

Changing the lives of Birmingham children since 1915

Newsletter – Edition 5, April 2021

Major Grant Success!

We are extremely grateful to The Swire Charitable Trust for a donation of £20 000 towards the refurbishment of the cottage. This milestone in fundraising will mean that building work can commence this summer.

SWIRE
CHARITABLE
TRUST



Grant Funding Update

The charity has also received a generous grant of £3000 from:

Birmingham Airport Community Fund

This grant is specifically to refurbish doors and windows.

We have also had generous personal donations via CAF Direct totally £1050, £1000 of which was from one Old Central!

Invitation to reapply

The Arconic Foundation, part of the company that now owns the aluminium factory at Kitts Green, has invited us to apply for a grant in their 2021 funding round. Last year they awarded the charity \$30 000 for an Air Source Heat Pump system. This year they have asked that we apply for \$50 000 with a 50/50 split between capital and revenue. To continue the environmental energy theme we have therefore asked for \$25 000 to fund a heat recovery ventilation system and battery electric storage. The remaining \$25 000 will be used to provide free use of the cottage to schools and youth groups for 180 days. We will keep you updated of our progress.



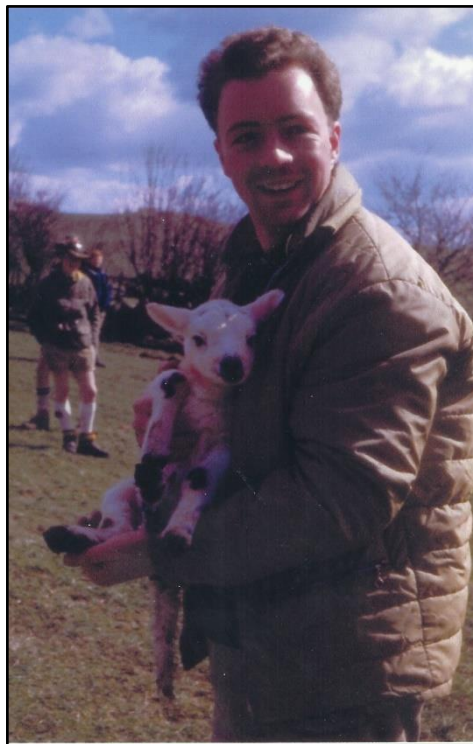
**ARCONIC
FOUNDATION**

Significant archaeological find!

Like at Pompeii the removal of years of rubbish and detritus has exposed a fascinating historical record. In the coach house of The Miners Cottage some ancient graffiti has emerged: the word 'rfryer' written in charcoal on one of the walls, preserved for posterity behind a 'spare' door now installed on the toilet block. Does this refer to Richard 'Spud' Fryer, former Old Central, retired primary school headteacher, and current trustee of the Bryntail Cottage Charity? Cadw are investigating.

From the archive

For many visiting pupils, a stay at Bryntail was their first experience of farm life. A common memory is that it was the first time they ever saw a sheep! This remains true today and will continue to be a key feature of the Bryntail experience.



The Self-Help tradition continues

April has seen work parties of trustees and volunteers continue the process of clearing out generations worth of odds and ends that have been kept 'just in case'. This includes many half full pots of paint and panes of glass. There were also several spare doors two of which did come in handy to replace the doors on the toilet block which had become so rotten they nearly fell apart every time they were opened! Our thanks to Wayne from the Springfield Group for this great work. Also, many thanks to Wayne's girlfriend who was put to work removing the exterior electrical cabling and bulkhead lights which didn't comply with listed building status.



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 18th September. Book your accommodation now!

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 21st 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 £81257.

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>



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