

NEWSLETTER

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE MUSEUM.

Gillians Lane, Barnoldswick Nr.
Colne, Lancs. BB18 5QR

www.bancoftmill.org.uk

March 7th 2014

STEAMING DAYS ARE BACK!

Everything seems to be in order for resumption of steaming on 16th March 2014 from 1.00pm 'til 4.30pm. The Cornish boiler is certificated for yet another year's steaming and we are assured that the Roberts engine will run for another season despite there

being some reservations about the HP tail rod support system.

Work has progressed on the Bradley engine with manufacture of mainshaft and connecting rod bearings in hand. The hot end of the engine appears to be in good order, looks very smart and before too long the heaviest parts, the two flywheel halves, will need to be brought into the new engine house, cleaned, painted and assembled on the crankshaft. The total assembled weight is calculated at 8.8 tons, the portable lifting equipment is designed to handle this piece in its two halves.



The Smith Brothers and Eastwood (Bradley) engine getting attention from Roy F. on a recent Saturday Morning. He was busy around the condenser mounting.

Entertainment on 16th April's steaming is provided by the perennial favourites, who are members of the Lancashire Society. At the time of publication we do not have full details of which members will be visiting except that Sid Calderbank

(Lancashire Sid), will lead the group which is including Sally James and Ron. Dialect songs, weavers' tales, Lancashire poems, folk music

accompanied on the bones should be expected. Not a formal affair, it will be "laid back" and entertaining as usual. We are deeply indebted to these artist/e/s for their unstinting support over a number of years. AND yes, before you ask, there could possibly be clog dancing!



During the early part of the year we were visited by members of the Noyna Inner Wheel with their President, Mrs Marie Foulds. As Pendle media has reported, these ladies needed to be photographed alongside our Roberts engine flywheel in order to enter into a competition against other Inner Wheel groups. Bancroft was

delighted to oblige and we thank the ladies for a generous donation to our funds. The members are seen here braving a very cold morning in the Engine House and are currently seeking a suitable title for the picture.

Mr. and Mrs. Foulds will visit to us see the engine run at the March steaming.

At the June 9th steaming last year we had an exhibition provided by Dave Moore featuring his home built Triton (Triumph-Norton hybrid motor cycle) which was then being run for development purposes. Here is a shot of Dave at Cadwell Park in Lincolnshire recently, putting the machine through its paces, it performed excellently at high speed and stayed aimed at target with the front wheel often airborne. The power of the Triumph engine with the



road-holding of the Manx Norton frame and modified forks making a good and very stable combination.

Inset, the machine surrounded by visitors whilst on display at Bancroft last year.

FIRE PUMP



David N. has undertaken to build a cover over the firepump that has been sited in the mill yard for many a year. It was refurbished and painted before being put in position but now requires frequent removal of surface algae, a big task needed almost annually.

Despite being into retirement David has no qualms about working at heights and his secret ascent of the chimney (when Fred Dibnah was working on it) is legendary. The photographs that he took from the top are breathtaking. You can see his display in the Engine Hall.

Heights like this one are child's play to David.



More Visitors (top)

Fred F. is seen here with visitors from France, in the Engine House, alas, on a non-steaming day. Ian M opened the shop for them and it seemed like half our stock of Bancroft woven tea towels disappeared towards the Chunnel in a matter of moments.



BBC Radio Lancashire (centre) in the shape of Brett Davison came to the mill last week and did an interview which was broadcast in two four-minute slots earlier this week.



The Boiler feed pump (bottom) for the Cornish boiler had surgery during last year to replace a valve block, that block has been rebuilt following the discovery that four parts had been missing from it right from its arrival at Bancroft. The valve assembly was on display until the end of 2013 in the Engine Hall. A complete strip and overhaul of the spare pump that we hold is to start very shortly and it is hoped that it will be on display whilst the work proceeds.

Keighley Association of Engineers has announced a talk by Mr. Sandy Maclure on the Crossness Engines which were designed to pump sewage from the city of London and employed the largest Beam engines of their type in the world. The Crossness Engines Trust is in the process of renovating two of the original pumping engines which are located in magnificent architectural pump house surroundings.

The illustrated talk will include the many issues and challenges facing the renovation engineers and, as other talks throughout the year, is open to visitors free of charge. Free parking at the side of the building.

Date: Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Start time: 7.30 p.m. sharp.

Location: Phoenix Service Solutions, Cedar House

Aire Valley Business Centre, Lawkholve Lane, Keighley. BD21 3BB.

More details from: <http://www.kaoe.org.uk/> or John Pankhurst: 07582 822922

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