

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE MUSEUM

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20th May 2013

RETURN VISIT OF PATRICIA JONES

Sunday's weather was not initially of the best for a day out anywhere but Patricia Jones certainly didn't disappoint. Visitors and members alike were treated to a display of her talent and her ability to work amongst many distractions.

She started her day with a watercolour scene that was lightly sketched and otherwise had only sky washed in. Throughout the day the picture grew, under the gaze of Bancroft volunteers and visitors until it was complete by the time that the engine stopped for the day.

The scene (from Garsdale) is shown growing here from the original sketch at the top through Patricia charging her brush to the penultimate stage here at the bottom of the page.



The finished water colour is on our next page.



She has a talent that can only be admired!

Future Events.

During the course of the day we were visited by two officers from Bradford Model Engineering Society. The Society is having a private steaming and will display members' models at Bancroft on Heritage Day, 18.09.13., this is a large and thriving Society, well established and the display will be one not to miss!

Maintenance.



A couple of "steamings" ago we were obliged to change one of the valve groups in the boiler feed pump whilst warming up due to a catastrophic failure of one valve. Removal of the cover revealed a scene of near-devastation, luckily we have an identical spare pump and thus were running again quickly. The wear on the brass stems can be clearly seen and the stem in the foreground had parted from its spring retaining cap, locknuts had not been refitted to the stems when it was last serviced.



New stems (9/16 BSW) were turned and screwed , new locknuts made, all prior to brazing the caps on to them. The seating surfaces had suffered from a little wear and distortion due to age related stress relief of the sand castings that had been used. Lapping restored the geometry and promises reliable sealing under working conditions.

See page 3 for assembly picture.



The overhauled valves are now replaced in their carrier casting (left).

Removal of the cast brass valve seats, which were taper threaded around 3.5 inches diameter, was difficult as they had been fitted after coating with sealant. A special tool was made for the purpose with a *very* long arm. Using a combination of freezing and heating the tool eventually removed the seats to allow the reseating.



Left:

The business end of the tool before attaching its long arm, slots arranged in a cruciform shape engage with four arms in the casting and thus removed the parts safely. It is made from mild-steel.

A long-term subscriber to this newsletter, Dick Richards, has had a not too pleasant 2013 so far and is currently being cared for in York, he still reads the newsletter though! We all wish him well and a speedy recovery, other regular readers and visitors will remember that we had a visitor from New South Wales in March, David Richards who is Dick's son and was on a flying visit to his father. On publication of our newsletter a sharp eyed reporter from Leader-Times Newspapers phoned to ask, "If David was from Australia, why was he wearing a French rugby team shirt?" There is a simple answer but I'll spare you the details, nevertheless, well done Will!

Here is young Harry Whittaker on his first visit to Bancroft where, with a little help, he started the main engine, was presented with a certificate and ran Alfie M's model engine. We had treated the model to a new twin-cylinder foot-pump lately and after running the engine beautifully it blew the cylinder cover off the engine in a moment of excess pumping zeal. Back to the drawing board/soldering iron!

Next steaming is on 09.06.2013 when a Triton motorcycle built by Dave Moore will be ridden to the mill and displayed inside.

Further details from:-
our website: www.bancroftmill.org.uk.
Telephone 01943 602118
or on our Facebook entry:-



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