

# Bridgend Centre

ANNUAL REPORT  
2017-2018



# Message from Chairperson

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The year 2017-2018 has been another successful one for the Bridgend Centre with increasing numbers of people attending the Centre and more activities and walks than ever taking place.

This year we carried out a 'social accounting' exercise to measure our successes and we are thrilled to be able to show these to you in this Annual Report. We believe that these clearly demonstrate the value that our Centre contributes to our community and society as a whole.

As usual, things do not stand still at the Centre and a significant change during this year was the replacement of our decking area, which has created the beautiful 'Contemplation Garden' at the back of the Centre. Many people have said that they love this area and have enjoyed sitting out there during the wonderful weather we have had this summer.

Another great development has been the commencement of 'Bridgend News', our quarterly newsletter. This has been a great way to communicate to our volunteers and service users on news and development from the Centre.

Thanks must go to our dedicated and hard-working team of staff, led by Centre Manager Becky Lea. We had one new member of staff this year; Robert Davies joined to do the vital work of our bookkeeping. Thank you also to our team of Trustees who work so hard behind the scenes to ensure the Centre is run smoothly.

As ever, thank you so much to the volunteers who are vital to our Centre. This year an astonishing 172 volunteers worked a total of 5,012 hours in various roles, such as in the charity shop, as IT tutors and leading walks. We really couldn't do it without you.

**Geoff Brown, Chair of Trustees**

# Bridgend services

## Drop-in community kitchen

A light airy and welcoming communal space which is the heart of the centre. Perfect for a friendly chat over a hot drink



## Walks

Guided walks for all fitness levels throughout the week



## Information

We have an 'information hub' with lots of leaflets and materials regarding local services. Our Community Workers are on hand to point people in the right direction for information or advice



## Volunteering opportunities

Providing work experience and allowing people to contribute to the local community.



## Reminiscence sessions

For older people and those with dementia and memory issues



## Support

Community workers are always on hand to be someone to talk to



## Activities

A wide range of sessions including yoga, creative writing, arts, crafts, computer tuition, choir,



## Bridgend Buddies

Our pioneering project to reduce loneliness and isolation in our community



## Unique charity shop

An Aladdin's cave of pre loved and affordable donated goods. Visitors love to browse and make friends in the process!





# How did we do?

2017 – 2018

## Tackling Isolation

18,207



people came through the door

**97%**  
felt less  
isolated

"Certainly brings people out who suffer loneliness. A very chatty loving centre. The volunteers are invaluable"

**100%**

made new  
friends

[Bridgend Centre] "helped me when feeling down. Made lovely friends"

"Art and choir are the highlights of my week. Fabulous!"



**21,120**

cups of tea  
served

## Support

"Bridgend Centre helped me enormously when I was very depressed a few years ago"



**100%**

felt more able to  
deal with their  
problems

**82**

clients accessed community support for personal crisis or mental health problems

**97%**

know where to go  
in times of crisis



**100%**  
agreed they could  
get info or be  
signposted to the  
right info

"My mother has had Alzheimers' Disease for the last 6 years and the Bridgend Centre has supported her in various ways as her condition progressed. She has always received a warm, personal welcome. The Bridgend is truly a "gem" of the Bollington Community which makes a huge contribution to the mental and physical health of the local population".

# How did we do?

2017 - 2018

## Improving Health



382 people  
took part in 112  
walks

"Through the Bridgend walking group I have made some very good friends within the Bollington community. This has extended my own social life in general and therefore my social wellbeing".



**100%**

Felt that their  
mental health  
had improved

**88% of people said they do more exercise as a direct result of coming to the Bridgend Centre**

## Fostering a sense of community

172 volunteers worked  
5012 hours during the  
year



**100%**

felt they made a  
contribution to the  
community at  
Bridgend

"I enjoy making  
things in the wood  
shop to sell"



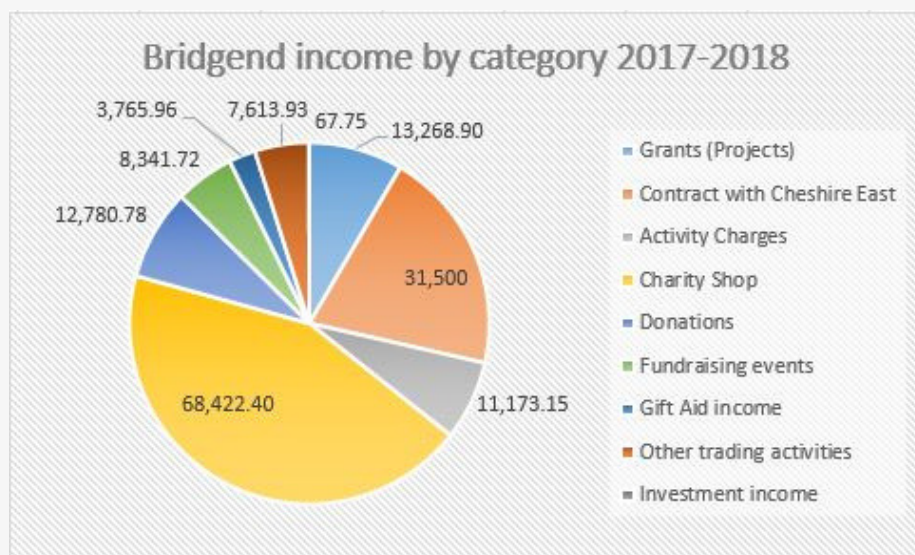
"I have been a volunteer for about 16 years and the bridgend is the only place I have felt my help rewarded by such a happy group that I feel comfortable at".

# Financial Overview

2017-2018 was again a positive year financially for Bridgend. As we have a variety of income streams, our dependence on any one particular source is minimal, which means we are more resilient to change. This year we received total income of £156,935 and expenditure of £140,267, resulting in a surplus of £16,668.

In an ever-changing financial climate, there have been concerns around future income for Bridgend, particularly in relation to the contract we have for Cheshire East Council for the provision of Early Intervention and Prevention services. This contract has provided us with a regular income of £31,500 per year since 2014 but unfortunately, in November 2017, we were informed that the council intended to terminate this contract with effect from 31st March 2018. After some communication with them, this was extended for the period 1st April 2018 - 30th September 2018 at a rate of £7570 for those six months.

This contract has now ended and the contract to replace it requires one organisation to provide services in a much wider geographical area, which we would not be able to do. Therefore, we have decided to look for funding from alternative sources such as grants and foundations. To this end we hired a fundraiser, Peter Sackett of Harvest Fundraising from May 2018 to focus on this area for us. We will also be looking at other fundraising methods in the future.



# Financial Overview continued

## Bridgend Charity Shop

The Bridgend charity shop provides a vital source of income for our charity. As the income is not ring-fenced we can use it to pay our core costs, which strengthens our independence and reduces our reliance on grants and contracts. This makes the charity more resilient for the future.

The income from our shop has increased dramatically in the last 3-4 years, due to a combination of increased rotation of stock, improved pricing and the sale of more items on eBay and the internet. From the years 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, shop sales increased by 36%, which is fantastic. Thank you so much to the hard work of our staff and volunteers who made this possible.



**Barry Matthews, Treasurer**



# Bridgend case study - Myrtle

HELLO. MY NAME IS MYRTLE 91 yrs old

I am a member of the little group who meet at the Centre on Mondays.

It is a very happy crowd (all shapes & sizes) we try to put the world to right among lots of other things. It keeps us from being lonely and feeling on our own at times. The trips out take us to places we could not reach unless taken by our families and we don't feel taken when we go to these little trips.

Quizzes (facts and other things) keep our minds active and we learn a lot from each other.

We are made very welcome and would miss these meetings a great deal.

Hope I will be able to come here quite a lot longer.

Thank you  
Myrtle.





# Bridgend Centre

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## Trustees

Geoff Brown - Chair  
Barry Matthews - Treasurer  
John Gooding - Secretary  
Alan Scott  
Lisa Cox  
Sue Brocklehurst

**Thank you so much to our funders and corporate supporters this year 2017-2018**

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Equilibrium LLP  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Macclesfield Lions  
Macclesfield Round Table  
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