

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

New Exhibitions at The Folly – 3 July 2012

30 June 2012

On Sunday 3rd July, the Museum of North Craven Life is launching two exciting new exhibitions at The Folly in Settle.

The first, 'Victoria Cave Revisited', celebrates the discovery of the Cave in 1837 and its excavation in the 1870s. Situated a short distance outside Settle, Victoria Cave provides a unique record of climate change over hundreds of thousands of years. It has been the source of many fascinating archaeological finds, from hippo, elephant and hyaena bones to Roman-period brooches, many of which will be on show.

As well as showcasing some of these finds, the exhibition illustrates the continuing significance of the cave. In the nineteenth-century it attracted influential academics and explorers, and triggered a lively interest in archaeology among the townspeople. Now it raises serious conservation and safety issues around the provision of public access. A separate panel in the exhibition illustrates the valuable work of the Clapham-based Cave Rescue Organisation.

To support the exhibition, Tom Lord will give a talk, 'Victoria Cave: a Neglected Monument of Victorian Science', on 14 July. Tickets can be purchased in advance from The Folly. The second exhibition, 'Time to Celebrate', looks at some of the ways in which local communities celebrate and mark special occasions.

Honorary Curator Anne Read says: 'Some months ago we launched an appeal for material for the exhibition and we've been overwhelmed by the response. We've been loaned memorabilia and photographs from every part of North Craven that show how people have celebrated royal events, family reunions, galas, community shows and school anniversaries. It gives a fascinating insight into our villages and towns – and shows how well the people of North Craven can put on a celebration! We hope to add to the exhibition in the coming months as people visit and are inspired to contribute their own material. It is important that we record today's events for posterity.'

Both exhibitions will run until 28 October.

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For more information, please contact:

Margaret Rhodes, Publicity
Tel: (01729) 822 893

Anne Read, Hon. Curator
Tel: (015242) 51388

E-mail: folly@ncbpt.org.uk

Web: <http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly>