

PRESS RELEASE

Settle College Centenary Exhibition: The Folly, Settle: College goes down memory lane

1 July 2007

Anyone who has been involved with Settle College as it is now known, or any of its previous incarnations, is in for a treat if they make their way to The Folly in Settle some time over the next few months. Even if you have no particular link to the school you would soon become absorbed by the new exhibition, which celebrates the centenary of the school, founded in 1907.

The exhibition was officially opened on 21 June by the Principal, William Bancroft and Mrs Barbara Fiorato, Chairman of Governors, and was attended by many who have contributed or have been involved in the project. Mr Bancroft is the latest appointment in a (modestly) long line of eleven Heads who have led the school through so many changes in education during the century of the school's existence. He paid tribute to them all for their leadership and to all the dedicated members of staff who have made the school what it was, and is, today. Interestingly, there have been six Heads since the 1960s but only three women Deputies (Miss O Ralph; Mrs J Walker; Mrs S Walton.) The other striking feature of the school is that when teachers arrive they often tend to 'stick' and this has given the school a much-needed stability over the years. He paid tribute to the team of Governors and other helpers who had put so much time and skill into constructing the exhibition. It was fitting that Miss Onyx Ralph, who had been a pupil at the school, then a teacher, and finally Senior Mistress from 1964 –1978, had the honour of cutting the superb cake which was decorated appropriately with the various badges of the school.

The display, on the top floor of The Folly, has been very thoughtfully constructed using many photographs and artefacts generously loaned by numerous contributors. There are images and memorabilia representing almost every decade, from the very earliest days when the school was exclusively for girls and employed a Headmistress and four assistant teachers, to the present day with its six hundred students, forty teachers and almost as many ancillary staff. One display cabinet holds the characteristic green hockey sashes, hat-bands and badges from 1935. On another wall is a marvellous photograph from the 1930s of a visiting dance teacher with some pupils, contrasted with images of students using new computer rooms in 2007. Other displays convey the rich life of the school outside the classroom with programmes and photographs of drama productions, sporting activities, projects and trips. But it is also strangely moving to look at line upon line of pupils (now called students) in photographs from the thirties, the fifties, or the nineties: the fashions change dramatically but essentially there is the same hope and promise for the future that young faces always present.

Whatever your memories or experience of the school – good, bad or indifferent – it has been an integral and vital part of the community for the past hundred years (and since the middle of the century has been open to all pupils from Bentham and Ingleton communities). It will continue to be of great importance in nurturing the talents and raising the aspirations of the young people of the area, and this exhibition is a fitting tribute to its achievements.

Details of photograph below

[Ends]

For more information, please contact
Anne Read, Hon. Curator
Tel: (015242) 51388
E-mail: folly@ncbpt.org.uk
Web: <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly>

Photograph below: showing right to left: chairman of governors Barbara Fiorato, Onyx Ralph
and Principal, William Bancroft



Photograph also available at:
http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/news/2007/20070701_College_Centenary.jpg