

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

New Season at The Folly (Settle & District Community News, April 2015)

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We are now open for the season: opening times are the same as last year. Come in and look at our two new exhibitions; both will be of great interest to all Settlers, friends and visitors. What we hope will be a smash hit, hopefully without any breakages, is A Community Skill which tells the story of the potteries over at Burton in Lonsdale. These were started up in the 1750s by skilled potters travelling north, possibly from Staffordshire, who spotted drift clay along the banks of the River Greta. A workable coal seam to hand and a good free water supply made it a promising site. The potters were welcomed because of the need for everyday earthenware pots to use in homes and in shops such as grocers where they were used for storage. We have called our exhibition A Community Skill because nearly everyone living around Burton was soon involved, excavating the clay, mining coal, or learning other new skills such as “wanding”. This involved weaving individual baskets to fit each large bottle and jar before they were transported by cart or ship especially as orders were soon coming in from “overseas” (The Isle of Man and Ireland). Although the main output was brown earthenware, when fireclay, known as sill, was found in 1835 it was used for better quality stoneware. As the potteries spread around the town it became a mirror of the grim streets of Stoke and soon became known as Black Burton. Why not come in, follow the 200 year story of the rise and fall of this local industry and admire the largest collection of Burton pottery on view in North Yorkshire. On June 12th the well-known Bentham Potter Lee Cartledge will be giving an evening talk at the Folly when he will tell the story of the last potter of Burton who kept going until 1944.

Up on the top floor we offer a glimpse of Settle in 1915 as we continue the story of North Craven in World War 1. Learn how children played their part in fundraising, while adults stumbled through blacked out streets, for the first time coping with the threat of attack from the night sky. Set against the dramatic changes to life at home are the continuing fortunes of those first local volunteers of 1914 as they head to battle. There are the stories of local heroes who deserve to be better known such as Rev Theodore Hardy, the vicar of Hutton Roof who became the most decorated non-combatant in the war. His story will be told at a special talk on May 1st by Father Paul Hypher. Also of local interest will be this month’s talk on 18th April by Nigel Mussett who will use his research in the Giggleswick parish records to throw light on local occupations in the 19th century with Strippers, Ostlers and Gentlemen. The Ribblesdale version of stripping does let you keep your vest on! Tickets for all talks can be bought at the Folly during opening hours or booked on 01729 822893.

With so much to see and read we have made sure there are plenty of activities on each floor to keep younger visitors busy while you take your time. Children of all ages will want to check out the shunting engine on the model of Settle Station. Don’t miss the newly refurbished shop in the entrance hall.

We have kept our admission charges the same as last year and children 16 and under are still free. Residents and regular visitors will find it worthwhile thinking about a season ticket which allows you to come back in as many times as you like during the year for just £7.00. Last year the Folly was enjoyed by many visitors who were visiting friends and relations.

With your season ticket you can come along with your guests and impress them with your local knowledge.

If however you fancy the option of coming in whenever you like for absolutely nothing why not think about joining our team of volunteer stewards? Stewards always work in pairs so you are never left on your own. No previous experience is needed as routines will all be explained and it's a great chance to share your love of the area whether locally born and bred or just settling in. The existing would be pleased to share their experiences. Give the Curator Anne Read a call on 015242 51388 or send an email curator@ncbpt.org.uk.

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For more information, please contact:

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