

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

GILLIANS LANE, BARNOLDSWICK, BB18 5QR,

www.bancroftmill.org.uk Registered Charity no: 517795

Steaming on Sunday December 2nd 2012



Bancroft Mill at Barnoldswick opened its doors on Sunday for a performance of Carols and Christmas songs by children of the Barnoldswick Church School aged between 8 years and 11. Not to mention, a visit from Father Christmas and Mrs. Claus standing in for the elves. This performance has long been an annual event and the children have long been led by Mrs. J. Jamieson of Barnoldswick who has organised all the practices and rehearsals during the autumn term. The music was quite outstanding.

Whilst keeping it in the family, Mrs. Jamieson's mother Mrs. S. Cockcroft from Kelbrook provided the excellent accompaniment making best use of the new space available in the engine hall.



Both these ladies are really part of the "Bancroft Family" as four members of Mrs. Cockcroft's family worked at, or for the mill. Two of them, James Tomlinson and Bessie Tomlinson were weavers from early in the 1930's and William (Bill) Tomlinson became Head Overlooker in 1942, narrowly avoiding military service.

Photo supplied by David Steele, grandson of Levi shown here and a Bancroft member. David is also Chairman of Barnoldswick History Society, aka Santa Claus at Bancroft in 2011. David's father Bob was also a Bancroft overlooker.

Bill Tomlinson is shown here amongst the Bancroft Overlookers in 1937, they are, from back, left to right:

Harry Hartley, George Beaumont, Herbert Crowe, Dick Smith, Bill Tomlinson, Levi Steele, Johnson Carr, Dick Lord, George Monks and Ted Burke.

Correspondence from the archives reveals that Bill Tomlinson was one of several people that, in 1942, the company fought tooth and nail to keep in their employ as being vital to the production of adequate quantities of cloth. (Bancroft Mill, at its peak, wove 200,000 yards of plain cloth per week for the war effort) The fourth member of the Tomlinson family, Bobbie, was the Buyer, based in the James Nutter Manchester office, long after the war.

Santa welcomed the choir to Bancroft and later plied the children with refreshments and cakes baked by the elves that very morning. Here (right), Santa welcomes two young visitors to Bancroft, eager to see their older sibling sing.. He later made a ceremonial engine start to mark the event. In that he was encouraged by Mrs. Z. Renshaw and Mr. J. Wilson visitors from a kindred organisation, Ellen Road Engine House near Milnrow.



Over many years Bancroft guests from far and wide have been greeted by Mrs. P. Chapman a former dentist in the town, Mrs. Chapman suffered a fall about 10 days ago and herself required dental treatment having broken two teeth and suffering extensive bruising. We're happy to report that she is recovering well and actually reported for duty on the day as usual, aided by her daughter and granddaughter. We recently published a photograph of Mrs. Chapman welcoming our MP to Bancroft.

SPECTACLES!

A pair of spectacles was left in the Bancroft Cafeteria during Sunday's event, the owner should contact Jim Gill on 01282 865626 or mail the website address.

It's now December and the Museum's year begins again in January, subscriptions are thus due any moment now. If you are not a member, why not join and visit as often as you wish for no extra cost? We have already had an application for a husband's membership as part of a Christmas present from his wife- and they live in Dorset! [thank you Mrs. M.] Membership details and a printable .pdf form are on the website to download or mail or call as below.

Adult membership is £ 12.00
Pensioner concessions are £ 10.00
Children, 6 - 16 £ 8.00

Life membership £120.00

If any visitor would like to receive these newsletters directly by email, just a simple email to harrym@talktalk.net with "newsletter please" in the message will ensure copies direct to your inbox. They are published before steaming as a steaming notice and after as a report on the proceedings. We do not do direct snail-mail of the newsletter.

Some other views from the steaming.



SANTA STARTS THE ENGINE

Further information from 01943 602118 or
info@bancroftmill.org.uk
We're on Facebook too, click on the link below!



SOME OF THE AUDIENCE



A HAPPY CHORISTER
CATCHES MUM'S EYE

Bancroft would like to acknowledge the help that we had at this steaming from Phil and Barbara Robinson, their help was absolutely invaluable. We all thank them sincerely.
Harrym.

