



The village of East Kirkby sits at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Just 3 km to the North the land rises to over 100 metres whilst only 1 km to the South the land is almost at Sea Level. As with most villages the Church was at the centre, but today it is almost 1 km to the North of the crossroads in the village. This is because the original East Kirkby was thought to be a plague village and was abandoned; the present village re-establishing itself at this crossroad. Bricks and rubble are still found in the fields around the Church when ploughing. East Kirkby is documented in the Domesday Book as a settlement in the hundred of Bolingbroke, in the County of Lincolnshire, and being recorded as having 34 households in 1086.

# St Nicholas Church



The original church was Saxon and built, probably in wood, in the early 8th century but was mostly replaced in the 13th & 14th century. It consists of nave, aisles, chancel, and tower with two bells. The tower probably dates from early in the 13th century and is in an unusual position, being attached to the south aisle at the western end. The entrance to the church is through a groined porch, having a head of the Saviour, rather crudely carved, as the central boss of the vault. It has some early features, especially the window in its eastern face and the battlemented upper storey is Perpendicular. The rest of the church generally being in the Decorated style, of the 14th century. There are few surviving windows of that period, the west being the most noticeable. The blocked arch of an entrance to a north chantry, which has been removed, is seen in the north aisle wall. It must have been filled in at an early date, as the window inserted is of the Tudor period. The piscina of this chantry altar, with a square basin, is still to be seen outside the church. The eastern gable is surmounted by a cross and saddle stone. The windows of the south aisle form an arcade of four bays, with Decorated arches supported on very slender octagonal piers. The roofs are of a later period; one of the beams bears the date 1583. The chancel arch has a roodscreen below which is an unusually good specimen of Perpendicular. In the chantry on the south side is retained its decorated trefoil piscina. In the floor of the south aisle is an incised slab, commemorating Sir Robert Silkstone, the builder of the chantry and church. Oak seating remains at the west end, and there are fragments, scattered about, of other screen-work. In the north wall of the chancel is a narrow trefoil-headed recess, thought by some to be an Easter sepulchre; it has a curious carved panel, with three kneeling figures, supposed to be the three Mary's, each holding a heart. The recess is an aumbry, intended for the Host. The font is Perpendicular, having a panelled octagonal bowl, supported on a panelled shaft, standing on a platform of steps; the panels contain heads and flowers. The chantry on the north side of the church was called the Jesus Chapel and here was buried William Goodrick, father of Thomas Goodrick, a Bishop of Ely. Some of the pew ends in the Church are said to have been chewed by the horses of Oliver Cromwell when he stabled them in the Church prior to the battle of Winceby in 1643.

# Windmill



This Grade II listed windmill, which is six stories tall, was built in 1820, for the milling of grain, and is said to have been the best Tower Mill in the County of Lincolnshire. Construction began for William Thimbleby in 1820 by the millwright Sam Ward. Unfortunately, he became bankrupt during the course of the work and it was finished by Oxley of Alford to his usual high standard. It was wind powered until 1927, originally with four patent sails but after 1837 with five, when the sails were removed. It was then engine-driven until the 1950s. The mill originally had two pairs of French Buhrstones, for fine milling, and two pairs of grey stones, for normal work. There would have been a range of buildings associated with the mill, but they fell into disrepair and were removed. East Kirkby windmill, together with Eley's mill on Kirkby Hill, would have been welcoming landmarks for the bomber crews as they returned from raids over Germany in World War 2.

## Millennium Seat



The Millennium Seat, just to the East of the entrance to the Aviation Heritage Museum, was commissioned by the Parish Council and sits on the Greenwich Meridian. The Meridian to the North of East Kirkby passes through Hareby, just 5.5km away, Louth and then Cleethorpes. It crosses the Humber and passes through East Yorkshire before exiting the UK into the North Sea where it meets nothing until it reaches the North Pole. On its journey south the Meridian touches Holbeach, still in Lincolnshire, and passes through Somersham in Huntingdonshire, Lolworth in Cambridgeshire, Waltham Abbey in Essex, Lewes in East Sussex before leaving the UK and entering France. It is interesting to note that the Meridian passes through more towns and villages in Lincolnshire than any other county in the UK. If you sit on the seat, half of you will be in the East and the other half will be in the West. It was designed and built by a local artist/metalworker and set in position in the Millennium Year - 2000.

# Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre



The Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Museum, just a few hundred metres east of here, on a former RAF airfield was the home to 57 and 630 squadrons, R.A.F., and the Avro Lancaster NX611 'Just Jane' is famously housed here. The museum was founded by farming brothers Fred and Harold Panton and originally set up as a memorial to their older brother Chris who was killed on a raid over Germany. The museum houses a number of other aircraft including a De-Haviland Mosquito and a Douglas Dakota as well as being the home of LARG (Lincolnshire Aviation Recovery Group) who find, recover, and commemorate many crashed aircraft from WWII. 'Just Jane' was built by Austin Motors at Longbridge near Birmingham, in April 1945 and given the serial number NX611. She was one of the first 150 B Mk VII Avro Lancaster's destined as part of the RAF's Tiger Force in the Far East, but Japan's early surrender meant these aircraft were suddenly surplus to requirements. In 1952 she was bought by the French Government, painted midnight blue and flew maritime patrol for the French Naval Air Arm. Ten years later, she went to Noumeau, New Caledonia, was painted white and used for air sea rescue and cartography. Then in 1964, the French presented her to the Historical Aircraft Preservation Society and flew her to her new home in Sydney, Australia, where she was overhauled before being flown back to Britain. It took nine days to complete the 12,000-mile journey back to her homeland, seventy flying hours, landing at Biggin Hill in May 1965. After 10 years as gate guardian at RAF Scampton, she was finally brought to East Kirkby courtesy of the RAF.

## Just Jane's Specifications:

Engines:	Four Rolls Royce Merlin 24 Engines – 1640 hp each			
Dimensions:	Span	Length	Height	Wing Area
	102 ft	69 ft 11 ¾ in	20 ft 6 in	1300 square ft
Weights:	Tare	Max all up	Max Landing	
	37,300 lbs	72,000 lbs	60,000 lbs	
Performance:	Max Speed	Cruising Speed		
	275 mph at 15,000 ft	200 mph at 15,00 ft		
Service Ceiling:	25,000 ft	Range: 2,350 miles with 7,500 lbs of bombs		
Max Bomb Load	Normal	Specialist bomb load i.e. Grand Slam		
	18,000 lbs	22,000 lbs		

# War Memorial



The War Memorial is very significant as it was one of the first to be erected after the First World War on October 19th 1919, only 11 months after cessation of hostilities. The Memorial is made from Portland Stone, by local Stonemasons Browning and Sons of Spilsby, at an original cost of £300 and is similar in design to those Memorials at Stickney and Fishtoft. It commemorates the fallen of both World Wars but also celebrates those that returned from the First World War. A Service of Rededication was held exactly 100 years, to the day, on October 19 2019, replicating the original and included a Memorial Service in St Nicholas Church, a procession from the Church to the War Memorial and the Service of Rededication.

More information about the Service of Rededication can be found under the Parish Information page or at [war-memorial-re-dedication-2019](#).

## Red Lion Pub



The Red Lion Inn is one of the oldest buildings in the village and can trace its existence, as a pub, back to the Duke of Wellington's Beer House Act of 1830. Public houses before 1830 were either Inns or Taverns - the key difference being that in an Inn you could sleep as well as eat and drink. The Act, designed to curb the rise of gin consumption and to bypass local magistrate's legislation, allowed any householder or ratepayer, on payment of two guineas to the Excise, to sell beer and cider from their property. Although many beer houses were eradicated under later legislation, many survived and evolved into fully licensed premises. The Lion Inn (the current Red Lion Inn) was, at this time in the early 1800's, owned by Revesby Estate, it was rented out and Mrs Susannah West is the first recorded licensee in late 1841. John Kemp bought the pub from the Revesby Estate in 1870, and the Pub was run privately until it was sold to the Hundleby Brewery in 1899, then to Batemans Brewery in 1931, and returned back into private ownership in 1983. The pub contains an old oak round table upon which airmen from 57 & 630 Squadrons, based on the airfield, scratched, and carved their names. The pub was, at one time, also home to the local butcher and it is interesting to note that on the wall, adjacent the car park entrance, prior to its removal could be seen the swing out hook where beasts were hung to be butchered – in the open air!

# Village Hall



The village hall was built in 1904 as a Church and was fully consecrated for the carrying out of all the Church services. It was built to house the congregation of East Kirkby whilst St. Nicholas Church was being extensively repaired and was sponsored by Sir Joseph Banks-Stanhope of Revesby Abbey. The building is oriented exactly East to West, as would be expected of a Church, and originally had Gothic arched windows which were subsequently replaced with rectangular ones more in keeping with its later use as a village hall. The only original window remaining is the one at the west end of the hall which retains its original shape. When the repairs to St. Nicholas Church were completed the 'New' Church was deconsecrated and donated to the Parish of East Kirkby by the Revesby Estate. Inside the village hall it can be seen immediately that it was originally designed as a Church, with the entrance at the west end leading into what is now a vestibule. Passing through the second set of doors admittance is into the nave and upon looking down the hall the division between the nave and the chancel can be clearly seen in the form of the arch. The chancel was originally raised above the rest of the church and accessed via three steps. Look up and the ceiling of the hall is quite spectacular, totally in keeping with its original purpose as a Church, with wooden beams reminiscent of those in St. Nicholas.