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THE TENANT OF BORWICK HALL

Andy Denwood

Figure 1:
John Alexander Fuller-Maitland

Shortly before the First World War, Borwick Hall acquired a wealthy and controversial new tenant: a man who had publicly compared the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan to a circus elephant and who, in turn, was accused by Sir Edward Elgar of embodying 'the shady side of music criticism'.

John Alexander Fuller-Maitland was the music critic of The Times. He first stumbled across Borwick Hall in 1910. 'It was love at first sight,' he wrote later. 'When we turned the corner and saw the house, I knew that I had never been so attracted by any building in my life.'

Fuller-Maitland had arrived at the Hall not a moment too soon. It was in a sorry state. The main rooms, which had once hosted the future Charles II, had been uninhabited for more than 50 years. Some outer walls had actually fallen down. But locals were still guiding visitors around the site for threepence a time and Fuller-Maitland was so impressed after his tour that he decided, almost on the spot, that he would retire from his job on The Times and move north with his wife, Marianne.

The owners of the Hall, the Marton family of Capernwray, are said to have agreed a lease of £50 a year on condition that Fuller-Maitland carried out repairs to the fabric. It was not as cheap as it sounds. One estimate suggested restoration work cost him an additional £1,000 a year for the next quarter of a century. But for the money, and for the rest of his life, he had the run of a beautiful 14th century peel tower with 16th century wings.

Figure 2:
Borwick Hall

The villagers of Borwick, meanwhile, had acquired a fascinating new neighbour. Fuller-Maitland took an active part in village affairs, becoming choir master at St Mary's Church and funding music lessons for promising local musicians.

Moving into a tiny North Lancashire village was a major change in life-style for the Fuller-Maitlands. In London they had been at the centre of a vibrant, cosmopolitan scene, knowing nearly everyone, from William Gladstone to Isadora Duncan. An only child, Fuller-Maitland inherited a family fortune derived from banking and business. He briefly toyed with the idea of a career in the law before devoting himself to music. He trained as a pianist but it was as a writer and critic that he made his name: he edited the influential 'Grove Dictionary of Music'; he wrote books about Brahms and Schumann; he led a revival of interest in English music of the 16th and 17th centuries, particularly the music of Henry Purcell; and with his cousin, Lucy Broadwood, he published an important collection of English folk songs which continues to be used today.

In Borwick, Fuller-Maitland stood out like an orchid in a potato patch but he was no sensitive exotic. He was a hard-nosed, opinionated cultural commentator who had been embroiled for years in the cut and thrust of professional music criticism. Much of the controversy that surrounded him stemmed from his passionate advocacy of what became known as the English Musical Renaissance. Fuller-Maitland held that music composition in England had reached a low point in the first half of the nineteenth century. His hopes for a national musical revival rested on composers such as Hubert Parry and Charles Villiers Stanford who, he maintained, had begun to evolve a distinctly national style, free from foreign musical influences. He saw his role as a guardian, or doorkeeper, of English music.

Not everyone was convinced. Some complained that the chosen champions of his renaissance were all upper-middle class, academically trained musicians with links to the Royal College of Music: people, in short, rather like him. He was said to under-value and even disparage the country's most popular composers. He thought Arthur Sullivan squandered his talents on popular entertainments, while he described the music of Edward Elgar, whose father ran a music shop in Worcester, as provincial.

Matters came to a head when Sir Arthur Sullivan died in 1901. While the nation mourned the death of its favourite musical son, Fuller-Maitland penned an extraordinarily critical obituary, comparing Sullivan's popularity to that of Jumbo, the celebrated elephant who had attracted vast queues at London Zoo. 'Jumboism, wrote Fuller-Maitland, 'Is more and more the characteristic defect of the English race and any voice that is raised against the Jumbo of the moment …is certain to incur the wrath of those who are working up the 'boom', whatever it may be.' Fuller-Maitland was implying, says the music historian Meirion Hughes, that just like Jumbo, the composer was over-hyped and lumbering and, 'that to admire Sullivan was a lapse of taste, a defect of the English race.'

Many in the music world were shocked and angered. In a furious riposte Sullivan's friend, Edward Elgar, referred to the obituary as, 'this foul unforgettable episode.' And without publicly naming Fuller-Maitland, he inveighed against 'the shady side of musical criticism.'

Fuller-Maitland found himself in more hot water when he went on to mock 'the utmost banality' of some of Sullivan's music. 'That the man who wrote the concerted pieces of the Mikado, the exquisitely ingenious quartet of vocal variations in The Gondoliers, or the mock-Greek chorus in the Grand Duke,

would have brought himself to be acknowledged as the composer of such songs as 'Will he Come?', 'Let me Dream Again', or another in which the complaint that 'the gravy's cold' seems to be iterated and reiterated…is hardly credible,' he wrote in his book 'English Music in the Nineteenth Century.'

Of course, Sullivan had never written 'the gravy's cold'. The lyric in the popular song 'My Dearest Heart' actually read:

'The grave is cruel, the grave is cold,
But on the other side is the city of gold.'

It's hard to believe that the misquotation was accidental but, as a joke, it misfired, and persuaded many that this criticism of Sullivan's more popular work was based purely on snobbery. Fuller-Maitland survived the brouhaha. He stayed on at The Times for several years after Elgar's denunciation, only tendering his resignation to the editor after paying his threepence and falling in love with Borwick Hall.

He was 54 when he gave up full-time journalism. At Borwick he continued to write books including his autobiography 'Doorkeeper of Music'. More importantly for local historians, he collaborated with J Rawlinson Ford of Yealand to produce an edited version of John Lucas's eighteenth-century history of Warton Parish (1931).

He died at Borwick Hall in 1936, five years after Marianne. The couple had no children and everything they owned went under the hammer in a week-long sale. Among the silverware and mahogany furniture were three grand pianos, a German pipe organ and an impressive art collection including a contemporary portrait of Charles II and two Turner watercolours.

Fuller-Maitland's tenancy was the last time Borwick Hall acted as a private home. He can take credit for saving the structure of

this wonderful building. Within four years of his death it housed elements of the 21st Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. After the War it became a country club. Later it was taken over by Lancashire County Council for use as an outdoor education centre, the role it still performs today.

MOURHOLME CASTLE SEIZED BY THE KING

Simon Williams

It is not often that Warton features in the headlines of English history, or that the name 'Mourholme'[1] pops up in medieval documents. I thoroughly enjoy both our local history and the grander history of England. But they rarely come together. The parish of Warton hides away against the coast in the north of Lancashire, seldom touched by great national events or personages, or so I thought until I read a modern transcription of a Charter signed in 1216 dealing with: the Baron of Kendal; King John; and with the loss of Mourholme castle, that vanished, enigmatic building which gives our society its name.

Mourholme castle was occupied, at least between the late twelfth and early fifteenth centuries, by the lords of Warton and was situated on the land now covered by the Pine Lake resort on the A6 south of Carnforth. In the 1970s, immediately prior to the flooding of a worked-out gravel pit to form Pine Lake, a group of archaeologists discovered some masonry and pottery remains from the castle, together with a diamond ring[2]. Whether the castle was a fully defensive military structure, or a more multi-purpose fortified manor house is unknown. But it was at least of a scale to warrant the attention of a king.

1215 and All That.

Just four years ago, at the 800th anniversary, we enjoyed TV, radio and magazine accounts of the events surrounding the

[1] Mourholme, or Merhull – spellings are fluid.

[2] I wrote an article illustrating and describing this ring in Autumn 2016 Issue 70 of the Mourholme Magazine. Available to view at our website http://www.mourholme.co.uk/?Publications:Magazine_Archive_4

signing of Magna Carta at Runnymede, west of London, in 1215. So, a recap can probably be brief.

As Winnie the Pooh's author noted, King John was not a good man.[3] He ruled England from 1199 until his death in 1216, during which time he picked up nicknames. But these were not of 'The Lionheart' or of 'The Brave" sort. Instead he was mocked as John Softsword and John Lackland, because he had lost all the French territories: the Angevin Empire and Normandy itself, built up by his Norman predecessors. He then set about building a war chest through a variety of imaginative taxes, fines and property seizures, which infuriated the Barons, that class of men who had historically enabled the whole legal, fiscal and martial machine of England to function.

The Barons were unused to a king spending his time travelling through England. But John had lost his lands elsewhere and so his attention was undivided, and besides he sensed revolt. Travel also provided income opportunities. For example, he imposed fines on York and Newcastle for their failure to provide him with sufficiently impressive receptions. In addition to these sorts of fines he transferred the lucrative justice business of the Barons' Honorial Courts to his own Royal Courts.

The northern Barons became the hub of discontent, eventually the term 'The Northerners' was used as shorthand for the entire rebellion. In 1209 some of them communicated with Prince Louis of France over a possible invasion; but this first conspiracy faded away and John strengthened his grip on the country: hiring an army of foreign mercenaries; refortifying royal castles in border regions; and, in 1213, settling matters

[3] *King John's Christmas,* AA Milne, *Now We Are Six*

with Pope Innocent III, and winning Papal support for regaining his lands in France.[4]

The Barons' discontent grew – few had lands in France (especially since John had lost his territories), and they regarded themselves as English, with concerns for their property and livelihoods in England. John's foreign adventures were funded by their confiscated wealth, but at no advantage to themselves whatsoever. The final straw was John's final attempt to regain the Angevin Empire through the great battle at Bouvines in Flanders, 1214. The French forces were triumphant, and John was lucky to escape with as little as a five-year truce. His hopes of recovering an Empire were over.

The revolt came not just from the north, but also from the west and East Anglia. The gates of London were thrown open to the Army of God (a more impressive name than the Revolting Barons, or even the Northerners), and John was forced to hear the Barons' grievances. After some prevarication he had to agree to meet the Barons at Runnymede on 15 June 2015, and set his seal on the Magna Carta.

First drafted by the Archbishop of Canterbury to make peace between the King and the Barons, it promised: the protection of Church rights; protection for the Barons from illegal imprisonment; access to swift justice; and limitations on feudal payments to the Crown. This was to be implemented through a council of 25 Barons. Neither side stood behind their commitments, and the charter was annulled by Pope Innocent

[4] *John's disputes with Pope Innocent III over the appointment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury and John's seizure of Church lands, had led to the Pope's placing England under an interdict in 1208. A still recalcitrant John was excommunicated in 1209.*

'The Charter with all its undertakings and guarantees we declare to be null and void of all validity for ever.'

Retribution

War with the Barons commenced. John, at the head of an army of foreign mercenaries, marched from Dover to London, besieging Rochester on the way. Amongst the rebels holding Rochester castle were the Baron of Kendal and his son. The siege lasted seven weeks, during which John's enemies seized royal possessions elsewhere. In Wales, Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (Llywelyn the Great) took seven castles in just three weeks. The council of 25 Barons awarded possession of Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland to Alexander III of Scotland. Northerners with estates in those counties readily accepted their new ruler.

John's mercenary army moved north, and laid waste the lands of John's enemies. Towns and villages burned, or paid protection money, and local lords, such as John de Lacy, lord of Clitheroe and Pontefract, had to submit.

Kendal and Mourholme

The Baron possessing our area at that time was the Baron of Kendal, Gilbert fitzReinfred, formerly steward to Henry II. Gilbert had acquired this Barony through his marriage to the sole heir to the estate, Heloise. His manors covered a large part of Westmorland as well as Ulverston and Warton. Gilbert remained loyal to whoever wore the crown – Henry II, then Richard I, and now John. It was Gilbert who obtained from King John, in 1200, the charter that allowed Warton its Wednesday market. In 1205, John made Gilbert Sheriff of Lancashire. He held the post until 1216, making him the King's right-hand man in the area.

But even for a long-time guardian of the King's peace loyalty has its limits, and John's high-handed and inept rule drove Gilbert to side with the Barons who forced Magna Carta upon the King in 1215. As we have seen, in the battles that followed Gilbert and his son William de Lancaster were inside Rochester castle as it was besieged by John's mercenary army. In December 1215 the castle capitulated, and hostages were taken, including Gilbert's son, William.

Unsurprisingly, Gilbert fitzReinfred had to seek mercy, and swear renewed loyalty to John. His word was no longer enough, and Gilbert was forced to sign a humiliating charter, pay a hefty fine, and as a guarantee of loyal behaviour in the future, hand over no less than ten prestigious men as hostages, and give his two castles, Kendal and Mourholme, to the king. Our eighteenth-century historian, John Lucas, adds the detail that the size of the fine was twelve thousand marks[5] – an astonishing sum of money. The translated treaty, below, represents a grovelling and total surrender.

Treaty between Gilbert fitzReinfred, Baron of Kendal, and King John.

Gilbert son of Reinfred, to all faithful Christians who shall see the present charter, greetings.

May you know that I, of my own free will, have requested and made an agreement with my lord John, the illustrious king of England, to the effect that I will faithfully serve not only him but also his heirs begotten of Lady Isabella, queen of England, all

[5] One mark was equal to 13 shillings and 4 pennies, two-thirds of one pound. 12000 Marks = £8000. Using the Bank of England's value converter, this would be £16 million today. The conversion is certainly crude, but does illustrate the scale of payment.

the days of my life and will never do any hostile action against them. Furthermore, if I should happen to bind myself by an oath to the king's enemies then I will not be bound to it.

Also, I repudiate in every way the Charter of Liberties[6] which the king granted in common to his Barons of England and which the lord Pope has annulled. If it should happen, which God forbid, that I repudiate this agreement to the detriment of my lord the king or his heirs then I and my heirs will incur everlasting loss of all my lands, which will pass to the king and his heirs for all time.

In order to better secure my faithful service, I have given the king the following hostages:

- Benedict, son and heir of Henry Redmayne, lord of Levens and Yealand
- The son and heir of Roger Kirkby, my daughter's husband
- The son and heir of William of Windsor, lord of Heversham, my niece's husband
- Ralph d'Aincurt, tenant of the Barony of Kendal
- Roger of Burton, lord of Burton-in-Kendal
- Adam of Yealand, lord of Yealand
- The heir of Thomas of Beetham
- The heir of Walter Strickland
- The heir of Richard of Copeland
- The son of Gilbert de Lancaster, lord of Witherslack, Patterdale and Barton

[6] Magna Carta – signed at Runnymede 15 June 1215

If it should happen by misadventure that any of these hostages should die then I will hand over to the king other children of the above knights or of others, in my place, whereby the king will hold himself bound by the agreement.

Meanwhile I have given my castles of Mourholme and Kendal into the possession of my lord the king, to do with what he wishes.

What happened next

It seems unlikely that King John had time to enjoy the pleasures of a stay at Mourholme or Kendal castles – the rest of his short life was spent supressing the uprising. He died ten months later at Newark, in November 2016. The cause of death was probably dysentery.

Henry III needed a peaceful start to his reign. He was nine years old, and in no position to resist the might of the Barons. He agreed to a (slightly modified) Magna Carta.

Gilbert fitzReinfred made peace with John's successor, Henry III, and the Mourholme castle returned to the family, with Gilbert's son inheriting the Barony in 1220. Sadly, I have been unable to find out what happened to the hostages – presumably they were freed following John's death.

Sources

This rather interesting episode came to my attention when some research papers were donated to our archive. The papers were typed in the mid-nineteen seventies by the late Dick Burnham who lived in Warton, and died in the mid-nineteen nineties. A single sheet of paper records a nineteenth century translation of a 1216 Charter[7]. Dick Burnham also cites a further source for

[7] Rotuli Chartarum (Charter Rolls), edited by T D Hardy, Record Commission, 1837, p221. From the working papers of the late Dick Burnham, who copied the translation of a charter made by T.D. Hardy.

tracing some of the names mentioned in his account.[8] I happily immersed myself in various histories of England to get a wider view of this turbulent time – and also found the episode described in Paul Booth's booklet Warton in the Middle Ages.[9] Andy Denwood's recently published work of John Lucas, A History of Warton Parish[10] also makes mention of this settlement with King John (pages 13 and 117).

[8] W. Farrer, Lancashire Pipe Rolls and Early Charters

[9] *Booth, P. H. W. (2004). Warton in the Middle Ages (rev. ed.): Mourholme: Mourholme Local History Society.*
Now out of print, but available as a pdf at
www.mourholme.co.uk/?Publications:Books

[10] Denwood Andy. (2017). *John Lucas, A History of Warton Parish.* Lancaster: Andy Denwood.

BRIAN BLEASEDALE: Part I

Sheila Jones

I met Brian a few years ago when I was poking about Warton, taking photographs and wondering about the history of this and that. We struck up a conversation and he knew much about the village, not dates or old history, but just how it had been during the eighty years of his having lived there. He was very open, and showed me into his house, the one he had been born in, and even more openly, and somewhat to my astonishment, took down the key of his neighbour who was away, and showed me round her house, too!

These houses are in Hemplands, a terrace of three dwellings set at right angles to Main Street. As the name denotes, flax had indeed been cultivated, towards where the property reaches Back Lane, but not since Brian's early childhood. He is enormously interested in his cottage (and his neighbour's, she sharing his enthusiasm), trying to reconfigure how it would have been shaped at different periods: what would have been interior; what exterior; where openings would have been; what would have been dwelling and what farm work buildings.

The principal house in Hemplands has an entrance off Main Road. It has higher ceilings than the others, is well appointed in its entrances and woodwork, for example, but with curiosities in some places. When the owner wanted to put in a bathroom, the room she chose was above the current kitchen. When the flooring of this room was lifted a layer of straw was revealed, showing it had been a hayloft. It is to the rear of her house, where the farm buildings were, and the current kitchen, with stairs down from the main house, and a lower ceiling, probably was once partly external. Brian's home, next door to this, and the

further cottage, both have lower ceilings, smaller apertures in general, and were once farm buildings. When he decided to put down laminate flooring in an area extending from the front to the back of the house, Brian was surprised to discover the gradient of the slope in the floor, leading him to conjecture that it had been a cow barn with the slope facilitating sweeping out.

This questioning characteristic of Brian, the curiosity to ask why and when without the dogmatism of needing a definitive answer, makes him very pleasant company. He has a strong need to preserve old things, both because age deserves respect and because old things, when craft went into their making, are often beautiful. He worked when he was young at Warton Hall Farm, and was sad that all the buildings on the other side of the road, where the garage now is, were knocked down. 'The main barn was fantastic with stables underneath for the shire horses. It was huge! I couldn't believe they were allowed to demolish it; they wouldn't be allowed to do it now.' He remembers the beautiful farmyard with the loose boxes all around, and an orchard…all gone now. He of course wants the green belt honoured and laments all the building going on in Warton and Millhead.

Brian shows the same cherishing instinct in his own garden. He has explained to me more than once how the original piece of land belonging to the main house was divided so that each cottage now has a portion. In walking round, the divisions were too complicated for me to sort out, but he remembers what was traditionally grown where. He remembers the time when the house would have two pigs, one for the next year and one for this. A man would come to do the killing and lead the animal round the side of the house, and it was done: Brian never heard a sound from the animal. They did their own preserving and Brian has the tiniest alcove behind a door for his office, and this

is where the hams were hung. They grew much of their own produce, and for milk he would be sent along Back Lane to a farm where the school is now. Only about six cows were kept and they gave the 'freshest, sweetest milk you could ever taste.'

Brian's education was all in Warton, at the two schools on opposite sides of the road below the church. His sister had gone to the Girls' Grammar School but when the Headteacher wanted to put him forward for the Boys' Grammar School, he said, 'Can't afford it sir,' cognisant of all the expenses the Girls' Grammar School had put on his parents. His parents 'played pop with him' for giving up this chance, but it seems to have been his decision alone.

One Primary School memory was of being challenged by his mates to shoot the mullion with his home-made bow and arrow. He aimed true and they challenged him again. This time he broke the window, the replacement cost, for his parents, being on his conscience. There was a bunch of good friends, some of whom Brian still knows, and they had a wonderful time with the freedom of Warton Crag available to them. The games were the timeless one's of dens, plans, catapults, and bows and arrows.

Since he had not gone to the Grammar School, he left school at age fifteen, wanting to supplement the family income. His first job was with the egg business on the Crag Road. It produced thousands of eggs daily, selling them to a Lune Valley Co-operative. The concern was entirely free-range with batteries still being a novelty at that time. Each egg had to be washed by hand over a long day and the pay was a pittance. The boss was mean, too, saying that if he wanted cracked eggs to take home, he could have them at half price.

Brian moved on to farm labouring at Boon Town where he was paid ‘a few pennies more’, and at 18 he went to Warton Hall Farm where he was more or less in charge. I asked if they still used the horses, but they had a tractor. However, there was more than one farmer in the area still using horses at that time, the fifties. The owner of Warton Hall, then, was not a real farmer, not understanding the rhythms of farming, that when the time is ripe, you have to put in the hours. The crunch came for Brian when, at harvest time, the day being right in terms of weather and the condition of the grain, the owner said he was off to Blackpool for the day leaving Brian to cut, lead, and stack all by himself. His, ‘I was alone; all alone,’ emphasises how hard this had been for a lad in his late teens.

There are a few things that strike one about these early years. First, there is the security of place, of knowing from a child, one’s home and one’s neighbours’ homes: when I asked about some holes drilled neatly in his neighbour’s living room door, Brian told me that a few ladies, including his mother, with Brian in tow, would collect there to play cards, and the fire smoked so heavily that he remembers the holes were drilled to air the place.

Then there was the security of knowing the length and breadth and environs of one’s village with a familiarity that only comes from exploring and playing there in all one’s free time as a child, and from working there later on. This is strengthened by the stability of the population, so that you expected to know and be known by everyone you met. I was impressed by the respect afforded by the Headteacher asking Brian himself about doing the Grammar School entrance. That surely is something that would be done at a parent interview now. There is dignity in his reply, ‘Can’t afford it, sir’, and in the acceptance of that reply.

Finally, unlike the respect shown at school, employment being contracted at a personal level made a boy ripe for exploitation, even when holding a position of responsibility at Warton Hall Farm. But at the same time, how proud Brian must have been to be making important decisions at the farm when he was still at such a young age.

Part II of this interesting account of Brian Bleasdale's life will appear in this Autumn's edition of the magazine.

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS
Clive Holden

30th October 2019: The Rise and Fall of the Northumbrian Kingdom, c.600 – c.1000 A.D.

Let not the title fool you; Northumbria was much larger than the modern-day Northumberland, encompassing much of England north of Cheshire and Lincolnshire, and the south of Scotland, the two dominant early kingdoms being Bernicia to the north and Deira to the south. Bamburgh and neighbouring Lindisfarne were places of much importance. Neither should you imagine that kingship was to be envied, as many of the Kings took refuge in Holy Orders or were murdered.

Ever heard of the Battles of Dunnichen and Whalley? They were important incidents in this turbulent period of our history. To attempt an acceptable summary of **Dr Fiona Edmonds**' talk would be foolish, for she produced so many facts with such fluency that it would take more than one issue of our magazine to do them justice. Suffice to say that she explained the various developments from the times of the Anglo-Saxons, through the Golden Age to the Vikings and the links with the Isle of Man and Ireland, up to the decline in the 8th and 9th centuries. The talk amply displayed the breadth of Dr Edmonds's knowledge and was very well illustrated. Local interests included the 'hogback' in St. Peter's church at Heysham, an Anglo-Saxon cross at Halton and (dare we mention it to the inhabitants of Yealand?) the Silverdale hoard.

27th November 2019: The Pilgrimage of Grace.

The Pilgrimage of Grace, so we were told by **Dick O'Brien**, was preceded in 1536 by an uprising in Lincolnshire, in protest against the imposition of Protestantism and the dissolution of the

monasteries, along with the ensuing hardships brought about by seizure for the crown of Catholic church property. It was not intended as a protest against the king himself, more of an appeal against the actions of Thomas Cromwell, Henry's chief minister, who was ruthless in imposing the King's will and getting rid of any opposition. Shortly after the Lincolnshire uprising had finished and the leaders had been dealt with, there was discontent in Yorkshire, which spread into Lancashire and thence to Westmorland and Cumberland, culminating in a battle at Carlisle. Our part of the country was largely regarded as a wasteland, and the Duke of Norfolk, having made unfulfilled promises to the rebels, was able to stifle the uprising. Needless to say, the chief instigators were shown no mercy, and, with them out of the way, the dissolution of the monasteries and the imposition of Protestantism continued unabated, except during the reign of Mary Tudor. A large attendance enjoyed this talk which, though on a serious and sometimes gruesome subject, had its lighter moments.

18th December 2019: The Cumbrian Coast Railway.

David Hindle took us through the history of the Cumbrian Coast railway, from its beginning with the opening of the Furness Railway in 1846. At that date it extended north via the Whitehaven & Furness Junction railway. Finally, in 1857, the Ulverston & Lancaster Railway went as far as Carnforth (the last six miles to Lancaster being over Lancaster & Carlisle Railway metals).

After dealing with the Barrow area we were shown many of the stations, several of which were to the designs of Austin and Paley, including Barrow station, destroyed in 1941 'by enemy action'. Its less aesthetically attractive successor was not opened until 1958! Less seriously damaged was the ol'Coppernob'

locomotive, which now rests in the National Railway Museum at York. Another 'reconstructed' old Furness Railway locomotive still works on the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway. Also, of more than usual interest were the two steam rail motors (ancestors of diesel and electric rail motors) which for a few years worked on the late lamented Coniston branch.
Another Furness 'relic' is the 'Gondola' which for many years rested on the bed of Coniston Water, but was recovered, restored to its former glory, and is a major attraction on, rather than under, that lake.

Originally intended for carriage of haematite, slate and other minerals, the Furness Railway thrived, and when haematite became less important, it was a case of 'cometh the hour, cometh the man', namely Alfred Aslett. This enterprising gentleman, appointed in 1895, increased the number of 'Circular tours of the Lakes' from four to twenty, re-opened the Barrow – Fleetwood steamer service and made the Furness a popular passenger railway. Why bother going to the South Coast when you could enjoy the splendours of Seascale, advertised as 'The Bournemouth of the North'? If you have an adventurous spirit you could take your bucket and spade and dig at Lindal for the locomotive which slipped into the bowels of the earth in 1892 and is still there, though to what depth is uncertain. Good luck!

29th January 2020: The past, present and future of the Lancaster Canal.

John Acres first took us through a brief history of the canal from its opening from Preston to Tewitfield in 1797, and its extension to Kendal, the bicentenary of which was celebrated last year. The most impressive structure in the southern reaches is Rennie's aqueduct across the Lune, familiar to most of us, but few will have noticed the inscriptions on each side, for one of

which we would have to brush up our Latin. The main purpose of the canal was for transporting coal northward, from the Wigan area, and for transporting limestone in the other direction. Passenger traffic was also popular as the speed of travel far outstripped the best efforts of the stagecoach. The coming of the railway meant that much passenger traffic was lost, but freight continued until the closure of the last few miles to Kendal in 1944. The subsequent short-sighted culverting at various places when construction of the M6 commenced, meant that Tewitfield became the northern terminus of the navigable section for through traffic, though trips on the 'Waterwitch' are available at Crooklands. Much work is ongoing by the Lancaster Canal Trust, formed in 1963, with the relining of the 'first furlong' between Stainton and Sellet Hall currently in progress. The aim is fully to restore the canal to Kendal, a difficult and very long-term project, but the determination is there.[1]

26th February 2020: Sex & Sin in 17th Century Lancashire.
Dr Alan Crosby, in his excellent presentation, began by telling us that the late sixteenth century until well into the seventeenth century was a period of Puritanism, when great attempts were made to suppress immorality. Lesser crimes (including immorality) went before the quarter sessions, while church courts dealt with crimes reported by the church wardens. Punishments for such crimes included excommunication (which does not seem to have been an effective deterrent), whipping and public humiliation, though those rich enough could buy their way out. Women, who were often regarded as sexual temptresses (daughters of Eve) incapable of proper thought, seemed to be particularly harshly treated. Bastardy was a problem, with efforts being made to establish the identity of the

[1] For more about the Lancaster Canal see page 25 of this magazine.

male culprit so that a maintenance agreement for the child up to the age of fourteen could be arranged, rather than imposing a charge on the community. Dr Crosby's readings from the court records, in which women were often referred to as queans, jades or whores (each apparently with a different shade of meaning) were couched in such detailed and quaint language as to give rise to frequent ripples of laughter from the ever-attentive audience. Ah well, that was what life was like four hundred years ago. Of course, things are different now. Or are they?

NOTES AND QUERIES

LANCASTER CANAL: THE TRAMROAD LINK
Andrew Davies and Bill Robinson

When I returned home, writes Andrew, after the Mourholme talk, '*The Past, Present and Future of the Lancaster Canal'* by John Acres,[1] I started reading a book about the railways of Preston. To my surprise, it included details of the tramroad that formed a link through Preston for the Lancaster Canal. This book adds to the talk, and also makes it clear that the Wigan to Walton Summit stretch was built as part of the Lancaster Canal and only later leased to the Leeds and Liverpool.

The Lancaster Canal was planned to run from Westhoughton near Wigan to Kendal. By 1799 the canal was complete from Wigan to north of Chorley and from Preston to north of Carnforth. This left a gap, including the crossing of the Ribble. However, the company had unfortunately exhausted its capital. As a temporary expedient to get through traffic moving and to produce revenue, a tramroad was laid until locks and an aqueduct could be afforded to complete the canal. This never happened. The two sections of the canal were then officially termed North End and South End. The latter was extended a few more miles north to Walton Summit.

The tramroad was completed in 1803. It was worked by horses pulling up to six wagons in each train except at three places where stationary steam engines were used to raise and lower the wagons on steep inclines. The Ribble was crossed on a wooden

[1] See in Reports of Evening Meetings, page 23 of this magazine.

bridge. A similar bridge in concrete survived until at least 1989 and was known as the Old Tram Bridge.

After the railway from Wigan to Preston opened in 1838, it was quicker and cheaper to move coal by rail between the two parts of the canal, from where it was transhipped into canal barges in the North End.

In 1864 the whole of the Lancaster Canal was leased, the South End to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, with which it connected, and the tramroad and North End to the London and North Western Railway. By this time there was still traffic on the tramroad from Walton Summit to Bamber Bridge, but not further north, and the new owners promptly closed that part. The remainder of the tramroad closed in 1879.

Part of the route, Bill adds, is now a footpath and there are still clues to its existence dotted around Preston. Sadly, the bridge now on the site of the original is in a dangerous state and awaits its fate. The line from Wigan to Johnson's Hillock at Whittle-le-Woods is now part of the Leeds-Liverpool. Most of the section from Whittle to Walton Summit now lies under the M61.

Sources:

Biddle, Gordon. 1989, revised 1992. *Scenes from the Past 6: The Railways Around Preston – An Historical Review,* Chapter 1 (No page numbers) Foxline Publishing (Available in Lancashire County Library)

Biddle, Gordon. 1963. *The Lancaster Canal Tramroad,* Journal of the Railway and Canal Historical Society Volume IX Nos. 5 & 6.

MILLHEAD FOOTBALL CLUB AND IODINE PARK

Simon Williams

We've recently been approached for information on the football ground at the end of Carlisle Terrace in Millhead. Mike Bayley is going to publish a book '100 British Football Grounds to Visit Before You Die.' Surprisingly, perhaps, one of those grounds is on our patch – at Millhead. But having seen photos of the ground, picturesquely nestled into a former quarry near the lower slopes of Warton Crag, one can see why Mike was drawn to it.

Mike writes that he has not been able to find much of its history:
'So far I have:
***Club** – All I've managed to gleam from the British Newspaper Archive is that Millhead FC were in the North Lancashire League in 1924/25 and withdrew at the start of 1925/26. Whether this club is related to the current club is unclear.*
***Ground** – Reading various articles, Iodine Park was laid out in the 1950s in an old quarry. The 'Iodine Park' name was acquired due to the large number of cuts and bruises suffered from players from bits of flint and stone poking through the top soil in the 1950s and 1960s. Cross-referencing with old maps, the area is marked as 'playing fields' by 1970. Beyond that, information in the public domain appears scant. Any help would be greatly appreciated.'*

Unfortunately, all this was news to the Mourholme Committee, and apart from discovering that the land belonged to the Wyresdale Chapel at the time of the 1845 Tithe Map, we've drawn a blank. Can anyone help?
If you have any information, please email it to
simonwilliams1955@gmail.com

HINCASTER TRAILWAY GROUP: TRAILWAY HISTORIES

Bill Robinson

Hincaster Trailway Group (HTG) is celebrating a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £5,000 to support their latest project. Headed by Hincaster Trailway Group with support from Kendal Oral History Group, Trailway Histories is a volunteer led project to collect personal memories of the Hincaster to Arnside Branch railway line, as a working railway, before 1962 up to the present day.

HTG Secretary, Bridget Pickthall said, 'Thanks to National Lottery players, this is an opportunity for the local community to find out more about our area. We now have the chance to record the history of the old Hincaster – Arnside Branch Railway Line while people in the local community still remember using and working on it. New memories of the Trailway are being created all the time: whether as a dog walk last week; or building one of the bird boxes; or helping lay the multi user path. And we want to record the memories of this new generation of users too. We are looking for people with stories to tell and those who can help record them.'

Trailway Histories is scheduled to run until summer 2020 and is appealing for volunteers to make the ambitious project happen. For more information or to register as a volunteer, visit the Hincaster Trailway website.
http://www.hincastertrailway.co.uk/?Welcome

Mourholme Local History Society's LECTURE PROGRAMME 2020-2021

It's not clear when we will be meeting again as a society. To tantalise you, here is the programme that was planned. At normal times, meetings are held in Yealand Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Talks generally finish by 9 p.m. followed by tea and coffee.

30th September 2020 : A Lancashire Garland: *Sid Calderbank*
The history of Lancashire and its dialect over the last 500 years presented in the songs, stories and poems of the time, all in the tongue and the talk of the people.

28th October 2020: Feeding People during the Industrial Revolution: *Dr Mike Winstanley*
How did an industrialising Lancashire obtain food to sustain its rapidly expanding population in the early 19th century? An 'agricultural revolution' or imports? What did Lancashire people EAT at the time?

25th November 2020 : Local Connections with Richard III
Christopher Tinmouth
Three local families were closely connected with Richard III: the Redmaynes of Levens Hall; the Middletons of Middleton Hall; and the Harringtons of Hornby Castle. This talk will focus on their roles in the key battles of the Wars of the Roses, and the noble intrigue which characterised this period.

16th December 2020 : Buffalo Bill in the North West:
Dr Brian Jones
Buffalo Bill is a familiar name from the Wild West as a scout and a bison hunter. His active riding life was short but he went on to become a great showman. An account will be given of his Wild West Show which visited Lancaster in 1904.

27th January 2021: The Battle of Preston: The Last Battle on English Soil: *Dr Bill Shannon*

November 1715 saw the collapse of Jacobite hopes to overthrow King George I, and replace him with the Stuart, James III. Hundreds of men from Northumberland and Lancashire joined the rebels, and subsequently lost their life or liberty. The talk will look at Catholic Lancashire on the eve of the rebellion, the progress of the 'invasion', 'the Preston Fight' and the aftermath.

24th February 2021: Genealogy – Tracing Family History *Saul Marks*

Saul Marks, probate genealogist and owner of Origin Probate Research, talks about his work as an "heir hunter", blending traditional genealogy with aspects of sales & law, to help people inherit from distant (and often not-so-distant) relatives.

31st March 2021: Oliver Cromwell's Northern Journey: *Nick Burton*

Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army's progress through Yorkshire and Lancashire culminated in the decisive Battle of Preston in **August 1648**. The talk considers how Cromwell's Parliamentary forces defeated the larger Royalist army coming south from Scotland, signalling the end of the English Civil War.

28th April 2021: Roads around the Sands: *Paul Hindle*

This lecture looks at the changing routes around the sands of Morecambe Bay, from Carnforth to the Furness peninsula, from the first turnpike of 1763 to the later route of 1818.

This talk should be preceded at 7:30 by the Mourholme Local History Society's AGM