



BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

Foreword

Well here we are with the second edition of 'Bridgend Community News', three months do fly around! We received some great feedback about the first edition and about how much people enjoyed reading it so I do hope you like this one just as much.

2018-2019 will bring new challenges to the Bridgend as we re-tender for contracts and funding looks a little more uncertain. However I am confident that with the team of hard-working staff, volunteers and supporters, Bridgend will continue to thrive and adapt to the changes that come our way.

We have some great developments at the Centre in the last few months, such as the new decking to the rear. There are more changes in the pipeline, such as the new 'Walking for Health' programme starting in April, which should help us to enjoy the lighter evenings and better weather that (hopefully) will be coming soon.

Thank you all so much for your support that you give the Centre day in day out and I hope to see you soon at the Bridgend.

Becky

Rebecca Lea

Centre Manager

New Outdoor Contemplation Area



Volunteers Chris and Sandra enjoying a coffee on the decking

Dates for your diary

Friday 2nd March - George Borowski concert

Saturday 24th March - Bridgend Spring Fair

Sunday 10th June - Pub Quiz at the Poachers in aid of Bridgend

Sunday 8th July - Nostalgia Hill Race

Sunday 29th July - Pub quiz at the Poachers in aid of Bridgend

We hope to see you there!

Our new decking area at the rear of the building was completed and opened in December. The funding was obtained from the Tesco Bags of Help project so many thanks to all of you who put your blue tokens in the box for us. It is a truly beautiful spot to relax with the river Dean flowing by. Why not come and check it out?

Honour for Bridgend Centre Founder

We are delighted to report that Centre founder Ann Mayer was awarded a Medal of The British Empire in the new years honours list for services to her community. Without her vision, hard work and dedication to helping people the Bridgend Centre would not be what it is today.

Here is what Ann had to say about the award...

“I am extremely honoured but also very humbled to receive this medal because there are so many other people who also deserve part shares in this award.

When my great friend, Lena Johnson, and I set up the Drop-In in 1990, with the invaluable help of Claude Harlington, the then Clerk of Bollington Town Council, little did we dare to hope it would still be the welcoming and thriving community centre it is today.

It is only through the generosity and dedication of all the staff and so many local volunteers, groups and organisations that this has been achieved. Obviously, you are too numerous to name personally, but you all know who you are, so please take a bow and thank you so much!

Fundraising events, parties and celebrations have always played a large part in Bridgend activities and been greatly enjoyed by everyone. In September 2015 we celebrated our 25th Birthday. So many people came to enjoy the carnival atmosphere and our lovely long-term supporter guitarist George Borowski and friends supplied live music throughout the day and evening. This seemed the perfect time for me to retire.

I'm immensely proud of what Becky Lea, the Centre Manager, and her wonderful team of staff Tricia Hodgskiss, Anna Hatley, Kerry Langstaff, Jane McGill Hoyland, Di Storey and Robert Davies continue to achieve each day, with great warmth and understanding and the invaluable support of an ever-expanding band of volunteers. There is always something new and exciting happening at the Centre – it's a very happy place.

Over the years, when people visit for the first time, they often say, 'What a lovely and friendly atmosphere – it's like a home-from-home.' You can't get any better than that, can you?"



Bridgend founder Ann Mayer

Work Taste Project with The Rossendale Trust



Volunteer Alison sorting and pricing Jewellery.

Bridgend are proud to be a part of The Rossendale Trust's very successful Work Taste project.

Participants come and volunteer at Bridgend in a number of different roles from working in the café to sorting in the shop. The placements enable them to gain new skills and build confidence in a supportive and friendly environment. Feedback from participants and coaches has been really positive.

Competition Corner—Mystery Item

Our mystery object in edition 1 was a blackout light from a bicycle that would have been used during the war.

If you can identify this edition's mystery item, email your answer to info@bridgendcentre.org.uk and a winner will be drawn at random to receive a £10 voucher for our charity shop.



Best of Luck!

Bridgend Activity Calendar

Monday

10.30 Mindfulness
13.00 Jewellery Making
14.00 Talk and Games

Tuesday

10.30 Craft Club
11.30 Reading Group (once a month)
13.30 Art Club

Wednesday

10.30 Guided Walk
14.00 Mah Jong
14.15 Creative writing (fortnightly)

Thursday

11.00 Reading Circle
10.30 Yoga workshop (£5)
once a month

Friday

10.30 Community Choir (£4)

Focus on a Bridgend group - Craft Tuesday 10.30

This friendly group meets every week to enjoy a different craft each week on a rotation.

There is card making, silk painting and jewellery making and the group are always open to sharing new skills and new ideas with each other.

There are also workshops conducted by Avril Corbett to learn new skills. These have included papercraft at Christmas and making bags for "Making for Charity"

Why not come and join in?



The craft group on a recent workshop making fabric bags for those receiving cancer treatment in Macclesfield

Focus on a Staff Member— Jane Hoyland-McGill

Jane is a community worker at Bridgend and joined the team in January 2017. She is known for her friendly, bubbly demeanour and her eye for detail in the Charity Shop.

Outside of work Jane volunteers for a local animal shelter and is a proud owner to her dog Bess.

What do you like about working at Bridgend?

"I love doing a job that makes a difference to other people's lives and here I feel I can really support people who may otherwise feel isolated and alone"



Focus on a Volunteer— Chris Brear

Chris is a long serving volunteer of the Bridgend centre and has put her dedication and hard work in to many different projects.

In addition to being part of the Bridgend Buddies project, Chris also regularly leads walks on our longer distance Saturday walks. She is an integral part of the Walking Festival Committee.

Away from Bridgend, Chris is very actively involved in the local community.

Thank you for all your hard work!



Meet our staff



Rebecca Lea
Centre Manager



Jane Hoyland-McGill
Community Worker



Tricia Hodgkiss
Community Worker



Robert Davies
Finance Officer



Anna Hatley
Community Worker



Diana Storey
Charity Shop (Saturdays)



Kerry Langstaff
Community Worker

Donations

We are always very grateful for any financial donations. Your donation allows us to provide continued support to the people of Bollington and surrounding areas.

If you would like to make a cash donation to the Centre please visit our web page at www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/donate

Or call 01625 576311 and ask for Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager.

Bridgend Centre Contact Details

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Registered charity number 1123287

