

**The Folly Appeal : Latest News (January 2013) <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/appeal/>**

The Folly Appeal, launched by Alan Bennett in 2011, has had an enthusiastic response, and over £260,000 has been raised, but more is required.

As well as raising money, the Appeal has raised the profile of the Folly in particular the North Range, and now its acquisition provides opportunities to look at the building as a whole and how it might be used. Built in 1679 as a private house it was sold to the Dawson family shortly after Richard Preston's death and after that has never really found its role. At the time of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee when suggestions were being made about a suitable commemorative project, the Vicar of Settle suggested that the Folly should be restored. In the end the community chose the Music Hall in Kirkgate which was appropriately renamed the 'Victoria Hall' and remains so.

For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century after the Grisedales left the Folly it had an uncertain history with many occupants in its component parts, but now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Building Trust finds itself in the unique position of determining a new vision and role for the building.

The Trustees and the Appeal Committee are working on an Options Appraisal to ensure the best use for this outstanding building as a viable community asset to be enjoyed by the local residents and visitors from far and wide, living up to Nicholas Pevsner's description as 'exotic'.

The Appeal Committee would like to thank all those who have contributed so generously and hope that others will feel the project worthy of support. The Trustees and Appeal Committee are submitting a lot of grant applications for support, and planning a number of fundraising activities over the coming months.

Website: <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/appeal/>