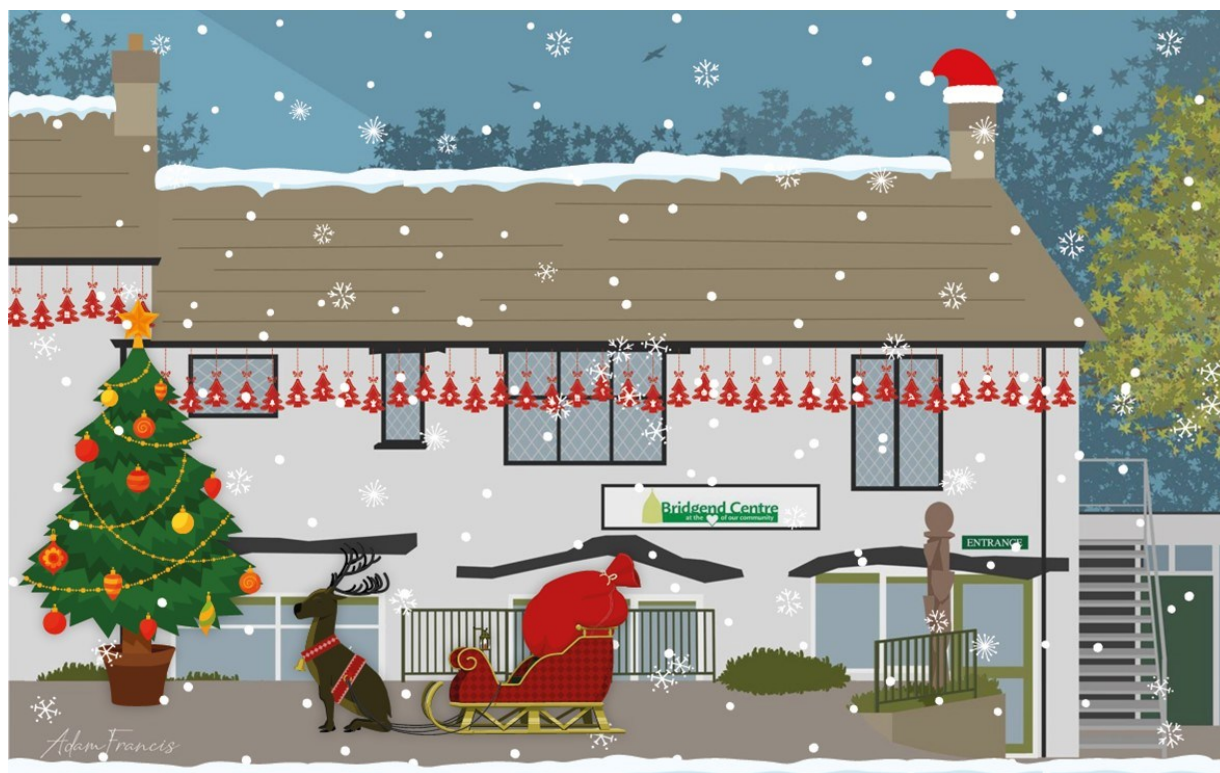


## BRIDGING SOCIAL ISOLATION



Welcome to the December 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. With the festive season fast approaching, please do take time to read all about our upcoming events and the different ways you can support us as 2026 beckons.

Wishing you all a peaceful and calm Christmas and we hope that 2026 is kind and joyful for you.

Remember, if our doors are open, the kettle will always be on and there will be a friendly face to pass the time with.

A huge THANK YOU goes to everyone who donated to our Big Give campaign this year. As we go to print, we have reached £7,806 of our target of £8,000. All this, plus the gift aid will go directly to fund our Drop-in Support Kitchen Café, the beating heart of our Centre.



## Events in Bollington over the festive period

Bollington is a lovely place to be at Christmas with Carols round the Tree on Christmas Eve (6:30pm at the Town Hall) and the brass band playing at White Nancy on Christmas Day (12 noon). Here are the details of some events that are taking place in the area in December and over the festive period.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

# Christmas PARTY

DECEMBER  
MONDAY | 22 | At 1:30pm

AT BOLLINGTON CIVIC HALL

RSVP to the Bridgend Centre, either in person, by telephone (01625 576311) or email [info@bridgendcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@bridgendcentre.org.uk)

A cash donation towards the buffet would be most welcome, Thank you

# Christmas Fayre

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
11am-3pm  
Recreation Ground  
with  
Canalside Radio

Christmas Market  
Santa's Grotto  
Brass Band Carols  
BBQ  
Balloon modelling

Supported by  
Bollington  
Printshop &  
Friends of the Rec

Bollington  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Carols Around the Tree

with  
Bollington  
Brass Band

Christmas Eve - 6.30pm  
Bollington Town Hall - All welcome

Bollington  
TOWN COUNCIL

Bollington Fire Station presents...

# FESTIVE OPEN DAY

Join us for an afternoon of Festive Fun!

14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025  
4pm - 7pm

At Bollington Fire Station, Albert Road, SK10 5HS

Hot Food & Drinks + Festive Games + Christmas Carols  
Santa's Grotto + Free Giveaways + Interactive Learning  
Station Tour + Photo Booth + & Much More

**FREE ADMISSION**

All profits and kind donations will go to the Firefighters Charity

THURSDAY | 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

# GROUP HIKE

Mam Tor and The Great Ridge via Elbow Ridge  
10.6KM | 517M ELEVATION | EST 4.5 HOURS  
START TIME 9:30AM

the.hiking.association

the hiking association

thehikingassociation

# Bollington Brass Band

# Christmas Concert

a sparkling evening of festive music!

Bollington Arts Centre

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
Doors - 7pm Start - 7:30pm  
£12 - Adults £4 Children  
Family Ticket 2 Adults, 2 Children - £30  
Reserve your tickets on 07775751887

# Your support - a lifeline for social connection

The Bridgend Centre (Bollington Community Association) is taking part in the  
**The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2025**  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Your donation will be doubled!  
Scan the QR code to donate  
**THANK YOU**

**Christmas  
Challenge**

**BigGive**

Bollington  
TOWN COUNCIL



Project Bridgend update



Project Bridgend continues apace with the first floor rooms being renovated now that the stone roof has been replaced. The iconic white walls outside have been repainted and we are currently waiting for the new wooden windows, which we hope will transform the front of the building.



The Bridgend Centre is very old, having been built in approximately the 16th century. It started life as a farmhouse, with the people living on the first floor and their livestock being housed on the ground floor. The building has had a number of uses over the centuries, in the mid 20th century, the building was a garage, complete with petrol pumps on the forecourt!

You will notice that the floor level of the Bridgend Centre is substantially lower than the ground and road in front of it. This is because the building pre-dates the canal, the time when the ground between the canal and Bridgend was significantly raised by the addition of earth from the first, failed, attempt at building the embankment. ‘Throstles Nest’, the cottage opposite the Bridgend Centre, is similarly set down in the ground.

The new rooms created over the last few months will be available for hire, including in the evenings and at weekends, from January onwards. In addition, we are looking at expanding our timetable of activities so if there are any new activities or groups you would like to see at the Bridgend Centre, please do get in touch (feedback form below).



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 to us or our neighbours.



Your Centre– Your ideas!

As the New Year rolls in and our fantastic new upstairs space is ready to be unveiled, we need your input!

What new activities or groups would you like to see us deliver in this fantastic new space? With potential for evening and weekend use too, hit us with your creative ideas. Please cut out the slip below and return it to the centre or email us at [info@bridgendcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@bridgendcentre.org.uk) with your suggestions.



Groups I would like to see.....

Other Suggestions.....



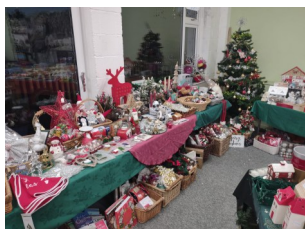
## Festive Fun at Bridgend

At time of writing, we have made a great start to our festive season at Bridgend. On Thursday 27th November, we held our first rag wreath making workshop to raise funds.

Whilst enjoying festive nibbles, a group of crafters repurposed all manner of unwanted textiles to make an eco friendly re-useable wreath. Then on Saturday 29th November it our 2nd annual Christmas Cracker event, with a dazzling array of Christmas decorations, toys and gifts to satisfy the shoppers.



We even had a visit from the big man himself, who stayed to entertain the children in his grotto, with the help of a couple of very familiar looking elves!



Both events have been very much enjoyed by all, whilst raising money to keep the Bridgend doors open and the kettle on!

We still have lots of festive fun to look forward to for the rest of December. On Wednesday 10th, our ever popular Shuttle to the

Shops is off on a festive outing to Altrincham Christmas Markets. I'm sure they will get their steps in for the day on that one!. Speaking of steps, we have a number of walks left before the end of the year. Our Monday walks for health continue right through the festive period, with walks on the 22nd and 29th of December. Our Wednesday walks are Billinge and Berristall on Wednesday 10th and Exploring Kerridge on Wednesday 17th. December. For those who like a longer walk, we have a 7.5 miler Across the tracks to Prestbury, on Saturday 13th December.

We hope you will join us on Monday 22nd December at 1.30pm at the Civic Centre for our annual Christmas Party. Let us know if you can attend, all welcome, no charge but a voluntary donation to buffet costs is welcome.

## Bridgend Centre - the one stop shop for Christmas gifts!

If the thought of Christmas and all those presents you need to buy is tying you up in knots, then fear not! The Bridgend Centre is the place to come for affordable gifts and Christmas items.

The Christmas Cracker event last Saturday was a prime example of the amount of gifts, cards, wrap, decorations and clothes that are available from our charity shop and the queue of people to get in at 10:00am was testament to that! However now that event is over, there is still a plethora of Christmas stock to keep your costs down and family and friends happy.

Here are some examples of the items that have been purchased from the Bridgend charity shop in the last few weeks that will make the perfect gift this festive season. Our stock is refreshed on a daily basis, so do come and check regularly! We also sell Bridgend Gift Vouchers for the charity shop lover in your life.



Sausage Dog Gravy Boat £4



House of Games Card Game £2



Liz Earle Gift Set £20



## The Co-op Group - supporting the community for over 160 years

You may have noticed that the Bridgend Centre is one of Bollington Co-op's chosen charities for the year October 2025 to October 2026.

This means that if you log into your Co-op app and chose us as your chosen charity, a proportion of everything you spend will be sent to us to fund gentle and accessible exercise classes for people in our community, at no extra cost to you.

A Co-op is owned by its members and they get to say how it is run and what happens to the profits from the business. The Co-op supports its local community in the form of this funding because its members have said that that is how they want some of the company's profits to be spent.

There are co-ops everywhere across the world, of all sizes and industries. The Co-op Group that owns the Bollington store is one of the largest in the world and also owns funeral, insurance and legal services businesses.

This group has its origins in the co-operative consumer societies started by the Rochdale Pioneers. In 1863, independent co-op societies formed The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS). They provided Co-op products to sell in hundreds of Co-op stores. Over the next century, CWS went through many changes and eventually became The Co-operative Group.

The Co-op works with over 2,000 British farmers, dedicated to being ethical and caring, and with Fairtrade suppliers from around the world to help communities live and work better.

2025 is the UN's 'Year of Co-operatives' which aims to raise awareness of co-operatives and their contribution to sustainable development and global challenges.

So why not select the Bridgend Centre as your chosen charity this year and support us to deliver more activities for vulnerable people in our community? If you need any support with installing the Co-op app on your phone, or choosing us as your charity, please do pop into the Bridgend Centre and one of our Community Workers will be able to help.



**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



**International Year  
of Cooperatives**

Cooperatives Build a Better World



## Save the date!

We are so excited to be holding a celebration ball to commemorate 35 years of the Bridgend Centre.

The ball will be held at The Tytherington Club on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and tickets will include a reception drink, 3 course dinner and entertainment. The fantastic Monkey Harris will be keeping us dancing the night away. We are planning a wonderful evening to chase away the winter blues all whilst raising funds for the Centre.

Tickets available online or from the Bridgend Centre, £50 per person. Tables will be for 10 but we can accommodate any party size, so please do come along. All welcome.

It is going to be a fantastic way to start the new year, and we can't wait to see all our friends and supporters there!

Details on how to book will be out soon, so keep an eye on our website and social media channels:

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

Facebook: @bridgendcentrebollington

Instagram: @bridgendcentre



## December Kindness 2025



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today
8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one
15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving	19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you
22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy
29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2026				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



## Recipe - Creamy bacon and Brussel sprout roast potato topper



### Ingredients

125g floury potatoes (like Maris Piper)  
 1 heaped tbsp plain flour  
 1 tsp onion granules  
 1 tsp dried rosemary  
 50ml olive oil  
 For the sauce  
 20g butter  
 100g smoked bacon roughly chopped  
 100g brussels sprouts shredded  
 1 tbsp garlic paste  
 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce  
 2 tbsp wholegrain mustard  
 100ml double cream

Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Cook the potatoes in a pan of boiling salted water for 10-12 mins. Drain in a colander, then shake gently to rough up the edges

Meanwhile, combine the flour, onion granules, rosemary and some seasoning in a bowl. Pour the oil into a baking tray and put in the oven for a few minutes to heat up.

Tip the potatoes into the bowl with the flour mixture and toss to coat. Carefully tip the potatoes into the hot oil in the tray, then roast for 30 mins, or until crisp and golden, turning halfway through.

For the sauce, melt half the butter in a frying pan over a medium heat and fry the bacon for 5-6 mins until starting to crisp, then remove to a bowl using a slotted spoon. Set aside

Add the rest of the butter to the pan and cook the sprouts for 8-10 mins until softened. Add the garlic paste, Worcestershire sauce and mustard, and cook for 5 mins more. Return the bacon to the pan, tip in the cream and season to taste. Cook for 2-3 mins more, or until the sauce has thickened slightly

Remove the potatoes from the oven, tip onto a serving platter and spoon over the creamy sauce. Serve hot



### Christmas Opening Hours

2025

Monday 22nd Dec—we will be closing at 12:00pm for our Christmas Party. You are welcome to join us at the Civic Hall! Please just let us know if you would like to.

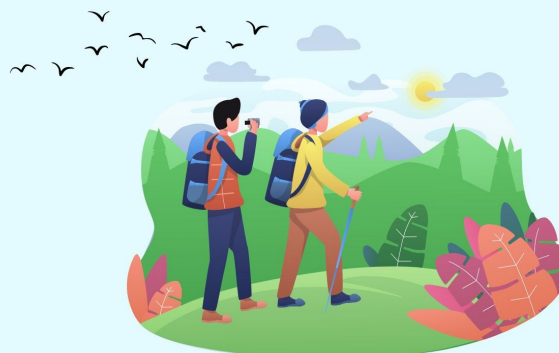
Tuesday 23rd Dec	10am - 4pm
Wed 24th Dec—Fri 26th Dec	<b>CLOSED</b>
Saturday 27th Dec	10am - 3pm
Monday 29th Dec	10am - 4pm
Tuesday 30th Dec	10am - 4pm
Wed 31st Dec + Thu 1st Jan	<b>CLOSED</b>
Friday 2nd Jan	10am-4pm



## 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

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)

## Brain Teaser – Quiz

1. Valentine Davies wrote the story on which of the following classic Christmas movies was based  
a) Its a Wonderful Life, [b] Miracle on 34th Street or [c] White Christmas?
2. Known in the USA under the title "Murder for Christmas", how was this 1938 Agatha Christie novel known in the U.K.  
[a] Miss Marples' Christmas, [b] Parker Pyne's Christmas or [c] Hercule Poirot's Christmas?
3. In the book "Little Women", which of the March sisters says the opening lines "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents",  
[a] Meg, [b] Jo or [c] Beth?
4. Which animal did J K Rowling write about in 2021, [  
a] The Christmas Pig, [b] The Christmas Donkey or [c] The Christmas Cat?
5. Which of the Mitford sisters wrote the 1932 book entitled "The Christmas Pudding",  
[a] Nancy, [b] Diana or [c] Unity?
6. Which of the following "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books by Jeff Kinney was set at Christmas,  
[a] The Third Wheel, [ b] Double Down or [c] Cabin Fever?
7. Which of the following was NOT one of Charles Dickens' Christmas novellas,  
[a] The Quiet Night, [b] The Chimes or [c] The Battle of Life?
8. Who wrote the novel "Skipping Christmas" on which the movie "Christmas with the Kranks" was based,  
[a] John Grisham, [b] Stephen King or [c] Dan Brown?
9. Which member of the pop group McFly wrote a series of books featuring "The Christmasaurus ",  
[a] Danny Jones, [b]Harry Judd or [c] Tom Fletcher?
10. Which play by Henrik Ibsen opens with the delivery of a Christmas tree,  
[a] The Master Builder, [b] Peer Gynt or [c] A Doll's House?
11. Who wrote the book "The Polar Express" on which the movie was based,  
[a] Julie Murphy, [b] Chris Van Allsburg or [c]Tessa Bailey?
12. Which famous fantasy author wrote letters to his children each year from Santa Claus that were published in 1976 as "Letters from Father Christmas,  
[a] J.R.R. Tolkien, [b] Roald Dahl or [c] George R.R.Martin?



1. B 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. A 6. C 7. A 8. A 9. C 10. C 11. B 12. A

Answers

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

E: [info@bridgendcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@bridgendcentre.org.uk)

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

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