

Changing the lives of Birmingham children since 1915

Newsletter – Edition 6, May 2021

Another Major Grant Success!

At the end of May we were notified of another successful grant of £20 000 towards the refurbishment of the cottage. The terms of the grant mean we can't identify the donor until the money lands in our account at the end of June.



The Story behind the picture

Last month we disclosed that prominent citizen Richard Fryer was responsible for an early Banksy recently uncovered during the renovation work. Here is the story and a photo of the young ladies in question!



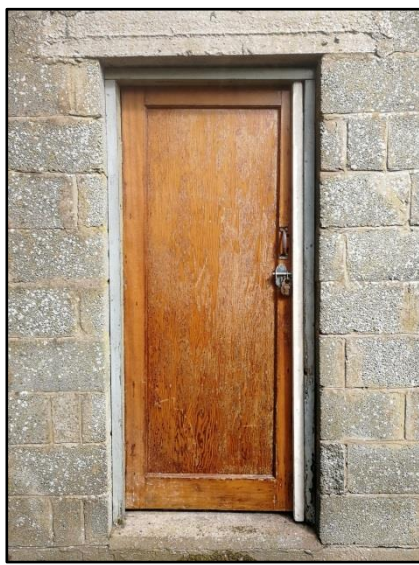
"I can date it to 1964/65 when Roger Butts had a scooter, as did our friend Roger Evans, and they drove to the cottage with myself and Roger Pinkney as pillion passengers. It was winter, wet and cold, and I can't remember exactly why we went but it was likely to have something to do with visiting the Rowlands girls who lived at Cowlwm. I think we were sheltering from the rain/ sleet/ snow in the coach house when I decided to leave my mark. Others did too, but I think their plaster has fallen off."

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The Self-Help tradition continues

We can now show you pictures of the 'new' doors on the toilet block that were installed in April by Wayne from the Springfield Group.



Reinventing the wheel!

Several generations ago worthy volunteers stacked hundreds of bricks behind the ladder in the coach house, wrapped in plastic sheets to preserve them 'just in case' they might be needed one day.

This month that labour was reversed by the chair of trustees and his brother-in-law (seen here) and the said bricks are now usefully filling in a hole somewhere on Bryntail Farm!

2021 Reunion

Saturday 18th September

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Tile Cross Academy

Gressel Lane

Birmingham

B33 9UF

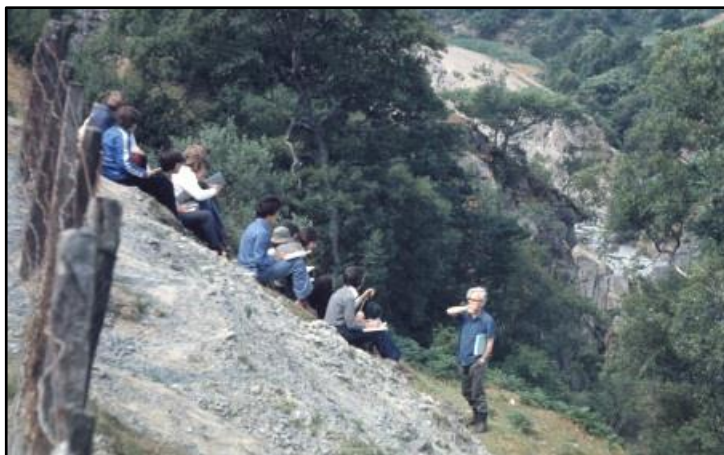
<http://tilecross.academy/bryntail-cottage/>

bryntail@tilecross.academy

Registered Charity Number 1190062.

From the archive

Many teachers and pupils over the years have used Bryntail as a base for field trips. It is the ideal location for geography and science field work.



FORM ONE GEOGRAPHY FIELD COURSE

PURPOSE: To study the geography of a sparsely populated mountainous area.

DATE: Friday 11th October, 1974 for Form 1H, 15, 17.
Friday 18th October, 1974 for Form 1P, 16, 18.

DESTINATION: Bryntail.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: The party will travel by coach to Bwlchym. All pupils should be at school by 8.15 a.m. If any pupil tends to suffer from travel sickness he/she should sit near the front of the coach and should bring some strong paper or plastic bags, just in case. It might be a good idea to take one of the prescribed 'Travel Sickness' tablets. There will be a short stop at Llandiloas (just before the walk begins). The coaches will be re-joined at Gwosles. The estimated time of arrival at Bryntail, allowing for one short stop is 9.15 p.m. Parents collecting their child by car in the evening are asked to park in the 'Central' school playground and NOT in Gressel Lane.

FOOD: All pupils should bring sufficient food to last them for the day. Drinks may be purchased at at least two of the stopping points.

DRESS: Suitable for walking in mountainous areas. It may well rain all day!

ESSENTIAL: Strong shoes/boots for walking; a cycling cape (best), plastic mac. or ordinary macintosh; a spare pair of socks and a pair of gym pumps (to wear on the homeward journey if other clothes are wet); towel (to dry legs, face, etc. if it rains). These can be left in the coaches.

OPTIONAL: Cap, etc. snorkel, etc. shorts. In any case new clothes should not be worn and school uniform is not necessary. Scout uniforms would be very suitable. 'Platforms' should not be worn as they are unsuitable.

MONEY: Perhaps 50p to purchase drinks at the refreshment stops; no more, please.

OTHER EQUIPMENT: One or more sharp pencils, biro, etc; a piece of cardboard to press on; a plastic bag large enough to cover the questionnaire in case it rains. All pupils will be given a map of the route and a map of the Bryntail area. These must be brought to the Field Course. Cameras may be taken but radios are NOT allowed.

BEHAVIOUR: For the general welfare of all concerned it is expected that all pupils will maintain the high standard of behaviour associated with all School Visits.

1. All pupils will immediately obey any instructions given by a member of staff.
2. No pupil will stray from the party UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
3. If a whistle is blown all pupils will stop WHERE THEY ARE and await further instructions.
4. Any pupil neglecting to comply with these instructions is likely to be punished most severely.

It might be a good idea if facilities for a hot bath are made available for the pupil on his/her arrival home.

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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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