

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

News from the Folly (Settle & District Community News, Aug 2013)

1 Aug 2013

By the time you read this, our new 'Family Stories' exhibition, planned and devised by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS) to celebrate its 150th anniversary, will have been well and truly launched. Having just spent a challenging but enjoyable day installing it in The Folly, with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers, I can say that it contains a veritable treasure trove of material from the Society's collections. There is an enormous amount to interest local inhabitants.

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 Currer 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!

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!

There is a range of activities for families and individuals on offer and children can dress up as they go round the house. On 3-4 August, there is a special Family Activity weekend, with a number of different free craft opportunities. With the summer holidays in full swing, The Folly is definitely the place to come and bring your visitors too. Our season tickets (priced at £7) mean you can return again and again and those aged 16 and under have free entry at all times when accompanied by an adult.

Do check out in the 'Forthcoming events' section, the full range of activities taking place over the next couple of months – there really is something for everyone. Full details at www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly or ring 015242 51388

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