



The inaugural Brown Rigg Reunion was a huge and unqualified success, and as people took their leave the question on everyone's lips was, "When's the next one?". What had been intended as a once only occasion was about to become an annual event, and to keep everybody in touch, a quarterly magazine "The Happy Hiker" was launched, its readership extending to all corners of the globe.

The somewhat bemused committee were faced with the task of coming up with a series of events to entertain their guests. Various activities have taken place, the once compulsory hikes have been re-enacted, although much shorter and at a gentler pace than in days gone by, and favourite destinations such as 'Grassy Bridge' and 'Dally Castle' have been visited as has the picturesque Hareshaw Linn. The organisers hired a vintage London double decker bus, and guests were taken on scenic rides round the beautiful North Tyne Valley. The Friday evening barbecue has become a popular feature of reunion weekends with guests doing their own cooking sending the smell of burning burgers and sizzling sausages wafting over Bellingham.



Two constant features of the reunion weekend are the Saturday evening ball in Bellingham Town Hall which sees a packed house with former pupils dancing the night away with an energy which defies their advancing years. There is also the Sunday morning church service, this replicates the simple services which were held at Brown Rigg School and sees the involvement of former pupils giving readings which are always a popular and emotional event, it is a fitting finale to the weekend's activities.



Amazingly, the Brown Rigg Reunions remain popular year after year, with people continuing to flock back to Bellingham, including an amazing number now living overseas and there is now the added bonus of being able to actually stay at Brown Rigg in the newly developed holiday lodges. Another bonus is the development of the display and audio presentation in conjunction with The Heritage Centre at Bellingham, offering former pupils the opportunity to delve into the past and explore their schooldays through the vast collection of photographs and memorabilia which has been collected.