

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



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.



BRIDGEND CENTRE
- BOLLINGTON -

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.

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 2023-2024 were very successful for the Bridgend Centre. Again it was a year of growth with more people than ever visiting us and new services being delivered and launched, such as Tai Chi and Armchair dancing.

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.

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 monthly Bridgend newsletter 'Bridging Social Isolation' was a great comfort and source of news to many people during the pandemic and it has continued to be so now we have moved out of that period. The publication is now produced once per month but remains a valued source of information and updates for several hundred people.

It turned out to be another excellent year for the charity shop, with sales bringing in almost £117,000 for the period April 2023 to March 2024. 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 and the ever-popular Vintage Fair. 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. 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 2024



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Accounts (SOFA) for the year ending 31st March 2024 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. We ended the year with a cash inflow of £5,078 (2023: cash outflow of £12,141).

Our total income was £227,763 (2023: £225,105). Income from our charity shop was £116,119 (2023: £117,945), which was a very healthy income.

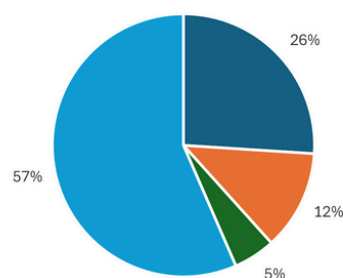
Fundraising activities contributed £6,540.

Expenditure was £227,713 (2023: £225,105). The main expenditure was staff costs of £140,884 (2023: £138,225).

End of year position: The Charity had a cash inflow of £5,078 (2023: cash outflow of £12,141) with cash of £82,581 (2023: £77,503)

Net current assets were £92,639 (2023: £90,379) at the year end.

Bridgend Centre income by funding stream 2023-2024



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 2023/2024 this amounts to £51,000. In addition, the Trustees consider it prudent to set aside £8,866 to ensure any liabilities on 'restricted funding' can be met.



Armchair dancing, one of our weekly activities

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 quantitative 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.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024:

- 997 people accessed our 'Drop-in community support and kitchen cafe' and used it 10,698 times
- 174 people attended 109 walks
- 151 people accessed emotional support from one of our community workers
- 109 people accessed some form of information

- 199 individuals attended 396 activity and education sessions
- 104 people volunteered at least once, of which approximately 50 volunteered on a weekly basis
- Volunteers worked 4,968 hours for the Bridgend Centre during the year

Our average footfall was 86 adults per day. 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, buddying 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.



Gill, a member of our wonderful eBay 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.



Albert Hunt Trust
Bentley Advancing Life Chances
Bollington Beer Festival
Bollington Town Council
Broome Family Trust
Charles Hayward Foundation
Cheshire Community Foundation
Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer
Alliance
Coop Local Community Fund
Dennis Alan Yardy Trust
Emerson Foundation

Garfield Weston Foundation
Gledswood Charitable Trust
JDM Charitable Trust
Irving Memorial Trust
John & Margaret Wootton
Memorial Trust
Love Bollington Market
Marsland McAdoo Charitable
Trust
Medicash Foundation
National Lottery Community
Fund
North East Cheshire Community
Partnership

“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

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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

Bev Henderson (eBay Co-ordinator and Buddies Co-ordinator)

Helen Turner (Cleaner)



Independent Examiners

Heywood Shepherd Chartered Accountants

1 Park Street, Macclesfield, SK11 6SR