

# Bridging Social Isolation

The newsletter of the Bridgend Centre in Bollington



Spring has well and truly arrived! It is a period of change and new growth, which is very much the case here at Bridgend. Our cover photo hints at one of our exciting new developments this month, see page 2 for full details of this fantastic opportunity for the Bridgend, brought to us by our friends from Rainow Village Bus.

There have been changes in our staff team too and you can meet our new recruits on page 3.

The much-loved Bollington Festival returns this month and details can be found on page 6.

We really do have a packed edition for you this month and we hope you enjoy it!

## **Bridgend Centre**

104 Palmerston Street  
Bollington, SK10 5PW

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

Tel: 01625 576311

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

## **Registered Charity no: 1123287**

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

## **Centre Opening Hours**

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm

Saturdays 10am to 3pm

## **Room Hire**

Our fantastic new meeting rooms are available for hire, including evenings and weekends. Please contact the Centre for further information



## Rainow Village Bus future secured by move to Bollington's Bridgend Centre

The Trustees of the Rainow Village Bus and The Bridgend Centre (Bollington Community Association) are pleased to announce that from 1st June 2026, ownership and management of The Rainow Village Bus will be transferred to The Bridgend Centre. This secures the future of this much-needed local service.

Chair of Rainow Village Bus, Tony Wilkinson explains: "The Trustees and volunteers of Rainow Village Bus are very proud of what they have built over the last 12 years, but circumstances have meant that it is impossible for us to continue. It is time to hand over the keys, and we know the bus service is in safe hands with the Bridgend Centre."

The community bus service was established in 2014, with the new bus commissioned in 2016, to serve the residents of Rainow and surrounding areas. The hard work and determination of the volunteers to bring this service to life are truly appreciated by all who have used the service in the last 12 years.

Becky Lea, Chief Officer of the Bridgend Centre, says: "Our two charities have a similar ethos and have worked together closely for many years. Rainow Village Bus have provided transport services for Bridgend trips and Bridgend have provided volunteer drivers for the service. Huge thanks go to the Trustees of Rainow Bus for entrusting us with this valuable asset"

Bridgend Centre Trustee, Jo Maitland adds: "This transfer feels very logical and we are honoured the trustees of Rainow Village Bus offered us this opportunity. We are proud to carry on the excellent work started by Rainow Village Bus serving our communities with a beloved and much needed service."

All existing bookings will be honoured and updated booking info will be communicated to existing users.



*Representatives of Rainow Village Bus and Bridgend Centre with Ken Butler, a key driving force behind the establishment of the community bus in Rainow.*

## Shuttle to the Shops goes to Buxton

This week the ever-popular Bridgend service 'Shuttle to the Shops' went to Buxton. It was an absolutely stunning day with beautiful sunshine, although a little blustery at times. It was new Bridgend member of staff Dawn's first trip out on the Shuttle service and she really enjoyed herself.

Some of the group went round the shops on the high street, including New Look, Next and TJ Jones. Others walked around the beautiful gardens around the Crescent and Pavilion. There was also a vintage car auction taking place at the Pavilion, which was nice to explore.

Some of us also went for lunch at a very nice deli and stopped in at the Pump Room for coffee and to shop a few bargains. We will be visiting the Crescent Heritage Trust again in September as a day trip to do a walk and a tour of the rooms, as part of the Bollington Walking Festival.

Our Shuttle to the Shops programme is made up of fortnightly trips out to shopping destinations across the region. The next one is a full day trip to Trentham on 13th May. This is full with a waiting list, but there are more trips out planned until the end of June. The new programme from July to September will be available in a few weeks.



## Introducing....Marnie and Dawn

April saw some big changes in our staff team when longstanding Bridgend Community Worker Jane left to enjoy a well deserved retirement and we were joined by new employees Marnie Coyle and Dawn Mansfield.

Marnie will take on the role of Activities Co-Ordinator, a new role designed to fill our new rooms on the first floor with activity.

Marnie has worked in the health and wellbeing sector for nearly 30 years. She is a keen painter in her free time and loves to get involved in anything creative.

The first thing that Marnie wants to do is find out what people in the community would like to see on the programme and identify what needs there are. Therefore, she is holding three focus group events to give you the opportunity to have your say on what groups, activities and services we have at the Bridgend Centre and when.

It could be a gardening group, creative arts, mums and tots, more social groups or a new idea of your own, we would like to hear from you! We are also interested to hear what times of day you would like to use the Centre.

The focus groups will be taking place on three different days and times, see the poster (right) for more detail. If you can't make any of the focus groups, there will also be a survey on paper and online for you to complete if you would like your voice to be heard.

**Bridgend Centre**  
at the of our community

# FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

New events and activities for your community

Come and have your say

What would you like to see at the Bridgend Centre?

Come and join us at one of our focus groups

• Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 2pm  
• Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 5pm to 7pm  
• Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 2pm

### Why Participate?

- 1 Have a voice: in what activities and events happen at the Bridgend Centre
- 2 Connect & Collaborate: to help build bridges to support social isolation in our community and surrounding areas
- 3 Be Heard: your opinions will shape decisions that matter

For more information please contact:  
☎ 01625 576311  
✉ marnie@bridgendcentre.org.uk



*Dawn*

.....  
Dawn has joined us as a Community Worker on a flexible contract and will be particularly involved in the 'Shuttle to the Shops' service.

Having worked in administrative roles for over 30 years within the Education sector, Dawn was keen to move into a position that combines working within the local community with some of her hobbies and interests. Dawn especially loves to travel to different locations to walk, explore, socialise and shop and the Shuttle to the Shops involves all these activities so it is an ideal job for her. Dawn is very pleased to be joining the Bridgend team and looks forward to meeting everyone who will be joining her on her travels.

.....  
May sees further change to the staff team with the retirement of Di Storey, our Saturday shop worker. Di joined the Bridgend team back in 2010 and we are grateful for her long service and contribution to the charity. She is an active member of the Bridgend choir and has made lots of friends in her time here. We wish her a very happy retirement.



*Marnie*



## Bluebells in Harrop Wood

The bluebells are absolutely magnificent this year and there is no better place to see them than in Harrop Wood just north east of Bollington. There are swathes in these woods and they look truly incredible, especially on a sunny day. It isn't too late to see the bluebells, they usually flower between mid-April and mid-May, but you will have to be quick for this year's display.

A great route to see the flowers is the Bridgend Centre's Heritage Trail number 2, 'Woods and Wildflowers'. You can either pick up a leaflet in the Bridgend Centre, or you can download one from our website here:

[www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/heritage-trail-2-woods-and-wildflowers](http://www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/heritage-trail-2-woods-and-wildflowers). As

with all eight of our Heritage Walking Trails, there is also a children's fun quiz and activity sheet to go alongside the walk guide which they can carry out along the way.

You can either start the walk from the Bridgend, or if you would like to shorten it by about 1 mile, you could park at the layby on Spuley Lane and start the walk by going straight up Hedgerow. A map of the route can be found below, but as well as this our

walk leaflets include written instructions on where to walk. There are also way markers installed in the landscape at various points so it is unlikely you will get lost. Pictured to the right is the marker for this trail.



As well as the bluebells and lovely vistas, there are also several interesting and picturesque things to see on this route, including an abandoned Land Rover with a tree growing through the windscreen and one of the beautiful 'Peak and Northern' footpath signs just below

Harrop Fold Farm.

To mark 'Bollington Goes Green' week this year (6th to 14th June), we will be promoting our Heritage Trails and how they are a great way to explore the varied and beautiful countryside we have around Bollington.

**'BOLLINGTON GOES GREEN' WEEK 2026**  
6th - 14th June 2026  
**Bridgend Centre Heritage Trails**  
Celebrate Bollington goes Green week by exploring the lovely countryside in the area together with all the family

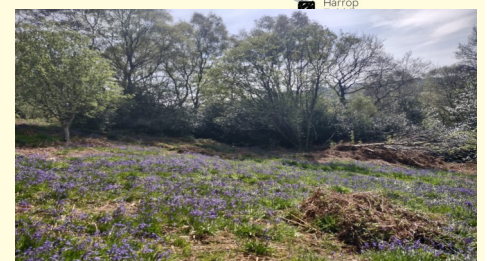
- 8 circular walks from the Bridgend Centre in the heart of Bollington
- Between 3 and 7 miles in length
- Each walk has a children's quiz to go with it
- Download walk guides and quizzes from our website or pick up copies from our Centre

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



**Bridgend Heritage Trail 2**  
**'Woods and Wildflowers'**

5 miles



## Bollington Walking Festival 2026

Organisation of the 2026 Bollington Walking Festival continues apace behind the scenes by our organising team. This year's event is bigger than ever with 46 walks agreed so far. Spread over a nine day period, we have all the old favourites such as the Children's Bear Hunt, the canal boat walk and the Mayor's Boundary Walk, plus some new walks such as 'Follow the horse', a trip to Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust and a 'White Nancy early bird challenge' walk spread over several days!



A recent development is the inclusion of two running events; the ever-popular 'Spunch' and a mixed light trail and road run organised by Bollington Harriers. Both events are inclusive and open to all abilities.

If you want to walk at any pace in any direction for as short or long a distance as you like, we'll have it covered. There's a short accessible walk organised by the BDP Care Community (Bollington, Disley and Poynton), a Dementia-friendly walk and new for this year a walk for people with CFS/ME/Long Covid, organised by Hope Press. There are also a variety of walks in the popular 5–7-mile category and some of 7–15 miles. Once again we also have a specialist sensory walk organised by the East Cheshire Eye Society.

The festival will be taking place between 5th and 13th September and leaflets should be arriving in early to mid June. All the walks will also be detailed on our website and further information can be found there.

Nearer the time you will also be able to contact the hub of the whole operation, the Bridgend Centre, on 01625 576311 or pop in for more information.

[www.bollingtonwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.bollingtonwalkingfestival.co.uk). Watch this space to find out more!

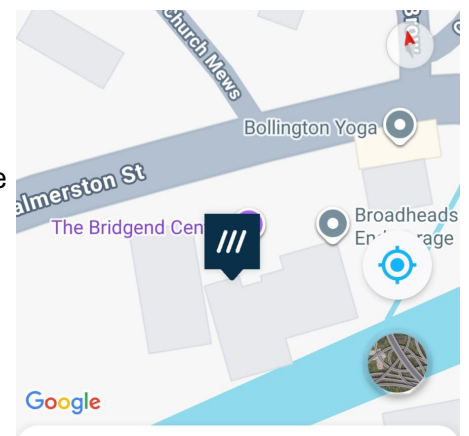


## What Three Words

You may have noticed on the leaflet for the last year's Bollington Walking Festival that we mentioned the 'What Three Words' co-ordinates for all the walk start points. You may also have wondered what this was.

'What Three Words' is a website and app that divides the world into 3 metre squares and names each one using three randomly selected words. These are used for e-commerce, navigation, emergencies and much more. It is a great way to identify where exactly someone is down to three metres.

You can download the free app on your phone and then, in the unlikely event there is an emergency when you are out and about, you can inform the emergency services of your location by finding the 'What Three Words' for where you are.



[///sunk.whizzed.taxpayers](https://www.what3words.com/sunk.whizzed.taxpayers)

For the 2026 Bollington Walking Festival, the 'What Three Words' co-ordinates for all the start points will be provided on our website when the leaflet is released. [www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com)

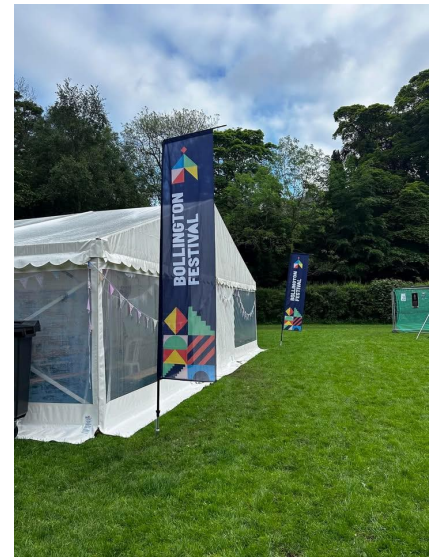
## Bollington Festival in May

May 2026 is a busy month in Bollington with the long-anticipated return of the Bollington Festival.

Bollington Festival has been bringing people together, celebrating music, culture and community for over 60 years. Let your curiosity guide you through our exciting array of activities. From dance to comedy, rock to jazz, ukuleles, indie bluegrass, folk and brass. There's something for everyone! The festival is run entirely by volunteers, which is a phenomenal achievement.

There are scores of events scheduled over the ten-day period (15th to 25th May,) many of which will be free-of-charge. Between 15th and 20th May, events will take place at the Arts Centre, including a Caffl (a Welsh version of a ceilidh), comedy events and a variety of music concerts. Then from 21st May to 25th May, proceedings will move to the Recreation Ground with a variety of musical gigs, headlined by the Screaming Beavers on the Thursday, Ultimate Coldplay on the Friday, Oasis on the Saturday night and Abba Fever on the Sunday nights.

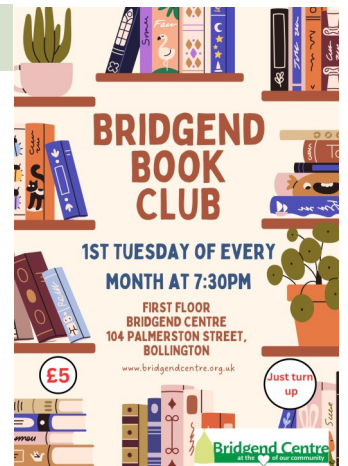
To complement the Festival, Bollington Beer Festival will be taking place on this weekend of 21st-23rd and this year will be in the tent on the Recreation Ground. There will be a range of delicious food available for sale and a choice of beers, ciders, perries and more. It will also be a free-of-charge event, although you will be required to purchase a souvenir festival cup to get a drink.



## Bridgend Book Club - Tuesday 5th May at 7:30pm

May's Bridgend Book Club will take place on Tuesday 5th May at 7:30pm on the first floor of the Centre. This month's book was 'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine' by Gail Honeyman and we look forward to talking about this thought provoking book.

The book we will be reading for June's meeting is 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood. Everyone is welcome regardless if they have attended before. The books are provided by Cheshire East libraries on a loan basis.



**SOCIAL KNITWORK  
KNITTING AND  
CROCHET  
CLUB**

Open to all abilities including beginners. Facilitated by Kerry - share tips, patterns, work in progress, new techniques and a love of all things woolly in an informal setting. £5, includes refreshments.

📅 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month  
🕒 7pm  
📍 Upstairs @ Bridgend Centre

We can provide basic equipment to beginners wanting to try a new skill.

**Bridgend Centre**  
at the heart of our community

## Social Knitwork - Tuesday 12th May at 7:00pm

Our other evening group currently is Social Knitwork, a get-together for all things wonderful and woolly. Whether you have never touched a crochet hook in your life or you can already knit up a storm, all are welcome.

The group is run by Kerry, who both knits and crochets (although is by no means an expert!) She is happy to help beginners get going and we can provide basic equipment where needed.

As a new group, we are happy to grow the group to suit our members, whether that is a simple knit and natter set up or whether we do group projects, demonstrations etc.

## Recipe - Sausage meat Lasagne

### INGREDIENTS

Butter, for greasing  
6 large dried lasagne sheets  
75g/2¾oz mature cheddar, grated

#### For the pork and spinach sauce

1 tbsp oil  
450g/1lb pork sausage meat  
1 tbsp plain flour  
1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped  
2 fat garlic cloves, crushed  
250g/9oz chestnut mushrooms, sliced  
200ml/7fl oz full-fat crème fraîche  
100g/3½oz baby spinach, roughly chopped  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

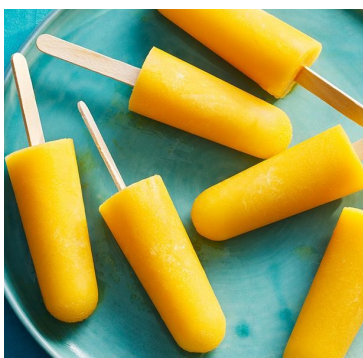


#### For the tomato sauce

500g/1lb 2oz passata  
2 tbsp sun-dried tomato paste  
1 tsp light muscovado sugar  
1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme leaves

1. Preheat the oven to 200c / 180c Fan/ Gas 6. Grease the ovenproof dish with butter.
2. Soak the lasagne sheets in recently boiled warm water to soften while you prepare the two sauces.
3. For the pork and spinach sauce, heat the oil in a large, non-stick frying pan. Add the sausage meat and brown over a high heat for 5–10 minutes until golden-brown, breaking up the mince with two wooden spoons. Sprinkle in the flour and fry for a minute.
4. Add the chilli, garlic and mushrooms and fry for about 5 minutes. Stir in the crème fraîche and spinach. Bring to the boil and allow to bubble for a couple of minutes. Season well with salt and pepper and set aside.
5. For the tomato sauce, mix all the ingredients together in a jug or bowl and season well with salt and pepper.
6. Drain the lasagne sheets.
7. Spoon one-third of the spinach sauce into the base of an oven-proof dish. Spoon one-third of the tomato sauce on top and arrange half of the lasagne sheets over the tomato sauce. Repeat using two more layers of spinach and tomato sauces and one of lasagne sheets. Sprinkle the top with grated cheese.
8. Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until the pasta is tender and the top of the dish is golden brown and bubbling around the edges.

### Dessert—Easy Mango and orange ice lollies



150g/5½oz ripe mango, diced (about 1 large mango)

300ml/10fl oz freshly squeezed orange juice

Tip the mango into a blender and add the orange juice. Blend on high speed for about 1 minute until completely smooth.

Pour the mixture into ice lolly moulds and freeze for about 2 hours, until half frozen. Push a lolly stick into the middle of each ice lolly, then return to the freezer for about 2 hours, until frozen solid.



# Spring Word Search

BLOSSOM

BLOOM

FLOWERS

RAIN

SHOWERS

EASTER

SPRING BREAK

GRASS

HATCH

BIRDS

SUNSHINE

SEASON

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

N L M O R D Y S M B M O O L B  
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 F I S E A R A K S L E I O E L  
 B L O S S O M C B J W B M O B

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**

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