

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

GILLIANS LANE, BARNOLDSWICK, BB18 5QR

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

BANCROFT MILL HOSTS ROLLS ROYCE LEISURE.

Barnoldswick has been home to one arm of Rolls Royce over a full 70 years in May this year. We were joined by Rolls Royce Leisure on Sunday 7th April in bringing a photographic display covering the last 50 years since "Welfare" facilities closed at the Fountain Street Club in Barnoldswick and moved to the present site. The many visitors to the display also took the opportunity to tour the museum whilst the mill engine continued to turn throughout, unaffected by the fuss. It is worth remembering that the mill engine was originally started into operation more than 23 years before the arrival of the then Rolls Royce Limited in 1943!



Seen with the display are: (from left) Peter Robinson a turner at Rolls Royce plc, Blair Duncan formerly of RR Plant and Equipment, retired, David Steele of RR but whose father and grandfather were both tacklers in the mill and Derek Greenwood of MITIE Group plc, under contract to RR. Excepting Blair Duncan, all are also members of Bancroft Mill Engine Trust.

James Nutter, the founder of Bancroft Mill originally had 800 looms in operation in Bankfield

Shed but his company moved out in 1920 when Bancroft was built. It left a gap that was never properly filled through the depression and thus provided a home for the Rover Company and then Rolls Royce Limited; it became Shadow Factory No. 6 in World War 2.

We are also hoping to collaborate with Rolls Royce Leisure on another project later in the year which involves a rebuilt and functional 1943 engine.

More later, see www.aeroenginescarlisle.org.uk; and the Welland engine.

REMOTE SUBSCRIBER

Unusually, this issue, we welcome a new subscriber in British Columbia, Mrs. Mary Marrs. Living alone on a ranch on Vancouver Island, she is surrounded by much forest and wild life, bears that eat her apples, elk and cougar, all posing some sort of a threat to life or limb! She has had a passion for steam for most of her life and can now get a whiff of it via the internet and a recent satellite link. Her ancestors hailed from Upper Wharfedale so she is especially welcome; in years gone by she has visited this area and scaled some of the Yorkshire peaks with friends and your scribe. Welcome!

HALIFAX INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

In a recent announcement we have learned that a recent step forward has raised hopes that the Halifax Industrial Museum will be able to reopen fully. A limited company has been formed and volunteers are striving to restore the machinery to working condition.

George Drake tell us that:

The Power display includes an 1860's A frame beam engine from a Scottish gunpowder Mill : a 1920's horizontal Corliss valve engine from a Pudsey tannery and a high speed compound electrical generating set from a Huddersfield dyeworks. Steam was formerly raised with a 50 year old boiler requiring regular firing. High on the Association's want list is a modern, package boiler to supplement this unit, more suited to occasional firing.

A workable display of large machine tools can be found in the museum basement. These were driven from "Sadie" - a 1935 horizontal oil engine made by Robson of Shipley. The oldest machine tool is a C18 "medallion" lathe and the rarest machine an original spinning jenny which brought woollen manufacture out of the cottage and into the factory

We look forward to seeing these machines running again!

MRS. MARY JANE NUTTER

It has been commonly believed that this lady, the wife of James Nutter, was the former Mary Jane Edmondson from Edenfield. Research shows that she was, in fact, Mary Jane Chadwick from Edenfield, something already long shown on the OGFb website.



MRS P. CHAPMAN

We are sorry to report that Mrs Chapman, our receptionist, is still not fully recovered from health problems but we wish her a speedy recovery. Here is Sunday's team "winding down" after we closed.

UK HERITAGE HUB

The current issue [19] of this online magazine is still available on line. Bancroft has a page amidst some wonderful steam images. Our Bancroft offering is on page 22.

[http://www.72010-hengist.org/ukhh/index.php/component/ars/;](http://www.72010-hengist.org/ukhh/index.php/component/ars/)

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