



The Riding School

One of the most popular Brown Rigg activities during the 1970s and 80s was the riding school which was the brainchild of the Headmaster, Stuart Walton, himself a keen horseman and the owner of a large chestnut, Sorrell, which had a reputation as a mean character who could give someone a nasty nip if they invaded his space. Miss Boon, a member of the Brown Rigg staff, also brought her horses with her when she joined the school.

The stables were located up near the school farm where the students spent many happy hours caring for the various animals, cows, sheep, hens, pigs, pet donkeys and rabbits, giving great attention to grooming and caring for the horses which were an assorted bunch. There was Lucky and Cinders who were white, the dapple grey, Prince Henry, an old cart horse who was loved by everyone and at various times Dawn, Trippy, Brandy, Shandon and Carey.



The pupils were encouraged to go out on hacking trips over the fells at weekends, and indeed at other times if the weather was fine. They would take part in competitions and would go off with a packed lunch riding to wherever an event was taking place.



The competitions were a highlight for the school riding club. David Foggin still proudly remembers riding Trippy to victory in a cross country event three years running and Alwyn Mclain was delighted to win a similar event held at the school in front of an audience of invited parents.

The equestrian tradition at Brown Rigg continued even after the school closed down, a trekking centre operated there for several years, and indeed horses are still very much a feature of the place. It is possible for people staying at the recently developed Brown Rigg holiday lodges to bring their own horses with them and to enjoy the freedom of the fells, just as Brown Rigg pupils did so many years ago.

