

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

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



HERITAGE DAYS STEAMING: September 8th and 9th 2012

The 2012 Heritage Days were celebrated at Bancroft in what has become traditional; fashion, two days of steaming with the whole site open to all comers at no charge. The mill engine, a 600 horse power steam engine built by Roberts in Nelson and installed in 1920 ran its scheduled hours without hitch. It was periodically stopped to allow the boiler to build up reserves of steam and, to provide slots for entertainment by the Lancashire Society. Throughout both Saturday and Sunday afternoons a number of members of the society provided traditional entertainment with folk songs, poetry, music, clog dancing and performances on the hand-held bones. Uniquely there was a performance of clog dancing only accompanied by Sid Calderbank on the bones. Here on the left, a pair of young visitors entering into the spirit of the day, dancing to the folk music. The Lancashire Society can also be found on the first Wednesday of each month at the Moorcock Inn near Blacko.

A replica of the engine nameplate was raffled and won by Bancroft's youngest member, Alfie Moore (9) from Ilkley with a ticket bought in the last ten minutes before the draw. He has, with coaching, built his own small steam engine which he displays on steaming days, driven only by a car tyre pump. Surprisingly, he has an order for another! (photo p.2)

Amongst the Saturday visitors were members of the Markington Local History Group from North Yorkshire whose meetings often centre around historical industrial sites whilst on Sunday about 40 members of the East Lancs section of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club finished their run at Bancroft in the early afternoon for tea, cakes and engine viewing! The car park was full of quality motorcycles, mainly built in Great Britain with



Alfie and his prize

many admirers having a “field day”. There were representatives of the Vincent owners group also at the steaming.

From farther afield there were three Canadian visitors, including one from Ontario Province who had all seen the Bancroft website, there were two separate visitors from Switzerland having read about Bancroft and wanting to see more.

The longest haul to Bancroft was made by a sole visitor from Briones, California, whilst the UK was well represented by visitors from as far away as Scotland and the Home Counties.

Reorganisation around the Mill Shop has allowed the dynamo plinth to become a stage for our friends the entertainers and has brought the shop counter down to a more comfortable height. Visitor comment has been quite positive, thank you all.

Newly recovered Bancroft employee archives are being inserted into searchable documents (year by year) and have produced much interest already. A number of visitors have consulted the records, work continues for two or three enquiries whilst satisfactory results have occurred in other cases. We are delighted to make simple checks for you. An email to Harry: via info@bancroftmill.org.uk will start the process off. The records presently listed cover 1935 to the beginning of 1942, more will be added as this year goes on but we will respond to any queries that you may have. The listings done up to date are always available at Bancroft on steaming days.

Our next steaming is on 30th September when the Mayor of Pendle will pay an official visit and there will be a display of running barn engines by the Aire Valley Vintage Machinery Group.



Alex Fisher, and Steve Higgins as Clogs and Co.

A beautiful example of a Vincent Series C Rapide with improvements to the original specification, especially the brakes!

A page of pictures follows:-



A model KSS
Velocette from
around 1938,
race bred.

VMCC:
<http://www.vmcc.net>



More members of
the Lancashire
Society in action

<http://www.thelancashire-society.org.uk>



Members of the
Markington Local
History Group
from N. Yorkshire..

Further information from, www.bancroftmill.org.uk or by email from info@bancroftmill.org.uk
or from 01943 602118