

# BANCROFT MILL ENGINE TRUST

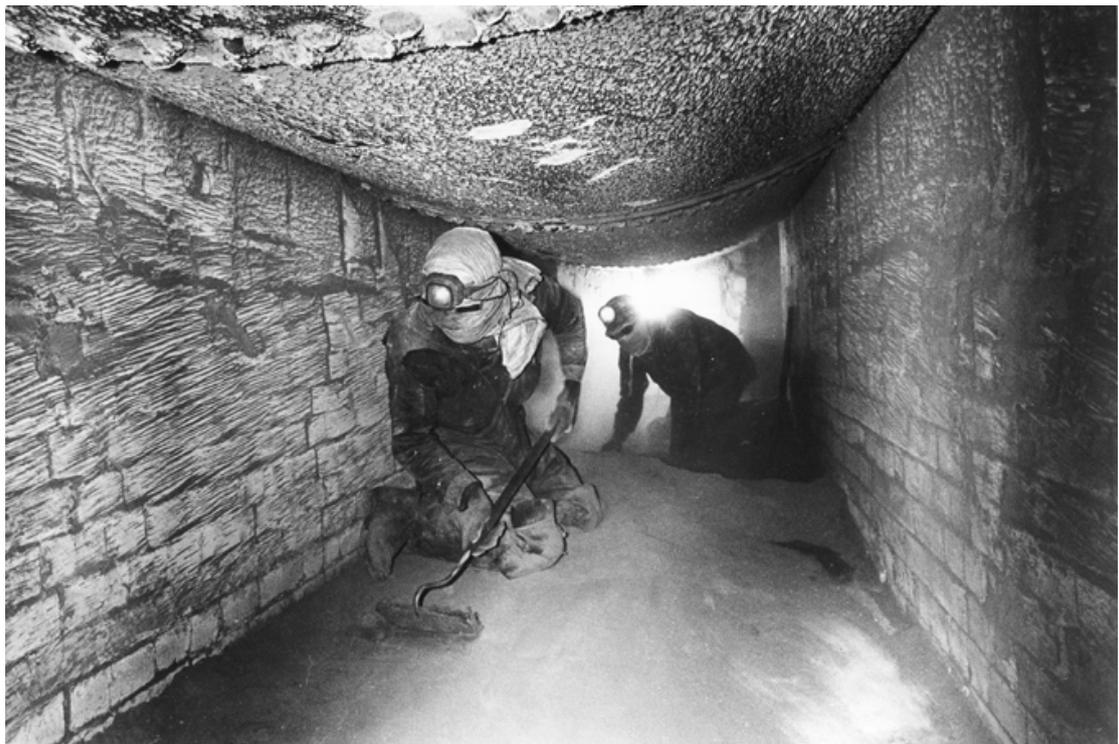
## SUMMER NEWSLETTER.

*Dear Member,*

*Those of you who have had the good fortune of seeing the Bancroft engine in action will, no doubt be aware that the low pressure side is very noisy. This is because, as there is no load on the engine, and quite low steam pressure, the admission valves tend to jump about and emit unpleasant clanging sounds. We have long thought of ways to try to get around the problem, and this year we did something about it at last. Without going into technicalities, we have altered the admission-valve linkage so that a small amount of pressure is brought to bear on the valves and hold them down. The effect has been very satisfactory, the engine has a lovely rhythmic sound now.*

*Steaming Days have so far been fair. In the summer season it is impossible not to clash with other events in the general area, and if the weather is very good, then outside events usually have bigger attendances. Our second steaming was a real struggle, as we had cold weather and all the fuel was very wet. At the moment we have lots of wood to burn and it is all dry - for which the fire beaters are truly thankful!*

*Now, a word about membership. According to our Trust Deed, a membership lapses if subscriptions are not paid for two years. In the past, this has resulted in loss of revenue through admissions and sending newsletters. The Trustees and Committee have now*



**A few period photographs**

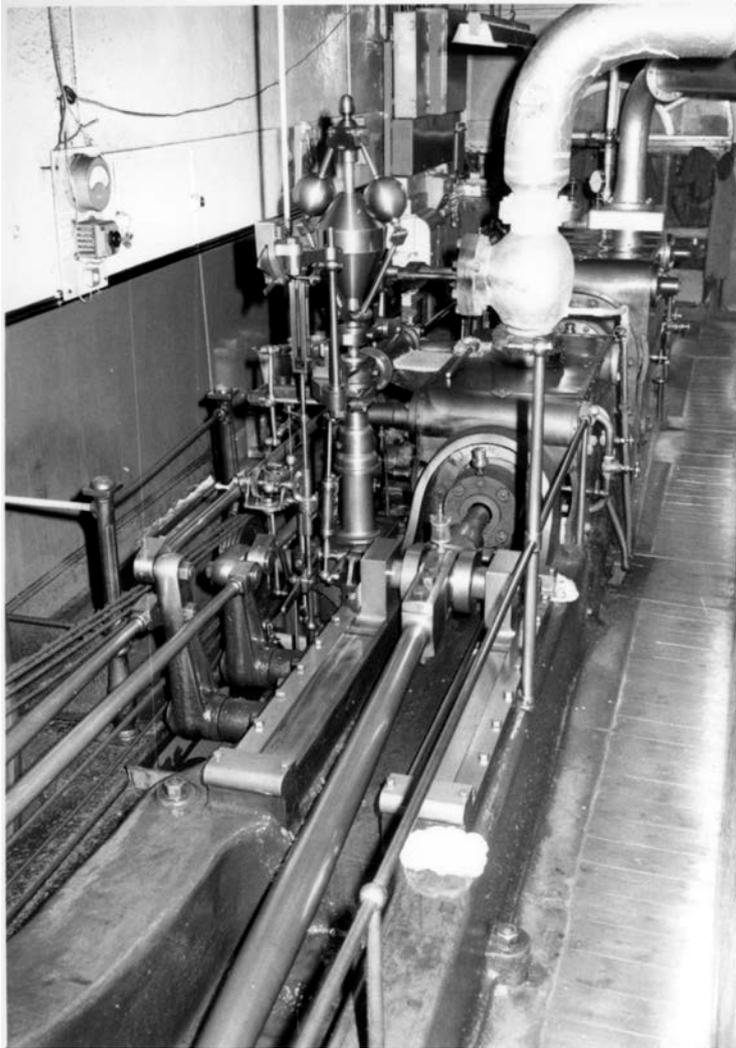
**Top:** The Roberts and Sons engine in its working days, circa 1970.

**Bottom:** The annual cleaning the flues under the Lancashire boiler.

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**Top:** The shed full of looms at Bancroft Mill

**Bottom:** The Smith & Eastwood Engine at Bradley.



*decided that, as from 2014, membership will lapse if subs are not paid for the current year. In addition,*

*yearly membership cards will be sent out on receipt of the subs. The Trust Deed has been amended accordingly.*

*We have been successful in obtaining a grant from the PRISM Fund. This is for having the Bradley engine main bearings and piston rings cast, machined and fitted. The work is in progress and hopefully will be completed this season.*

*The museum shop now stocks quite a few new items in addition to the old favourites. Among these are Bancroft Tee shirts and fridge magnets with views of the engine. There are also booklets on the Bancroft engine and the Bradley engine.*

*Still to come this year is the annual Heritage Open Days event which will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September - a whole weekend of steam. Entry, of course is free to non members on those days, and it is always a good event, with live music laid on.*

*PLEASE NOTE: The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will take place at the Museum at 7.30pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013. I am appending a copy of the last AGM minutes and balance sheet.*

*We look forward to seeing you all.*

*Jim Gill (Hon sec.) 01282 865626. June 2013.*