

= Keswick , Cumbria =

Keswick (/ ˈkɛzɪk /) is an English market town and civil parish , historically in Cumberland , and since 1974 in the Borough of Allerdale in Cumbria . The town , in the Lake District National Park , just north of Derwentwater , and 4 miles (6 @. @ 4 km) from Bassenthwaite , had a population of 4 @. @ 821 at the time of the 2011 census .

There is considerable evidence of prehistoric occupation of the Keswick area , but the first recorded mention of the town dates from the 13th century , when Edward I of England granted a charter for Keswick 's market , which has maintained a continuous 700 @-@ year existence . In Tudor times the town was an important mining area , and from the 18th century onwards it has increasingly been known as a holiday centre ; tourism has been its principal industry for more than 150 years . Its features include the Moot Hall ; a modern theatre , the Theatre by the Lake ; one of Britain 's oldest surviving cinemas , the Alhambra ; and the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery in the town 's largest open space , Fitz Park . Among the town 's annual events is the Keswick Convention , an Evangelical gathering attracting visitors from many countries .

Keswick became widely known for its association with the poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey . Together with their fellow Lake Poet William Wordsworth , based at Grasmere , 12 miles (19 km) away , they made the scenic beauty of the area widely known to readers in Britain and beyond . In the late 19th century and into the 20th , Keswick was the focus of several important initiatives by the growing conservation movement , often led by Hardwicke Rawnsley , vicar of the nearby Crosthwaite parish and co @-@ founder of the National Trust , which has built up extensive holdings in the area .

= = Name = =

The town is first recorded in Edward I 's charter of the 13th century , as " Kesewik " . Scholars have generally considered the name to be from the Old English , meaning " farm where cheese is made " , the word deriving from " c?se " (cheese) with a Scandinavian initial " k " and " w?c " (special place or dwelling) , although not all academics agree . George Flom of the University of Illinois (1919) rejected that derivation on the grounds that a town in the heart of Viking @-@ settled areas , as Keswick was , would not have been given a Saxon name ; he proposed instead that the word is of Danish or Norse origin , and means " Kell 's place at the bend of the river " . Among the later scholars supporting the " cheese farm " toponymy are Eilert Ekwall (1960) and A D Mills (2011) (both Oxford University Press) , and Diana Whaley (2006) , for the English Place @-@ Name Society .

= = Prehistory = =

Evidence of prehistoric occupation in the area includes the Castlerigg stone circle on the eastern fringe of the town , which has been dated to between 3000 and 2500 BC . Neolithic @-@ era stone tools were unearthed inside the circle and in the centre of Keswick during the 19th century . The antiquary W G Collingwood , commenting in 1925 about finds in the area , wrote that they showed " Stone Age man was fairly at home in the Lake District " . There is little evidence of sustained settlement in the area during the Bronze Age , but from excavations of hill forts it is clear that there was some Iron Age occupation , circa 500 BC , although scholars are not agreed about how permanent it was .

In Roman Britain Cumbria was the territory of the Carvetii . As the site of the western part of Hadrian 's Wall , it was of strategic importance . The north of the county is rich in archaeological evidence from the period , but nothing is known that suggests any Roman habitation in the Keswick area , other than finds that point to the existence of one or more Roman highways passing the vicinity of the present @-@ day town . Such nearby settlements as can be traced from the era of the Romans and the years after their departure seem to have been predominantly Celtic . Many local place names from the period , including that of the River Derwent , are Celtic , some closely related

to Welsh equivalents .

Several Christian saints preached the Gospel in the north of England in the late 6th and early 7th centuries AD ; in Keswick and the surrounding area the most important figures were St Herbert of Derwentwater and his contemporary St Kentigern . The former , the pupil and friend of St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne , lived as a hermit on an island in Derwentwater , now named after him . Kentigern , who lived and preached in the area before moving to Wales , is traditionally held to have founded Crosthwaite Church , which was the parish church of Keswick until the 19th century .

= = History = =

= = = Middle Ages = = =

Keswick 's recorded history starts in the Middle Ages . The area was conquered by the Anglo @-@ Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria in the seventh century , but Northumbria was destroyed by the Vikings in the late ninth . In the early tenth century the British Kingdom of Strathclyde seized the area , and it remained part of Strathclyde until about 1050 , when Siward , Earl of Northumbria , conquered Cumbria . In 1092 William II of England , son of William the Conqueror , marched north and established the great baronies of Allerdale @-@ below @-@ Derwent , Allerdale @-@ above @-@ Derwent , and Greystoke , the borders of which met at Keswick . In 1181 Jocelyn of Furness wrote of a new church at Crosthwaite , Keswick , founded by Alice de Romilly , the Lady of Allerdale , a direct descendant of William II 's original barons . In 1189 , Richard I granted the rectory of Crosthwaite to the Cistercian order of Fountains Abbey .

During the 13th century , agricultural land around the town was acquired by Fountains and Furness Abbeys . The latter , already prosperous from the wool trade , wished to expand its sheep farming , and in 1208 bought large tracts of land from Alice de Romilly . She also negotiated with Fountains Abbey , to which she sold Derwent Island in Derwentwater , land at Watendlath , the mill at Crosthwaite and other land in Borrowdale . Keswick was at the hub of the monastic farms in the area , and Fountains based a steward in the town , where tenants paid their rents . Furness also enjoyed profitable rights to the extraction of iron ore .

Keswick was granted a charter for a market in 1276 by Edward I. This market has an uninterrupted history lasting for more than 700 years . The pattern of buildings around the market square remained broadly the same from this period until at least the late 18th century , with houses ? originally timber @-@ framed ? fronting the square , and sturdily enclosed gardens or yards at the back . According to local tradition these stout walls and the narrow entrances to the yards were for defence against marauding Scots . In the event it appears that the town escaped such attacks , Scottish raiders finding richer and more accessible targets at Carlisle and the fertile Eden Valley , well to the north of Keswick .

= = = 16th and 17th centuries : agriculture and industry = = =

With the Dissolution of the Monasteries , between 1536 and 1541 , Furness and Fountains Abbeys were supplanted by new secular landlords for the farmers of Keswick and its neighbourhood . The buying and selling of sheep and wool were no longer centred on the great Abbeys , being handled locally by the new landowners and tenants . This enhanced Keswick 's importance as a market centre , though at first the town remained only modestly prosperous : in the 1530s John Leland wrote of it as " a lytle poore market town " . By the second half of the century copper mining had made Keswick richer : in 1586 William Camden wrote of " these copper works not only being sufficient for all England , but great quantities of the copper exported every year " with , at the centre , " Keswicke , a small market town , many years famous for the copper works as appears from a charter of king Edward IV , and at present inhabited by miners . "

Earlier copper mining had been small in scale , but Elizabeth I , concerned for the defence of her kingdom , required large quantities of copper for the manufacture of weapons and the strengthening

of warships . There was the additional advantage for her that the Crown was entitled to royalties on metals extracted from English land . The experts in copper mining were German , and Elizabeth secured the services of Daniel Hechstetter of Augsburg , to whom she granted a licence to " search , dig , try , roast and melt all manner of mines and ores of gold , silver , copper and quicksilver " in the Keswick area and elsewhere .

As well as copper , a new substance was found , extracted and exploited : this was variously called wad , black lead , plumbago or black cauke , and is now known as graphite . Many uses were quickly discovered for the mineral : it reduced friction in machinery , made a heat @-@ resistant glaze for crucibles , and when used to line moulds for cannonballs , resulted in rounder , smoother balls that could be fired further by English naval cannon . Later , from the second half of the 18th century , it was used to make pencils , for which Keswick became famous .

The copper mines prospered for about seventy years , but by the early 17th century the industry was in decline . Demand for copper fell and the cost of extracting it was high . Graphite mining continued , and quarrying for slate began to grow in importance . Other small @-@ scale industries grew up , such as tannery and weaving . Although the boom of the mid @-@ 16th century had finished , the town 's economy did not slide into ruin , and the population remained generally constant at a little under 1 @,@ 000 .

= = = 18th and 19th centuries : beginnings of tourism = = =

The historian George Bott regards John Dalton (1709 ? 63) and John Brown (1715 ? 66) as the pioneers of tourism in the Lake District . Both wrote works praising the majesty of the scenery , and their enthusiasm prompted others to visit the area . The poet Thomas Gray published an account of a five @-@ day stay in Keswick in 1769 , in which he described the view of the town as " the vale of Elysium in all its verdure " , and was lyrical about the beauties of the fells and the lake . His journal was widely read , and was , in Bott 's phrase , " an effective public relations job for Keswick . " Painters such as Thomas Smith of Derby and William Bellers also contributed to the influx of visitors ; engravings of their paintings of Cumberland scenery sold in large numbers , further enhancing the fame of the area . In 1800 the Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote , " It is no small advantage that for two @-@ thirds of the year we are in complete retirement ? the other third is alive & swarms with Tourists of all shapes & sizes . " Coleridge had moved to Keswick in that year , and together with his fellow Lake Poets (see below) was possibly the strongest influence on the public esteem of Keswick and the Lake District .

During the 18th century and into the 19th , turnpike trusts were established and major roads in Cumberland were greatly improved . With the Lake District now accessible by coach the area attracted well @-@ off visitors , particularly at times of war in mainland Europe , which made the aristocratic Grand Tour impossible there . Regular public coach services were established in the 1760s , but they were expensive . The ten @-@ hour journey from Whitehaven to Penrith via Keswick cost 12 shillings (equivalent to 60 pence) , at a time when country labourers typically earned £ 24 a year or less , and the annual income of even the most prosperous tenant farmers was rarely more than £ 200 . Nonetheless , by the 19th century the number of tourists visiting Keswick during each season was estimated at between 12 @,@ 000 and 15 @,@ 000 . Some of the Keswick inns that catered for affluent visitors remain as hotels , including the Queen 's , where Gray stayed .

The construction of the railways in the mid @-@ 19th century made the Lake District , and Keswick in particular , more accessible to visitors of modest means . The original impetus for building the Cockermouth , Keswick and Penrith Railway (CKP) line came from heavy industry : the new Bessemer process of steelmaking brought a great demand for the rich iron ore from west Cumberland and the coking coal from Durham on the east side of the country . The CKP was built to enable ore and coal to be brought together at steel foundries in both counties . The line opened for goods traffic in 1864 , and the following year it began to carry passengers . Fares varied , but holidaymakers could buy excursion tickets at discounted prices , such as six shillings for the 170 @-@ mile return journey from Preston to Keswick .

In addition to its growing importance as a tourist centre , Keswick developed a reputation for its manufacture of pencils during the 19th century . It had begun on a modest scale in or about 1792 , as a cottage industry , using graphite mined locally . This developed on more industrial lines in factories purpose @-@ built by several companies . Pencil making was the town 's most important manufacturing industry by the mid @-@ 19th century , textiles and leather goods having declined .

The Moot Hall was rebuilt in 1813 , and the lower floor was used as a market house on Saturdays . Coal gas was supplied by a gas works from 1846 ; the Keswick library opened in 1849 ; a water works began operation in 1856 ; and Keswick police station opened in 1857 . The local weekly newspaper , The Keswick Reminder was founded in 1896 , and in 2014 continues to be published every Friday . In an article in The Observer in 1978 , Christopher Brasher wrote that as long as the Reminder flourishes , " there will be one corner of these islands that is forever England . "

In 1883 Hardwicke Rawnsley was appointed vicar of Crosthwaite . In a study of Lake District towns in 1974 , H A L Rice commented that to write about Keswick without mentioning Rawnsley would be the equivalent of writing about Stratford @-@ upon @-@ Avon without mentioning Shakespeare , so great was Rawnsley 's impact on the town . He and his wife set up classes to teach metalwork and wood carving ; these grew into the Keswick School of Industrial Art , which trained local craftsmen and -women from 1894 until it closed in 1986 . He revived the ancient May Day festival in the town , and was a leading figure in the establishment of Keswick School , Blencathra Sanatorium and the County Farm School . As co @-@ founder of the National Trust , Rawnsley contributed to Keswick 's continued growth as a tourist centre , with the acquisition by the Trust of many acres of popular scenic land around Derwentwater , beginning with Brandelhow Wood in 1902 .

= = = 20th century and beyond = = =

Keswick 's history throughout the 20th century was one of increasing reliance on tourism , the pencil industry being the second largest source of employment . The Cumberland Pencil Company , formed at the turn of the century , occupied a large factory near the River Greta on the road leading out of Keswick towards Cockermouth . The conservation movement continued to develop ; Rawnsley led successful campaigns to save the medieval Greta and Portinscale bridges from replacement with ferro @-@ concrete structures ; and the National Trust continued to acquire land locally . In the First World War Keswick lost many of its young men : the war memorial near Fitz Park commemorates 117 names , from a population at the time of less than 4 @,@ 500 . By the 1930s Keswick was firmly established as the main centre of tourism in Cumberland and Westmorland . An article in The Manchester Guardian in 1934 called it " the capital of the Lake District " , and continued :

Keswick 's chief industry is to promote the contentment and happiness of its visitors . Its pleasant position provides at the outset a tonic atmosphere ... it is set in the most delightful part of a delightful district , described by Wordsworth as " the loveliest spot that ever man has found . " There are numerous places of interest and fine shops , and good accommodation is offered to visitors at reasonable prices . Keswick is the best centre from which to visit Lakeland .

During the Second World War students from St Katharine 's College , Liverpool and Roedean School , Sussex , were evacuated to Keswick when their own buildings were requisitioned for use as a hospital and a navy base respectively . Students were also brought to the safety of Keswick from Central Newcastle High School , Hunmanby Hall School , Yorkshire , and the Liverpool Orphanage .

The creation of the Lake District National Park in 1951 , with strict control over new development , prevented any expansion of the town beyond its pre @-@ war borders . Keswick 's population has remained stable at a little below 5 @,@ 000 residents . The town 's reliance on tourism increased in 2006 when Cumberland Pencils moved production from Keswick to Lillyhall , Workington , only the Cumberland Pencil Museum remaining at the old site . At the beginning of the 21st century , more than 60 per cent of the population were employed in hotels , restaurants and distribution . A survey of retail premises in 2000 found that more than ten per cent were outdoor clothes shops , a similar proportion were cafés or restaurants , and more than eight per cent were gift shops . The age profile

of the Keswick population is significantly higher than the English average . In 2011 children under 10 made up 7 @. @ 6 per cent of the town 's population , compared with 11 @. @ 9 per cent for England as a whole . Between ages 10 and 20 the comparable figures are 10 @. @ 2 and 12 @. @ 1 ; and from ages 20 to 44 , 25 @. @ 9 as against 34 @. @ 3 . The percentage of Keswick 's population aged 45 and upwards is above the national average , the largest difference being within the 75- to 84 @- @ year @- @ old bracket , which contains 9 @. @ 6 per cent of Keswick 's population compared with a national average of 5 @. @ 5 . Figures from the same census show that Keswick has fewer than average " large employers and higher managerial occupations " and more small employers and self @- @ employed people . Long @- @ term unemployment is considerably below the average for England .

= = = Ownership and governance = = =

In medieval times the township was within the manor of Castlerigg and Derwentwater . The earliest surviving official record of the town is the market charter of 1276 granted to the lord of the manor , Thomas de Derwentwater . The manor was granted by Alice de Romilly to Adam de Derwentwater before 1216 , and subsequently passed to the Radclyffe family through marriage . The Derwentwater estate was forfeit to the Crown after the execution of James Radclyffe , third Earl of Derwentwater , in 1716 for his part in the Jacobite rebellion the previous year . In 1735 the Crown granted the income from the estates to support the Greenwich Hospital , London . Land to the south and west were part of Greenwich Hospital 's forestry and farming estates until the 19th century . In 1925 the then owner , Sir John Randles , gave the National Trust 90 acres of land in this estate , including the foreshore woodland .

Keswick became a Local Government District in 1853 and an urban district with three wards in 1894 , reflecting its growth in the latter part of the 19th century . The new urban district 's northern boundary was extended from the Greta to the railway , taking in Great Crosthwaite and part of Underskiddaw in 1899 . In 1974 the urban district was abolished and since then the town has been administered by Keswick Town Council and Allerdale Borough Council . Since 2010 Keswick has been in the Copeland parliamentary constituency , having previously been part of Workington and before that Penrith and The Border . The electoral ward of Keswick stretches beyond the confines of the parish boundary and at the 2011 Census had a total population of 5 @, @ 243 .

= = Geography = =

Keswick lies in north @- @ western England , in the heart of the northern Lake District . The town is 31 @. @ 4 miles (50 @. @ 5 km) south @- @ west of Carlisle , 22 @. @ 1 miles (35 @. @ 6 km) northwest of Windermere and 14 @. @ 2 miles (22 @. @ 9 km) south @- @ east of Cockermouth . Derwentwater , the lake to the south @- @ west of the town , is approximately 3 miles (4 @. @ 8 km) long by 1 mile (1 @. @ 6 km) wide and is some 72 feet (22 m) deep . It contains several islands , including Derwent Isle , Lord 's Island , Rampsholme Island and St Herbert 's Island , the largest . Derwent Isle is the only island on the lake that is inhabited ; it is run by the National Trust and open to visitors five days a year . The land between Keswick and the lake consists mainly of fields and areas of woodland , including Isthmus Wood , Cockshot Wood , Castlehead Wood and Horseclose and Great Wood , further to the south . The River Derwent flows from Derwentwater to Bassenthwaite , the most northerly of the major Cumbrian lakes . The Derwent and its tributary the Greta , which flows through Keswick , meet to the east of Portinscale . The source of the Greta is near Threlkeld , at the confluence of the River Glenderamackin and St John 's Beck .

Keswick is in the lee of the Skiddaw group , the oldest group of rocks in the Lake District . These fells were formed during the Ordovician period , 488 to 443 million years ago ; they form a triangle sheltering the town , reaching a maximum height of 931m on Skiddaw itself . To the west of Portinscale , to the south @- @ west of the village of Thornthwaite , is Whinlatter Forest Park and Grisedale Pike . To the east , beyond Castlerigg stone circle , is St John 's in the Vale , at the foot of the Helvellyn range , which is popular with ramblers starting from Keswick . In 2010 , Electricity

North West , United Utilities , the Lake District National Park Authority and the conservation charity Friends of the Lake District invested £ 100 @, @ 000 to remove power lines and replace them with underground cables , to improve the quality of scenery in the vicinity .

Climatically , Keswick is in the North West sector of the UK , which is characterised by cool summers , mild winters , and high monthly rainfalls throughout the year . The wettest months fall at the end of the year , the peak average of 189 @. @ 3 mm falling in October . Rain , sunshine and temperature figures are shown below .

= = Demography = =

The registers of Crosthwaite Church stated that there were 238 interments in 1623 , believed to have been something between a twelfth and a tenth of the whole population of the parish at that time . In the 1640s there was a sharp fall in population , brought on by the plague epidemic which affected Keswick , Carlisle , Cockermouth and Crosthwaite and other areas in 1645 ? 47 .

In the 1801 census , the township of Keswick , including the town and surrounding hamlets , had a reported population of 1 @, @ 350 people . The population grew at a steady rate , increasing to 1 @, @ 683 in 1811 , 1 @, @ 901 in 1821 , 2 @, @ 159 in 1831 , 2 @, @ 442 in 1841 , and 2 @, @ 618 in 1851 . In 1871 the township had a population of 2 @, @ 777 people . The population grew at a faster rate towards the late 19th century and by 1901 it stood at 4 @, @ 451 people . There has been little fluctuation in population since , and in the 1991 census the town had a population of 4 @, @ 836 . In the 2001 census , 4 @, @ 984 people were recorded , and 4 @, @ 821 in 2011 . At the 2011 census , 57 @. @ 9 per cent of the population identified as Christian , 31 @. @ 5 per cent as non @- @ religious , 1 @. @ 2 per cent as Muslim and 8 @. @ 3 per cent did not specify .

= = Landmarks = =

Keswick is the home of the Theatre by the Lake , opened in 1999 . The theatre serves a dual purpose as the permanent home of a professional repertory company and a venue for visiting performers and festivals . It replaced the Century Theatre or " Blue Box " , which had spent 25 years in semi @- @ retirement on a permanent lakeside site in Keswick , after a career of similar length as a mobile theatre . The Alhambra cinema in St John Street , opened in 1913 , is one of the oldest continuously functioning cinemas in the country ; it is equipped with digital technology and satellite receiving equipment to allow the live screening of plays , operas and ballet from the National Theatre , Royal Opera House and other venues .

The town is the site of the Cumberland Pencil Museum . One of the exhibits is what is claimed to be the world 's largest coloured pencil . Fitz Park , on the bank of the River Greta , is home to the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery , a Victorian museum which features the Musical Stones of Skiddaw , Southey manuscripts , and a collection of sculptures and paintings of regional and wider importance , including works by Epstein , John Opie , Richard Westall and others . After extensive restoration and enlargement the museum reopened in 2014 . In 2001 the cricket ground in Fitz Park was named the most beautiful in England by Wisden Cricket Monthly .

Greta Hall (see Lake Poets , below) , is a Grade I listed building . The home of Coleridge in 1800 ? 04 and Southey from 1803 until 1843 , it later became part of Keswick School and is now in private ownership , partly divided into holiday flats . The three @- @ storey house dates to the late 18th century and features a flush @- @ panelled central double door with Gothic top panels and Venetian windows . A carved oak fireplace inside is dated to 1684 . The Moot Hall is a prominent Grade II * listed building situated at the southern end of Main Street . It was built in 1571 and rebuilt in 1695 , and the current building dates to 1813 . It is built of lime @- @ washed stone and slate walling , and has a square tower on the north end with a round @- @ arched doorway and a double flight of exterior steps . At the top of the tower is what the Keswick Tourist Information Board describes as an " unusual one @- @ handed clock " . Formerly an assembly building , The Moot Hall contains a tourist information centre on the ground floor , with an art gallery on the floor above .

The prominent social thinker and art critic John Ruskin , who had many associations with Keswick ,

once said that the town was a place almost too beautiful to live in . In October 1900 , mainly through the efforts of Rawnsley , a simple memorial of Borrowdale slate was erected to Ruskin at Friars Crag . The monument is a now a Grade II listed structure .

= = = Churches = = =

Until 1838 Keswick had no Anglican church within the town boundaries and was part of the widespread parish of Crosthwaite . The present parish church , St John 's , was designed by Anthony Salvin and consecrated in 1838 . It is geometrical in style , with pink castle @-@ head ashlar sandstone and a slate roof . The church was extended in 1862 , 1882 and 1889 by the parish 's benefactors the Marshall family ; the chancel windows , designed by Henry Holiday , installed in 1879 , were taken down and reinstalled when the chancel was extended in 1889 . St John 's became a Grade II * listed building in 1951 . Keswick 's former parish church , St Kentigern 's , at Crosthwaite , just outside the town , is also Grade II * listed . Dated to at least the 14th century , it is built mainly in the Tudor @-@ Gothic style and was expanded in 1523 and later restored in 1844 by George Gilbert Scott .

The Quakers had an early meeting house in the town , replaced in 1715 by one at Underskiddaw . Protestant dissenters met at a private house from 1705 or before , moving to a chapel in Lake Road in the latter part of the 18th century . A Congregational chapel was built in 1858 ? 59 . The first Wesleyan chapel was built in 1814 in a small yard off Main Street at a cost of £ 331 10s ; the present Methodist church is in Southey Street . Since 1928 Roman Catholics in Keswick have been served by Our Lady of the Lakes and St Charles in High Hill . A new Quaker meeting house opened in the town in 1994 . An Eastern Orthodox church was inaugurated in 2007 , holding services in Keswick and the nearby village of Braithwaite .

As at 2014 no other religions maintain dedicated buildings in Keswick ; Muslim worship is accommodated on Fridays in a room at the local council building in Main Street .

= = = Public houses and hotels = = =

Keswick 's old inns and their successors include many listed buildings , mainly Grade II in designation . The George Hotel , stated to be the oldest inn in the town , dates to the 16th century , with the alterations made during the Georgian period still evident . The King 's Arms Hotel , in the main market square , dates from the early 19th century ; it is built from stuccoed stone , with Victorian shop windows on the ground floor . The Queen 's Hotel in Main Street , a pebbledashed stone building dating from the late 18th century , was renamed " The Inn on the Square " in 2015 . The Bank Tavern in Main Street and The Dog and Gun public house in Lake Road are both Grade II listed 18th @-@ century buildings .

= = Education and health = =

The Crosthwaite Free Grammar School , adjoining Crosthwaite churchyard , was an ancient institution , its date of foundation uncertain . In 1819 the parish of Crosthwaite had five or six schools in the town and the outlying areas , with a total of 332 children . By 1833 Keswick had twelve daily schools , including a new National School at High Hill . The new parish church of Keswick , St John 's , started educational work in 1840 with a Sunday school which also educated infant boys , and later girls , on weekdays . A full @-@ time boys ' school opened in 1853 . For older pupils , Keswick School , the free co @-@ educational grammar school , successor to the Crosthwaite Free Grammar School , opened at a site diagonally opposite Greta Bridge in 1898 . In 1951 a new secondary modern school was built at Lairthwaite in Underskiddaw .

Junior education is provided by St Herbert 's School , which had a roll of 263 in 2013 . At senior level , Keswick and Lairthwaite schools merged in 1980 as a single comprehensive secondary school , with the name Keswick School . It was included in The Daily Telegraph 's list of the top thirty comprehensives in England , Wales and Northern Ireland in 2014 . The Local Education Authority

for Keswick is Cumbria .

The Mary Hewetson Cottage Hospital , founded in 1892 , has fifteen beds and a minor injuries unit . It underwent a major rebuilding and upgrade in 2013 .

== Sport ==

Keswick is home to Keswick Football Club . The principal team plays in the Westmorland League Division One , and it also has a reserve team which plays in Westmorland League Division Two , a female team which plays in the Cumbria League , juniors who compete in the under @-@ 16 , under @-@ 14 , under @-@ 12 and under @-@ 10 categories in the Penrith Junior Football League ; there is a veteran team , which competes in the Cumbria League . Keswick Rugby Union Football Club , established in 1879 , plays at Davidson Park , and has teams that play in the Cumbrian League and the Cumbria Rugby Union Raging Bull Competition . The rugby club is involved in the organisation of the Keswick Half Marathon , usually held in the first week of May .

Keswick Tennis Club has grass courts in upper Fitz Park , and also runs hard courts on Keswick 's Community Sports Area in the lower park area . Keswick Cricket Club was established in the 1880s . Its principal team competes in the North Lancashire and Cumbria Cricket League , Premier Division . The second team plays in the Eden Valley Cricket League , 3rd Division , and the club also has junior under @-@ 11 , under @-@ 13 , and under @-@ 15 teams and a women 's cricket team . Keswick Fitz Park Bowls Club was founded in 1882 .

In cycling , Keswick hosted the Keswick Bikes Borrowdale Cross of the North West League , second round , in September 2010 for junior riders , an event that was supported by the British Cycling Federation . The same month , the town hosted an activity weekend for children , involving the juniors of the Brooke Steelers Wheelchair Basketball Team , whose senior players who were competing in a 135 miles (217 km) race from Keswick to Penrith to raise money for children 's cancer . Keswick is also home to Keswick Croquet Club , Keswick Archers , and Greta (Keswick) Junior Badminton Club , for children from eight to 16 years of age . The town leisure centre , Keswick Leisure Pool and Fitness Centre , is operated and managed by Carlisle Leisure Limited (CLL) , and has a pool and fitness facilities , and offers lessons in canoeing .

== Transport ==

Keswick is on the A66 road linking Workington and Penrith , as well as the A591 , linking the town to Windermere , Kendal and Carlisle (via the A595) .

There are no rail links to Keswick ; the line built in the 1860s for the Cockermouth , Keswick and Penrith Railway closed in 1972 . Since the 1990s a plan to rebuild it has been under discussion . Some 90 percent of the earthworks of the railway still exist , but according to 2000 estimates , a reopening would cost £ 25 million . In 2014 the only public transport serving the towns and villages on the old railway route is a bus service operating at mostly hourly intervals . The bus journey from the main line station at Penrith to Keswick takes a scheduled 47 minutes .

The town is served by other bus routes providing direct connections with Carlisle , Cockermouth , Kendal , Lancaster , Penrith , Windermere , Workington , and other towns and villages in the north west . The flow of traffic from Penrith to Cockermouth and beyond was eased after the A66 was diverted to a new bypass in 1974 , a development that caused controversy because of a prominent new viaduct carrying the road across the Greta Gorge to the north of the town .

The majority of visitors arrive by car and are catered for by three town centre car parks , another large one next to the Theatre by the Lake , and smaller ones elsewhere in the town .

== Culture ==

== Regular events ==

Annual events in the town 's calendar include the Keswick Film Festival (February ? March) . It features screenings of old and new films , interviews with directors , and the festival 's Osprey Awards for short films by local filmmakers . The ten @-@ day Words by the Water literary festival is held in March every year , based at the Theatre by the Lake . The festival began in 1995 , and events have been presented by Melvyn Bragg , Louis de Bernières , Germaine Greer , Steve Jones , Penelope Lively , Princess Michael of Kent , Michael Rosen and Joanna Trollope .

In May each year , Keswick is host to three contrasting events . The Keswick Half Marathon , in the early part of the month takes participants around Derwentwater with an additional loop into Newlands Valley . In the second week of May there is the four @-@ day Keswick Jazz Festival , with more than 100 jazz events at a dozen local venues . Participants include British and international exponents of mainstream and traditional jazz . After the Jazz Festival is the four @-@ day Keswick Mountain Festival in mid @-@ May . In the words of the organisers , the festival " celebrates everything we all love about the outdoors " . It includes ghyll scrambling , mountain biking , guided walks , map reading , canoeing , climbing , a triathlon and other events .

The main event of the town 's calendar in June is the Keswick Beer Festival , a two @-@ day event that attracts more than 5 @, @ 000 participants each year . July is marked by the opening of the annual Keswick Convention , an international gathering of Evangelical Christians , described in 1925 as " the last stronghold of British Puritanism " , promoting biblical teaching and pious lifestyles . Among those associated with the Convention have been Frank Buchman and Billy Graham . The event has grown from a single week to three weeks , straddling the latter part of July and early August .

In August , Keswick features the Derwentwater Regatta . It was inaugurated by the eccentric local landowner Joseph Pocklington in 1792 , and after a lapse of more than two centuries was revived in 2013 . Its organisers describe it as " A weekend of mayhem and madness afloat , with the chance to climb aboard in a variety of races on Derwentwater " . The Keswick Agricultural Show , founded in 1860 , has traditionally been held on August Bank Holiday Monday at the western edge of the town on the Crossing Fields section of the open land known as the Howrahs . The show features both commercial and charity stands , and attracts large numbers of competitors , exhibitors and spectators . From 2014 the venue has changed to Pump Field , a few hundred yards further from the town centre towards Braithwaite .

Classical music is presented throughout the year , both in conjunction with the Lake District Summer Music Festival and independently through the Keswick Choral Society and the Keswick Music Society , which was founded in 1947 . Performers in Keswick have included the Chilingirian Quartet , the Royal Northern Sinfonia , Tasmin Little , the City of London Sinfonia , Red Priest and Nicolai Demidenko .

= = = Lake Poets and other Keswick notables = = =

Coleridge and William Wordsworth were close friends and collaborators ; when Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy took up residence in the Lake District in late 1799 it was , in Bott 's word , inevitable that Coleridge would follow suit . Six months after the Wordsworths moved into Dove Cottage at Grasmere , Coleridge leased Greta Hall in Keswick , 12 miles (19 km) away . In 1803 Robert Southey , Coleridge 's brother @-@ in @-@ law , agreed to share the house with Coleridge and his family . Southey remained at Greta Hall after Coleridge left in 1804 , and it remained Southey 's family home until his death in 1843 . Many famous literary figures stayed at Greta Hall in these years , including the Wordsworths , Charles and Mary Lamb , Thomas de Quincey , William Hazlitt , Percy Bysshe Shelley , and Sir Walter Scott . Lamb , a Londoner devoted to his native city , remained doubtful of the attractions of the Lake District , but most of the visitors to Greta Hall wrote eloquently of the beauty of the scenery , and further enhanced the public regard for , and desire to visit , the area . Southey was well regarded locally , but played little part in the life of the town . He is buried in Crosthwaite churchyard and there is a memorial to him inside the church , with an inscription written by Wordsworth .

Among Keswick notables before the Lake Poets was Sir John Banks , a leading Royalist during

the English Civil War . He was Charles I 's Attorney General and Chief Justice . Bankes was born at Castlerigg near Keswick in 1589 . A bust in his memory is in upper Fitz Park close to the museum . In 2014 he was further commemorated by the conversion of the former Keswick courthouse into a bar named in his honour with his full title , " The Chief Justice of the Common Pleas " .

Later residents of the area have included the classical scholar , essayist , poet and founder of the Society for Psychical Research , Frederic Myers , who was born in Keswick , and the campaigner for animal welfare Donald Watson , founder of the Vegan Society , who lived in Keswick after retiring from teaching . The pioneer mountaineers and photographers George and Ashley Abraham lived and worked in Keswick . Their photographic shop in Lake Road , built in 1887 , was later taken over by the local mountaineer and outfitter George Fisher ; the shop still contains memorabilia , including photographs , from the Abrahams ' era .

Of literary figures after the Lake Poets among those most closely associated with Keswick was the novelist Hugh Walpole . In 1924 he moved into Brackenburn , a house between Keswick and Grange at the opposite end of Derwentwater . Like the Lake Poets in the previous century , he wrote enthusiastically about the Lake District , and its scenery and atmosphere often found their way into his fiction . He wrote in 1939 , " That I love Cumberland with all my heart and soul is another reason for my pleasure in writing these Herries books . That I wasn 't born a Cumbrian isn 't my fault : that Cumbrians , in spite of my ' foreignness ' , have been so kind to me , is my good fortune . "