

The Steam Museum

The Bolton Steam Museum is a world-class visitor attraction, home to one of the largest collections of working steam-powered mill engines in Europe. Visitors travel from across the UK and around the World to experience this unique museum, which is run entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers. Many have been involved since the museum's early days and continue to share their passion, skills, and expertise.

In addition to its impressive collection of full-size working engines, the museum also features scale model engines and many artefacts that demonstrate the craftsmanship and engineering heritage of the textile industry. The volunteers have done an exceptional job restoring and maintaining these exhibits, using traditional skills combined with modern-day technology, ensuring they remain in working order for future generations.

Entry and parking are free.
Disabled parking available.
Light refreshments will be on sale.

Donations to the Northern Mill Engine Society will be welcomed and appreciated.

Thank you to the following organisations who helped to fund the additional visitor experience during the bank holiday 30-31 Aug 2026



Anthony Axford Timber Merchants
Tel: 01204 571697



Harry Grundy's Fruit and Veg
Bolton Market
Tel: 07970 203933



Powder and plastic coating specialist.
Farnworth Tel: 01204 708555



James Lever Ropes, Bolton
Tel: 01204 461121



W McManus Bakery & Sons Ltd,
Farnworth
Tel: 01204 572 810



JD Staircases, Farnworth
Tel: 01204 859 321



Duke of Wellington,
Lostock, Drinks, food & events
Tel: 01942 933871



The Hulton Arms,
Over Hulton, Drinks, food & events
Tel: 01204 450986

We also wish to thank the many supporters of the steam museum for their continued support who have been on our records for many years.

**Leaflet printed by Minerva Print and Design
01204 397522**

The Northern Mill Engine Society



Diamond Jubilee 1966-2026



**Contact us by phone Tel: 07789874105
or Email john.phillp@blueyonder.co.uk**

Diamond Jubilee

Celebrating 60 years of preserving Britain's industrial heritage, the Northern Mill Engine Society was founded in 1966 following a meeting at the Queen Anne Hotel in Heywood. A group of dedicated enthusiasts recognised that, over the previous two decades, many textile steam engines had been scrapped as alternative sources of power replaced steam-driven mill machinery. They concluded that unless action was taken, these remarkable examples of engineering would be lost forever.



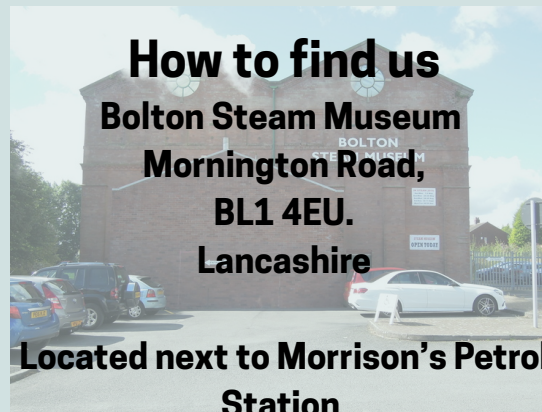
Determined to preserve this important part of the nation's industrial past, the Society began rescuing, restoring and operating steam engines for future generations. Today, their work has resulted in one of the world's finest collections of working mill engines, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to experience the North of England's rich engineering and textile heritage from the Industrial Revolution to the modern day.

Celebrations on Monday August 31st

Farnworth and Walkden Brass Band will perform at the Bolton Steam Museum on Monday 31 August 2026, giving two half-hour performances at approximately 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm.

The band has strong historical links to Lancashire's industrial heritage, reflecting the area's proud traditions of cotton weaving and cotton spinning in Farnworth, together with engineering and manufacturing in Walkden.

Visitors are invited to take part in the 60th anniversary celebrations. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.



**Bus Routes 519, 520 and 125
from Bolton Interchange (Bus Station)**

2026 "In Steam" Days

Experience the sights, sounds, and atmosphere of working steam-powered mill engines on our special "In Steam" days:

Sunday 30 & Monday 31 August 2026
Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 October 2026
Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 December 2026

On "In Steam" days, volunteers undertake a wide range of roles, including welcoming visitors, operating the Engine View Café, staffing the bookstall, demonstrating the textile machinery, and helping to ensure the boiler is prepared and maintained for steam operation.

Become a Volunteer

New volunteers are always welcome.

The Museum is open every Wednesday, when the engines are powered by electricity. Volunteers help with a variety of tasks, including cleaning and maintaining the engines, carrying out repairs, restoring exhibits, and improving the Museum for future visitors.

Sundays also provide an opportunity to see the engines powered by electricity and to learn more about the Museum's work.