

An Introduction to Leisure in Lindale

The *Lindale Parish Magazine 1908-10* gives a tantalising glimpse of some simple leisure activities as the following extracts show. There were processions, field days, trips and the Fell Race. Children's leisure pursuits used to be based on the countryside around, playing in the Mill Dam, and around the school.

Extracts from Lindale Parish Magazine 1908-10	
August 1908	There was a procession around the village and a field day for the children.
September 1908	The summer has been beautiful. The choir had a trip to Bare and Morecambe.
November 1908	The corn has been gathered. The Harvest Home was held on Thursday 15 October. The church service was followed by sports 'on the high road', where the most noted event is the Fell Race to the top of Ravensbarrow* and back. A very large gathering intently watched the progress of the competition. There was also wrestling for boys. Lady Hibbert donated £1 for the Harvest Home Tea.
May 1909	There was a proposal to set up a Rifle Club for boys over 16.
August 1909	The choir visited Chester
September 1909	The Junior choir had a trip to Kentmere
August 1910	The choir went on an excursion to Southport.
December 1910	This had been a successful season for Lindale United



An undated photograph of Windermere Road shows where the start of the Fell Race took place, up to Ravensbarrow, the hill to the right of the picture, now cut off from the village by the by-pass. The field to the right is where the bowling green is now.

The Parish Magazine also records that there were two pubs at the foot of the village, the Ship and Anchor and the Auld Mill. No sign of either now remains. In 1910 Lindale had a **football team**, which possibly played on the Recreation ground at the bottom of the village, the only reasonably flat land. In 1908 **Lindale United** played 20 matches in Division II of the Ulverston and District League. They won 16, drew 3 and lost the first match.

Football was still played in Lindale in the 1960s, as recorded in the *Minute Books for Lindale Sports Club*. Lindale played in the Lancashire League, in Grange, for example against Skerton, Lancaster and Bentham. Football matches were also held against the Holy Fathers at Castle Head. In 1960 John Knowles, then of Claremont, Lindale was Treasurer of **Lindale Sports Club**. From 1970 to 1976 a **Sports Day** was held in September. In 1971 results are given for the sack race, fancy dress, skipping and fell race, with further race winners recorded for 1972-3. In 1975, after meeting at the Institute, Fell Races crossed 'the road site', allowed with marshalls. The 1976 Sports Day was too wet for pony rides. There is a reference in 1976 to a Youth Club at Castle Head, run by Father Kitchin, for all local children. In the Jubilee Year of 1977 there was no Sports Day.

In 2002 the parish council held a public meeting to organise some kind of celebration for the **Queen's Golden Jubilee**. A group was formed and Sue Wareing was elected as Chair. It was called Lindale Sports Club in order to access the previous balance left in the Lindale Sports Club bank account. Sue had a vision, of providing a sports day, mainly for children of the village, as she had fond memories of sandwiches, pop and races, with little brown envelopes containing a few coppers as winnings, from her childhood in Kirkby-in-Furness.

A Festival was organised on the Recreation Ground. The day included a church service, Fancy Dress competition, Maypole Dancing, Children's', Teenagers' and Adult Races, with a Ghost Story by Frank Dawson in the church and an Evening Disco in the Village Hall. A *commemorative programme* recorded an account of village history, with peoples' memories; David Birch remembered that Lindale had Carnivals in the 1950s, with a procession of lorries, starting from near Wilson's garage at the bottom of the hill, going up Lindale Hill, along Windermere Road and round. On the back of this programme was reproduced the *1877 Programme of the day's proceedings at Lindale-in-Cartmel for the Jubilee of Queen Victoria's Reign*. (Describe or copy)

For over 10 years Lindale Sports Club continued to organise Sports Days on the Recreation field, with races, plant and cake stalls run by local clubs including the Book Club and Bowling Association, a story teller for the children, a food & drink tent and barbeque. It was usually opened by the local MP. The Sports Club also organised a bonfire and a Christmas over-60s lunch in the village hall. As time went on the Sports Club began to be organised by fewer people. The last Sports Day was on July 15 2012. Lindale Sports Club was wound up and its bank account was closed in 2014.

Sylvia Woodhead April 16

Refs

The Lindale Parish Magazine 1908-10

Minutes of Lindale Sports Club, 1960-1977

Final accounts of Lindale Sports Club, courtesy of Julia Hill the last Treasurer

Interview with Sue Wareing April 2016