

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

## News from the Folly

1 July 2007

On 21 June the organizers of Settle College Centenary Exhibition, contributors and college staff gathered at The Folly to celebrate a hundred years of education at the school and the college exhibition. A former pupil, Rebecca Booth, made a magnificent cake decorated with the school's badges, which was cut by Miss Onyx Ralph, herself a former pupil, head of PE and later Senior Mistress. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Governors, Barbara Fiorato and Margaret Holgate, prepared and served refreshments. Retired staff also attended, memories and experiences were recalled making a happy beginning to the centenary celebrations.

North Craven Building Preservation Trust has published an illustrated book called 'Connections: Artists and Writers in North Craven' based on an exhibition held in 2006. On 23 June everyone who had contributed was invited to The Folly. Bill Mitchell had written the foreward and introduced the book, then recalled his earliest visits to the Dales. Philippa Troutman (print maker and painter) spoke eloquently about the influences the landscape had on her work, especially whilst preparing her prints for the 'Shanty Towns of Ribbleshead' exhibition at The Folly in November 2006. Helene Wiggin has published seven novels and looked at North Craven and its people through a writer's eyes. The painter, Tony Roberts described his responses to the changing light on the landscape and examples of several artists' work were displayed in the reception room. The well-attended gathering gave the book a warm and enthusiastic launch.

Four trails cover the North Craven area, with many colour illustrations of works by past and present artists. Biographies and anecdotes indicate the profound influence the Dales landscape has on their work. A suggested list of books for further reading and illustrations of items from the 'Connections' exhibition make this a valuable resource and enjoyable read.

Copies may be obtained from Tourist Information Centres in the area, Archway Books, Settle and at other local outlets, also from The Folly during opening times (Sat, Sun and Tues) price £3.99.

Settle Orchestra is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and musicians are performing at The Folly on 8 July, 5, 12 and 19 August (Sundays) at 2 pm. Their programmes will include music by Elgar to mark his 150th Anniversary year and musical friendship with Dr Buck of Giggleswick.

Visitors have told stewards how much they enjoyed the three new exhibitions in addition to the museum's permanent displays. Many expressed surprise to discover a 'beautiful old house' and 'exhibitions of such quality in a town the size of Settle'. Visiting children have been interested in the old photographs of Settle High School and its history. We hope former pupils and local residents will bring their friends and visitors throughout the summer and remind parents and grandparents that admission is free for all under 16 years.

Further information can be obtained from the website <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/> or by phone from 015242 51388 or 01729 822 361

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