

2015 New Exhibitions & ‘Phantoms in The Folly’

26 Feb 2015

- We can confidently assure all who live in or visit Settle that The Folly is not haunted. The strange lights and noises that passers-by have recently reported coming from the rambling 17th house in the middle of the night have a rational explanation. Volunteers from The Museum of North Craven Life are working round the clock to create fascinating new exhibitions and displays in time for March 31st when The Folly and museum reopens for 2015.
- A major new exhibition A COMMUNITY SKILL running until November 1st will tell the story of the potteries of Burton in Lonsdale where the first kilns were fired up in the mid 18th century. It is thought that roaming potters from Staffordshire were drawn by the clay drifts along the banks of the river Greta. Workable seams of coal and plenty of running water made Burton an ideal site. Large quantities of useful earthenware such as jars for local stores, cream pots, breadmaking bowls, jugs and bottles found a ready market.
- Everyone around Burton became involved. Local farmers added clay excavation to their skills, while 'wanders' wove baskets to protect the large jars and bottles in transit, with orders coming from the Isle of Man and Ireland. Around 60 pots will be on show from the museum's collection - the largest in Yorkshire - including higher quality stoneware and novelties such as puzzle jugs. Discover why the potteries declined as the coal seams gave out and trains brought in mass produced Staffordshire ware to local shops. Just one pottery kept going until 1944.
- Last year's Folly visitors discovered how war came to Settle in 1914. Visit before the end of August and you can follow that story into 1915, as the frontline experiences of the volunteers are contrasted with life at home where people stumbled through pitch dark streets fearful for the first time of enemy attack from the skies. Stories of courage and invention in the face of war shine out: Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy VC, a much loved chaplain, and Bertram Lambert the Settle-born inventor of a lifesaving respirator. With armies trapped in the mud of Flanders they were close enough to home for trains to carry the morale-boosting gifts collected around town to the front; even fresh local eggs were sent to the sick and injured.
- A full programme of expert talks will uncover the history behind the exhibitions and reveal other aspects of past lives. Tickets are already on sale for Nigel Mussett's revealing look at 19th century occupations in Settle, Strippers, Ostlers and Gentlemen on Saturday April 18th at 7.30 for £7.00 each. In May June and July further evening talks will bring to life Hardy VC, Bertram Lambert and that last potter of Burton. On August 1st seize the chance to celebrate our "National" Day with Yorkshire flavoured food, drink and entertainment.
- Eggs will also feature at The Folly's first big event of the season. Especially prepared for children over 7 the Easter craft workshop and tea party takes place in the Folly parlour on Wednesday April 1st, 2.00 until 4.30. Tickets, (which need to be bought in advance), cost £5.00 per child and cover tuition, materials and the Easter themed tea party. More junior craft workshops are planned for August.
- Children are always welcome to The Folly which is an eye-catching Grade 1 listed 17th C house; a varying selection of activities to occupy young museum lovers will be found on each floor. Anne Read, Hon. Curator hopes visitors of all ages will enjoy

discovering every month a new object or group from the museum collections displayed on the first floor.

- Admission for those 16 and under is free. Adults pay £2.70, (Gift-aided £3.00), Over 60s and concessions £2.20 (gift aided £2.50). A yearly season ticket costs just £7.00.
- The house, museum and shop are open from March 31st until November 1st every Tuesday from 10-30 to 4.30, and on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12.30 to 4.30 Also on Bank Holiday Mondays. New display shop units were purchased before Christmas with a grant from the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) and are brimming with interesting and affordable souvenirs.

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Photos for press release: [link](#);

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