



Exploring coal mining with folk song

Shots Fired

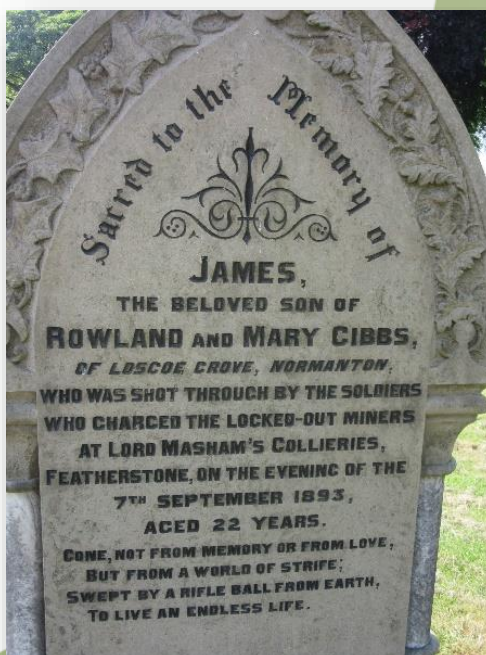
Written by Bryony Griffith

In partnership with

***the National Coalmining Museum
for England***

and

Wakefield Music Hub



The Full English Extra

The Full English Extra was an initiative to preserve and promote the folk arts, building on the success of EFDSS' flagship project The Full English, which created the world's largest digital archive of folk songs, dances, tunes and customs, and a nationwide learning programme that reached more than 16,000 people. The project was led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Full English Extra saw the collections of Mary Neal, suffragette, radical arts practitioner and founder of the Esperance Girls Club, and folk dance educator Daisy Caroline Daking added to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library online archive (www.vwml.org), alongside its collection of 19th century broadside ballads and songsters.

The Full English learning programme worked with three national museums – the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading, the National Coal Mining Museum for England near Wakefield in Yorkshire and the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London – combining folk arts and museum education to provide powerful new learning experiences for schools and music hubs.

Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Produced by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), June 2016

Written by Bryony Griffith

Edited by: Frances Watt

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Exploring coal mining through folk song

By Bryony Griffith

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Additional Resources: Audio recordings of all the songs in this pack are available for free download from www.efdss.org/resourcebank.

Shots Fired

'Shots Fired' was written using information from the activities in the Featherstone Detectives lesson box loaned from the NCMME. It tells the story of a real event known as 'The Featherstone Massacre', which happened on Green Lane in Featherstone, West Yorkshire 1893.

The loan box contains a DVD with activities and evidence sheets to help students learn about history from a variety of sources. Students can re-enact parts of the story using the sheets and costumes in the box.



Living history workshop exploring 19th Century mining at NCMME © NCMME

Shots Fired: Lyrics

Written by Year 5/6 pupils from North Featherstone with Bryony Griffith and Lucy Huzzard March 2016. Tune written by Bryony Griffith.

1. September 1893, what happened on Green Lane

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

A part of our town's history, but who could be to blame

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

The miners were on strike because their wages had gone down,
the owner wanted coal to run his factories out of town

Some kept loading, most were loathing, who could be to blame?

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

2. Holiday, the manager was loading up some smudge

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

Some miners put their foot down said the coal carts couldn't budge

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

A crowd of miners and their families curious to see,
had gathered in Green lane but they were watching peacefully

Near the mine, was it a crime, but who could be to blame?

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

3. Holiday began to panic, called the police to help,

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

Instead they sent some soldiers and a magistrate as well.

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

Hartley read the riot act but nobody could hear,

Is the magistrate to hate or was he just in fear

Soldiers told by someone cold but who could be to blame?

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

4. Shooting starts our saddened hearts but do the soldiers care

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

Guns were shot the barrels hot, knock, knock, it isn't fair

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

James Arthur Duggan and James Gibbs, 2 young men's lives were gone,

Through road names, songs and memory their names will still live on

Someone's lying, men were dying, who could be to blame?

Shots fired, boom bang! Shots fired

5. In the court they fought and fought to clear the miner's names

Shots fired boom bang, shots fired

Catastrophe, conspiracy, so who would take the blame?

Shots fired boom bang, shots fired

The government enquiry said the troops had done no wrong

the miners throwing stones and breaking bones were far too strong

We don't know, we'll never know, what happened on Green Lane?

Shots fired boom bang, shots fired

Shots fired boom bang, shots fired



© NCMME

Shots Fired - Questions

Listen carefully to the recording of the song and answer the questions below.

There are a lot of lyrics so it may be helpful to have lyric sheets after an initial listen.

1. What year did the Featherstone Massacre take place?
2. Why were the miners striking?
3. What was the owner using coal for?
4. What is 'smudge'?
5. What was 'Holiday's job?
6. Where did the miners and their families gather?
7. Who was sent instead of the Police?
8. What are the names of the two young men who died?



Pupils using the NCMME loan box and DVD © Bryony Griffith

Shots Fired!

Written by Bryony Griffith with Lucy Huzzard and Year 6 pupils at North Featherstone Junior & Infants School.

Arranged for 3 voices by Bryony Griffith

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Shots Fired_ Boom Bang!

Shots Fired_ Boom Bang!

Shots Fired_ Boom Bang!

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Shots Fired_ Shots Fired

Shots Fired_ Shots Fired

Shots Fired_ Shots Fired

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Shots Fired_ Boom Bang! Shots Fired_

Shots Fired_ Boom Bang! Shots Fired_

Shots Fired_ Boom Bang! Shots Fired_

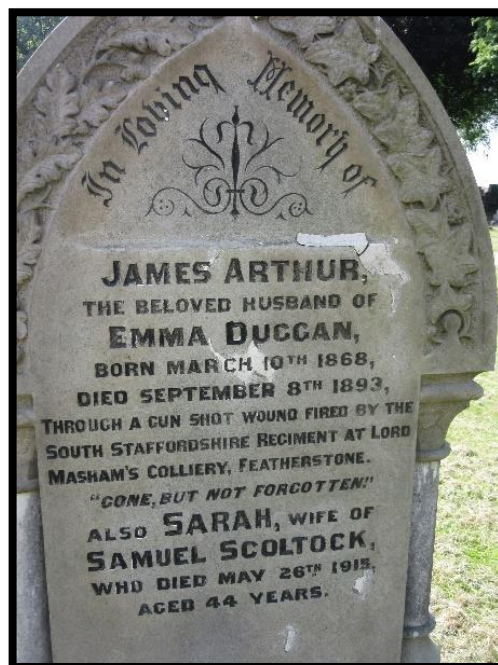
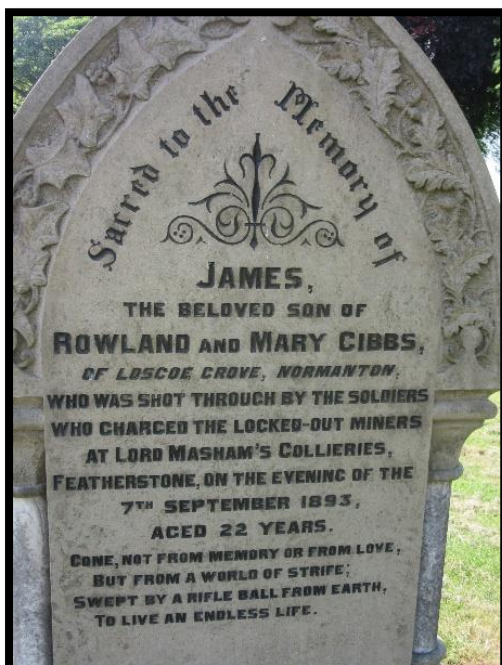
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Shots Fired_ Boom Bang! Shots Fired_

Shots Fired_ Boom Bang! Shots Fired_

Shots Fired_ Boom Bang! Shots Fired_

Images from Featherstone



(Photo credits on this page: © Bryony Griffith)

2. Can you piece the story of the Featherstone Massacre together using the lyrics in the song?

The real Featherstone Massacre story is below:

In 1893 there was a disturbance in Featherstone due to a dispute between the mine owners and miners over a 25% reduction in wages. When the miners were locked out from the mine in July, they resisted the wage cut by picketing the mine. After 7 weeks, the miners took more direct action and soldiers were brought in from South Staffordshire even though the miners were not rioting, and many had come just to find out what was happening.

A local magistrate from Green Lane was brought in and read out the Riot Act whilst being pelted with stones by the miners.

The police were instructed to shoot at the miners and as a result, 2 men, James Duggan and James Gibbs, lost their lives.

The Bowen Commission inquired into the incident, but ignored the evidence presented by the mining community, accepting the evidence brought by the police. However, in 1894 the Home Secretary, H. Asquith was forced to provide compensation to the families of both men (£100 each) after it was proved that false evidence had been presented to the commission favouring the police.

References:

- Featherstone and its 1893 disturbance, Lumb, Tony & Lewis, Brian (1993)
- The Guardian report from Saturday 9th September 1893

Additional Resources: Audio recordings of all the songs in this pack are available for free download from www.efdss.org/resourcebank.

The National Coal Mining Museum for England

The National Coal Mining Museum for England is the museum of the English coalfields and is based near Wakefield in West Yorkshire. Set on the site of two historic pits, the Museum gives an insight into a unique way of life and culture.

The Museum's evocative original pit buildings and interactive galleries tell the story of the thousands of people who laboured in the industry and what it was like to grow up in a mining community. The Museum's nature trail and mine water treatment plant with reed beds show how, even today, coal mining leaves its mark on the landscape.

The highlight of a visit to the Museum, however, is a trip underground. With a former miner as their personal guide, visitors ride the cage 140 metres underground in a shaft dating back to 1791, to discover first-hand what life was like at the coal-face.

The Museum runs a vibrant learning programme for school groups, welcoming over 18,000 pupils every year. The combination of historic buildings, galleries and natural landscape provide a unique creative learning space where pupils can investigate the past, solve a scientific problem, dress-up, touch the real thing, sketch, observe and be amazed. The Education team offer a series of workshops and trails, which support learning across the curriculum and provide a stimulus for lots of creative projects.

For more information about learning opportunities at the Museum, please visit the website www.ncm.org.uk/learning

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Wakefield Music Services

Lead Organisation for the Wakefield Music Education Hub



Wakefield Music Services is the Lead Organisation for Wakefield Music Education Hub. They are proud to teach over 7,000 young musicians every week and run over 70 progressive ensembles and groups. They also organise and run a wealth of concerts, projects and events throughout the year. Their belief that practical music making is for everyone through an inclusive approach not only ensures that each individual makes musical progress but that they also develop a wider range of educational, social and life skills.

The music service also offer a broad range of support and CPD for schools in a drive to continue to raise national curriculum standards and broaden musical opportunities. This includes the delivery of highly acclaimed training across the country and publishing a variety of original resources that are used in schools.

Musical opportunities have continued to grow and enrich over the last few years as they have developed new, exciting and innovative projects with other arts and cultural organisations.



Providing Teaching Directing Forging Inspiring Fostering Creating Building Serving & Delivering
Outstanding Music for All

www.wakefieldmusicservices.org

Biography: Bryony Griffith



Bryony Griffith is a musician and singer with over 20 years of experience researching folk material, and devising innovative ways of presenting it for use in performance and education work with children, young people and adults. Bryony's skills and enthusiasm encompass solo performance, duo and band work, and also extensive experience of playing for folk dancing. Her solo album, *Nightshade*, was released in 2014.

Bryony is an experienced folk educator in school settings, including education work linked with the National Coal Mining Museum. Bryony is in much demand by festival organisers to lead music and singing workshops, including the Folkworks Summer Schools, Shepley and Whitby folk festivals.

As a performer, Bryony works as a solo artist, and also in a duo with melodeon player and dancer Will Hampson. Over the last 15 years, they have both been key members of the award-winning Demon Barbers. Their partnership started in the acclaimed ceilidh band Bedlam in their early teens which took them all over the UK festivals and gave rise to the formation of the young Cotswold side, Dogrose. They later joined the celebrated Newcastle Kingsmen. Bryony was also a member of the *a cappella* group The Witches of Elswick.

www.bryonygriffith.com



Explore The Full English digital archive

www.vwml.org/thefullenglishproject

Discover more learning resources

www.efdss.org/resourcebank



At the English Folk Dance and Song Society, we champion the folk arts at the heart of England's rich and diverse cultural landscape.

Our award-winning Resource Bank contains over 100 resources – incorporating hundreds of audio files, videos and supporting documents, all free to download. They offer endless practical ways to use folk song, music, dance, drama and more in all sorts of community settings, as well as in formal education.

efdss.org/resourcebank

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