

# BRIDGING SOCIAL ISOLATION



*Bollington Memorial Gardens - Remembrance 2025*

Welcome to the November 2025 edition of Bridging Social Isolation, the monthly newsletter for the Bridgend Centre. Inside there is lots of news from the Centre and wider Bollington community, plus the usual information, activities and recipes.

As the nights draw in, the beautiful colours of Autumn adorn the trees and the flash of bonfire night lights up our skies, we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter by the fireside.

**Your support - a lifeline for social connection**



The Bridgend Centre (Bollington Community Association) is taking part in the

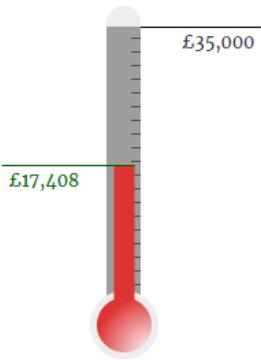
**The Big Give Christmas Challenge  
2025**



## Fundraising at the Bridgend Centre

We continue to focus on our fundraising goal of £35,000 for 35 years and the campaign has now reached the halfway point, having raised £17,400 so far. Huge thanks goes to everyone who donated to this campaign.

We recently received the news that we have once again been accepted on The Big Give Christmas Challenge, which is a brilliant opportunity for us. The campaign will run from 2nd to 9th December and all online donations you make to us through The Big Give platform will be doubled by Champion funding. For more information see below or go to our website [www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/big-give-christmas-appeal-2025](http://www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/big-give-christmas-appeal-2025)



We have also recently been selected as one of the Co-op Bollington store's charity of the year (October 2025 to October 2026). If you join the Co-op (or are an existing member) and select us as your chosen charity, we will receive a proportion of their charity pot for the year. These funds will pay for gentle exercise classes for vulnerable members of our community.

We have several fundraising events over the next few weeks, including Bridgend Bingo at the Viceroy (tickets for sale on our website), an Eco-chic Wreath-Making Workshop and the hugely popular Bridgend Christmas Cracker. Full details of each event can be found within these pages.

Fundraising is becoming increasingly crucial. The charity sector nationally and locally is under ever-increasing pressure to provide services that fill gaps in the caring sectors but without receiving any government or local authority support. Grants and funding sources are oversubscribed 10-fold, which adds to the pressure to keep our head above water financially. Therefore, we always hugely appreciate financial support from our local community in the various ways available.

**Bridgend Centre**  
at the  of our community

The Bridgend Centre is taking part in the **BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE 2025**

All donations to our campaign between midday on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and midday on 9<sup>th</sup> December will be doubled

Our very generous pledge and champion funders are matching donations made to our Big Give Christmas campaign. So £10 donated by you would mean we would receive £20! All money raised will go towards providing a space six days per week for people to connect with others, get support and be part of the community. The Bridgend Centre supports the whole community of Bollington, but particularly those who are vulnerable, isolated or need help. We would really appreciate it if you spread the word to friends and family so we can reach our target of £8,000!



Bridgend Centre, 104 Palmerston Street, Bollington, SK10 5PW  
01625 576311 [www.bridgendcentre.org.uk](http://www.bridgendcentre.org.uk) [info@bridgendcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@bridgendcentre.org.uk)

**CO-OP  
MEMBERS  
CAN  
SUPPORT  
LOCAL  
PROJECTS**



Choose our cause so we can help more people in your community.

Bridgend Centre, Bollington

Help us to fund gentle and accessible exercise classes for people in our community



**co  
op**  
OWNED BY YOU.  
RIGHT BY YOU.

## Project Bridgend update



It is an exciting time for 'Project Bridgend' at the moment as our scaffolding has come down. We think you will agree that the new roof looks fabulous.

Work continues on the interior of the building to create two new meeting rooms, a small kitchen and a toilet, which will increase the capacity of our organisation. New windows will also be fitted and the exterior walls painted. We hope that the entire project will be finished by Christmas.



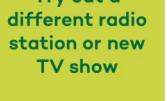
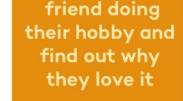
The new rooms will be available for hire, including in the evenings and at weekends, from January onwards. If you are interested please drop us a line to find out more information.



Huge thanks goes to the National Lottery Community fund for making this happen and making our building fit for the next 20 years at least. Also a big thank you goes to Hogbens Chartered Surveyors for managing the project so well and to East Cheshire Joinery for their skill and expertise in transforming our ancient building with minimal disruption.

## Action For Happiness—November

### New Ways November 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you	 4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community	 5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel	 6 Try out a new way of being physically active	 7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire	1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month	2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way
 10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea	 11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way	 12 Find out something new about someone you care about	 13 Do something playful outdoors - walk, run, explore, relax	 14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about	8 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week	9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"
 17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself	 18 Connect with someone from a different generation	 19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site	 20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before	 21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them	15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."	16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective
 24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently	 25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way	 26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show	 27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it	 28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card	29 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen	30 Look for new reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times



## Concerns about the effects of Pool Bank car park becoming chargeable

The Bridgend Centre was dismayed to hear earlier this week that Bollington Town Council was considering pulling out of the contract they have agreed with Cheshire East Council to keep Pool Bank car park free to use for residents and visitors to Bollington following the financial settlement for this being increased. The council was debating the issue at Full Council on Tuesday.

As a vital and unique charity situated in the heart of our town but without our own parking on site, the Bridgend Centre views the car park at Pool Bank as essential to being able to provide our services. Each week hundreds of visitors come to use the Centre, which is open 6 days a week, either for a browse in our popular charity shop or to access one of our many services. Their visit could be as simple as having a cup of tea in our café and a chat with a community worker or attending a class or workshop, maybe they are heading out on one of our guided walks which take place at least twice a week. Visitors include those who are isolated, elderly, with poor health or struggling with their mental health as well as those who love our shop, the wonderful welcoming atmosphere and ethos of the Centre.



We wrote to Bollington Town Council with some points we wanted to ask Councillors to consider ahead of the debate:

- The charity sector nationally and locally is under ever-increasing pressure to provide services that fill gaps in the caring sectors but without receiving any government or local authority support.
- Grants and funding sources are oversubscribed 10-fold, which adds to the pressure to keep our head above water financially.
- The Bridgend Centre operates with a small staff team and a team of volunteers. Some are Bollington based but many travel from outside the town and due to the poor public transport need to come to the centre by car. Adding paid parking will add over a thousand pounds a year to a full-time member of staff's personal costs.
- Many of those accessing our services as visitors will also struggle with the car park becoming paid, it is a barrier to them receiving the support they need.
- Have Councillors considered how they could fund permits instead of providing the whole car park for free via the Cheshire East contract?
- We have heard mention of 30 mins free, and whilst any subsidy is welcome at the Bridgend Centre we are worried this will make a visitor rush to get back to their car, they may spend less in the shop (thus reducing a vital income stream) or may not have time to chat properly with a community worker.
- What could BTC do to support the Bridgend Centre as we face this barrier to people accessing our services?
- We are grateful for the long history of BTC supporting the Bridgend Centre, from the early days when the original Drop-in Centre operated out of the Town Hall before BTC worked with us to help us buy the building and includes continued support via the grants process.

We asked the council to please consider how they can find a way to keep Pool Bank as a free resource for all. This statement was read out at Full Council.

On Wednesday 5th November, Bollington Town Council confirmed to us that this issue was discussed at full council and the decision made a very positive outcome in terms of supporting Bollington businesses and public.

## Could you help shape the future of the Bridgend Centre?

Did you know that over one million people donate their time nationally to be a Trustee? This week is Trustees Week and we should celebrate the people who take on the responsibility and give up their time in what is not always an easy job in order to ensure that the charity sector continues to support the most worthy causes in our society.

A huge thanks goes to our Board of Trustees who support us every day of the year without looking for any personal recognition or reward apart from the satisfaction that they are helping their community. They are:

Geoff Brown (Chair of the Board of Trustees) has been involved in the organisation for over twenty years and is very passionate and supportive about our Vision, Purpose and Values.

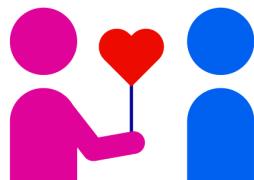
Barry Matthews (Treasurer) is formerly an IT and Project Manager at Barclays Bank and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience through his role. He guides the organisation on formulating the organisational budgets and monitoring the monthly and annual accounts.

Lisa Cox (Trustee) after a long career at AstraZeneca is now a freelance Project Manager, training facilitator and change manager. Lisa supports our organisation by providing training and team building sessions to our staff and volunteer team.

Alison Leah (Trustee) runs her own business providing flexible PA support to various organisations. She provides social media consultancy advice and provides a key role maintaining the Bridgend social media presence.

Johanna Maitland (Trustee) brings a wealth of experience of running an IT consultancy, being a Trustee of other charities and she has significant skills in PR and social media. Jo also used to be a Town Councillor for Bollington Town Council.

The Bridgend Centre is currently looking to recruit two new Trustees. Do you have some skills and experience that you think you could bring to the table? Click here for more information: <https://bridgendcentre.org.uk/could-you-help-shape-the-future-of-the-bridgend-centre/>



**Thank a trustee  
making a difference**



Lisa Cox



Jo Maitland



Geoff Brown

## Dates of the 2026 Walking Festival

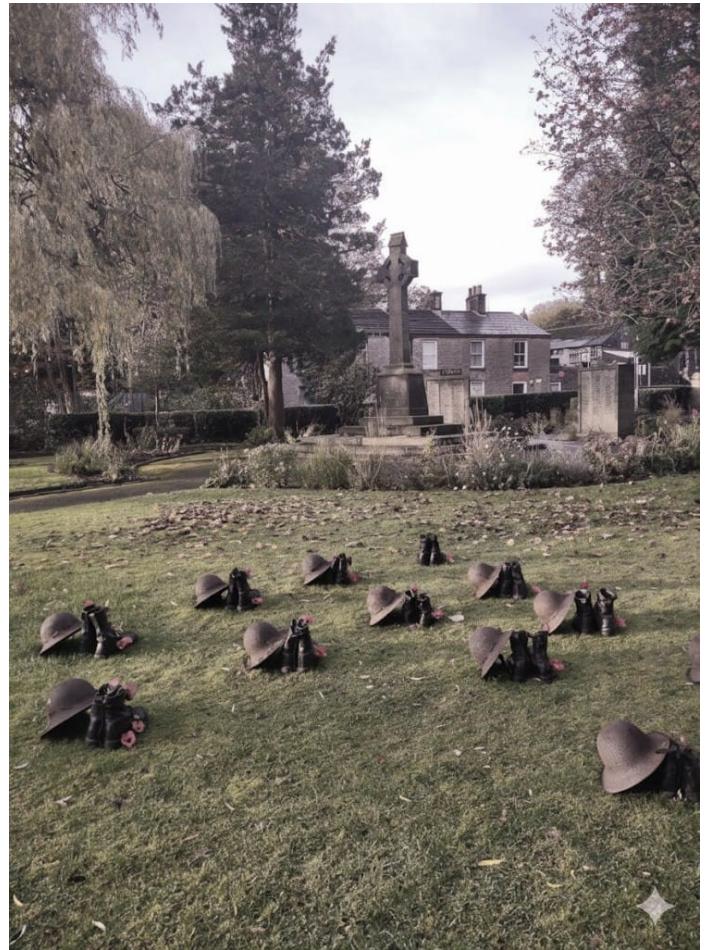
The organising team of Bollington Walking Festival met today (Thursday 6th November) to review the 2025 festival, what worked well and areas for improvement. It was noted that 2025 was the most successful festival in the history of the event with nearly 600 walkers and runners taking part over the nine day period.

The team also agreed the dates of the 2026 festival. It will take place from Friday 4th to Sunday 13th September 2026. The team look forward to planning an exciting new programme of events for the public to enjoy.



## Remembrance Day Poem – The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is forever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust who England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blessed by the suns of home.  
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.



**BRIDGEND BINGO**

THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2025

AT THE VICEROY 6PM

TICKETS £20

FABULOUS RAFFLE ON THE NIGHT

ALL PROCEEDS GO THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

Ticket price includes a three course meal. Purchase your tickets at the Bridgend Centre or on our website.  
[www.bridgendcentre.org.uk](http://www.bridgendcentre.org.uk)  
Charity number 1123287

**Bridgend Centre**  
at the  of our community

**THE BRIDGEND CHRISTMAS CRACKER**

A CORUNUCOPIA OF CHRISTMAS  
REFRESHMENTS, DECORATIONS, BRIC-A-BRIC  
AND CLOTHING PLUS A SANTA'S GROTTO!

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025  
2PM - 4PM

BRIDGEND CENTRE  
104 PALMERSTON STREET, BOLLINGTON,

MEETING SANTA £4. CONTACT US TO BOOK  
01625 576311 OR [INFO@BRIDGENDCENTRE.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@BRIDGENDCENTRE.ORG.UK)

## Recipe - Slow Cooker Irish Stew

### Ingredients

700g/1lb 9oz lamb neck fillet, cut into roughly 4cm/1½in chunks  
1 tbsp sunflower oil  
1 large onion, thinly sliced  
25g/1oz plain flour  
400ml/14fl oz hot lamb stock  
2 tbsp tomato purée  
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce  
½ tsp dried thyme or 3–4 fresh thyme sprigs  
1 tsp dried mint  
3–4 large carrots (around 500g/1lb 2oz carrots)  
500g/1lb 2oz new potatoes  
salt and black pepper

Season the lamb on all sides with salt and lots of black pepper. Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan and fry the lamb for 3–4 minutes over a high heat until nicely browned, turning regularly.

Transfer to a slow cooker pot using tongs, leaving the fat in the pan.

Return the pan to the heat and add the onion. Fry over a high heat for 2–3 minutes or until beginning to soften and brown, stirring regularly. Tip the onion into the pot with the lamb, sprinkle over the flour and toss well together.

Pour the stock over the lamb and onion. Add the tomato purée, Worcestershire sauce and herbs and stir well. Finally, stir in the carrots and potatoes.

Cook on high for 4–6 hours or low for 6–8 hours.



### ECO-CHIC WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE  
BRIDGEND CENTRE



FESTIVE WREATH MAKING WITH  
RECLAIMED TEXTILES FOR A  
SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS



£30 PER HEAD INC.  
MATERIALS, GLASS OF  
MULLED WINE AND NIBBLES

THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 7PM

UPSTAIRS AT THE DOG AND  
PARTRIDGE, BOLLINGTON

TICKETS AVAILABLE  
[WWW.BRIDGENDCENTRE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BRIDGENDCENTRE.ORG.UK)  
OR IN THE CENTRE

TEL: 01625 576311

EMAIL: [INFO@BRIDGENDCENTRE.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@BRIDGENDCENTRE.ORG.UK)  
ALL FUNDS TO GO THE BRIDGEND CENTRE  
REGISTERED CHARITY 1123287



### WALK WITH THE GUYS

A male-focussed walking group  
starting from the Bridgend Centre in  
Bollington

Sundays at 10:30am



Sunday 16th November - Ingersley Vale & Rainow

4.5 miles, moderately easy with some ascent

Sunday 18th January - White Nancy and the Saddle of Kerridge

3 miles, moderate difficulty rating with a couple of steep sections

£2

For more details go to our website or ask in the Bridgend Centre

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01625 576311 - [www.bridgencentre.org.uk](http://www.bridgencentre.org.uk) - [info@bridgencentre.org.uk](mailto:info@bridgencentre.org.uk)

## Brain Teaser – Library Logic

### Clues

Uh oh! There's been a mix up with some of the records in the library. Can you help the librarian solve the issue? They can remember some of the information, but need your help to piece it all together...

1. The four students are Jordan, the one reading The Book Thief, the one reading a Sci-Fi/Fantasy book, and the one with the November 21st due date.
2. Kai is not reading the Non-Fiction book.
3. David's due date is before the due date for the Historical book but after the due date for Imaginary Borders.
4. Maggie is reading the Mystery book.
5. Kai's book is due either on November 30th or on December 12th.
6. The Non-Fiction book is Imaginary Borders.
7. In Other Lands is due before the historical book but after Maggie's book.



Student	Book Title	Genre
David	<i>Imaginary Borders</i>	Historical
Jordan	<i>In Other Lands</i>	Mystery
Kai	<i>The Book Thief</i>	Non-Fiction
Maggie	<i>The Diviners</i>	Sci-Fi/Fantasy

Due Date	November 21			
	November 30			
	December 5			
	December 12			

Genre	Historical		
	Mystery		
	Non-Fiction		
	Sci-Fi/Fantasy		

Book Title	<i>Imaginary Borders</i>		
	<i>In Other Lands</i>		
	<i>The Book Thief</i>		
	<i>The Diviners</i>		

Due Date	Student	Book Title	Genre
November 21			
November 30			
December 5			
December 12			

I Am Print prints the paper copies of this newsletter 'at cost', which are then delivered to the homes of isolated and vulnerable people in Bollington. Thank you so much to I Am Print, it is hugely appreciated.



### Bridgend Centre

104 Palmerston Street, Bollington, SK10 5PW

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T: 01625 576311 [www.bridgendcentre.org.uk](http://www.bridgendcentre.org.uk)

Registered charity 1123287.

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)