

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

News from The Folly (Settle & District Community News, June 2015)

12 May 2015

The grim and hazardous working lives of our forebears in quarries, mills and railway construction are well-known but I would not have included local potters in that category until we set up our current exhibition 'A Community Skill'. The stories and illustrations reveal just how tough the lives of local potters in Burton in Lonsdale were, whether digging the clay, shivering in the 30 foot square settling pans 3 feet deep with a mixture of clay and water, or sizzling near the firing kilns which were heated to 1280 degrees centigrade. Throwing the pots demanded tremendous physical strength as well as skill. Imagine the size and weight of the lumps of clay needed to throw the gallon storage pots designed for gin and cider. Legendary Henry Bateson supposedly threw 17 of these in the hour before he had his breakfast! On Friday 12th June well-known Bentham potter Lee Cartledge will tell the story of Richard Bateson, the "last Potter of Black Burton" from working a "jigger jolly" machine to produce jam jars when aged just 13 to his later career as a skilled craftsman. Lee will explain how, as the industry declined in the 20th Century, Bateson kept the last Burton pottery working until 1944. Lee believes it was the unusual jet black colour of the processed Burton clay that gave the town its name although one of our visitors who was born there told me that she had always believed the name resulted from the reputation of the large number of pubs - at least 14. Lee's talk starts at 7.30 in The Folly and tickets are £7.00, available in advance.

Another fascinating talk on Friday 10th July will tell the story of Bertram Lambert, born in Settle in 1881, son of the Settle printers James and Mary Lambert, and his contribution to the welfare of soldiers in the trenches of the First World War. Mike Slater's talk will reveal the secrets of Lambert's box respirator which helped allied troops survive poison gas attacks. Mike's talk also starts at 7.30 and tickets again are £7.00.

On the 1st of August we will be offering the chance to celebrate Yorkshire Day in style with Andy Swinscoe's award-winning cheeses to try, wine-tasting, and a locally sourced supper. Desserts will be inspired by those in 'Recipes down the Line', a book which celebrates some of the best food available along the route of the Settle and Carlisle railway. Places must be booked in advance and cost £15 a head which includes all food and entertainment.

We will also be hosting another two Junior craft workshops, following our highly successful Easter workshop. The workshops are aimed at youngsters from age 7 and our team which includes local artists will guide participants. The workshop on Wednesday 5th August will feature crafts linked to paper including paper-making, marbling and book-making. There will also be a messy fun activity. The second workshop on Wednesday 19th will inspire the youngsters to create their own traditional sweets. Both workshops run from 2.00 to 4.30 and must be booked in advance. Tickets are £5.00 each they include all materials or ingredients, full tuition, and refreshments. To book workshop places please email follyfamilyactivities@ncbpt.org.uk

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