

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

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

Steaming on Sunday 20th May



Our special point of interest in this steaming was the visit of Patricia Jones, a Barnoldswick landscape artist who gave visitors a fascinating insight into her art. She worked on a water colour throughout the afternoon showing Starbotton village in Upper Wharfedale to the delight of onlookers. The Bancroft engine steamed majestically away throughout! Cards and calendars originally painted and then printed by her own hand were disappearing fast and we look forward to another visit. Here she is seen at work against a backdrop of some of Jon B's working steam models.

We were delighted to receive a donation of two items rescued from a local mill before its demolition, a huge steam pressure gauge and a precision thermometer, both in heavy brass. These will shortly be on display

We regret that our weaving operation has suffered setbacks during the last couple of steamings where our two member/operators have been unavailable to run the loom. Fortunately we have a buffer stock of tea towels. To make matters worse, there has been a technical problem that occurred at the last steaming and which made weaving impossible as some of the Jaquarrette cards that control the woven pattern were damaged during use. We DO apologise to visitors who may have come expressly to see traditional weaving.

However, two pieces of good fortune have come to our rescue, one of our members, Anthony P, is the grandson of the company founder of Pilling Looms in Colne. Anthony was with us when the failure occurred and recognised the problem, setting in motion a process to make some new cards. Harry M and Geoff P had made a punch and die set during 2011 against just such an

eventuality and, whilst it had never been used "in anger", Anthony took it away after the last steaming and returned yesterday with a working Jaquette belt. He'd even made the material to cut about ten new cards from. As a result we were weaving again, a little late, at this steaming but the new cards and their incorporation into the belt proved very satisfactory. Thanks to Anthony we now have a proven punch and information on how to "splice" new cards into the belt. Some of the information for the splicing came from Walter Fisher, a founder member who died two years ago next month, he is much missed but left us a legacy of technical know-how.



It was very nice to see many visitors from the Aire Valley on this occasion, people from Keighley, Steeton, Sutton, Cowling, Skipton and Silsden we hope that you enjoyed your visit as much as we enjoyed having your company. On that subject, our steaming at the end of September features members of the Aire Valley Vintage Machinery Group who have kindly agreed to come and run some of their more portable engines in the mill yard. Details of that later, the Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle will visit on the same day.

Our youngest member Alfie M brought along a model steam engine that he has had a large hand in making. He has done turning, shaping and fitting where it has been appropriate. Visitors could run the engine on compressed air via a hand pump for a nominal charge and most seemed to take him up on this. Younger visitors found it

interesting and instructive.

Our next steaming will take place on 10th July and we look forward to many visitors. There is also another private steaming taking place in July where a group of retirees will meet at Bancroft to enjoy the spectacle; it's a good idea for special birthdays and retirements especially, why not try it?

More information from info@bancroftmill.org.uk or from our website www.bancroftmill.org.uk or from 01943 602118.