

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

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

Registered Charity no: 517795

We were steaming on Sunday 17th June to a good crowd of visitors who started arriving soon after our crew. Obviously the boiler needed firing up and steam raising from quite early in the morning but there was plenty to keep the visitors interested for the couple of hours until the engine was started. FredF was able to resume his normal position of "driver" as he now feels to be well recovered from his illness. TonyN is under his instruction as another driver and is up to speed with it too. The boiler uprate from 40psi to 50psi has proved to be good for the boiler and the engine, the whole system performs quite a lot better than before.



From a particular visitor arose a story: our visitor turned out to be a former weaver in the mill from the end of World War 2. Then a young lady, Rita Broxholme of Barlick, started work at Bancroft Mill as a weaver, being taught by her mother Ruby, they then lived at Folly Cottages. She was married during this period and continued at the mill until 1949 when she was delivered of her first child. Soon afterwards the then Mrs Holz took her new baby to meet her colleagues at the 1949 Christmas Party in the Bancroft canteen, she is centre-top in the monochrome picture. Rita returned to work at Bancroft and later worked for 25 years at County Brook Mill, whilst also having a second daughter.



History turned the full circle on Sunday when the daughter, Valerie Ormerod brought her mother to revisit Bancroft. Rita was quite entranced to visit parts of the mill that had been out of bounds to her as a weaver, the engine hall was, in those days, absolutely taboo. She enjoyed a tour of the museum, starting the engine and reminiscing over a cup of tea before vowing to return again soon. pictured here, Rita on the left and Valerie.

Bancroft enjoyed visitors from the USA, Cumbria, N. Yorks, really much of Northern England during the day.

For the future, Bancroft will be open on Steaming days from 11.00am but the engine will not start until 1.00pm, free guided tours will be available between 11.00am and 1.00pm. Normal entry charges apply on steaming days. Heritage open days (2011) will be celebrated at Bancroft as usual; we shall be steaming on both Saturday the 10th and Sunday 11th from 1.00pm but open from 11.00am.

We wonder if any visitors know of musicians who might be prepared to perform at Bancroft during steaming intervals next year. We would be keen to hear of or from them! Please contact HarryM at the email address of fone number below.

To those who mailed nice comments about our new website, we thank you! DaveM and I have seen all of them and they are really appreciated. There have been too many to mention individually but we were grateful for each one. We are keeping the website up to date whilst adding new or developing existing features, don't think that it's a "done deal", good ideas will always draw a positive response from us.

Further information is available:-by e-mail from: harrym@talktalk.net, or www.bancroftmill.org.uk or from Harry at 01943 602118