



24 March 2010

Craven museums gain national quality standard

Two museums in Grassington and Settle have been officially 'Accredited' by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

The Museum of North Craven Life (located in The Folly in Settle) and the Upper Wharfedale Folk Museum in Grassington have worked hard over the past year to gain the coveted Museum Accreditation standard. Both museums are run by volunteers who have drawn on the expertise and guidance available from staff at Craven District Council's Craven Museum & Gallery to help them gain the Accreditation.

The MLA's Museum Accreditation Scheme sets national agreed standards for all museums in the UK. The award proves that the museums measure up, meeting the guidelines on how they are run, how they look after their collections and the services that they provide for visitors. Being accredited holds many benefits for the museums particularly in their relationships with funding organisations and external bodies.

[Anne Read Honorary Curator for the MNCL; The Folly]

"This accreditation award coincides with our tenth season at the Folly, so it's a double celebration for us! I would like to pass on special thanks to Andrew Mackay and Anna Bowman of the Craven Museum & Galley in Skipton for the immense encouragement, support, and practical help they gave us throughout the application process. Robin McDermott our Regional Accreditation Officer was a tower of strength!"

[quote from Derek Williamson, chairman of the Upper Wharfedale Museum Society]

"A number of committee members and volunteers have contributed greatly to attaining accreditation and we now look forward to maintaining our standards and sharing the benefits which accreditation can bring. I would like to join the Folly in their vote of thanks

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to the staff of Craven Museum and Gallery and to Robin McDermott without whose guidance and support we could not have succeeded.”

Councillor Ken Hart, Lead member for Culture at the Council, said: “Both museums have worked really hard to gain this accreditation which is truly well deserved. I am only too pleased that staff at the Council’s Craven Museum & Gallery were able to share their expertise and give guidance to the museums on how to become accredited.”

Andrew Motion, Chair of MLA, said: “Being awarded Accreditation is an impressive achievement. It recognises the high standard and service that both museums provide and acknowledges the hard work of staff.”

Forthcoming events

The Folly, Settle

The season begins on 30 March with ‘A Malham Family of Painters: Constance Pearson, Philippa Holmes and Katharine Holmes’. This is an exhibition celebrating the lives and work of three generations of the same family in Malhamdale. An accompanying book, *Letters from Malham: Wartime Life at High Barn Cottage* provides insights into wartime life in the Dale. Associated events include family workshops on different generations drawing together and creating family trees and coats of arms. There is also the chance to enjoy a talk by Katharine Homes followed by a traditional 1940s Yorkshire tea. For more information visit <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/>

Upper Wharfedale Folk Museum, Grassington

The museum will open from Saturday 27 March to 3 October. The museum is working to raise funds for the Crowther room. This is an exciting project to make the collection more available to the public, to provide facilities to researchers and improved facilities to volunteers. The first fund raising event is a coffee morning 24th April at Church House For more information visit www.grassingtonfolkmuseum.org.uk.

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For further information, photographs or to arrange a photograph opportunity please contact Anna Bowman (Assistant Curator) at Craven Museum & Gallery at abowman@cravenc.gov.uk or by phone 01756 706407

Notes to editors

- The MLA is the government's agency for museums, libraries and archives. Leading strategically, it promotes best practice to inspire innovative, integrated and sustainable services for all. Visit www.mla.gov.uk