



## The Meadows School Legacy 110 Project – ‘Roll of Honour’

The Meadows Special School have utilised their battlefields tour to create a lasting legacy to the First World War for the people of Leek and Stoke-on-Trent. Supported by teachers Joan Wright and Jane Ball, students Jack Hickman and Brandon Lucking visited the battlefields of northern France and Belgium from 18-21 September 2015 – and upon their return they have delivered a ‘Legacy 110’ project which has deepened understanding of the sacrifice made by the people of Leek and Stoke-on-Trent during the Great War.



Jack and Brandon at Tyne Cot Cemetery

Joan Wright, Deputy Headteacher at the Meadows School, led the pre-tour work undertaken by the students, which she pinpointed as the key behind the success of their ‘Legacy 110’ project. Joan said “By being well prepared for our battlefields tour, we were clear as to what our focus was going to be and what we would be doing at each of the sites we were visiting.”

Joan and Jane both attended a [pre-tour CPD session](#) hosted by UCL/Institute of Education which helped them plan for their on-tour and post-tour activities. Jane Ball explained “Neither Joan or I are History teachers, but as a result of attending the UCL/Institute of Education’s CPD session we acquired the basis for delivering a project which would have a profound effect upon our local community.”

“The session, hosted by their National Education co-ordinator, Juggit Chima, explained how we could identify and research local soldiers, and how to utilise technology to convey what we would see to our local community. He suggested contacting local media to help spread the message within Leek and Stoke of our intended ‘Legacy 110 project, and to look for an additional focus as an innovative way to study the impact of the First World War upon the people of Leek and Stoke-on-Trent. His passion for football helped us to identify footballers from Leek Town and Stoke City who were involved in, and died during, the Battle of the Somme.”

Jack and Brandon undertook research using the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission database](#) to identify local soldiers who were buried or commemorated at the sites they were due to visit as part of their tour. They also worked with local author Chris Sheldon who, along with his book ‘*Roll of Honour*’, inspired the students’ research. Assistance was also received from their local British Legion branch to identify local soldiers, where they lived and worked, and the people they left behind. These included James Poyser and John Dickenson, whose homes and places of work were visited by the students as part of their ‘Legacy 110’ project.



Pre-tour research with the help of representatives from the local branch of the British Legion

With their pre-tour research completed, Joan, Jane, Jack and Brandon visited the battlefields, keen to locate local soldiers, and to capture their tour digitally so it could be added to their school website to be shared with as many people as possible.

They had already informed their local newspaper and radio station of their tour, and



their post-tour 'Legacy 110' project. With local interest ignited, the resting places of both James Poyser and John Dickenson, as well as the battlefield sites where they fought, were visited.

Jack and Brandon identified the names of both Leigh Roose (Stoke City FC goalkeeper and Wales international) and 'Sammy' Hulme (trainer at Leek Town FC) at the Thiepval Memorial, where they are commemorated along with over 72,000 other men who fell during the Battle of the Somme. The students also paid tribute to local soldiers, Ernest Flower and Joseph Sheldon, laying a wreath at the request of their families..



Jack and Brandon lay a wreath in memory of Stoke City's Leigh Roose and Leek Town's 'Sammy' Hulme at the Thiepval Memorial which bears the names of 72,254 men who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918. Over 90% of these died between July and November 1916.

Upon returning from their battlefields tour, Joan and Jane have helped Jack and Brandon to deliver a project which tells the local community what they have seen and learnt as part of the First World War Centenary Battlefields Tour Programme. Joan added "The programme has provided Jack and Brandon with some amazing experiences and opportunities. They have seen how they can impact upon their local community, and how important it is to respect those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War. The boys have also seen how technology such as ipads and iphones can be used as part of fieldwork to record, analyse and convey information to others. They have helped to promote social and community cohesion through their 'Legacy 110' project, and deepened the understanding within the local community about the contribution made by the people of Leek and Stoke-on-Trent during the First World War."



Brandon lays a wreath in memory of Joseph Sheldon who lived in the same area of Leek as he does today



Leigh Roose – Stoke City and Wales goalkeeper, commemorated at Thiepval.

He died on 7 October 1916 aged 38.

Jack and Brandon's 'Legacy 110' project has been showcased on BBC Radio Stoke as well as the local written press, and will be included in Stoke City and Leek Town FC's match day programmes prior to 'Remembrance Day'; as well as being included in acts of remembrance taking place across the Staffordshire Moorlands this November.

For further details of Jack and Brandon's 'Legacy 110' project – 'Roll of Honour' - see [The Meadows School website](#).