

ALLITHWAITE BOWLING CLUB

Twenty-five years ago the bowling green behind the Community Centre off Quarry Lane in Allithwaite was officially opened by Chairman of the Parish Council William Jackson Esq. on 17th April 1992.

But there was a bowling green in Allithwaite as long ago as 1909. A new Village Hall, situated across the road from the parish cottage, was built in 1908 by Mr and Mrs Bliss of Boarbank Hall. Joseph Bliss, who bought the Boarbank Hall estate in 1902, was the son of Revd Joseph Bliss of Leyland Congregational Church, and Joseph junior intended that the Village Hall should also be used for Free Church worship, with Sunday Evening Mission Services.



Photograph by Edward Sankey, reproduced in *Lancashire North of the Sands*, by John Garbutt & John Marsh, looking eastwards towards the quarry, with the shop to the right and the Lantern Shop (Green View) to the left of the entrance to Quarry Lane.

A bowling green adjacent to the Village Hall was opened on the 24th July 1909 by Lady Macgregor, the wife of Sir Evan MacGregor, permanent secretary to the Admiralty from 1884-1907, who spent his retirement at Aynsome. It was reported that some of the Lower Holker men were very pleased to be invited to play in some of the first games at the festive little gathering, the start of a close association between the Allithwaite and Lower Holker Bowling Clubs which continues to the present day.

Allithwaite Subscription Bowling Club was formed in 1936 with the opening ceremony taking place on the green on the evening of Monday 20th July. It was reported in the *Westmorland Gazette* that Mr J. B. Smalley, secretary of the Village Hall trustees, and Col. Robert Thompson, who lived at Fairhaven, Kents Bank, played the first game, Mrs Drinkall and Mrs Wilcock played the next game, and bowling proceeded until dusk.

The following year matches were played against Lower Holker and the Grange Promenade Club, and the Allithwaite Club continued in existence until the late 1950s. In 1957 the final round for the challenge cup presented by the Revd Joseph John Strong, vicar of Allithwaite 1955-1967, was played between Horace Nash, who lived at The Haven, and William Porter, who lived at Low Square. The secretary between 1949 and 1957 was George Herbert Nutter who lived at Langroyd, Kirkhead Road.

If anyone has more information about the old Allithwaite Bowling Club please contact John Beckett on 36388 or email beckettpost@gmail.com .