



Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society

Registered Charity no. 227786

AN EVENING WITH SIR JOHN BARROW

At [Sir John Barrow's Cottage](#), Dragley Beck, Ulverston,
in collaboration with The Arctic Club

Wednesday 29th August 2018

The Society arranged a special evening opening of the house, an interesting vernacular building in its own right. Dan Elsworth, Greenlane Archaeology, described the history of the building, explained its significance, and the plans for its future. Rob David placed Sir John in the wider context of nineteenth century exploration.



The cottage is a rare survival of an early small house, suggested to be of late sixteenth century in date, although this is uncertain. It was the birthplace of Sir John Barrow in 1764, and his home until he was 14, however, his mother, in whose family it is said to have belonged, lived there until her death in 1813. Thereafter it was apparently occupied by her servant, Betty Williams. In 1864 it was bought by some local gentry and given to Sir John's son, who in turn gave it to the town.

During the nineteenth century it routinely came with the job of monument keeper (the Sir John Barrow Monument having been built on Hoad in 1850), and while few of them, if any, seem to have lived in it, they seemed to have started the tradition of it being a shop, which continued into the 1990s. For a short time it was operated by the local heritage centre as a museum but after it folded it stood empty for several years. In 2017 Greenlane Archaeology took on the lease of the building, and working collaboratively with the local Civic Society and local artists re-opened the cottage as a heritage and arts venue.





Hoad Monument

to

Sir John Barrow

Ulverston

