

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

News from The Folly (Settle & District Community News, Aug 2014)

1 July 2014

August being the main holiday month, we have a range of exhibitions and events to appeal to local people and visitors alike. Our highly-praised family activities take centre stage with events on three consecutive August Tuesdays - 12th, 19th and 26th - from 1 to 4pm. Our imaginative team have planned 'Going Loco', 'Going Potty' and 'Going Loco again', which will encourage you and your children and grandchildren to make models of Settle Station and the Ribbleshead viaduct and then help to build the longest train in Settle. The 'Going Potty' session will feature decorating and planting a VERY BIG FLOWERPOT for display in The Folly as part of the town's Flowerpot Festival.

Our current exhibitions, 'War Beckons' and 'Journeys Through a Family Archive' launched on 1st July. We are especially pleased that The Folly is the opening venue for Craven's five-year programme of commemorations of World War I. This is entirely appropriate because Settle and North Craven played such an active role during the early months of the war in recruiting men and women for service, mustering horses from the farms, welcoming Belgian refugees and fundraising for the troops. We have uncovered some fascinating stories and we need your help to discover more. One section of the exhibition is called 'Are you related to any of these men?' So, drop in and see if you are, or know anyone else who might be. A special feature of the exhibition is a series of emotive paintings by local artist David Hartnup who was inspired by the book published by the Craven Herald in 1920 commemorating the men from the district who died in World War I. David has interpreted the images from the book, in his own style, to depict the men from the villages of High and Low Bentham who lost their lives, giving us an insight into the scale of human loss during the conflict. David also has a passion for the battlefield sites of World War 1 and has been visiting them since 1989. He particularly likes the trenches that still remain in the Argonne Forest and images of the Somme. His use of straight lines give the paintings a striking and distinctive look. Equally fascinating to local people are the stories contained in 'Journeys Through a Family Archive', which features the lives of the Riley and Green families who both arrived in Settle at the end of the 19th century. Did you know that vines used to be grown on the Ashfield car park or that Kirkgate once looked like a country lane? There are many more gems of information like this to discover!

The third big attraction at The Folly this summer is the extra items which have been added to our railway displays in celebration of the 25th anniversary of saving the Settle-Carlisle line. Of special interest is personal memorabilia relating to the line collected by the late Derek Soames, together with new work by artist-in-residence, Sarah Hutton and photographer-in-residence, Simon Whalley. An illustrated talk by Terry Hanson, entitled '30 Years of the Leeds-Carlisle Railway from the Line Side' will throw further light on the amazing changes that have taken place over this period in the fortunes of the line.

There's so much to see that you'll want to make repeat visits and this is where our annual season ticket (priced at a modest £7) really comes into its own. So come along this summer and enjoy everything we have to offer - right on your doorstep!

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