Foreword—Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager

Well its been a busy few months for Bridgend, with lots going on at the Centre. In the last few weeks the Bollington Walking Festival took place, as well as our AGM, which included a great performance from our ever-growing ‘Bridgend Community Choir’.

As part of our Annual Report, we included a ‘Social Accounting’ document, which illustrates the social value we add to our community. We are really pleased with this and have included it in this newsletter for you to read.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Bridgend Community News.

Bollington Walking Festival

The last week in September saw the Bridgend Centre busy with the 9th annual Bollington Walking Festival. We were blessed with fantastic weather and the festival was a great success. New to the festival this year were a walk that incorporated a trip on a canal boat, a walk to Whaley after being dropped off by coach and even a night-time walk along Kerridge ridge. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to make the festival such a success by leading walks and donating cakes. We would also like to thank the walking festival committee for all their hard work in making this a must attend event year after year. Thank You and here’s to next year!
On Friday 12.10.18 Bridgend held our AGM and we are pleased to report it was a great success. Proceedings were opened with a performance by the Bridgend Community Choir who were in fine voice. A team from Tesco came to oversee the official opening of the Contemplation Area and the Mayor of Bollington, Jon Weston, gave a speech.

It was a great opportunity to share the successes of the last year and discuss upcoming changes here at the Bridgend. A copy of the annual report is available on our website www.bridgendcentre.org.uk and some of the highlights can be found on the next few pages.

We would like to thank everyone that came along and made it such a successful event.

Volunteers Wanted

Bridgend could not function without the continued help and support of our dedicated team of volunteers.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers for everything you do, whether it is working in the shop, managing our eBay shop, leading walks, teaching IT or one of the other varied roles we rely on volunteers for.

If you have some free time and fancy giving volunteering a go, why not join our friendly, hard-working team. Please ask one of the staff team for an application form.
How did we do?

2017-2018

Improving Health

100% Felt that their Mental health improved

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 social life in general and therefore my social wellbeing.”

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 that 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.”
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.”

(Bridgend Centre) “helped me when feeling down. Made lovely friends”

Support

82 Clients accessed community support for personal crisis or mental health problems

97% Know where to go in times of crisis

21,120 cups of tea served

100% Felt more able to deal with their problems

“Art and choir are the highlights of my week. Fabulous”

“Bridgend Centre helped me enormously when I was very depressed”

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

“My mother has had Alzheimer’s 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.”
Focus on a Bridgend group - Walks

Possibly Bridgend’s best known group is the walking group. Walks depart from Bridgend at 10.15 every Wednesday and on the first Saturday of the month, all year round come rain of shine. The walking group is a great way to make new friends and get some exercise in the beautiful Cheshire countryside.

There is a varied program of walks so there really is something for everybody. After the walk, the walkers return to the Bridgend centre for a hot drink and a chat. Walking groups are a great way to socialise and make new friends at the same time as boosting physical health. Why not join us?

Focus on a Staff Member—Tricia Hodgskiss

Tricia is Bridgend’s longest serving member of staff with more than 10 years in the team. She is known for her warm and welcoming manner and amazing ability to remember the name of everyone that walks through the door!

Outside of work, Tricia enjoys spending time with her family and is a very proud grandmother. Other interests include travel, languages and walking.

Focus on a Volunteer—Sandy Milsom

Sandy has volunteered regularly on a Saturday in the shop for a number of years in addition to supplying cakes for events.

She is also a regular member of the craft group, reading group and the community choir here at Bridgend.

Away from Bridgend she is a keen artist and is involved in many local groups in the community. Thank you for your contribution to the centre Sandy!
Meet our staff

Rebecca Lea  
Centre Manager  
rebecca@bridgendcentre.org.uk

Jane Hoyland-McGill  
Community Worker  
jane@bridgendcentre.org.uk

Tricia Hodgkiss  
Community Worker  
tricia@bridgendcentre.org.uk

Robert Davies  
Finance Officer  
robert@bridgendcentre.org.uk

Anna Hatley  
Community Worker  
an@bridgendcentre.org.uk

Diana Storey  
Charity Shop (Saturdays)

Kerry Langstaff  
Community Worker  
kerry@bridgendcentre.org.uk

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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