

BANCROFT MILL ENGINE MUSEUM

GILLIANS LANE,
BARNOLDSWICK,
NR. COLNE,
LANCS.
BB18 5QR

27 July 2014



STEAMING commenced at 1.00pm, as usual, to the accompaniment of Richard Lamb's Newcomen atmospheric engine (in quiet mode) running alongside the Bancroft Engine. Richard, ably assisted by Martin was demonstrating his engine as a result of volunteering at Wortley Top museum and being spotted by Phil Robinson a Bancroft member and Vincent-HRD owner. He kindly agreed to do a demonstration for us.

HIS ENGINE was originally made from readily available materials and later modified to get optimum performance. Steam is generated in a discarded pressure cooker having a kettle element fitted and the pumping feature is also fully functional, drawing water from a container at floor level and returning it.

A new engine is on the stocks and is expected to be running in 2015, however the work continues at Wortley and Richard is also volunteering at Elsecar in S. Yorkshire where restoration of a very old Newcomen atmospheric engine has been undertaken.

OTHER ENTERTAINMENT



We had music from a very popular and powerful trio at Sunday's steaming. Michael J. Ramplin and Friends gave us a varied and very listenable mix of music and song. Regular visitors and members will have noticed that the trio had sufficient punch to be heard over the engine and its echoes around the hall, something that's rare at Bancroft. We had a thoroughly enjoyable performance from a well-polished group of performers.

The trio is based in Lancashire, Michael is a well respected singer/songwriter of Country/Gospel and Country Music ably backed by his colleagues Martin Dawson and Gerald Norcross. Between them they have won many awards for the promotion of New Christian Music to the media.

Email: michael.ramplin@hotmail.co.uk;

Tel: 01282 699633

Website:

www.jango.com/music/Michael+J+Ramplin



For those present at the steaming and want more there are two albums available:

"The Greatest Friend of All" and
"Country's more than a song"



BANCROFT VISITOR MEETS HIS HISTORY



Mr. and Mrs. Allen Smith from The Midlands were amongst the visitors to Bancroft on Sunday when they came to see where Mr. Smith's father, Les, worked during his apprenticeship. Major updates at Bancroft Mill were underfoot in the 1950's and Les Smith was occupied fitting new lighting units in the weaving shed. Allen recalls that his father speaks of working whilst the looms were weaving and accidentally dropping a glass cover that ruined a piece of cloth on the loom underneath. The wrath of the weaver is also likely remembered!

Les Smith went on to work for Rolls Royce spending time at almost every site in the United Kingdom except Barnoldswick, he retired from the RR Nuclear Division in Derby. Allen's grandmother worked as a weaver at Bancroft, Allen met Barnoldswick's Mrs. Hilda Elsworth (91) who was able to talk to him about his grandmother who she recalls in considerable detail.

Mrs. Win. McLelland a Bancroft Member (left) with friend and fellow historian: Mrs. Hilda Elsworth during discussions with Allen Smith that gave an unexpected result.



WHITBY STEAM BUS

The owners, Viv. and Vernon Smith, have announced that the 11 ton Sentinel Steam Bus “Elizabeth” will not run after this year. She has carried up to 50,000 passengers a year for many years but a dispute over watering her has made her continuation unlikely.

PENDLE HERITAGE

The Historic Farm Buildings Group will be holding their Autumn Conference at Downham, near Clitheroe September 19th – 21st. It is open to non-members.

Information and booking forms can be obtained from:-

David Morris

PENDLE HERITAGE, Park Hill, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancashire. BB9 6JQ

01282 677150

TREADLE LATHE

The treadle lathe shown in our last newsletter has been identified by John Cryer as a Barnes Lathe made in Rockford Ill. USA. Its design seems to have been patented in 1887. Co-incidentally our lathe in the Lancashire Boiler House was also made in Rockford, a well known centre for machine tools.



VOLUNTEERING

We are always grateful for help at the “front of the house” and new volunteers are especially welcome. Here’s Mrs. Shirley Stott (a recent addition to the team) having fun starting the engine.....

TEES COTTAGE PUMPING STATION

It now seems to be clear that problems at this museum are centred on the buildings rather than boilers or engines. The closure will continue to the end of 2014 and we wish the volunteers well in re-opening the site again.

For more information: call 01695 424166,

Email Harry or Ian, info@bancroftmill.org.uk

Or visit www.bancroftmill.org.uk

Or see www.facebook.com/BancroftMill