

Parish Profile: Kirkoswald



The Parish of Kirkoswald and Renwick

Kirkoswald and Renwick lie in the Eden Valley District of Cumbria. Kirkoswald lies on the east bank of the River Eden about nine miles north east of Penrith and Renwick about 12 miles north east of Penrith and about three miles east of the River Eden. Included in the parish are the outlying hamlets of Staffield, Park Head, High Bankhill, Scales, Scalehouses, Busk, Outhwaite, Huddlesceugh and Scarrowmanick.

The Parish is divided into two quarters: - in the Low Quarter, there are eight councillors and High Quarter where there are four councillors.

Kirkoswald recorded from 1167, means “Church of Saint Oswald,” the parish church being dedicated to the warrior saint Oswald King of Northumbria. The bell tower for the church is built on a hill above the church so that the village could hear the bell.



A new bridge was built over the Eden in 1762. It is a single-track bridge which had traffic lights erected in 2014 to help the traffic flow (really to help people who could not reverse off the bridge if they came face to face with another car). This road comes from Lazonby and North towards Croglin, Castle Carrock and Brampton.



Farming has been the basis of the local economy in Kirkoswald and from the eighteenth century there was mining and quarrying. Also, in the past there were corn mills, fulling mills, sawmills and textiles along with papermaking.

Tourism has come to the village, albeit not on a large scale, with a caravan park and camping site along with self-catering holiday accommodation.

The village also benefits from a GP surgery, a primary school, two good pubs, a community owned shop run by volunteers purchased in 2021, cricket and football clubs and a well-used village hall.

Renwick, formally known as Ravenwick, is a small village and a former civil parish that merged with the parish of Kirkoswald in 1934.





According to local legend, the village was terrorized by a Cockatrice in 1733, which is a mythical beast essentially a two-legged dragon, wyvern or serpent-like creature.

By the eighteenth century, Renwick lay at the confluence of five roads linking the village north to Brampton, eastwards to Hartside south towards Glassonby and Melmerby and west towards Kirkoswald.

Both villages rely on the volunteer run, Fellrunner bus service to Carlisle and Penrith.

The Parish Council along with an excellent team of volunteers has driven fast fibre broadband into the villages and outlying areas along with an excellent team from B4RN. Never have so many way leaves been created for this project to get off the ground and are very nearly at completion.

Although the Parish Council cannot provide financial support to all projects, we fully endorse a number of other projects in the community to help with finding funding.

The Parish Council has small pockets of land, and earns a very small income from them and maintains all the noticeboards and benches along with defibrillators in the villages as well.