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New exhibition at The Folly in Settle helps to launch Craven's First World War commemorations.

A new exhibition commemorating North Craven's part in the First World War opens at The Museum of North Craven Life (The Folly) in Settle on 1 July and will run until 2 November. The 'War Beckons' exhibition will focus on the early stages of the War and the effects it had on the district, in areas such as agriculture, industry and village life.

Visitors can look forward to learning about the recruitment of volunteers and the commandeering of local horses following the outbreak of war, as well some of the lesser-known stories, such as the Belgian refugees who were brought to Settle and the efforts of local people to raise money and support the troops.

With contributions made by local school children and a series of events and talks planned, the exhibition is sure to give local people and visitors a greater understanding of the sacrifices that were made by the people of North Craven throughout the war.

Anne Read, Honorary Curator at The Folly, says of the exhibition, ' We are immensely grateful for the support we have received from so many people and for the wealth of material and stories which have come to light. We shall be adding to the exhibition all through the year and we hope it will inspire more people to explore their own stories of World War I and bring in additional items.'

The exhibition will help to launch the Craven and the First World War project, which is planning a series of events, exhibitions and performances to mark the centenary. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and involves a collection of community-focused organisations including Craven Museum and Gallery, Skipton Town Council, Ermysted's Grammar School, Aireville School, The Museum of North Craven Life (Settle), North Yorkshire County Council Library and Community Services, and Craven's Part in the Great War (website).

The HLF funding has allowed the group to employ a Project Officer to support the events planned to mark the centenary. Speaking of his appointment, the new Project Officer, Rob Freeman, says:

“I am looking forward to working with the many different groups involved in the project to help local people connect with events of the First World War and to help build a greater understanding of life in Craven during the war, as well as making a significant contribution to the national commemorations.”

Amongst the events planned to mark the centenary are a series of performances of the play “Tunstill’s Men”, about the recruitment drives that took place throughout the area. Written and performed by staff and students from Aireville School, Skipton, the play returns to the Grassington Festival for a second year; with performances on 24th and 26th June. In September, further performances will be staged across the district, each of them 100 years ago to the day from when the original meetings were held.

The project will also support individuals who are interested in tracing their First World War family history with sessions at Libraries across the district from September. On 11th November there will be a heritage fair at Skipton Library where there will be exhibits from family and local history societies as well as information about the First World War resources available at Skipton Library and North Yorkshire County Record Office. Family History experts will be on hand to help people.

For more information about the project or how to get involved, you can email RFreeman@cravenc.gov.uk

For information about The Folly and its opening times, you can visit www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly or ring 015242 51388.

ENDS

Editors Notes:

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About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 36,000 projects with more than £6bn across the UK including

£440m to over 3,100 projects in Yorkshire & the Humber alone. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on twitter @heritagelottery #understandingWW1

HLF-funded First World War projects include:

First World War Centenary Project, IWM London

An HLF grant of £4.5m is transforming IWM London (part of Imperial War Museums) by creating new ground-breaking First World War Galleries.

Flintham Society – Keeping the Home Fires Burning?

Keep the Home Fires Burning? is a community history project looking at the impact of the First World War on life in the Nottinghamshire village of Flintham.

Tank Museum – Access all Areas, Dorset

Holding the world's finest tank and armoured vehicle collection, The Tank Museum is a popular visitor attraction in the heart of Dorset. HLF's grant is being used to house 130 'at risk' vehicles, putting the entire collection indoors for the first time.

Through its *First World War: then and now programme*, HLF is making at least £1million available per year for six years until 2019. It will provide grants between £3,000 and £10,000 enabling communities and groups right across the UK to explore, conserve and share their First World War heritage and deepen their understanding of the impact of the conflict.

To find out how to apply for funding visit www.hlf.org.uk/thenandnow If a group needs a grant of more than £10,000 for a First World War project, it can apply to HLF through its open programmes www.hlf.org.uk/firstworldwar

UK Government Centenary plans

In June 2013, the Government set out its plans to mark the centenaries of the First World War commencing in 2014. These plans include a £35m refurbishment of the First World War galleries at the Imperial War Museum (IWM); The Government's principal partners in the commemorations will be the Heritage Lottery Fund and the IWM, but will encompass support for a multitude of other initiatives, large and small, as they come together in the months and years to come.