

## *Recreation and Leisure*

Sport, recreation and leisure have always been important elements of Kibble's curriculum. These have taken many forms, changing and developing over the decades, partly due to factors such as new Health and Safety legislation. These activities have, however, always been recognised as important to the development and rehabilitation of boys at Kibble, in terms of contributing to their confidence-building and self-esteem, self-discipline, ability to work as part of a team, leadership qualities, and general physical and emotional well being.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, recreation and leisure activities included social meetings of boys and parents, with entertainment including performance of songs, duets, instrumental solos and readings, a 1906 concert performance by Paisley Opera Club, and entertainment given to boys 'in honour of Halloween'.

References to an address given at Kibble in 1917 by Prof. James Cooper of Glasgow University, on 'Training to use Leisure' reflect growing national concerns at the time with perceived causes of delinquency, such as attending picture houses and ice cream parlours, and a belief that young people needed to be educated in how to use their leisure time safely and constructively. These concerns are also highlighted by Kibble's encouragement of boys to join the Boys' Brigade, Boy Scouts and Army Cadets, with activities such as map reading and field craft.



Kibble Summer Camp 1899 (Image courtesy of Paisley Museum)

Photographs show that summer camps occurred as far back as 1899 and they are mentioned in Kibble's written records as early as 1928, when the annual holiday was taken at Kilchattan Bay on the Isle of Bute.

Thereafter annual three-week summer camps were held at Dunure in Ayrshire.

Camp activities included dam building, playing at "cowboys and Indians" and swimming in the sea. Summer camps to Dunure continued up to and including the 1970s.



Kibble Summer Camp, Dunure, 1952

More diverse extra-curricular activities continue to play an important part in Kibble's developmental and rehabilitation programmes. These include travel opportunities, such as a recent ski trip organized by Kibble's Intensive Fostering Service. Our young people are encouraged to organise fundraising events to help fund these activities. In addition, boys have organised various fundraising events to support other charitable organisations; for example, a coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The Kibble Choir has performed carol singing in various locations, providing entertainment and raising funds for Accord and St. Vincent's Hospices.

Two boys and two members of staff from Kibble also participated in a Global Citizenship initiative, along with fourteen other pupils from St. Paul's and St. Roch's schools in Glasgow and Plockton High School in Highland Region. This initiative culminated in a working trip to a shanty township in Ecuador, where the people live in abject poverty;



staff and young people worked with local people to repair homes, equip and paint a nursery and an IT centre, and support a food kitchen. This project enabled sixteen young people to experience a life-changing opportunity to become ambassadors of Global Citizenship and to become confident, responsible citizens and contributors to society.

Staff and boys with an Ecuadorean family