

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

GILLIANS LANE, BARNOLDSWICK, BB18 5QR,
NEAR TO COLNE AND SKIPTON

Registered Charity no: 517795



Steaming on Sunday 15th May 2011

Bancroft Mill once again resounded to the sound of clogs during Sunday's steaming when eight members of the Lancashire Society entertained a crowd with weavers' songs and poems. The Lancashire Champion Clog Dancer for the last 3 years, Harry Cowgill (left), gave a star performance that brought a tear to one or two eyes; he is now a teacher of the art and a competition judge. Hilda Elsworth (far left), 88, a life member and former weaver at Bancroft for 41 years related memories of the mill that were recorded on video for posterity by the Lancashire Society, based in

Chorley.

Meanwhile there was considerable activity in the mill office where, as reported last week, the Craven Radio Amateur Group had set up a radio station to mark the international Mills on the Air weekend. During the course of the afternoon they made about 80 contacts with other stations located in mills of various kinds including a number of windmills in Holland and Belgium, some for grinding cereal, and others for pumping water, a far cry from Bancroft's original purpose. CRAG ensured that Barnoldswick and Bancroft Mill were featured on computer screens at the other stations during the contacts. Bancroft is currently in regular contact with the director of a group of four museums in New South Wales. One of these is a pumping station at Goulburn, its details can be viewed at [Heritage NSW](#); and at [Goulburn Waterworks](#); plus others.

Visitors from far and wide including a number of holidaymakers enjoyed a perfect performance from the Bancroft engine. Unfortunately, they were unable to talk with Fred F, our regular engine man as he is recovering in hospital. We all join in wishing him a speedy recovery and a return to family, friends and Bancroft as soon as he is fit.

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