

## Newsletter – Edition 1, December 2020

### The charity signs a new, 30 year, lease.

The 28 year lease for the cottage, signed by the Central Grammar School in 1973, expired on 6th April 2001. Since then the descendent schools have rented the buildings on rolling, one year, terms. Negotiations with Severn Trent began in January 2017 and were finally completed on 15th December 2020! This provides the security of tenure justifying and enabling investment.

### How hard can it be?

In March we found out that Scottish Power had disconnected the electricity supply in November 2019. Despite raising two complaints and getting an Energy Ombudsman's judgement against them in August, the power is still not back on! Interventions by Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP and The Guardian have moved things forward and, Covid restrictions allowing, a new supply should be in place in the New Year.

### Bryntail – The Movie!

A kind offer by a furloughed Daily Mirror video/online content journalist to make videos for charities will result in a campaign video to support our fundraising to refurbish the buildings. It will feature in a starring role our trustee Richard Fryer as well as current staff from Tile Cross Academy who have led trips to the cottage and can explain the importance it can play in the lives of the current generation of pupils. We hope to premier it over the Christmas period.



**ARCONIC  
FOUNDATION**

### Charity granted \$30 000

The aluminium plant in Kitts Green has changed its name as many times as the school but has always been a staunch supporter. On December 16<sup>th</sup> we were informed that the Arconic Foundation (the current owners) had granted us this amazing sum to install an Air Source Heat Pump heating and hot water system!

### Other Grant Funding

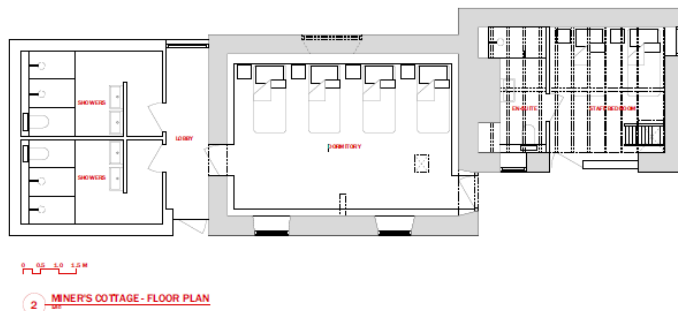
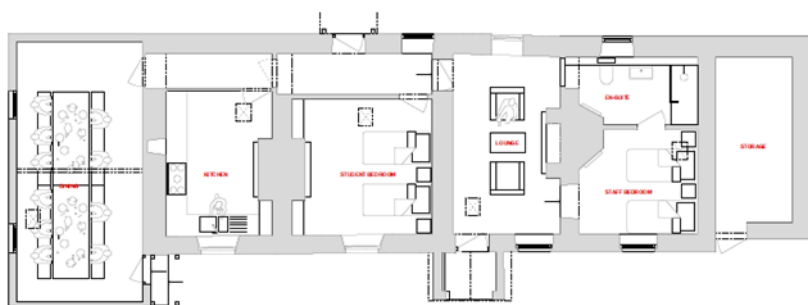
*To fund the refurbishment and improvements 55 grant applications are extant and three have been awarded by:*

- GJW Turner Trust
- William A Cadbury Trust
- Oakdale Trust

*A decision about a £40 000 grant from the HS2 Community and Environment programme is expected in January.*

## Future plans

A condition of the lease is that the charity completes a schedule of works to repair the fabric of the buildings. In addition the trustees want to improve the facilities to enable the widest cross section of staff and pupils to visit, not just the hardest! We also want to enable a return to the cottage's roots as a base for camping.



**DAVID HOLLAND**  
architect + designer

<https://davidholland.co.uk/>

**CAF**  
Charities Aid Foundation

## Use CAF Donate to help us make a difference

Through our bank we have set up a donation page that enables supporters to make online gifts and automatically enable Gift Aid. If you are feeling generous, follow this link

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15185#!/DonationDetails>

**WINNER**  
**SCHOOL/COLLEGE**  
**OF THE YEAR**  
**2020**

**UK**  
**Social**  
**Mobility**  
**Awards™**

The opportunities provided by the cottage to drive social mobility were a major element of Tile Cross Academy's winning submission to the UK Social Mobility Awards 2020. The Social Mobility Commission's 2019 report 'An Unequal Playing Field: Extra-Curricular Activities, Soft Skills and Social Mobility' clearly demonstrates that participation in activities beyond the classroom has great added value in a child's development. Not having access to or participating in these types of activities is a significant restraint on social mobility.

**WINNER**  
**SCHOOL/COLLEGE**  
**OF THE YEAR**  
**2020**

**UK**  
**Social**  
**Mobility**  
**Awards™**