



FAE
RAPLOCH
TO ELLAND
ROAD

REMEMBERING
BILLY BREMNER

Richard Haynes





Why
commemorate
Billy Bremner?

About the Project

Facilitate intergenerational heritage.

Use oral history to generate new intangible heritage.

Co-create a new community-led online exhibition.

Create a heritage trail connected to Bremner's life in the city.



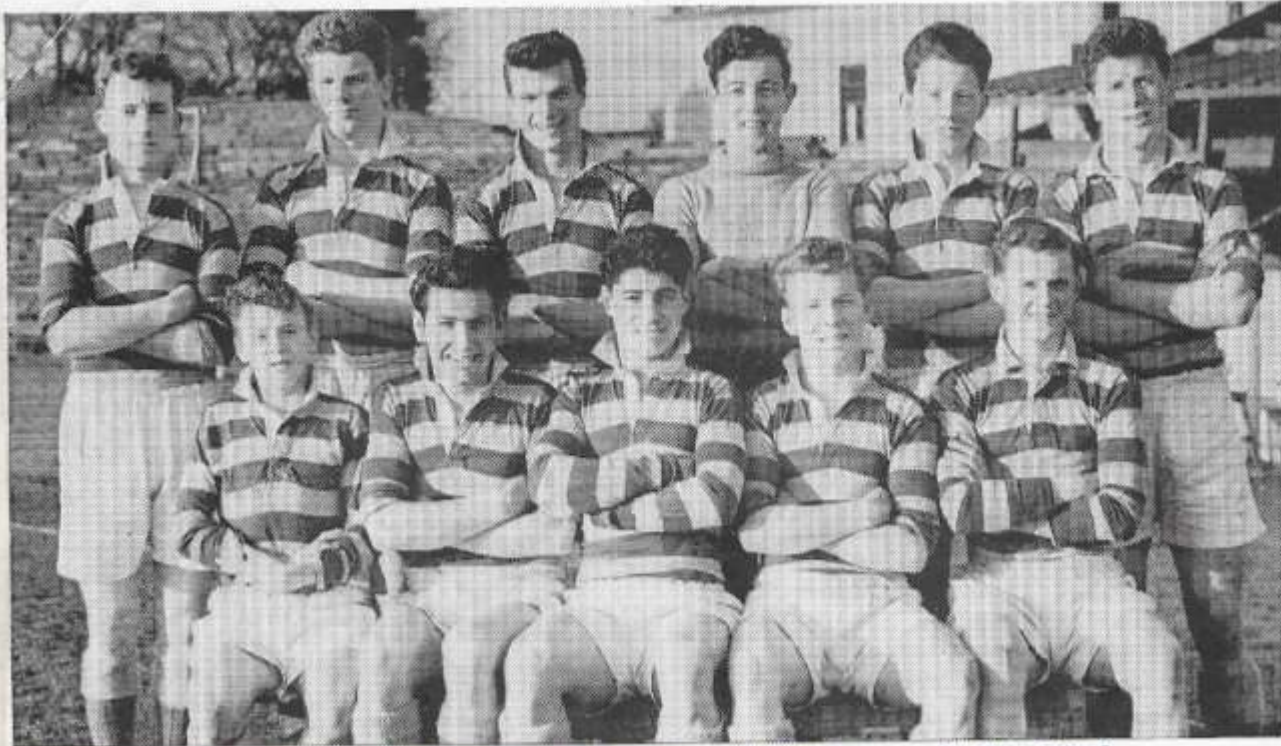


Co-creation with communities

UNIVERSITY *of*
STIRLING
BE THE DIFFERENCE



GOWANHILL UNITED 1957 58



M'KENZIE GRANT S M'IVOR MAKIN HAMILL D M'IVOR
BREMNER M'GOWAN B M'IVOR SMITH CAMPBELL

Gowanhill Utd and Shell Park



OBSERVER FINDS THE 'MIGHTY GOWANHILL'

FIGURES from Fifa about a football cup final almost exactly 50 years ago has opened up a treasure trove of memories about former Strling team Gowanhill United.

Former Strling team Gowanhill United has been rediscovered by a former Strling team Gowanhill United. The team was founded in 1908 and played in the Strling League. The team was known for its strong defense and was considered one of the top teams in the league.

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UNITED IN 07-08: Back from the left - Willie McKenzie, John Dowie, Joe Miller, Peter Mackin, Arthur Hamilton, David McIvor, Ford - Duff Dowie, Harry McGowan, Billy McIvor, Alex Smith and Tommy Campbell.

The Observer later also covered a game from Billy Josephine's team. The game was played at the Strling Park and was a significant victory for Gowanhill United. The game was played at the Strling Park and was a significant victory for Gowanhill United.



St Modan's



**THIS SCOT
 PREFERS
 ENGLAND**

By Lionel Jackson

England Boys 2 Scotland Boys 1

RATINGS.—Skill: England 9, Scotland 8. Entertainment 10. Sportsmanship 10. Control 7.

HERE it was again, classic Soccer in a classic setting . . . the annual treat for football purists. And oh, how eyes glistened among the assembled ranks of League scouts.

This schoolboy international, as worthy of Wembley as any game played there, produced many names for the scouts' notebooks. But one name was underlined—tiny Willie Bremner, Scotland's inside-left.



contest in the fourth round. 'Cambridge' Univ.

**WEE WILLIE BAULKES
 WELSH BOYS VICTORY**

By MALCOLM ROBINSON

WALES 2, SCOTLAND 2

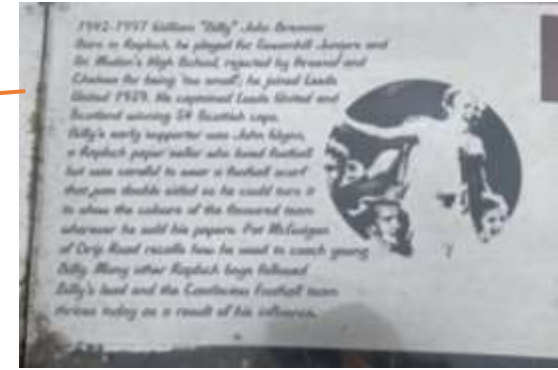
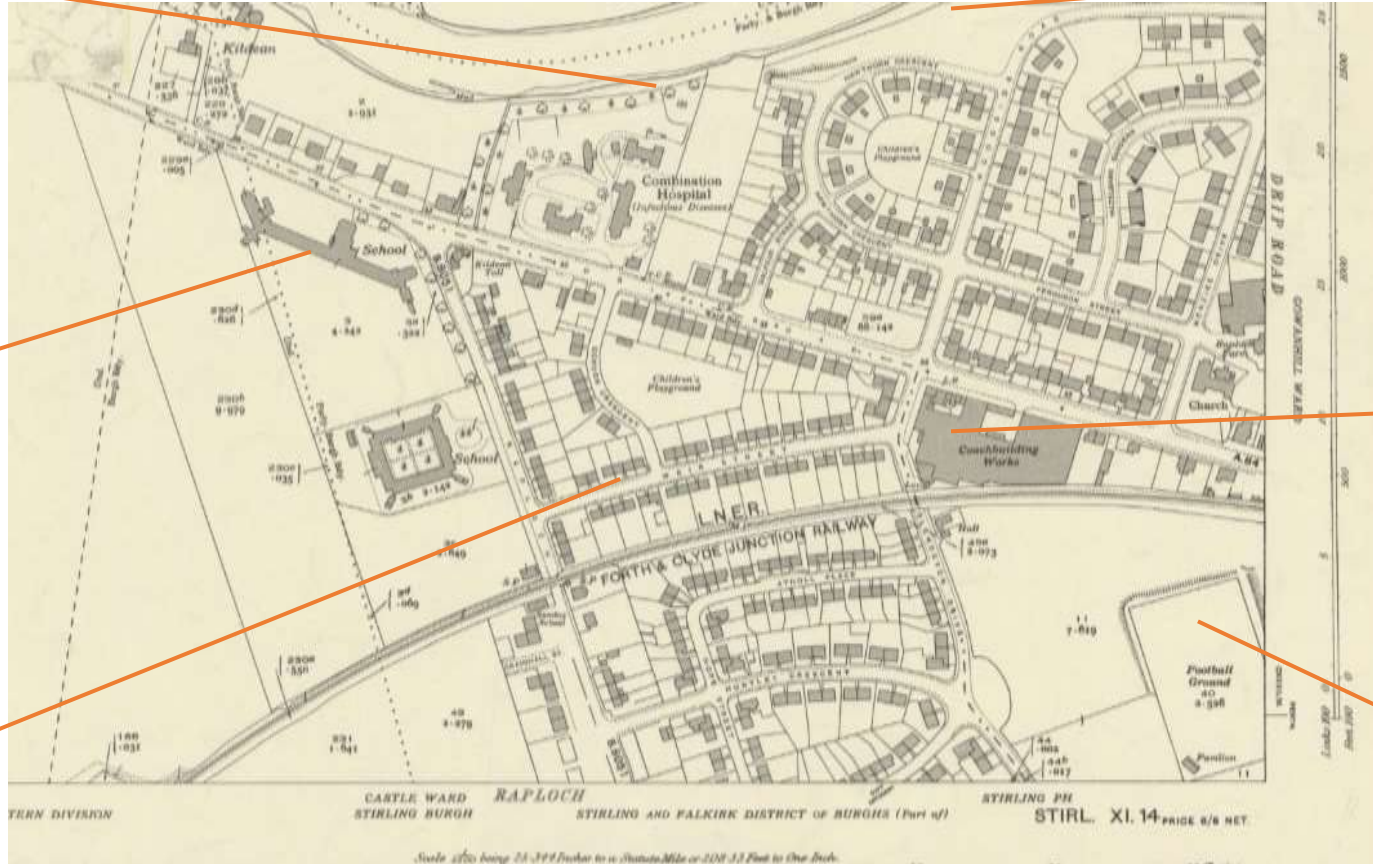
WITH almost the last kick of this schoolboy international, match at Somerton Park, Newport, Swansea's left-half, Barry Hole, shot home from 30 yards to give Wales a dramatic but well-deserved share of the spoils.

Scottish Schoolboys



Billy and Me: Heidi's story

BREMNER HERITAGE WALK



PAL RECALLS '10 STONE OF BARBED WIRE'

Bremner: From a boy to one of the greatest

New exhibition shows how football legend honed his skills on tough Stirling estate

By GEORGE MAIR

SCOTTISH football legend Billy Bremner's rise to stardom is charted in a new online exhibition.

Billy Bremner: Fae Raploch to Elland Road traces his upbringing in the tough Stirling housing estate and his time on the pitch for Leeds United and Scotland.

It includes memories from former friends and teammates – and tells how a teacher at his school persuaded the schoolboy cap to ignore his beloved Celtic and seek his fortune in England.

Childhood pal William McQuillan says in a film: "He was known as '10 stone of barbed wire with a never-say-die attitude'."

The University of Stirling exhibition serves as a reminder of one of Scotland's greatest footballing talents, who captained Leeds and Scotland and died in 1997 at just 54.

And Bremner earned a reputation for his footballing skills and fierce determination on the pitches of Raploch.

William adds: "We didn't have much. Football was all day every day – school ruined it because if we didn't go to school, we could have played all day."

"Billy was a very talented player and so sure of himself. Sometimes you could think he was brash and, if you didn't know him, you could fall out with him easily."

"Billy was Celtic-daft and we used to always say, 'You'll play for Celtic'."

"I believe it was a teacher at St Modan's – a French teacher, Mr Sykes – who advised him. Don't sign for Celtic, get yourself down to England."

"He did exactly what

he wanted to do when he played for Scotland and captained Scotland. He reached the pinnacle."

Bremner lived at 35a Weir Street in the shadow of Stirling Castle with his adoptive parents Pop and Bessie Bremner and honed his skills on Shell Park, now a Sainsbury's supermarket.

He signed for Leeds just after his 17th birthday.

Former Leeds and Scotland teammate Eddie Gray, 74, recalls: "If anybody wanted to play a physical type of game our players could match them – especially Billy."

"(Manager) Don Revie made him captain, which was a very shrewd move on Don's part because Billy could be a fiery character – that was his nature."

"Making him captain settled him down a bit."

"But it was his leadership and the way he played the game that was the inspiration for all the young boys at the club."

New exhibition kicks off to highlight life of iconic footballer Billy Bremner

By Katharine Hay

THE life of Scottish football legend Billy Bremner is being celebrated in a new online exhibition.

Bremner was born in the area of Stirling known as the Raploch in 1942 and went on to become regarded as one of the greatest midfielders of all time.

He signed for Leeds United as a teenager and later captained the team, as well as playing for Scotland.

Working with pupils from his old school St Modan's High, and the local Raploch community, researchers at the

University of Stirling uncovered a swathe of stories connected to Bremner.

The material is now being shared in an online exhibition through the university website.

Sports heritage expert Professor Richard Haynes, of the University of Stirling, said: "We were overwhelmed with the amount of material we collected for this project."

"We met close friends of Billy's, who had grown up with him and remained life-long friends, who gave us new insight into his personality and character."

"Billy was a star of the 1960s and 70s and so it was really important to capture these local stories now – as his peers enter later life, these memories were in danger of being lost for good."

As part of the



project, local school pupils interviewed lifelong Leeds fans about what Bremner meant to them, and comedy TV writer Philip Differ, also a former St Modan's pupil, recalled.

Bremner's visit to the school in the 1970s. St Modan's head teacher Claire Friel said: "This study has helped recognise one of St Modan's most successful former pupils."

"Billy was a truly inspirational figure and speaking with supporters from Leeds who recall watching

Class act... the online collection features photos from Bremner's time at St Modan's High

him in his prime, our pupils have learned how highly regarded he was and still is to Leeds fans."

Karen Fraser, who worked as a researcher on the project, said: "It was an honour to talk to people who knew Billy as a friend before he became the footballing legend, and to record their thoughts."

"Their pride and affection for him shone through as they spoke about his talent, his humour and sense of fun, his loyalty to his friends, his love of Raploch and the fact that he never really left this behind – even when miles away playing and then managing."

There is a statue of Bremner, who died in 1997, outside Leeds United's stadium Elland Road which was erected in 1999, but no permanent memorial exists to mark his achievements in Scotland.

● View the exhibition at <https://collections.str.ac.uk/billybremner/>



Bremner played for Scotland

Tribute to legend who was proper old school

THE life of Scottish football legend Billy Bremner is being celebrated in a new online exhibition.

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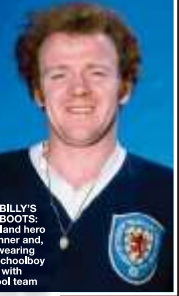
University of Stirling uncovered a treasure trove of stories connected to Bremner. Now it's all available at <https://collections.str.ac.uk/billybremner/>

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Bremner, who died in 1997, has a statue at Leeds' Elland Road but no permanent memorial in Scotland.



BILLY'S ROOTS: Scotland hero Bremner and, left wearing his schoolboy cap, with school team



Exhibition shines new light on life of footballing legend Billy Bremner

The life of Scottish football legend Billy Bremner is celebrated in a new online exhibition.

Bremner was born in 1942, in the area of Stirling known as Raploch, and went on to become regarded as one of the greatest midfielders of all time.

He signed for Leeds United as a teenager and later captained the team as well as playing for Scotland.

Working with pupils from his former school, St Modan's High, and the local Raploch community, researchers at Stirling University uncovered a swathe of stories connected to Bremner.

This new material is now being shared in an online exhibition through the university website.

It includes a collection of anecdotes from former school friends, neighbours and team-mates, as well as photos, match reports and school records.



Legend Billy Bremner.

The online archive also shows a new "heritage trail", created in partnership with St Modan's pupils, which details sites significant to Bremner's life in Raploch.

Sports heritage expert Professor Richard Haynes, of the university, said: "We were overwhelmed with the amount of material we collected for this project."

"We met close friends of Billy's, who had grown up

with him and remained life-long friends, who gave us new insight into his personality and character.

"Billy was a star of the 1960s and '70s and so it was really important to capture these local stories now – as his peers enter later life, these memories were in danger of being lost for good."

As part of the project, local pupils interviewed lifelong Leeds fans about what Bremner meant to them, and comedy TV writer Philip Differ, also a

former St Modan's pupil, recalled Bremner's visit to the school in the 1970s.

"The school still has a photo of that event displayed outside the head teacher's office," Prof Haynes added.

A statue of Bremner, who died in 1997, was erected outside Leeds United's Elland Road stadium in 1999 but no permanent memorial exists in Scotland to mark his achievements.

Visit the online exhibition here:

<https://collections.stir.ac.uk/billybremner/>

Thank you

