



The countryside surrounding Bellingham was awash with suitable camping sites, and many happy weekends were spent at places such as Roses Bower (home of the famous 'Long Drop'), Greenhaugh, Dally Castle and Lee Hall, with occasional forays farther afield to places like Plashetts and Kielder. In the summer, venues such as Grassy Bridge and Riding Island were popular as they were convenient for swimming in the adjacent river.



Mr Grey had a keen interest in drama, and in 1950 arranged for the school troop to organise the first ever Brown Rigg Gang Show. After many nights of rehearsals, the evening of December 13th saw the school's assembly hall packed with both pupils and staff. Full of sketches and knockabout comedy routines, the show was a resounding success and the highlight of the school year. Other outstanding spectacles featuring the scouts included the great Coronation Pageant in 1953 when they mounted a tableau of a 'Western Wagon Train' complete with marauding Indians and settlers getting 'scalped' and the 1957 Scout Jamboree, where in front of an international audience of scouts from all over the world the Brown Rigg troop got the camp fire off to a spectacular start. They emerged from the surrounding trees with flaming torches and swooped down, hollering and whooping, on the assembled and unsuspecting gathering before hurling their torches on to the unlit fire.

A popular feature of Brown Rigg scouting life were the midnight hikes which taught lads not only the art of map and compass reading but also gave them confidence to go out on a pitch-black night across unmarked fells. Sometimes the chosen route even involved fording the River North Tyne before finding their way to a remote camp site, and they treated the whole thing as a great adventure.

One activity much enjoyed by the scouts was the camp fire sing-song when popular ditties such as "Ging Gang Gooly Gooly", "The Great American Railroad" and of course, the scouting anthem, "We're Riding Along On The Crest Of A Wave" were belted out with gusto while enjoying a mug of hot cocoa in front of a roaring log fire.



