

Boxing Day Hunt



1968 Photo: Janet Leece

The Royal Rock Beagles would gather on the village green on Boxing Day. People would meet on the Green and either walk with the hounds or wander up to the Recreation Ground to watch fancy dress football. The Royal Rock Beagles were founded in 1845 in Rock Ferry and for a long time was the oldest beagle pack in the UK.



Photos: Janet Leece



1969
Photo: Jean Griffiths





c1973 Photo: Andy Legg

There was also a fancy-dress football game at Willaston football club on Johnston Recreation Ground.

Ruth Hampshire remembers: *It was a family tradition to go out for a walk on Boxing Day to walk off some of the calories from the festivities so we'd meet on the village green and see off the hunt, then walk up to the Rec to watch the fancy dress football which was always great fun. The Nag's Head pub would do a roaring trade on Boxing Day because everyone, especially the football teams would end up in the pub afterwards.'*

Graham Baker remembers: *'I played for Willaston as a teenager in the fancy dress football. Then the whole village went to the Nags Head to celebrate the day. They had a special licence to be open all day. I took my sisters up to the pub and I don't think any of us were legal age but no harm was done.'*