

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE MUSEUM

GILLIANS LANE,
BARNOLDSWICK
NR. COLNE,
LANCS.
BB18 5QR
www.bancoftmill.org.uk

24th December 2013

STEAMING DATES FOR 2014

Steaming commences on 16th March at 1.00pm and features the ever popular Lancashire Society with dialect songs, traditional music and much more. Special features later in the year are yet to be fixed but will be published as soon as possible.

For your diary:

16th March

6th April

27th April

18th May

8th June

28 June

27th July

17th August

13th September - Heritage Day

14th September - Heritage Day

5th October

26th October

16th November

7th December, final steaming.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Thank you, each and every one for your renewed support in 2013, may we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year? We have enjoyed your company during your visits and look forward to renewing our acquaintance in 2014.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions will be due from January 1st. Please give/send subscriptions to Freddie Frot (Treasurer) at the mill or send to, Jim Gill, Mean Moss Farm, Trawden, BURNLEY, Lancs. BB8 8ST.

Ordinary membership £12

Concessionary membership £10

Life membership £100

Membership cards will be issued early in 2014 to paid-up members.

Work will continue at Bancroft over the winter shut-down and all are welcome to visit on Saturdays from 4th January 2014, entry is free of charge. Please remember that the whole site will be a work area and we hope that you can be safety conscious and watchful for any transient dangers.

From Subscribers.

Regular readers will recall pictures from Mrs. Mary Marrs on Vancouver Island (BC) including one of a huge wooden railway viaduct near to her property. Mary has been in touch again with a photograph of a rather large pest that appears in her orchard periodically in the shape of a bear intent on helping itself to whatever there is. The photograph, taken from a safe distance, is therefore not so sharp but clipping of the image and a little sharpening up, I hope, will give readers an idea of the size of this animal. Mary's roots are here in Upper Wharfedale and we can but muse that it must be a very long time since things like this roamed this area here.



ELECTRICS at Bancroft.

The mill was originally illuminated by a 110V DC supply supplied by a dynamo installed when the mill was built and which was driven from the Roberts engine. It also charged batteries in a ventilated room underground allowing lighting to be used when the engine was stopped. This system was replaced in the late 1940's as the National Grid extended, a high power 230V alternator was fitted in place of the dynamo and all the mill lighting with some processing was then operated from this alternator. When the engine was stopped the mill could be supplied directly from the mains making the batteries redundant. We have been contacted by Allan, son of Les Smith who tells us of working on this installation. The main contractor was Nelson Engineering Company who used a subcontractor to wire the buildings and the shed in particular. Les recalls working on a ladder installing a lighting unit in the shed when he accidentally dropped one of the glass covers onto a loom below. The weaver whose 'piece' was ruined was, to say the least, not best pleased. Les and I are going to have a telephone conversation after Christmas.

ELLENROAD. Zoe Renshaw advises me that the Ellen Road Museum will not be functional in January but will resume steaming as usual on the first Sunday in February.

Finally, and personally

I have to tell you that this is my last newsletter to you unless something unexpected should occur. A big birthday looms and I'll be in another decade then. If anyone had told me when I retired 15 years ago that I would still be doing at least 30 hours a week in the steaming season I would have laughed for days. Anyway a younger and vigorous mind is taking on the tasks that I set myself in 2009 and he is Ian McKay who will surely take the development of the mill forward.

The years have passed in roller coaster fashion with highs and lows in each year but entertainment (other than a Roberts engine running at 68 rpm) has provided a new dimension for all visitors and often something especially for spouses. It has been quite rewarding to see more and more ladies and family parties on steaming days and to see visitor numbers double, triple and then quadruple over the period.

There have been some notable events but I will not dwell on them except to say that the last steaming of 2013 with the Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle, our MP, Andrew Stephenson and the Church School children was probably the most enjoyable event for me of the five years.

I have to thank our many entertainers, some of whom have come to Bancroft throughout the whole five years; all have given their time gladly and made our steaming days much more colourful. The artists who have done portraits or landscapes in our engine house deserve high praise for their concentration and kindness. Others, musicians, clog dancers, motor clubs and engineering societies have entranced us, to each of you I say a heartfelt "Thank you", and you have helped us immensely to preserve something worth keeping. Over the years the children from Barnoldswick Church School have come along to entrance us with their singing, all of them and the member of staff, Mrs Jamieson, have always deserved our thanks for giving their time in pre-practice as well on our steaming day. In December a presentation by His Worship the Mayor of Pendle to Mrs. Jamieson was well deserved.

To our readers and visitors, you are our main reason for being here, without people to visit and appreciate this museum our efforts would be futile. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all, for your interest, your donations, your membership and your recommendations to others. Again, still on a personal level, I have much enjoyed your mail, your kind comments and useful suggestions, you can keep them coming, and Ian or I will be pleased to respond. I sure hope to be with you for some time yet.



A happy group of local children and their teacher.

In my workshop I have three engineering projects in hand and now hope for time to finish them, one has taken too long already, another will be overtaken by the efforts of others if I don't get a move on and the third one, thankfully small, should only take a week or two.

A few have helped us by delivering unwanted pallets and clean wood for our boiler. Your kindness has enabled us to extend our steaming season into December and thus have a more Christmassy feel surrounding the final steaming and a guaranteed start. I will refrain from mentioning names but you know who you are! Thank you very much for this very practical help which sits very well with a number of recent donations of tools and equipment that are already in use.

Sincerely, Harry.

PS. I'm open to offers for a slightly used green boiler suit!

www.bancroftmill.org.uk

www.facebook.com/BancroftMill

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bancroft_Shed

more info from:

Ian, 01695 424166

Or Harry, 01943 602118

Ctrl+click to go to our Facebook page >

