

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE MUSEUM

Steaming Day
August 18
2013

At Rolls Royce Leisure Centre, Saturday 17th

Rolls Royce Leisure and Bancroft Mill's joint celebration of the 70 years of Rolls Royce in Barnoldswick took place over the last weekend. On Saturday a Welland engine made in 1943, that saw service in the WW2 Gloster Meteor fighter aircraft, was displayed at the Rolls Royce Leisure Centre alongside a Nene engine that was the first engine totally Rolls-Royce designed and developed in Barnoldswick to follow the Welland and the Derwent. The Nene engine is the property of the Rolls Royce Heritage Trust and was prepared for display locally, in Earby, some time ago whilst the Welland was rescued from the scrap heap and restored to running order by an enthusiastic Terry Jones of Aero Engines Carlisle. It is the oldest running jet engine in the world and was made when Barnoldswick was in Yorkshire! It was quite a shame that neither engine could run in Barnoldswick but there were severe constraints. We were however, privileged to make a photoshoot at the Bankfield Shed plant of Rolls Royce when the Welland was aligned against, and dwarfed by, the Trent 700 fan assembly, a product of the Barnoldswick plant. Engines have grown in the last seventy years and, whilst the Welland delivered about 1600 lbs. of thrust, figures of 100,000lbs are not unheard of from Rolls Royce today, the all up weight of civil aircraft and their speeds have also increased dramatically.



**TRENT 700
FAN ONLY
ASSEMBLY
ON REGULAR
DISPLAY AT
ROLLS ROYCE
BARNOLDS-
-WICK
WITH THE
COMPLETE
1943
WELLAND
ENGINE
ALONGSIDE
IT.**

At Bancroft Mill Engine Museum, Sunday.



Bancroft Mill's event on Sunday repeated the display of the Welland engine to a completely different audience largely composed of steam enthusiasts and model engineers some from afar afield as the Scottish border counties. The engine was the star of the outdoor display, alas, Terry Jones' illustrated talk on the rebuild of the engine could not be repeated at Bancroft. Nevertheless the event provoked our largest turn-out in 2013 so far.

Left: Visitors examine the Welland at close quarters with photo records of its rebuild available for all to peruse. The engine is ready to run with electric starting, fuel, oil and battery are carried on the trailer. Its final inspection sheet, signed by a Miss Sharples still exists, she is now Mrs. Fox living in Canada and closely related to Richard Sharples, our Trustee, She has visited and seen the engine.

Inside the museum-

the mill engine steamed away merrily to give accompaniment to an impressive display of working model engines, locomotives, petrol engines and much more. One model ran continuously for several hours, powered only by an insulated hot mug of tea,

all its parts were super lightweight and its flywheel a DVD that was blank as far as we know! The display by Bradford Model Engineering Society was assembled by members from youth to well into retirement. A Bancroft member of 10 years of age showed two engines at the invitation of the exhibitors. The Society celebrated its *centenary* in 2008 and must be one of the oldest, if not *the* oldest in the country. Its records show that many members were called to active service during WW2, one keen member was working on his model whilst serving in a merchant ship only to lose it when the ship was torpedoed. In the centenary year the members were able to launch 100 model boats on the Lake in Bradford Moor Park to provide an impressive show.

The displays at Bancroft included scale railway models and a powered boat, many stationary engines including a number that ran for virtually all the opening hours, from compressed air of course on safety grounds. The "tea mug" engine is seen on the left here.



The Bradford Society of Model Engineers took an after-hours guided tour of Bancroft and we were proud to show them the site, there was talk of mill engine models, and future possibilities.....

Overleaf are seen the larger exhibits including mill engines, locomotives and a boat. The Society has its own railway tracks where members' locomotives are operated regularly and carry passengers. During its centenary year BMES was able to display its members' models and members home-made special tools at the Bradford Industrial Museum, there were 144 superb exhibits!

Below left

A later visitor discusses the larger exhibits with a BMES member.



Right:

Terry Jones applies his skilled hands to starting the Bancroft engine, probably weighing around 300 times more than his Welland Jet Engine and by no means as powerful!



Left

David N. enjoys the fruits of his labours, he was ably assisted by Derek G. This is our new patio area with very solid suspended decking and floral touches. All done by David and Derek.



Below left:

A young visitor isn't very impressed at this moment with the Bancroft engine but later he chattered away about the big wheel! Can we hope for a convert I wonder? We've sent a couple of pics. as his mementos of the day.

Next Steaming, please note correct dates:

Bancroft will be steaming on Saturday 14th September and Sunday 15th September to celebrate Heritage Days, entry will be free of charge and doors open at 11.00am, the engine will be starting at 1.00pm, as usual, our cafeteria will open from 1.00pm. More details on our website from 9th September.

Jonathan Bettes our Membership Secretary has not been well and has lately spent some time in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Ellen Road Engine House Our friends at Newhey near Milnrow will run this engine on 1st September. There will be a display by "Stone the Crows", Welsh Border Dancers, and a photographic exhibition provided by the Rochdale Photographic Society. More details from their website.

Further information about Bancroft Mill Engine Museum:
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www.bancroftmill.org.uk
www.facebook.com/BancroftMill
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bancroft_Shed