



The Tang Hall Local History Group

Presents

**The Story of
Burnholme Club**

View of the old club from Leyland Road



History & View of the old stairway

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BURNHOLME SOCIAL CLUB & INSTITUTE BUILDING & THE ESTATE.

The land was owned by Samuel Atkinson of Osbaldwick, who in his will dated 19th November 1831, left the land and property in trust to his niece Elinor.

In August 1835 Elinor married George Foster and took on the ownership of the said land and property.

In August 1880 attorneys, acting on behalf of the four Foster children, sold the land and properties to a Mr John Bellerby. He was the eldest surviving son of Mr John Bellerby proprietor of St Georges Saw Mills and Timber Merchant in George Street, Walmgate.

Mr Bellerby was married twice and was blessed with 12 children.

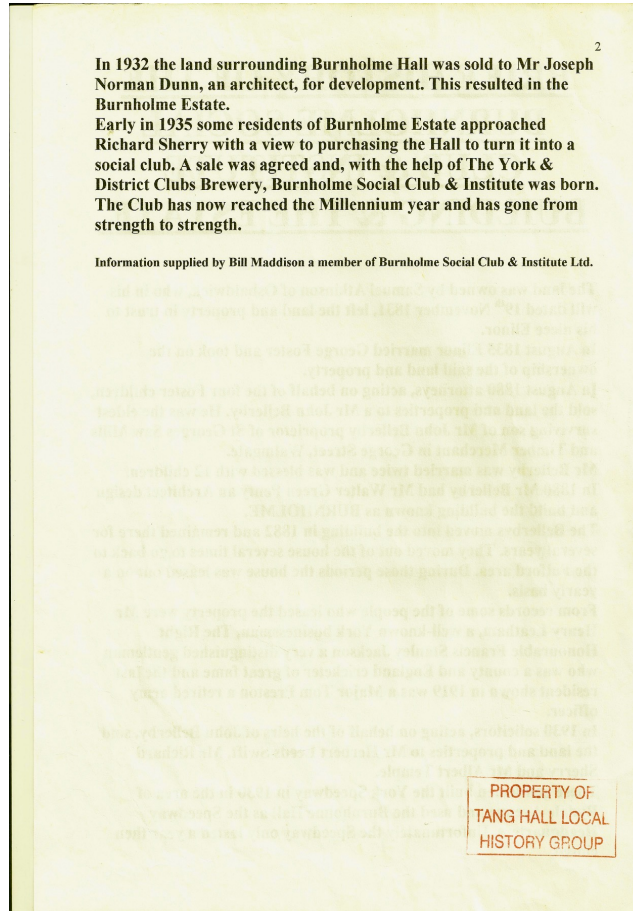
In 1880 Mr Bellerby had Mr Walter Green Penty an Architect design and build the building known as BURNHOLME.

The Bellerbys moved into the building in 1882 and remained there for several years. They moved out of the house several times to go back to the Fulford area. During those periods the house was leased out on a yearly basis.

From records some of the people who leased the property were Mr Henry Leatham, a well-known York businessman, The Right Honourable Francis Stanley Jackson a very distinguished gentleman who was a county and England cricketer of great fame and the last resident shown in 1919 was a Major Tom Preston a retired army officer.

In 1930 solicitors, acting on behalf of the heirs of John Bellerby, sold the land and properties to Mr Herbert Leeds Swift, Mr Richard Sherry and Mr Albert Temple.

These gentlemen built the York Speedway in 1930 in the area of Rydale Avenue and used the Burnholme Hall as the Speedway Headquarters. Unfortunately the Speedway only lasted a year then closed.



Stained Glass in the building



More Examples of stained glass



Final example of the stained glass windows



Stories

In the last issue of "In Touch" we appealed for articles from those in the area on local history.

We are happy to say that the response was good and two more articles are featured in this issue. Keep them coming, please !

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

The new Burnholme School was opened in 1948 in response to the Education Act of 1944 and the decision that every child in the country should have a secondary education. Until that date those who passed an exam at 11 went either to a grammar school or a higher grade school. Everyone else stayed at their Elementary school until they were 14. The new school was erected just on the city boundary and lay partly in Osbaldwick but was named after the housing estate across the road. The housing estate was named after the large Victorian house which is now a working mans club. This was original in Heworth but had gone into the city of York in 1934.

When I first started studying the history of Heworth I jumped to the conclusion that Burnholme was the name for the fields in that part of Heworth but it appears in none of the records that I found until the house was built. In 1897 John Bellerby bought some fields from a family called Foster who had emigrated from Australia. They had owned them from the 16 century. He employed an architect called W.G Penty and built himself a new villa. John Bellerby's family originated in Huntington where they had been joiners and carpenters. They became Methodist and two brothers moved to York.



One brother went into joinery on a big scale, contracting for such jobs as the new Clifton Hospital and the Easingwold workhouse. He was also a speculative builder building houses in Clifton and Belle Vue street on Heslington road. The second brother John went into timber business and as sideline into matches in a factory in George Street. This business flourished and like most York business men over 100's of years he decided to move out of the town centre of town into a country into a country residence and built Holly Croft on Fulford Road. His son, another John had his eye on gentry status (earning money from trade was not socially acceptable) so retired from business in 1878. In 1879 he commissioned Penty to build him a villa. This was the architect's first substantial job. He went on to design the Avenue in Clifton, the Yorkshire Club on Lendal bridge, the horse depository in Tanners Moat, the building now known as Rowntree Wharf and Elm Bank. The name was presumably chosen by John Bellerby. I have not yet found out why, perhaps a family connection or a place where the family went for holidays. John did not live in Heworth for very long though he continued to own the house. H Leatham of the Flour Mills was there in 1893 & 5 but some of the Bellerby family were in residence in 1900. Bellerby bought other Heworth property including Heworth Hall and was responsible for the development of what was then known as the church park Estate. We call it First and Second avenue. He leased out his houses to gentry families who did also not stay very long. This made Heworth a very different place from Clifton and Fulford. However one famous Burnholme resident was FS Jackson the

Yorkshire and England cricketer.



He was captain of cricket at Harrow where Winston Churchill was his fag in the days when the Eton Harrow match was a great social occasion. He then played for Cambridge and Yorkshire in the days of Lord Hawke and then England. He captained England, won every toss, scoring two centuries average over the series 70.28 runs and headed the bowling averages as well. He married Julia Harrison Broadley in 1905 and settled originally at Heworth hall in that year. He did not own it but rented it from John Bellerby. Later he rented Burnholme. He was not here for long but long enough to become president of the newly formed Heworth golf club in 1909. He may have well have left at the outbreak of the First World War. His biography states that he raised and commanded the Second Seventh West Yorkshire Regiment. He was MP for Howdenshire from 1915-26, a member of the Government and Chairman of the Conservative Party. In 1927 he became Governor of Bengal and when a girl tried to assassinate him behaved with great courage and coolness. "He was always at his best against fast bowling". He had become a privy councillor in 1926 and was a GCIE. Later he was Director of the Yorkshire Post and the GNR. He did not die until 1942.

During the first war the house became an officers mess for the Royal Flying Corps. There was an air field in Murton. The planes they flew were Avro 504s, apparently the same as those used by Biggles. After the war Captain Preston of Moreby Hall took a lease.

He was remembered locally for his smart turnout in a horse and carriage. During the 1920s York expanded rapidly in the direction of Heworth as the Tang Hall Estate was developed and Burnholme passed into the hands of a group of business men who were trying to set up a sports - cum country club on the outskirts of York but that is another story.

By J Kaner

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Plaster Work



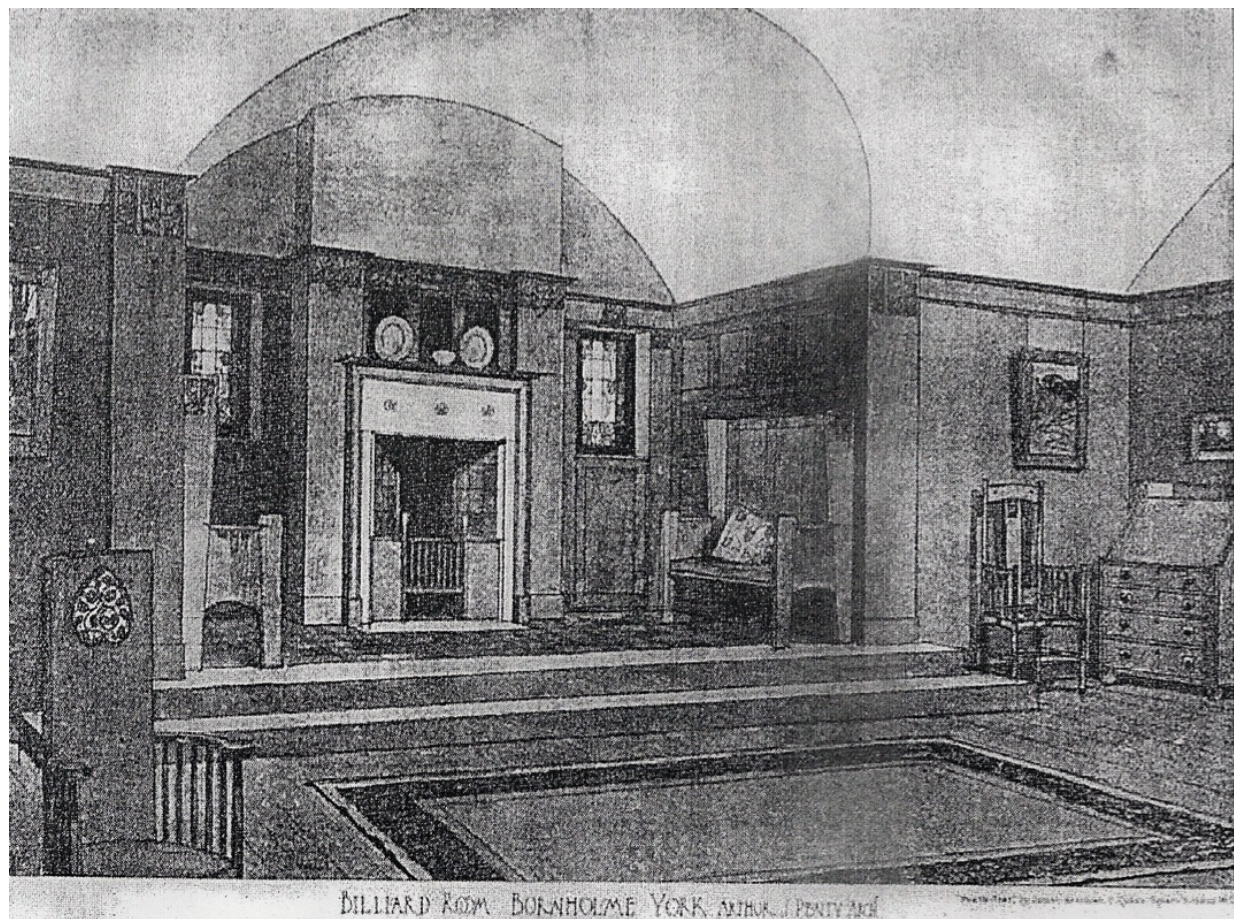
More Plaster Work examples



Club Facilities



Pencil drawing of the old billiard room



Ceiling Rose & Committee Room



The Cellar



Brickwork, Paintings & Signs



CIU Article & Staircase

THE CLUB THAT'S IN A COUNTRY HOUSE

THEY do more than retail spirits at Burnholme Social Club. The club occupies a Victorian mansion with stained glass windows, moulded ceilings and a ghost in the attic.

The building, then known as Burnholme, was built in 1883 for York timber merchant John Bellerby and his family of 12 children, six boys and six girls. The family owned the house until 1930 but let out the property on a yearly lease, most famously to the England cricket captain the Hon. F.S. Jackson. Although Jackson played 207 matches for Yorkshire and captained England to victory in the 1907 Ashes series it was said that cricket to him was only a pastime.

Among many other things he was an MP, an officer in the army, Financial Secretary to the War Office and Governor of Bengal from 1927 to 1932.

Jackson built an extension to the rear of the building, originally a billiard room, and now, appropriately enough, the club's games room. On the rear wall, around the fireplace on a raised portion, are carvings of animals, including leopards, springboks and emus, illustrating the various countries in which he had played cricket.

In 1930 the property was sold to three local businessmen who built the York speedway circuit at the rear of the house and used the house as the club-house, but it closed the following year. By this time the land around the house was beginning to be developed for housing and in 1955 some locals approached York & District Clubs Brewery to buy the house and turn it into a club.

The club opened with a joint committee of 12, comprising six men from the brewery and six members of the club with Arthur Willis, the Secretary of the Yorkshire Club Brewers, being the President. His son Mick Willis is the long serving Secretary of the Huntington WMC on the edge of the city.

The club still attracts many members from the surrounding houses but its 830 male members and 120 women members come from far and wide. They include three members of the York City Branch Executive. Ken Nicollham is the Branch Education Secretary who, among his duties, organises the York Branch quiz league, the oldest in the world. Les Whittleston and John Grainger, both past Club Secretaries, are long serving executives.

In the past year John has once again taken the reins as the Club Secretary after previously leaving the job to travel round the world. When he was

The club's front and grounds.

the staircase with its magnificent stained glass window and upper floor rooms are very much as they were when the house was built. The attic is reputed to be haunted by The White Lady, thought to be John Bellerby's fourth daughter Margareta Octavia, who died in the house from "failure of the heart's action."

Upstairs the master bedroom has become a snooker room and a small dressing room has become John's office. Not only does he have a copper beech and a chestnut outside his window but the view stretches across the city to the Minster. The third room upstairs was a library but has now been converted into a young person's room with a pool table, dartboard, juke box and posters on the wall.

Says John: "We know that we have to attract younger people to ensure the club's future. During the school holidays the club organised a kids' disco, which was very successful."

The club's football team, all of whom use the club, has also been a big success and they have brought some novel fundraising ideas to the club, such as race nights and pig racing evenings. As well as the football team the club currently has four snooker teams, two fives and three teams and a team each for darts, quiz and bowls. Other sub-sections formed over the years include: Sick Club, Money Club, flower show, tennis, cricket, fishing, table tennis, rifle, men's and women's bowls and snooker sections.

Over the years the club has raised thousands of pounds for The Guide Dogs for the Blind, paying for several dogs while over the last 12 months the club has concentrated its efforts on raising money for the Lidgett Grove Special School.

The building's colourful history has inspired former Assistant Secretary Bill Maddison, who has compiled a book, which he hopes one day to have published. We are grateful to him for much of the material in this feature.

Part of the original ceiling which has been exposed by new work in the concert room.

Steward and Supervisor Diane and Carol Ward in front of one of the club's handpumps.

Club Journal's featured Club of the Month: BURNHOLME SOCIAL CLUB

Burnholme Social Club in Burnholme Drive, York is part of the York City Branch.
Beers: John Smith's, Carlsberg-Tetley, Cameron's.
Tel: 01904 415913

Carlsberg-Tetley are Burnholme Soc

Cameron's are Burnholme S

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Club President Geoff Richardson in front of the club's magnificent stained glass window. Below: Club Secretary John Grainger with Committee members (left to right): Adam Knoch, Dave Blanton, Tony Wright, Geoff Richardson, Phil Linnick, Kenneth Knoch and Tom Starkey.

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Preparing for Demolition



Last days before the bulldozers moved in



Demolition Article

Demolition of social club set for approval

AUGUST 2013

by **MARK STEAD**

Political reporter

PLANS to demolish a 133-year-old landmark, which was built for a former Lord Mayor of York and now houses a social club, could be approved next week.

RHW Developments Limited wants to knock down the Victorian Gothic-style Burnholme Social Club and replace it with 28 houses and nine flats, as well as building a replacement club which would be cheaper to run as the current facility is draining funds.

Its proposals will be debated by City of York Council's area planning sub-committee next Thursday.

They have been recommended for approval by planners, in spite of two local councillors saying the scheme needed a rethink.

The Burnholme Drive building dates from 1880 and was built for John Bellerby, who was the city's Lord Mayor in 1877-78, but it has been used as a social club since the 1930s.



HOUSING PLAN: Buirholme Social Club, which dates back to 1880

The development would have 25 two-bedroomed and 12 three-bedroomed homes, while a children's play area is also included, although North Yorkshire Police has said

gates should be fitted to prevent antisocial behaviour.

A report by Jonathan Kenyon, the council's development management officer, said: "This development

would deliver housing, including affordable housing, which is of the type and need required in the city."

His report said the site was suitable for new homes and the scheme would not have a major impact on nearby residents, while RHW had said the existing building was "no longer fit for purpose" and only six of 74 comments made at a public consultation were against the plans.

Eight objections have been sent to the council.

They claim the site should instead become a school or another community facility, that the development would cause parking and crime problems and that the design would be out of character with the area.

Heworth councillors Ruth Potter and Barbara Boyce have criticised the proposals.

Meanwhile, plans by Moorside Developments Ltd for 12 two and three-bedroomed homes on the former site of the Yearsley Grove Hotel in Huntington Road, which has recently been demolished, have been recommended for approval at the same meeting

A new Club is born

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CLUB VIP:
Les Leaper, 93, cuts the ribbon to mark the opening at the new Burnholme Social Club, where Les has been a member for 44 years

Les, 93, helps steer Burnholme club into a fresh future

A BRAND new social club has been officially opened in York by its oldest member.

At 93, Les Leaper has been a member of Burnholme Social Club for 44 years, joining just five years after

the club was established in 1935. On Wednesday night, he was on hand to cut the ribbon at the new club in Burnholme Drive which has 600 members.

Club secretary Marje Pearson, said:

"Five years ago we nearly went under. We were £100,000 in debt and our members bailed us out and invested in us so the new club is a real landmark. The building is amazing and we have some new members."

The new club is part of a larger development on the site of the old Burnholme Social Club which is to be demolished and replaced with 28 houses and nine flats. The scheme also includes a children's play area.

