

# Changing the lives of Birmingham children since 1915

## Newsletter – Edition 4, March 2021



### Former pupil returns to help the next generation

Jamie Handley last visited Bryntail in the mid-90s whilst a pupil at Byng Kenrick Central School. Now the owner of The Springfield Group (<https://thespringfieldgroup.net/>) he felt inspired to reconnect after seeing the new Bryntail Cottage video on the BKC Facebook page. In March Jamie made the trip down memory lane to visit the cottage and see how he could help. He is seen here on the right in the picture. With him is a Springfield employee, Wayne, who did excellent work fixing some longstanding jobs. The Springfield Group have made a generous donation to the charity.

### Great response to call for memories!

We have been overwhelmed by the response for memories of visiting Bryntail after the request went out on Facebook and via email. It is extremely clear what a life changing experience it was for many people and justifies our efforts to sustain the legacy. Common threads were 'seeing stars and sheep for the first time' 'first ever holiday' 'first visit to the countryside' 'being with friends and shared experiences'.

## Web Presence

The charity webpage is regularly updated and we are indebted to Nigel Williams (an Old Central) for his work on the Bryntail page of the Central Grammar School website. Nigel is also curating our ever growing archive of photographs and documents.

<https://centralgrammarschool.org.uk/bryntail-charitable-trust/>

## Grant Funding Update

The charity has received five generous grants in March totally £15950. We are very grateful to the support given by the following trusts and foundations:

The Richardson Brothers Foundation  
The Wakeham Trust  
The Country Landowners Charitable Trust  
The Architectural Heritage Fund  
The Springfield Group

We have also had generous personal donations via CAF Direct.



**RICHARDSON**



THE WAKEHAM TRUST



CHARITABLE  
TRUST



## 'New Video' unearthed!

**The previous custodian of Bryntail for many years, Pete Mann, has sent the charity his extensive archive which includes a DVD of a 'standard eight' cine film made of the 1961 Central Grammar School Bryntail camp – available shortly on our websites!**

## From the archive

The River Clywedog has always been a key part of a visit to Bryntail Cottage. Health and Safety regulations may have been more 'flexible' in the past.







## Obituary – Peter Smith

Peter Smith (P.J.), died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Heartlands Hospital where he was being treated for pneumonia. Peter was at The Central Grammar School from 1948 until 1956 and then trained at St Peters, Saltley, beginning his teaching career at Wheeler's Lane Secondary School. He remained very much in touch with Central as Secretary to the Old Centrals Association, a member of the Ground Committee at Streetly and a regular visitor and helper at Bryntail. In 1972 he joined the staff at Central to teach English. At that time Arnie Faulkner retired from running the cottage and Peter took over, organising a committee of Staff, Parents and Old Boys to share responsibility. Under his stewardship, amenities were improved, electricity installed and a range of new activities introduced. He then moved on to head the English Department at Smith's Wood School but still supported all things Central, and it was Peter, along with Brian Hutton, who began the Bryntail Reunions in the School's Centenary year, 1997.

## 2021 Reunion

Trustee, Richard Fryer, has taken the bold decision to pencil in a date in the diary for a reunion this year at Bryntail. Hopefully we can all meet up in person on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Book your accommodation now!

## The Hutton Legacy continues

Brian Hutton's nephew, Andy Hutton, has offered the support of his company's professional expertise as consulting engineers for the refurbishment project.

<https://www.cc-be.com/>

cc | be

# The redevelopment programme

The charity's plans for the cottage fall into two phases:

1. Refurbishment. This will repair the fabric of the buildings compliant with their grade two listed status.
2. Redevelopment of the buildings and grounds to make them fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This will create two twin ensuite rooms for staff and two upgraded dormitories. The current ablution block will be replaced and the kitchen modernised. The grounds will be landscaped to allow limited camping. The hedges will be replanted and the garden fenced.

All improvements will be phased and meet the highest sustainability standards.

The total cost is in the region of £200k. So far we have raised £41355.

## 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#!/Donation>



# CAF DONATE

