including Mandarin Chinese. His writings include biographies of naval men and a standard work on The Mutiny on the Bounty.

Sir John Barrow became Second Secretary to the Admiralty (1804-45). He promoted British exploration, official and semi-official, most notably of West Africa and the North Polar Region with attempts to find a Northwest passage from east to west through the Canadian Arctic. These expeditions included those by John Ross, Sir James Clark Ross and Sir John Franklin. Barrow Strait, Barrow Sound and Barrow Point in the Arctic and Cape Barrow in the Antarctic were named in Sir John Barrow's honour.

In 1830 Sir John was a founder member and key figure in the Royal Geographical Society, which was to become the premier promoter of 19th century exploration. He had a baronetcy conferred on him on 1835 by Sir Richard Peel, before retiring in 1845. He wrote a history of Arctic voyages and his autobiography. Sir John Barrow died in London in 1848, aged 84 years. He is buried in St. Martin's in the Field Cemetery, Camden Town. He had four sons and one daughter.

For more information on Sir John Barrow & the Monument visit www.sirjohnbarrowmonument.co.uk



The Monument is open when the flag on Hoad Hill is flying. Usually on Sundays & Bank Holidays between Easter & October.

Hoad Hill is owned and managed by Ulverston Town Lands Trust. Animals graze on the slopes. Please take all litter home and respect the countryside code. Wearing of stout shoes and sensible clothing is advisable at all times.

For advice on local events, where to eat, where to stay and what to do in Ulverston, visit www.ulverston.net, www.southlakeland.gov.uk/tourism or www.golakes.co.uk

www.ulverstoncouncil.org.uk



How to get to Ulverston

By Road: Leave the M6 Motorway at Junction 36 and follow the signs for Lake District Peninsulas on the A590 to Ulverston.

By Public Transport: There are regular bus services to Ulverston from the Central Lakes, Barrow-in-Furness and Kendal. The Furness Line from Barrow to Lancaster is a daily service to Manchester Airport.

For details of all public transport in Cumbria telephone Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

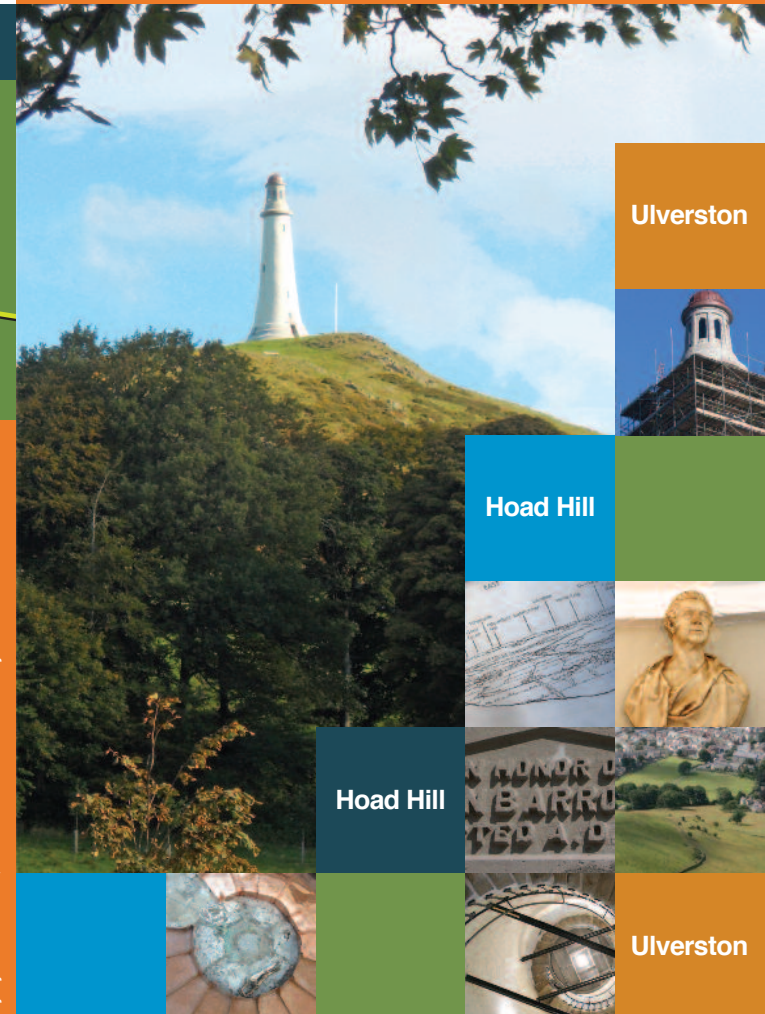
How to get to the Monument

Access to the Monument is on foot only and there are several footpaths to the top of Hoad Hill. Parking is available in Ulverston Town Centre. The Monument is signposted from the town centre. There are signs with maps showing the Public Rights of Way at the key entrances to Hoad Hill. The ascent up the front of Hoad Hill is moderately strenuous.

Whilst every effort was made to ensure that information was correct at time of going to press, neither Ulverston Town Council nor South Lakeland District Council can accept any responsibility for any changes, errors or omissions, or any inconvenience arising therefrom.

Sir John Barrow Monument

Hoad Hill Ulverston



Ulverston

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Photography by Steve Barber, Vickie Caldwell and Courtesy of Jennifer Snell Collection

www.ulverstoncouncil.org.uk



The Sir John Barrow Monument, built in 1850 by public subscription



Sir John Barrow Cottage

Restoration Works

In 2003, the Monument was in need of major repair, mainly due to ingress of water and had to be closed to the public. In March 2008, Ulverston Town Council (the owner of the Monument) was successful in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to repair the Monument.



Steps & lantern chamber inside the Monument

Monument Keepers

The original plans show a room that was constructed in the basement of the Monument to house the Monument Keeper.

The official position of Monument Keeper has been continuously maintained and a number of volunteers look after the Monument and open it to the public.



Information Panels



The opening celebrations concluded in a spectacular firework display from Hoad Hill in the evening.

The Sir John Barrow Monument, built in 1850 by public subscription as a memorial for Sir John Barrow, can be seen for many miles and has become a symbol for Ulverston. It stands on the 450ft (137m) summit of Hoad Hill overlooking the town and Morecambe Bay. It is registered as a Grade II* listed building and is known locally as the Hoad Monument.

Sited approximately one mile from Morecambe Bay, the Sir John Barrow Monument is 100ft (30.5m) tall. It is built of limestone quarried from nearby Birkrigg Common. It was modelled on the earlier Eddystone Lighthouse, built in 1759 by John Smeaton. The Monument has an internal spiral staircase of 112 narrow steps leading to the lantern chamber, which has never had a functional light. Sir John Barrow's two sons, Sir George Barrow and John Barrow, laid the foundation stone of the Monument in 1850. This was a memorable day in Ulverston's history when 8000 citizens were claimed to have climbed Hoad Hill for the ceremony.

Sir John Barrow's Cottage

The cottage is owned by Ulverston Town Council and is listed Grade II. It is run by the volunteers from Ulverston Heritage First.

It is usually open on **Sundays** during the summer months from **11.45am - 3.00pm** (volunteers permitting) and by appointment at other times.

If you are visiting the area and would like to see the cottage, please email ulverstonheritage@hotmail.co.uk

Admission is free but donations are welcome.

The total project cost was £1,120,000. The grant secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund was £891,000. The remainder of the funding was raised from English Heritage, Ulverston Market Town Initiative, the Town Lands Trust, Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council and the community at large, through the fund raising efforts of the Friends of the Sir John Barrow Monument. A further £150,000 was granted by English Heritage to enhance the base of the Monument.

Work on the restoration of the Monument began in January 2009. The works included repair and conservation to the whole of the Monument, from the basement to the lantern chamber, improvement to lower level footpaths, new signage, marketing, webcams and footfall counters. Sir John Barrow's life and adventures, along with the history of the Monument, are detailed inside the Monument on specially designed panels. The Monument was officially re-opened on 22nd August 2010 by Sir Anthony Barrow, the 7th Baronet of Ulverston. Crowds climbed to the top of Hoad Hill to enjoy the re-opening in glorious sunshine.