

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

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

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

Steaming: Sunday 21st October

Bancroft Mill hosted a reunion on Sunday for members Frank and Byrnece Turner and their extended family most of whom had not visited the museum before. The reunion centred around unveiling a plaque dedicated to his mother, grandmother and two aunts who had all been weavers at Bancroft Mill, each travelling daily from Earby to work. Frank's father spent his son's infancy in a destroyer, mid Atlantic, shepherding convoys and U-boat hunting that made life quite difficult for his wife and baby in the later stages of WW2.

The four ladies concerned, Marion his mother, May his grandmother, Freda and Doris Robinson his aunts, organised their shift patterns in such a way as to ensure that there was always one of them at home to care for young Frank. Today Frank is quite definite about the wonderful start that he had and of the contribution that they made to his outlook on life and his work ethic. From the mill archives it is very obvious that none of these ladies had time off, precise record keeping over many years shows that the ladies, despite caring for this new family member, went to work no matter what else happened. A photograph showing three of these ladies is displayed in our weaving room. After the war Frank senior returned to Earby and also worked in Barnoldswick at Rolls Royce.



On Sunday the family party made a tour of the museum before Frank's two young grand-children Rory (5) and Jake (7) started the engine with a little help. The boys will one day understand that they started the engine that powered their great-grandmother's looms!

Once the plaque was unveiled there were five generations represented at Bancroft.

On the sound basis formed when he was very young, Frank's career has been centred on engineering, he was Apprentice of the Year in 1960 at the Rolls Royce plant in Barnoldswick, and was awarded an Engineering Degree later that decade. He went on through Departmental Manager at the same plant to Manager in a large Derby shop, then to Manufacturing Director, and was later appointed to the main board with responsibility for civil engines. It was Frank Turner who launched the 'Trent' engine, Rolls Royce's largest civil engine after being Managing Director (Industrial and Marine Engines) for a spell.

Following 33 years with Rolls Royce Frank has been Chairman of a number of international companies including Westfield Sports Cars where his son Julian runs the company making 300 sports cars a year. Interestingly they make an electric sports car model and an electric racing car using cutting edge technology. Suzanne Faithfull, the Turner's daughter and mother of Rory and Jake, was awarded only the second female Doctorate in Engineering in the UK and she works in the group.

Inset: Julian Turner at the wheel of one of their products

Images by courtesy of www.westfield-sportscars.co.uk.



We hope to host a Westfield Owner's Club meeting at Bancroft in 2013
Something for our readers who are sports car fans to drool over!

Traditional Bancroft entertainment, enjoyed during the afternoon, was provided by "Stone the Crows", a group of Welsh Border Morris Dancers who were at the museum to celebrate Halloween and the trial followed by execution of the Pendle Witches 400 years ago. This was their second appearance at the mill and the group was enhanced in numbers following more space being available at Bancroft. It was a very spectacular show!



Another landmark was achieved over the weekend as Bancroft's Pilling loom has been restored to work following a change of beam. It has been stopped for several weeks. New tea towels, woven at Bancroft, will have a royal blue strip bearing the name of the mill after much time and effort has been invested in this project by Peter R. from Barnoldswick and Ian M., a more distant member. It is thought that one or two tweaks may be needed to finish the job off but it is very encouraging to hear the loom again and to see cloth.

Work on the patio area near to our entrance continues and a gift of some wood enables us to finish it in decking rather than the original idea of concrete or stone flags. Coffee on the patio next year? David N. is pleased with progress and expects to finish for next season.

SEEN ON THE DAY



Happy visitors at Bancroft above, and the youngest visitor who was oblivious to it all on the left. Right is Murray Riggs who has performed at Bancroft in 2011 and 2012 with Stone the Crows.



Further information from 01943 602118 or info@bancroftmill.org.uk.
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