

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

Exhibition 31 July to 31 October, 2010: Landscapes of The Ribble

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Following the recent publication of his acclaimed book of photographs, *Landscapes of the Ribble* (Frances Lincoln, 2010), professional photographer, Andy Latham will be exhibiting a selection of stunning photographic prints at The Folly, in Settle, from the 31st July to 31st October. Tracing the river from the heights of the Yorkshire Dales, through the lush Ribble Valley and out to the sea at Lytham St. Anne's, Andy's photographs capture the beauty and variety of this wonderful landscape and, for any admirer of the Ribble, or beautiful landscape photography, this exhibition is not to be missed.

Andy says, 'Several years ago I made a conscious decision to start exploring more of Lancashire. I quickly recognised the merits of the Ribble Valley and so began a personal project to photograph its landscapes. I continued adding to my portfolio on and off for a few years but it wasn't until I walked the Ribble Way that the thought actually occurred to me to develop the idea into covering the whole length of the river, from the wild beauty of the Three Peaks all the way to the sea at genteel Lytham St. Annes. The concept appealed firstly as it was a genuine journey, exploring the changing landscape of a single valley and secondly, as it combined my favourite part of the Yorkshire Dales, Ribblesdale, with the county of my birth, Lancashire. People tend to compartmentalise the land into distinct regions, yet on the ground there is no sign of such change. It simply flows effortlessly, ignoring successive political boundaries. When out walking I enjoy reaching a viewpoint and seeking out places I know, joining them together to build up my picture of the bigger landscape, which in turn strengthens my connection to the land, my sense of place. The images are not meant to be a documentary of the river valley but merely my interpretation of the landscape, taking the kind of photographs that I like to take. While I planned to take particular subjects and views, I frequently found myself photographing something quite different. I like to take my time at a location and spend hours ambling around to get a feel for the place. The weather, light, season, time of day, my own mood, all influence what images are taken and that unpredictability and lack of control over the land are part of the joy of being a landscape photographer. My wish, when you view the images, is that I may surprise you with the variety and beauty of the landscape that the river has helped to create. If you are not familiar with the Ribble, hopefully you may be inspired enough to explore it further, and even if you have walked extensively in the region, I hope that my work provides you with an even greater appreciation of the landscape.'

Andy's prints and copies of his book will be on sale in The Folly throughout the exhibition

To complement Andy's exhibition, the Museum will be displaying material from Frederic Riley's well-known book 'The Ribble from Source to the Sea' and other early tourist guides. To coincide with *Landscapes of the Ribble*, the Museum is showing two other exhibitions on watery themes:

- **Water in North Craven: Life, Work and Leisure** explores the great influence of water on all aspects of the life of this part of the Dales. Exhibits include an 1831 map of Settle's first piped water supply, material relating to the construction of the Upper Reservoir, old photographs from the Riley and Horner Collections depicting angling,

skating, caving, swimming and rambling and a display devoted to washing and sanitation.

- Water Works represents Settle Photographic Group's special 'take' on the subject of water.

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Appended: biography of Andy Latham

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Andy Latham



Andy Latham lives in Bolton on the edge of the West Pennine Moors and has been taking landscape photographs for twenty years. Initially this was to record the views on his walks in the Lakes, Dales and Scotland but gradually the photography took over till the walking became the secondary, though highly integral, activity.

Through his work, Andy hopes to convey something of the joy and excitement that he experiences exploring the variety of the British landscape.

His work has appeared in numerous magazines, including *Outdoor Photography*, *Lancashire Life*, *Photography Monthly*, *Practical Photography* and *Country Walking*, for whom he also devises walking routes in Lancashire and the Dales. In 2004 he won *Practical Photography*'s prestigious 'Photographer of the Year' award, and he has also won a competition at the Kendal Mountain Film Festival (2005) and the 'Outdoor Writers and Photographers Guild' award for photography (2007). Images have appeared in several books, including 'Developing Vision and Style – a landscape photography masterclass' by Joe Cornish, David Ward and Charlie Waite. Clients include Blackburn with Darwen Council and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Andy uses two different camera systems to capture his images. The Mamiya 7II is a medium format (6x7) rangefinder with interchangeable lenses (he uses the 43mm and 65mm lenses) that is a perfect combination of simplicity, relative lightness and high quality. In recent years he has also used an Ebony RSW45 which is an 'old fashioned' 5"x4" large format camera – the sort with a bellows, photographer under a hood, upside down image on a glass screen. Both cameras use film, which is virtually always Fuji Velvia 50. Film still has a magical quality about it that is missing from abstract pixels.

'Landscapes of the Ribble' is his first book and solo exhibition.