

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

**Exhibition 9 July to 3 November 2013: 'Family Stories: 150 Years of Discovery with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society'**

20 June 2013

**Q. What is the connection between the Fountains Abbey stock book and a Settle girl's secret diary account of being kissed in her curl papers?**

**A. An exciting new exhibition bringing Yorkshire's past to life through stories, objects and archives.**

The Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS), based in Leeds, is celebrating its 150th anniversary year with a major exhibition at Settle's historic Folly of some of the highlights from its outstanding collections. The exhibition, occupying two floors of The Folly, focuses on the stories of three Craven families: the Listers of Gisburn and Malham Tarn, the Bollands of Settle and the Wilsons of Eshton. YAS Archivist, Kirsty McHugh explains "People's history is revealed through the things they leave behind. The archives and artefacts left by these Craven families help to give us a picture of their lives, and illustrate the value of preserving Yorkshire's heritage for future generations". Featured in the display are albums, letters and diary entries - some in code! - giving glimpses of young Margaret Bolland's daily life in Settle in the 1820s; here also are details of the exceptional library created by a member of the Wilson family, Frances Mary Richardson Curren at Eshton Hall and of her link to the Brontës. The Listers were created Barons Ribblesdale in 1797 and expanded the family estates into Malhamdale, introducing calamine mining and entertaining their friends in style at their newly-built hunting lodge, Malham Water House.

The upper floor of the exhibition reveals how Yorkshire people of earlier generations used to live, dress, farm, travel, write, speak and eat and includes a quirky display of how our lives have changed and what future generations might make of us through the items we leave behind! There is a range of activities for families and individuals and children can dress up as they go round the house.

Anne Read, Hon. Curator of the Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly says, "We are delighted to be hosting this superb exhibition and giving local people as well as visitors the rare opportunity of seeing some of the YAS' remarkable collections close to home. Favourites of mine include the 15th century Fountains Abbey Stock Book, now beautifully restored, which records all the animals owned by the Abbey, many of them grazed on our local pastures, and as a complete contrast, Margaret Bolland's vivid (coded) account of how she was kissed in her curl papers by the young man she hoped to marry!"

The Folly is the perfect venue for this exhibition. Built in 1679 by Richard Preston, a wealthy lawyer, it is listed Grade I in recognition of its outstanding architectural importance and is being restored by North Craven Building Preservation Trust, a registered charity, as part of a phased rescue and development project.

The exhibition is at the Museum of North Craven Life, The Folly, Settle BD24 9HS  
Dates and opening times: 9 July to 3 November 2013 inclusive:  
Tuesday, 10.30 am – 4.30 pm; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, 12.30 pm – 4.30 pm. Group visits welcome by appointment.

Car parking nearby at Greenfoot pay & display or in the Market Place.  
Admission charges contribute to The Folly's day-to-day running costs:  
16 and under – free; adults – £2.50; (gift-aided £2.80); concessions – £2; (gift-aided £2.20);  
season tickets – £7.

For more information or photos please ring: Hon. Curator: 015242 51388; website:  
<http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/>.

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For more information, please contact:

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