

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

Historian Dr David Johnson to talk on the history of farming

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Dr David Johnson, local historian and author of the recent book *Limestone Industries of the Yorkshire Dales*, is to give an illustrated talk at The Folly, Settle on Friday, 15 July. His chosen title is 'An Improving Prospect? The Challenges of Landscape Improvement in Craven since the late 16th Century'. David says, 'Farming in Craven has changed dramatically since the 1950s, with small farms being consolidated into larger units, isolated farmhouses becoming just nice places to live and stocking densities reduced. However, these changes are not new. The theme of this talk is the changing fortunes of agriculture in Craven since about 1600 and I will consider whether a gradual improvement can be recognised and also look at the local and national forces that have impacted on farming'. David's talk ties in with The Folly's current exhibition 'Challenge and Change' which deals with various aspects of the way our area has coped with change over the last 350 years. The talk begins at 7.30 pm and tickets, which must be booked in advance, are available from Settle TIC and The Folly.

[Ends; photograph below]

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