Is there a way to find out who last borrowed an item once it has been returned by the patron?

We aren't aware of a way to search by barcode in your local Millennium/Sierra system that will find any historical transaction information specific to Prospector. The "Cataloging search method" will work as long as that link still exists between the virtual item record and the local patron record – even after the item has been checked in by the patron’s library to be sent back to the owning library. Once the item gets returned, and checked in at the owning library, the link between the patron’s record and the virtual item record is completely removed. After that, no searching on the local ILS will be able to tell you who the last patron was to borrow a specific item through Prospector.

If you suspect the link between the virtual item record and your patron record was removed through the use of “Claim return”, you may be able to search your patron records using Create Lists and look for note fields containing the item record number. In Sierra, there is also supposed to be newly developed options in Create Lists to search fields from Fines in your database. It may be possible to search for the item record number within the Fine details. For any Create Lists searches you’d likely need to get the item record number from someone at the owning library, since the item barcode is likely not stored in any of those note fields.

As we know, the owning library’s item record won’t have any “LPATRON” information for a Prospector patron, but the item record may contain a note field with the “Claim return” or “Lost” details if either of those transactions were involved. That note field should include the patron record number from the borrowing library. You may want to ask someone at the owning library to take a look at their local item record.

As a last resort, the central Prospector server keeps log files of the system communications for Prospector transactions, for a rather limited period of time. With a good deal of effort there may be a way to track a recent transaction that way, but it isn’t anything I’d recommend unless circumstances were extreme.