

SUMMER OUTING 2018

Along the A59

The Summer Outing for 2018 – David’s sixteenth – is scheduled for Wednesday 6 June. There will be three venues: Martholme, the Church of St. Leonard at Old Langho, and Samlesbury Hall near Preston.

Bookings for the Outing will remain open until Easter, though early booking is recommended and preferred. Unlike 2016 and 2017, I am not offering a minibus option partly because the journey this time is short and also because the hirer’s insurance company changed the rules last year to the effect that if a vehicle is collected the evening before, two days have to be paid for. In 2017, to avoid this, it left me with a 12½ hour day – it’s just too much for an owd fella like me!

The outbound journey

The obvious way to the meeting point, assuming you are coming from the north, is to take the road from Long Preston or Hellifield to Gisburn, then follow the A59 past Clitheroe as far as the big roundabout at Whalley. At this roundabout take the **first** exit, the A671. At the **first** set of traffic lights turn **left** into Spring Wood Picnic Site and park in the first part, next to the toilets. There is plenty of space here. **We need to meet here for 9.30.** From here we will drive in convoy to Martholme, but in case you get separated at this or the next set of lights, follow these directions:

Turn **left** out of the picnic site and bear **right** at the next set of lights on the A680, towards Great Harwood – down the dip over Cock Bridge on the River Calder – up past the *Game Cock Inn* and look for the white-painted Checco’s pizzeria a little further on the left. Turn **left** at Checco’s down Martholme Lane and we will assemble at the bottom end under the rather impressive (former) railway viaduct. From here we will drive into the grounds of ...

Martholme

This is pronounced Mart–holme (if you are posh); otherwise Martom (to end-rhyme with Browsholme/Brewsom).



Martholme across the Calder, from the viaduct top (David Johnson)

There is known to have been a house on this site since 1177, well protected by the river and a moat looping round from the river. The name may signify a market (the mart) on a dry piece of land (the holme) in a generally wet area. After 1066 the whole area was granted to Ilbert de Lacy, and among his many manors was that of Martholme. Over the centuries it passed through various ownerships one of which was that of Sir Thomas Hesketh (1539-88), a Catholic in those turbulent times. In 1561 he rebuilt the gatehouse which bears his arms, initials and that date. In 1577 he rebuilt the house itself with a central hall and two wings. His son, Robert, built the outer gatehouse in 1607 and this bears his mark. His post-mortem inventory (of 1620) shows the complex to have had 24 rooms in the house, 3 in the main gatehouse and 6 in ancillary buildings. In terms of furniture etc it was very sparse suggesting it was not a main residence. During the troubled times of the Civil War the family fell on hard times, politically and financially, and the house fell into a serious state of disrepair. After that it was leased out to farm tenants or estate stewards.

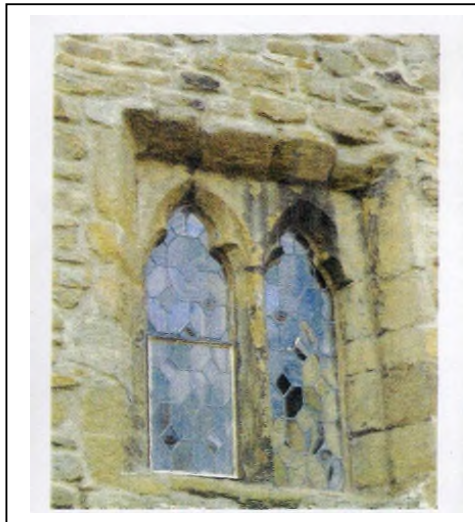
Nevertheless, much of the 1561 and 1607 builds has survived and it has been a private residence since 1962 when the present owners bought and began to renovate it. Much of the 14th-century hall survives only as footings and a stubb wall, though the service end of the hall with its three pointed arch doorways from the original cross-passage survive and the detached timber-framed kitchen was later incorporated into the 17th-century east wing. According to the venerable Pevsner a two-light trefoil window looks to be of c. 1300 and he wondered if the Recusant Heskeths had clung on in stone and glass to the memory of an earlier private chapel.



The outer crow-stepped archway of 1607 with the main gatehouse beyond
© Gisela Moritz



The three-phase south front (© Gisela Moritz)



A chapel window of c. 1300? (© Gisela Moritz)

We will have a guided tour of the house, gatehouse and surviving archaeological remains and, weather permitting, will be able to see the moat. Our guide(s) will be family members. We are indebted to Mr and Mrs Codling and family for permitting our visit, and I acknowledge the work of Ray Wilson of SPAB in compiling this summary.

A note for keen herbalists: Gerard (he of the massive Herbal) visited Martholme several times as his contemporary Hesketh was, apparently, also a kindred spirit.

Cost per person

... including a leaflet on the house plus tea and biscuits on arrival - £8

We will need at least two hours here, and most probably longer, so once we leave Martholme we will drive post haste to the next venue, at Old Langho. It will be impossible for all the cars to stay in convoy so ...

Return to the top of the lane and turn **right** back to the roundabout. Take the **first** exit here, on the A59 again and **through** (not literally through it but ...) the very large roundabout at

Langho staying on the A59. After the roundabout turn **right** after only 200m or so down Northcote Road, signposted to Old Langho. At the far end of this road, turn **left** at the T-junction, go past the church and park in the car park **behind** the *Black Bull Inn* – the car park entrance is at the far end of the pub. Please do not park at the front or on the road. Then walk the very short distance back to ...

The Church of St Leonard

The church is kept locked so if you get there before me (and I need to pop into the pub to check on lunches), have a look outside first. It is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.



Church of St Leonard exterior (David Johnson)

This little gem was built c. 1557 using stones recycled from Whalley Abbey and is a rare example of a Marian church. If you look closely especially around the porch you will spot carved monastic stonework. It was restored in 1897 but, in my opinion, in a sympathetic style rather than the organised ruination of so many 'Victorianised' churches.

I will give those who come on the Outing a church guide so you can do a self-guided tour.



Interior view (David Johnson)



Credence shelf of c. 1577

Cost

There are no costs here but I am sure you will wish to put a donation to The Churches Conservation Trust in the box.

Lunch

Options include a picnic lunch assuming you will be taking one, or lunch in the *Black Bull*. They do the usual full range of foods. Tell me when you book if you wish to lunch at the pub, and I will send you a menu shortly before the day for you to place your order through me – this will obviously save time on the day.

After lunch, make your own way to Samlesbury Hall and we will meet up in the large car park there. Recommended route: turn **right out** of the pub car park and follow the lane to the A59 and turn **right**. Go past Clayton-le-Dale and Osbaldeston to the roundabout just before BAe Systems. Ignore the brown tourist sign and take the **first** exit to Mellor Brook and then **right** at the mini-roundabout, to the T-junction at the old *Windmill* pub, then follow the A677 **through** the BAe traffic lights but very soon look out for the brown tourist sign for Samlesbury Hall and turn **right** through the gate at this sign. It is easily missed.

Samlesbury Hall

The hall is administered by the Samlesbury Hall Trust as a charity.



The rather splendid front elevation of the hall (David Johnson)

A hall here is first recorded in 1180 when the de Samlesbury family owned it and the manor but the male line died out in the 13th century and the two heirs were grand-daughters. In 1314 it was comprehensively destroyed by troops loyal to the Scottish crown (hah) but the hall was rebuilt in 1325 in its present form and it enjoyed, as far as is known, peaceful times thenceforward. In Tudor times most of the Southworth family, then owners, remained staunchly Catholic (that seems to be this Outing's unintended theme). One heir during this period – one of several John Southworths – was arrested for being a practising priest and as was the norm in the Elizabethan penal code, he was hung, drawn and quartered and his various bits were sent to different parts of the country. However, his followers brought all the bits back to Samlesbury and had them all sewn back together again (the Southworths were an odd lot) and then the reconstructed corpse was par boiled (why only *par* boiled? Can any cooks enlighten me here? To stop it defleshing perchance?). It was then secreted away on the continent but was brought back and reburied in Westminster Abbey in the 1920s and he was later recognised as a saint and a martyr. Looking round the exterior you will easily spot signs of Tudor workmanship.

In 1612 Jane, the wife of another John Southworth, an heir who was disinherited for converting to Protestantism, was accused of witchcraft along with two retainers at the Hall. Apparently, they were said to have boiled a child and made soup from the ensuing mush (I said they were an odd lot). They were all acquitted though.



The multi-period rear elevation (David Johnson)

In 1678 the Southworths sold out to Thomas Braddyll who stripped the place out to improve his main house, Conishead Priory near Ulverston. He leased Samlesbury out as a set of weaving workshops but, in 1830 it became the Braddyll Arms inn. The next seamless change (pun intended) came in 1852 when it became a girls' boarding school. In 1862 it was sold to a private buyer who set about restoring it to its former glory (I wonder who had done the most damage – the weavers, the drunks or the St Trinian's gang) but he bankrupted himself in the process and duly shot himself. It was sold again c. 1890 and this owner also undertook some renovation but it was abandoned again and left to slowly rot until 1924 when a development concern decided the most appropriate way of dealing with a magnificent medieval timbered hall was to demolish it and build a housing estate. Many hackles were raised and the Trust which now runs it was formed to buy and not only save it but to truly restore it to its former glory. (Any loose parallels here with the NCHT?)



Another exterior view (David Johnson)

We will be shown around by an official guide. The tour will last about 75 minutes. You will be free to wander round the hall or grounds on your own should you wish once the formal proceedings are over.

Cost per person

£10 for the guided tour which includes tea/coffee and cake afterwards.

Overall costs

Martholme – £8

Church of St Leonard – individual donation on the day

Samlesbury Hall – £10

Payment should be made with your booking: please let me have a cheque for £18 per person, payable to the North Craven Heritage Trust. Don't forget to give me an email address and a landline phone number.

Homebound

The quickest way back home is to retrace your steps along the A677 and A59. Don't forget to turn left at the old *Windmill*.

Enquiries to David Johnson 27 Ingfield Lane, Settle BD24 9BA.

01729 822915 (evenings only please)

Previous Summer Outings, led by DSJ

- 2003 Great Asby and Maulds Meaburn
- 2004 Coverdale and Jervaulx Abbey
- 2005 Slaidburn and Whalley Abbey
- 2006 Penrith pele towers
- 2007 Kiplin Hall and Bedale
- 2008 West Tanfield and Markenfield Hall
- 2009 Aske Hall, Easby Abbey and Richmond Castle
- 2010 Preston Patrick Hall, Beetham Hall and Leighton Hall
- 2011 Appleby and Howgill Castle
- 2012 Barnard Castle castle and Kirby Hill
- 2013 Little Salkeld and Yanwath Hall
- 2014 Dacre and Norton Conyers
- 2015 Lancashire Gems – Great Mitton, Ribchester and Stydd
- 2016 Lanercost Priory and Naworth Castle
- 2017 Clifton Hall, Dacre Church and Johnby Hall