

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MUSEUM OF NORTH CRAVEN LIFE, SETTLE

Official opening: 'On the Home Front: North Craven in Wartime'

4 July 2005

The exhibition, 'On the Home Front: North Craven in Wartime' was formally opened in Settle's historic Folly last Friday – Canada Day - in the presence of the Chairman of Craven District Council, the Mayor of Settle and a large gathering of contributors. The opening was performed by Commander John Creber of the Canadian Defence Staff in London. The Canadian connection arises through the story of HMS Ribble, the frigate adopted by the people of Settle Rural District as a result of the amazing sum of £197,000 raised during Warships Week in 1942. The Ribble was commissioned into the Canadian Navy for the last ten months of the war, providing protection to Atlantic convoys and in October 1944 she played an important part in towing the severely damaged HMCS Chebogue to safety in Swansea Bay. In recalling this incident, Commander Creber said that he had recently visited Swansea and seen the graves of the Chebogue crew who had lost their lives when their ship was torpedoed. He was much impressed by the way in which the people of the Settle Rural District had supported the war effort and were now keeping the memory alive. Welcoming Commander and Mrs Creber to The Folly, Miss Beth Graham, Chairman of North Craven Building Preservation Trust, spoke of the debt owed to ships like the Ribble and their brave crews in enabling vital food supplies to be brought across the Atlantic in wartime. Mrs Anne Read thanked all those people who had contributed to the exhibition, by donating or lending material or sharing their experiences. Particular thanks were due to Mr Billy Fell who had spent the last few months meticulously researching the history of HMS Ribble and to Commander Creber who had himself provided important information and contacts.

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For more information, please contact
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