

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

GILLIANS LANE, BARNOLDSWICK, BB18 5QR

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



2013:

First Steaming on 17th March

Bancroft opened the new season with a wonderful crowd who arrived early and seemed to have been starved of the smell of steam and hot oil since last December. As we advised in our last newsletter the Cornish boiler has undergone minor repairs, lighting it for this steaming was somewhat delayed as a result and on two "slow-drawing" days there were issues with raising steam. However, steam *was* raised and a visit by the boiler inspector was also completed on the steaming day.

The earliest visitor was, strangely, the one who had travelled farthest – from Orange in New South Wales. David Richards, long ago a native of York, has always had an interest in railway locomotives and, over this last year, has been taking our newsletters by email. This was his first visit to a former cotton mill and,

suitably impressed, was taking lots of photographs of Bancroft's Roberts engine to take back to Australia, he leaves as this newsletter is being prepared. We might mention that we have other newsletter readers in NSW and Queensland, one of whom occasionally sends his apologies for not being able to attend the next steaming..... With a directorship of four heritage sites/museums there's little wonder that he's busy!

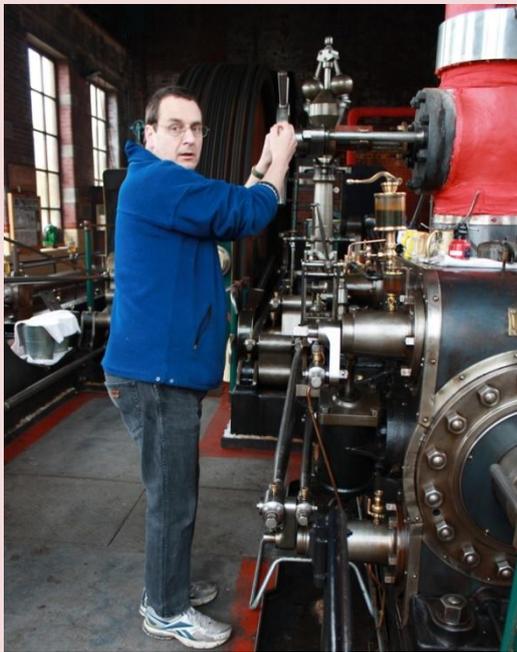
Also amongst our visitors was local, Mrs. Banks who seems, in a long career in teaching in Barnoldswick, to have taught most of our local Bancroft volunteers and/or their children, she was accompanied by a guest, Mr. Lou Baranowski, who has had experience of steam engines in his native Poland and who relived those experiences with our Roberts engine.

Younger visitors

There were many younger visitors at Bancroft for this steaming and they are always a welcome sight, Alfie M's model engines, powered by a bicycle pump were very popular. Here a young visitor has her first experience of a steam engine, she liked the "big one" but her delight at making these models function is a joy to see. Jon B's models on show at Bancroft seem to grow in number every year.



Bancroft weaves again



Over many years Peter R has been a familiar sight at Bancroft, already a youthful engine hall visitor long before the mill closed, Peter has tended the loom for hundreds of demonstrations since becoming a founder member of the Trust in the late 1970's. This is an unusual view of him operating the Roberts engine on Sunday, something else that he's done with great skill for, maybe, 30 years.

The new patio, a labour of love for David N and Derek G over the winter fell victim to Sunday's cold and wet weather, it's something to look forward to as Spring arrives. Also for 2013 our souvenir shop is stocking a wider range of goods including more for children, stop a while on your next visit.

Next Steaming:

We steam again on April 7th when there will be a photographic exhibition arranged by Rolls Royce Leisure plc. More of that in our next newsletter.

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