

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

Railway model receives special visitors before half-term opening

Saturday 16 October 2004

The recently-restored model of Settle station on display at the town's Museum of North Craven Life in The Folly, received some very special visitors last week. Mrs. Christine Woollatt and her brother, Mr. Brian Grove travelled from Surrey to see the historic model made by their late father, Mr. Norman Wilkinson during the 1950s. They recalled the many hours their father spent working on the model and its painted backdrop of Settle's townscape and Mr. Grove remembered being allowed to help construct the railway embankment out of layers of carpet felt! Mr. Wilkinson's interest in the Settle-Carlisle line began when he was a pupil at Giggleswick School in the 1920s and it is this period in the life of the station that he depicts in minute detail. He was a skilled photographer and in making the five-metre model he relied on black-and-white photographs as well as his vivid schoolday memories of the station in Midland Railway times. Mrs Woollatt said how delighted her father would be to know that the model was being preserved and displayed to the public in Settle, where it rightly belonged

Mr Wilkinson always maintained his association with the Settle area. He and his wife and children spent happy holidays in the area after the war, staying at Woodlands in Giggleswick, when it was owned by Mrs. Wheater. Mrs Woollatt remembered that it was Mrs Wheater who provided her first taste of white chocolate which was a very new experience in the 1950s! She would be glad to know if any Herald readers have information about the period during which Mrs Wheater lived at Woodlands.

The Folly and Museum will be open during the half-term period on Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday (23, 24 and 26 October) from 10.30a.m. to 4.30p.m., when visitors will have a final chance this season to see the station model and other current displays. Further information is available on the web at <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/>

End

Note: there is a photograph accompanying this press release showing Mrs. Christine Woollatt and her brother, Mr. Brian Grove standing by the model to be found at:

http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/press_releases/20041016_woollatt_halfterm.JPG

(Format: JPEG; 2048 x 1536; 776Kb)

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