



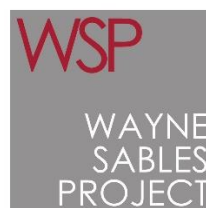
FIRSTS AT BRAMALL LANE



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Introduction

Firsts at Bramall Lane is a project working with a group of young people from Parkwood Academy to explore, record and celebrate the rich heritage of Sheffield United and Bramall Lane of its many Firsts for Sheffield.

This year is the 90th anniversary of the first live radio commentary of a football match anywhere in the world which was between Arsenal F.C. and Sheffield United at Highbury (22nd Jan 1927). Other firsts for Bramall Lane are:

- The first laws of association football were written in Sheffield
- The first football club to become United
- The first stadium to have a floodlit game, first use of crossbar and corner flags
- Hosted the final of the world's first football tournament
- Hosted the first inter-association match, between the FA (often referred to as the London FA)
- Recorded a first wicket score of 378 against Sussex - a ground record that has never been beaten

Through research on the internet, visiting Bramall Lane and Legends Museum, microfiche of old newspapers articles, watching old cine films and collecting oral history stories from local people and local history groups, the young people will create a film depicting Bramall Lane's heritage of being the first stadium to have achieved so many firsts in history.

The film will be used to share this interesting heritage with the wider community of Sheffield across all ages as well as to potential visitors to the City.

Workshop 1



The first workshop was an opportunity for the group to understand more about the project and to meet the Historian and Film Makers who will support them throughout the project. They got the opportunity to look round Legends Museum which is a part of Bramall Lane and they had a tour round the stadium to get a feel for the venue.

Discussion points

- 1878 was the first floodlit game at Bramall Lane
- Oldest ground in the world to show International football still technically capable of doing so
- Story of the crossbar on the goal – it was the first fixed crossbar in 1883
- Pitch markings were worked out at Bramall Lane
- FA Cup in the museum – the most famous but undervalued in the World
- Thomas Youdan cup – oldest football cup in the world worth £250,000
- 1858 rules written for football
- Oldest goal post is in Sheffield- Pitsmoor
- United played in the only FA Cup Final to take place during a World War, beating Chelsea at Old Trafford, Manchester in 1915
- William Foulkes Goalkeeper was the origin of the saying ‘Who ate all the pies’
- Firsts women’s football team probably around the late 1990’s
- The Pigs – need to ask John why away fans call the Sheffield United that
- Football shirt is called that because they were originally shirts
- Cleggs – most influential family to do with football in the Country

Emerging themes:

1. Rituals and journeys getting to and before a match – staff; players; fans
2. Difference in the life of a footballer before to now – diet; training; aftercare
3. Life in the changing world of football – balls, kits, shirts, people, place

The Stadium Tour





Workshop 2



In this workshop the group started to learn about the camera and sound equipment. They learnt about the importance of lighting and sound to the overall film.

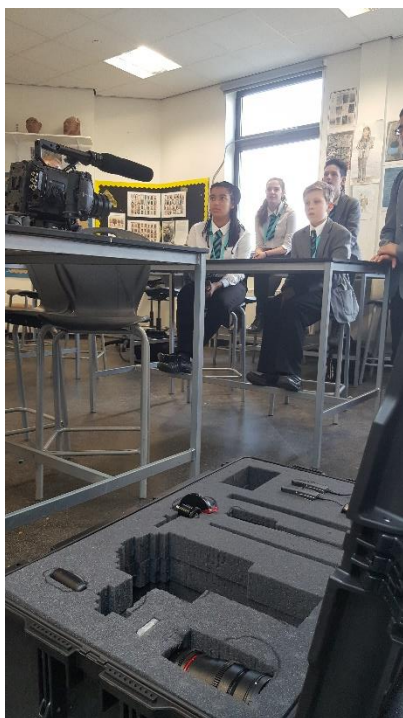
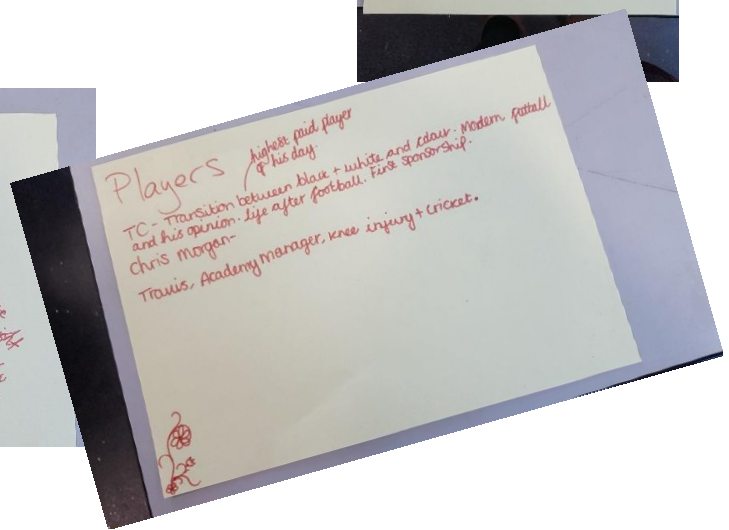
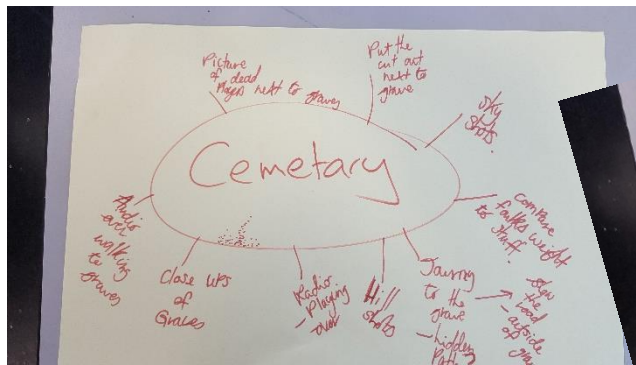
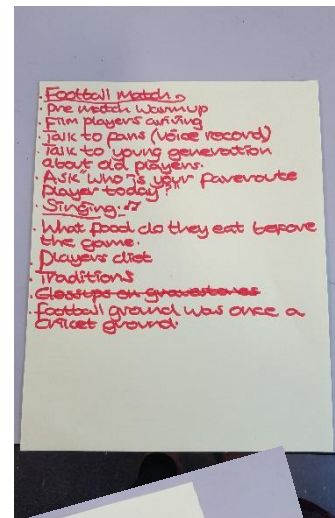


In groups, they started to think about emerging themes for the film so they could start to narrow down the content and what areas they wanted to focus on.



Workshop 3

We were aware that there had been a lot of information given to the group over the previous 2 workshops so this workshop focussed on the group looking at what information they had, what knows they had to film, where any gaps might be and what, out of all the information they had so far, really interested them. They had a look at a couple of clips of Alan Carr's Who Do You Think You Are. This gave them some ideas on the look of their film. The group were asked to critically assess the film. What did they like, what didn't work for them. They discussed different camera techniques, locations etc.



The second half of the session the group practiced with the camera and tried out different camera techniques and interview techniques ready for them doing their first filming at a Football Match.

Workshop 4

The group had the opportunity to film during a match day. They did some filming of the outside of the ground, the statues and the plaques that are on the outside wall. They also did some voice recordings with fans to find out their pre match rituals. They also got to film the players arriving at the stadium and inside the ground for the pre match warm up. They were got the opportunity to interview a couple of fans and one of the Community Foundation staff members.



Workshop 5

The group walked up to Burngreave Cemetery to look at where some of the greatest influencers on Sheffield United and Bramall Lane are buried. John Garrett, Sheffield United Historian was interviewed at these graves.

One grave was for William Henry "Fatty" Foulke (12 April 1874 – 1 May 1916) was a professional cricketer and football player in England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Foulke

was renowned for his great size of 6 ft 4 inch and weight, reaching up to 24 stone at the end of his career.



Workshop 6



The group were given the opportunity to interview two of the best players Bramall Lane has seen; Len Badger and Tony Curry. They researched the ex-footballers prior to the workshop and came

up with some interview questions. They split into 2 groups and identified who would be the interviewer, camera people and sound. They welcomed the ex-footballers and briefed them about the project. They made them feel comfortable in front of the camera and explained how they would like them to respond to their questions.



Research and Editing

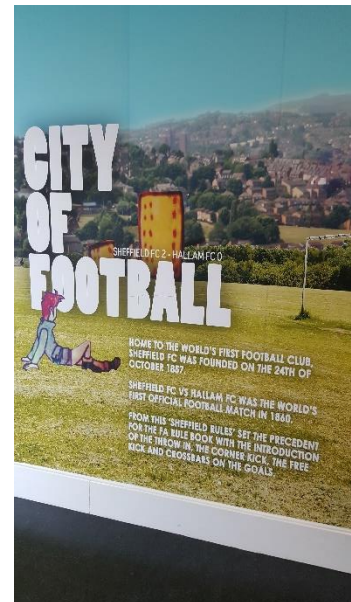
The next few workshops concentrated on research into the history of Bramall Lane and all of its firsts as well as starting to edit the footage they had.



The group seemed overwhelmed with the amount of information there was available so we helped them to identify the key facts about Bramall Lane. We put them together in a list and then the group went through them and highlighted the ones that interested them the most. From this, each person read out their favourite fact and came up with how they wanted to incorporate that into the film. They were then tasked with collecting and researching the relevant information they needed to do this ready for the next workshop where we would be filming and/or voice recording their facts. This seemed to really focus and engage the group.



The following workshops were focussed on recording the content to portray the historical facts about Bramall Lane. The group identified their favourite facts from the list they pulled together and were tasked with coming up with creative ways of relaying that information. The group came up with some really good ideas which were then put into action.



Screening

The screening took place on the 19 July 2017 in Suite 1889 at Bramall Lane. The young people opened the screening and introduced the Lord Mayor of Sheffield who formally launched the first play of the film, *Firsts at Bramall Lane*. Earlier on in the day, 2 of the group went to Radio Sheffield and were interviewed about the film and what they had learnt. There were 40 people who turned

up to the screening, a mix of fans, teachers, staff from Sheffield United Community Foundation and Sheffield United, family and ex-football players.

The response to the film was overwhelming positive and Sheffield United have requested copies of the film be sent to all their Board Members.



Project Outcomes

- A very positive outcome has been the development of a long term partnership between Bramall Lane and Parkwood Academy. Bramall Lane have asked the school to get involved in shaping their school's offer and the school tours they do
- Oral communication skills – the group learned how to form question and actively listen in order to interview people successfully and get the best out of them. Some of them also carried out an interview on Radio Sheffield about the project prior to the screening

- Written communication skills – the group created all the text for the film from their research and supported the design of the invitation for their screening event
- Critical Analysis skills – visits to Bramall Lane’s Museum and Sheffield Library supported the group to learn how to look at historical information and objects and understand different ways to view and interpret them in order to bring them to life in the film
- Personal and Social Skills – the group worked really well as a team, interviewing people, being inspired to research and learn from each other and supporting each other during filming and interviewing
- Organisation and problem solving – the group had to decide who they wanted to interview, where and what they needed to film in order to create the film, schedule the interviews, come up with ideas to make the film come to life and be interesting for young people
- Technical Skills – the group took turns to use the camera and sound equipment and they were all involved in editing as a group

Participant Feedback

- I enjoyed filming the project then meeting and interviewing the players and I’m glad I chose to do the project
- I found interviewing the players hard and picking the questions to ask
- I have developed skills to use a camera properly and interviewing skills
- I really enjoyed all the opportunities and people we met and watching the project develop
- I felt the pressure to combine our ideas to make sure everyone would be happy with the results
- I have learnt how to edit film, camera angles and techniques and developing my interviewing skills
- I have enjoyed learning about the history behind Sheffield United
- I have learnt editing and filming skills and techniques
- I enjoyed getting to meet famous footballers and getting to talk to them
- It was challenging having to speak in front of an audience for the screening and putting the film together
- Throughout the project I have got more confident. I also learnt some new football skills. I learnt about the history of Sheffield United and Sheffield itself. In conclusion I learnt a lot by doing this project and would definitely recommend this to other pupils with a football interest
- I enjoyed interviewing the players and going on the radio

- I found coming together at the beginning the hardest and meeting new people but then we came together
- I have learnt how to interview people as well as using advanced film equipment and working with different people. Over all I think the experience was great and hopefully we will be involved I more projects like this in the future