Bridgend Centre
at the ♥ of our community

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Bridgend Centre

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THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

Bollington Community Association (known as the Bridgend Centre) is an independent charity (registered charity number 1123287) that plays a hugely important role in Bollington, Cheshire, offering support to everyone in the local community. We work to reduce social isolation and improve people's lives through a range of services, activities and resources.



OUR SERVICES

We run a number of services within the community to help us to achieve our aims and objectives.

Our drop-in and support service provides an inclusive, comfortable place where people can socialise and interact. At least two Community Workers are available at any one time during opening hours to spend quality time with people and to provide a 'listening ear'. Visiting us provides some people with their only experience of social contact during the week.

Our befriending service, Bridgend Buddies, matches socially isolated and vulnerable people with a trusted volunteer 'befriender'. Befrienders visit participants in their own home and/or bring them to the Bridgend Centre and can also take them out in the community.

We also offer a range of health, educational and social groups from our Centre including Spanish, craft group, Mah Jong, a community choir, and walking groups. We run an extremely popular Talk and Games group which has activities, speakers and trips out and we also have a male-focussed social group which works in the same way.

Our Shuttle to the Shops service regularly transports people to shopping destinations throughout the region.

Volunteering opportunities at Bridgend provide people with a purpose, a place to socialise, form friendships and gain valuable work experience in roles as varied as working in the charity shop, and leading walks.

We also have a woodworking workshop in which a team of volunteers come in to make hand-crafted items to sell in our shop or for bespoke customer orders.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



The twelve months of 2024-2025 were very successful for the Bridgend Centre. It was a year of growth with more people than ever visiting us and we made a huge achievement when we secured a grant of £167,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund to renovate the first floor of our building and replace the stone roof.

This will create two extra meeting rooms that will allow us to expand the number of services we deliver and make them available to more people. This work commenced in June 2025 and should be completed by Christmas.

The Bridgend Centre is open six days per week and the kettle is always on for people who want to drop in, have a brew and a chat if they are feeling lonely, worried or just need someone to talk to. We run educational and social activities every day, which anyone can take part in, that create community cohesion and fun.

The attendance figures for our various services are detailed on page 5, but they really are an amazing indication of how much our services are needed by the people living in the community of Bollington and further afield.

It turned out to be another excellent year for the charity shop, with sales bringing in almost £116,812 for the period April 2024 to March 2025. This is a wonderful testament to our hard working staff and volunteers.

We held some great fundraising activities during this year, such as our annual online Winter prize draw, a charity walk, online fundraising campaign the Big Give, Bridgend Bake-off and two ever-popular Vintage Fairs. These events are great fun but also have the important purpose of raising money to allow us to keep the doors of the Bridgend Centre open. Thank you to our partners, local businesses, and the donors and volunteers who contribute to ensure they take place.

Reading though our achievements above makes me feel so proud of what we do. We are a relatively small charity but the positive impact we deliver is huge and is set to increase further. A massive thank you must go to our hard-working staff, volunteers and Board of Trustees in enabling this to happen every day. We are so grateful for the work they do, and their contributions every single day make Bridgend the truly unique place it is. As we look forward to the future I am sure we will, as a team, face many more exciting and positive developments at the Centre.

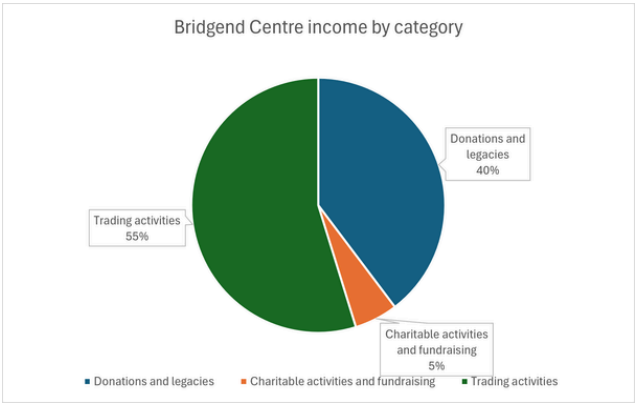
Geoff Brown - Bollington October 2025



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Accounts (SOFA) for the year ending 31st March 2025 is shown on page 6 of the 'Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statement' for that year.

The financial year was another challenging one for the charity, however we ended the year with a cash inflow of £5,643 (2024: cash inflow £5,078).



Our total income was £256,476 (2024: £227,763). Income from our charity shop was £116,812 (2024: £116,119), which was a very healthy income.

Fundraising activities contributed £16,433, which is a great improvement on the previous year (£6,540).

Expenditure this year was £249,656 (2024: £227,713). The main expenditure was staff costs of £157,031 (2024: £140,884).

End of year position: The Charity had a cash inflow of £5,643 (2024: cash outflow of £5,078) with cash of £88,224 (2024: £82,851)

Net current assets were £101,082 (2024: £92,639) at the year end.

The charity's reserve levels are routinely reviewed by the Trustees in order to ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover unknown liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity.

A policy has been established whereby liquid reserves held by the charity should be a minimum of 3 months running costs. Based on the expenditure for the financial year 2024/2025 this amounts to £62,000. In addition, the Trustees consider it prudent to set aside £11,110 to ensure any liabilities on 'restricted funding' can be met.



Our drop-in support service supports many people who need it

SOCIAL IMPACT

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025:

- 1,117 people accessed our 'Drop-in community support and kitchen cafe' and used it 12,251 times
- 198 people attended 102 walks
- 140 people accessed emotional support from one of our community workers
- 158 people accessed some form of information

Measuring the difference we make is hugely important to us

It is vital that we deliver our services to a high standard. We use a database to record the details of our outputs which provides quantative data on who is using our services. This provides us with data on the demographics of the people who use our services and enables us to shape our services in the future.

We also measure outcomes through regular surveys, group consultations and formal and informal one-to-one interviews.

- 226 individuals attended 496 activity and education sessions
- 110 people volunteered at least once, of which approximately 50 volunteered on a weekly basis
- Volunteers worked 5,775 hours for the Bridgend Centre during the year

Our average footfall was 95 adults per day, which is an increase of 10% on the previous year. This does not include children.

"Gathering service user feedback allows us to shape future services and provides direction for the future"

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers really are the life-blood of the Bridgend Centre. They work in a huge variety of roles, including working in the cafe, charity shop and in the eBay team. Plus they lead walks, work in our wood workshop making items to sell and act as befrienders, who buddy isolated and vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you to all our volunteers for their phenomenal effort. We really couldn't do it without you.



Eric, a member of our woodcraft volunteer team

HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

One of the key services at the Bridgend Centre is our timetable of activities and social groups.

Every day throughout the week, there are a range of groups that provide education, fun, physical activity and the opportunity to socialise and make friends.

The timetable includes:

- Craft Club
- Guided walks
- Spanish
- Mah Jong
- 'Talk & Games' social group
- 'A Brew with the Guys' male focussed social group
- Bridgend Community Choir
- Shuttle to the Shops

Next year we are looking forward to developing new groups and activities by identifying gaps in need through consultation with our service users and professionals in the local Care Community Partnership, for Bollington, Disley and Poynton.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Many wonderful people and local businesses regularly support our Centre through their valuable time, monetary donations and contributions to raffles and competitions. We would also like to thank the organisations below for large grants and donations that have made a vital contribution this year. Thank you.



Bollington Beer Festival
Bollington Town Council
Broome Family Trust
Charles Lewis Foundation
David Family Foundation
Dowager Duchess Elenor Peel Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Grace Charitable Trust
Hedley Foundation
James Wise Charitable Trust
Irving Memorial Trust
Lee & Bakirgian Trust
Macclesfield & District Lions Club
N. Smith Charitable Foundation
National Lottery Community Fund
North East Cheshire Community Partnership
Poynton Round Table
RS Brownless Charitable Trust
Souter Charitable Trust
Theodore Maxxy Charitable Trust
Woodroffe Benton Foundation

"The Bridgend Centre simply couldn't survive without donations from its supporters".

THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

Bollington Community Association (The Bridgend Centre)
104 Palmerston Street, Bollington, Cheshire, SK10 5PW
www.bridgendcentre.org.uk -
info@bridgendcentre.org.uk

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Registered Charity number: 1123287

Board of Trustees
Geoff Brown - Chair Barry Matthews - Treasurer
Johanna Maitland Lisa Cox Alison Leah

Staff Team
Rebecca Lea - Chief Officer
Kerry Langstaff - Operations Manager
Robert Davies, Sam Davies, Jane McGill-Hoyland, Maxine Lomas & Suzanne Farrar - Community Workers
Bev Henderson - eBay Co-ordinator and Buddies Co-ordinator
Helen Turner - Cleaner

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Independent Examiners
Heywood Shepherd Chartered Accountants
1 Park Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6SR