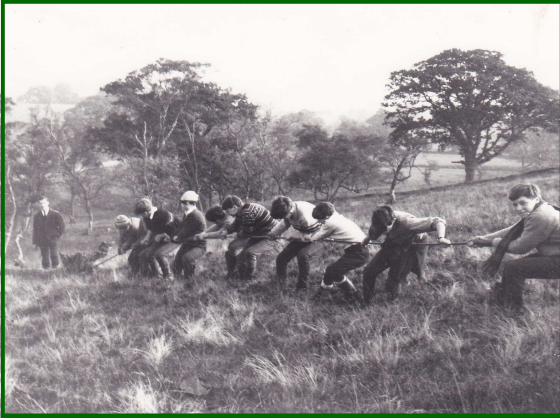




Life at Brown Rigg Camp School

A normal day started at 07.30hrs when everyone was woken up by the live-in teacher or dormitory captain. First, to the ablutions for a wash and brush up, then back to make your beds army-pack style. Clothes were folded and neatly stored. Then the dormitory had to be cleaned, brushed out, dusted and polished, as later an inspection would take place and points awarded for the best-kept dormitory. This meant competing with the girl's dormitories and of course the boys never won this competition, probably training for later in life!



Breakfast followed, then the dormitory inspection, followed by assembly and then general school lessons until 13.00hrs when it was time for lunch.

Situated at the foot of the fells 'normal' lessons at Brown Rigg included a large slice and variety of physical activities mostly outdoor that can only be dreamed of at modern-day schools. These included cross country hikes and running, rock climbing, canoeing, field and gym sports, camping, scouting and swimming, that is if you could face the outdoor pool! Many other activities took place including what seemed to be the teachers' preference for the muddiest and wettest of conditions, and of course the winter snow added further activities.



Lessons continued after lunch until time for tea at 16.30hrs. After tea, beds had to be made ready to sleep in. After this a further class of your own selection was attended for one hour, then a shower and it was time for supper. At 20.00hrs you had a spelling lesson with 20 words to learn and then you were tested at the end of the week.

At 20.15hrs you attended self-selected activities much like evening classes of today. These could be crafts, drama, music, dancing and many other activities. Then lights out 21.30hrs-22.00hrs.

Saturday was more or less a free day to do what you wanted. On Sunday morning everyone had to attend a church of their choice and some pupils tried them all, then back to school for lunch. After lunch the boys had a 10-mile hike/run, the girls a 5 mile hike/run. This was compulsory, no excuses. Activities were organised such as camping for Bank Holidays that fell within a school term and so little time was left for idle hands and you were never bored.

Living as they did in dormitories, life became like one huge family, always someone there to help when needed. Pupils were actually in tears because they had to go home at the end of term.