

# The History of The Folly

Richard Preston was a lawyer who was born in the mid 1640s. We know that he was admitted as an attorney of the Court of Common Pleas in 1676. He was married to Lettice and they had three daughters:- Margaret (1672), Lettis (1674) and Millesent (1676). Richard died in 1696 without making a will. An inventory of his house and possessions was made and in 1702 the house passed to his eldest daughter, Margaret. She quickly sold it to another wealthy gentleman, William Dawson of Langcliffe. From 1708 onwards, the Folly was leased to a succession of tenants. It has been a furniture shop, a fish and chip shop, refreshment rooms, a bank, a doctor's surgery and a salvage business. In 1871, 21 people were living here. In more recent times it housed an antiques shop. Part of the North Range is now a self-catering holiday let.

It is not really known why this fabulous building is called The Folly. Perhaps because it was only lived in as a single dwelling for such a brief period, since when it has had so very many different uses.

## Contacts

[www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly)

Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/follysettle](http://www.facebook.com/follysettle)

E-mail enquiries:  
[E-mail removed for web]

## Photography

We regret that photography is not allowed in any part of the building except by prior arrangement. If you require photographs, please leave your contact details with the steward at the desk and we will try to help.

## Toilet

The wheelchair-accessible toilet is on the ground floor by the parlour.

## Access

Disabled access is available to ground floor & first floor level.

# The Folly & Museum of North Craven Life Settle, North Yorkshire



Welcome to The Folly

A Grade 1 listed  
17th century building,  
home to the Museum,  
and hosting a varied  
programme of exhibitions  
& events

## Ground Floor

### Hall

The hall was designed to impress visitors. Notice the inglenook fireplace with the arch and the joggled voussoirs or wedge-shaped stones. On the reverse of the stones is the original numbering. The oak panelling and the doors are probably original.

### Parlour

The most noticeable aspect of this room are the windows which form a wall of glass - the workmanship is mostly very fine but strangely there are some puzzling examples of quite slipshod work.

The story boards in here will tell you more about The Folly, its history, the restoration work and plans for the future.

### Furniture

There are some interesting items of furniture to be seen throughout the building, including two pieces by the "Mouse Man" Robert Thompson of Kilburn.

## Stairs

The fine 'dog leg' oak staircase has 'barley-sugar' twisted balusters, a moulded handrail and ball finials. It probably dates from the early 18th century.

## First Floor

The large room is used for temporary exhibitions. There is a small room leading off which has a geological exhibition and a further room houses the permanent exhibition of the Museum of North Craven Life. Here are the old Settle stocks, examples of farming equipment and much more.

## Top Floor

The largest room is used for our changing exhibitions. Through the door and along the passage you will find the Railway Room. Here there is a wonderful model of Settle Station, built by Norman Wilkinson in 1950. Information & exhibits about the history of the Settle-Carlisle line are also to be found here.

## Exterior

The house was built for Richard Preston in 1679 . It was designed to impress on what was the main highway through Settle. Try to imagine it without all the other buildings around. Notice the quoins or cornerstones which were very fashionable in the 1670s. The ground floor windows with the semi circular heads are more typical of the 16th century. The windows form a near continuous wall of glass, wrapping round the corners. The north range was originally the service wing with a kitchen, dining parlour and store rooms. Notice the arched windows and the niches below the top floor.. The main door is very elaborate and possibly shows a Germanic influence. The carved date stone is much worn, but it once read 1679 with the initials R.L.P, Richard & Lettice Preston. The back of the house is much plainer with older masonry at the north end possibly indicating an older building on the site. The Tower is only visible from the road above the back and was probably built as a 'prospect tower' or viewpoint.