

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

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

www.bancroftmill.org.uk

Registered Charity no: 517795

Steaming: Sunday 30th September



Bancroft was pleased and honoured to welcome the Mayor of Pendle, Cllr. Nadeem Ahmed and our sitting MP, Andrew Stephenson to last Sunday's steaming. His Worship, making a formal visit, was accompanied by two young nephews and is seen here with Tony N. who is explaining the lubrication system for the crank and eccentric straps. The party made a complete tour of the museum taking nearly an hour and the two boys started the Bancroft engine at the culmination of their tour following a session with pumping Alfie M's model steam engine into motion.



We were no less honoured and pleased to see Andrew Stephenson MP who has long been a supporter of Bancroft Mill and who was making a private visit. Below left you see him chatting with Mrs. Chapman at reception. It was only a few moments before he was in his favourite position, in the engine hall with a mug of tea!

Many of you have asked when we will be weaving again and to have the reason for the stoppage. We used up the beam that's been on the loom for some time and have had to replace it. None of us have been weavers/tacklers/overlookers/or beamers so we are feeling our way very gently. There are 638 strands of warp to keep separate and in order on the new beam whilst tying them each to the corresponding thread remaining from

the old beam. There is much talk about weaver's knots and hand-held knotters but progress is being made and we hope to be weaving very soon. The new towels will have a blue stripe with Bancroft Mill Engine woven in.

We were very pleased to welcome the Aire Valley Vintage Machinery Group that has its base in Keighley. The members of this group added a new dimension to the Steaming Day at Bancroft Mill Engine Museum, last Sunday. Despite drizzly weather a display of vintage barn engines on the Bancroft car park drew a lot of attention from the visitors. There were nine sparkling engines on display of the types that were common on Dales farms sixty or more years ago when they then provided power for milking machines, electricity generation and numerous other tasks in the more remote areas where there was no other power supply. Virtually all of the engines were coupled to a pump, generator or drilling machine to show some of the applications possible and all the engines were made in Britain. Members of the Aire Valley Vintage Machinery Group are all volunteers, they acquire and rebuild these forgotten engines for a hobby and display them for the public. Below are some samples of engines that have been restored.



The visit arose following a talk given to the group at one of their meetings last winter by Harry M. There is a large active membership with a lot of know-how amongst them. There were many nice comments about the engines made by visitors (including the Mayor) and about their turning out in such uninviting weather.



Some of the Aire Valley Vintage Machinery Group's exhibits chuffing merrily away and three of their members, examining the Bancroft engine.

Further information from 01943 602118 or info@bancroftmill.org.uk
We're on Facebook too!

