

BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

**Bridging Social
Isolation
Edition 67**



Water Street by Neil McDonald

Welcome to the Christmas 2021 edition of Bridging Social Isolation. This is our final edition of the year and we would just like to thank everyone who has contributed content this year and also thank you to all of our readers.

Earlier in December we were busy with our AGM and Christmas party, you can read all about it on page 3. The centre continues to be busy with people fitting in their Christmas shopping or stopping by for a coffee. Our Christmas opening hours can be found on our website. Thank you to everyone who has supported our Centre in the last twelve months, it has been a challenging year for us all but we have got through it by pulling together. May next year be a bright year for us all.



We wish you a Healthy and Happy Christmas and New Year and hope to see you in 2022.



Electric Charging Points at Pool Bank

As the world is at last waking to the climate emergency, Bollington can be said to be doing its bit. The 4 new electric vehicle charging points about to be commissioned at Pool Bank car park will supply the needs of people in our “inner town” with no off-street parking and therefore unable to recharge at home. So this will be the start of a petrol and diesel fume free town, and get us all nearer to reducing our CO2 so the climate can stabilise again.

Bollington Town Council and Transition Bollington have been working together on this project.



Taking one ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicle off the road and replacing it with an electric vehicle has the same effect as giving £150 to the NHS such is the effect of vehicle emissions on people's health. This is because there will be a dramatic reduction in the particulates in the air that cause severe lung disease.

The charging points (made from 90 per cent recycled materials) have been installed by Connected Kerb and the electricity will be provided by Octopus who provide renewable energy from sun, wind or water power. The cost per kWh will be 26p which means that the cost of charging an electric car is about 75% cheaper than the cost of filling a car with petrol.

The points should be available after 22 December 2021 when we'll be holding an official Opening Event.

Bollington Town Council and Transition Bollington

Bollington hits the small screen

It's the moment we've all been waiting for, Bollington's Indian Goat will be featuring on the Hairy Biker's Christmas Special on Wednesday 22nd December!

Si and Dave visited Bollington to film the episode in August this year and visited Sunitha Southern's food van at the Rec to sample two curries, a lamb kosha, kathal kosha (jackfruit), dalma & rice. Dalma is a celebratory dal from Orissa and a favourite of Sunitha's family. They loved the village and enjoyed meeting some of the locals and we will certainly have the alarm on next Wednesday to remind us to watch our favourite village on the box!

'The Hairy Bikers Go North For Christmas' — the three-course dinner Si and Dave cook for their families

Starter

Dave and Si head to the small village of Bollington in Cheshire where they discover an Indian food truck that's making a big splash in the street food scene. Sunitha's cooking inspires the Bikers to create some spicy street food, so they head to Sheffield to meet Alex, an artisan chilli sauce maker. With some of his hot and spicy sauce in their panniers, it's back to base to create a starter with a kick — Turkey Doner Kebab with Middle Eastern Slaw and hot chili sauce.



Bridgend AGM and Christmas Celebration

On Tuesday 7th of December we held our AGM and Christmas celebration in style at Bollington Civic Centre. The Trustees, staff and some of our regular service users gathered together to celebrate the success of the past year and to celebrate the festive period with some non-alcoholic fizz and a mince pie.

In addition to speeches from Manager Rebecca Lea and the Trustees, we also heard from Phil Warburton about his experience as part of the Bridgend Buddies scheme.

Entertainment was provided by Folk trio Mark, Pete and Linda (with a little help from some Bridgend staffers for a particularly jazzy number!) Party-goers then enjoyed a tasty buffet lunch whilst tackling the annual Bridgend Quiz (you can try your hand at it on the back page.)

After refreshments it was time to draw the prizes for the fantastic online raffle. The raffle has been a brilliant fundraiser, raising £1660 to help us keep serving our community. We are very grateful to all the local businesses that contributed prizes and everyone that bought tickets, your generosity is truly appreciated.

A good time was had by all and we send thanks to everyone that made the event such a success.



Christmas Walk up White Nancy

A Christmas Day tradition for many Bollington folk is to walk up to White Nancy on Ker-ridge Ridge and (hopefully) soak up the wonderful views (weather permitting). If you are wondering how to get there, here is one of the quickest routes.

From Clarence to Nancy - A circular walk from the Bollington Discovery Centre and Bridgend to White Nancy

2.1 miles with a steep climb. Allow 1.5-2 hours. Sturdy footwear recommended.

1. **Starting at the Discovery Centre** Turn left out of the door and walk to the end of Clarence Mill. Turn right down Clarence Road to the traffic lights. Cross the road at the traffic lights at the Aqueduct.



Starting at the Bridgend Centre. Turn left and walk along Palmerston Street to the traffic lights at the Aqueduct.

2. At the traffic lights by the Aqueduct walk up Water Street and walk to the end. Turn right up High Street and walk up the hill. At the top of High Street turn left and walk into Chancery Lane. After a very short distance you will come to a two-way junction, look on the right hand side for some stone steps leading to a stile in the wall.

3. Cross the stile to reach a stone flagged path. Follow this path uphill until you reach a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate, turn left and climb a few stone steps to another gate. After passing through the gate, you will have a choice, the

easy route or the strenuous route.

Easy route

- 4a. Follow the path leading diagonally uphill to your right until you come to a gate leading to a concrete paved track. There are fantastic views here over Bollington as far as Manchester, the Wirral and beyond. Turn right and follow the track until you see a cattle grid. Just before the cattle grid turn left and follow the signed path up the steps. At the top of the steps you will have reached White Nancy.

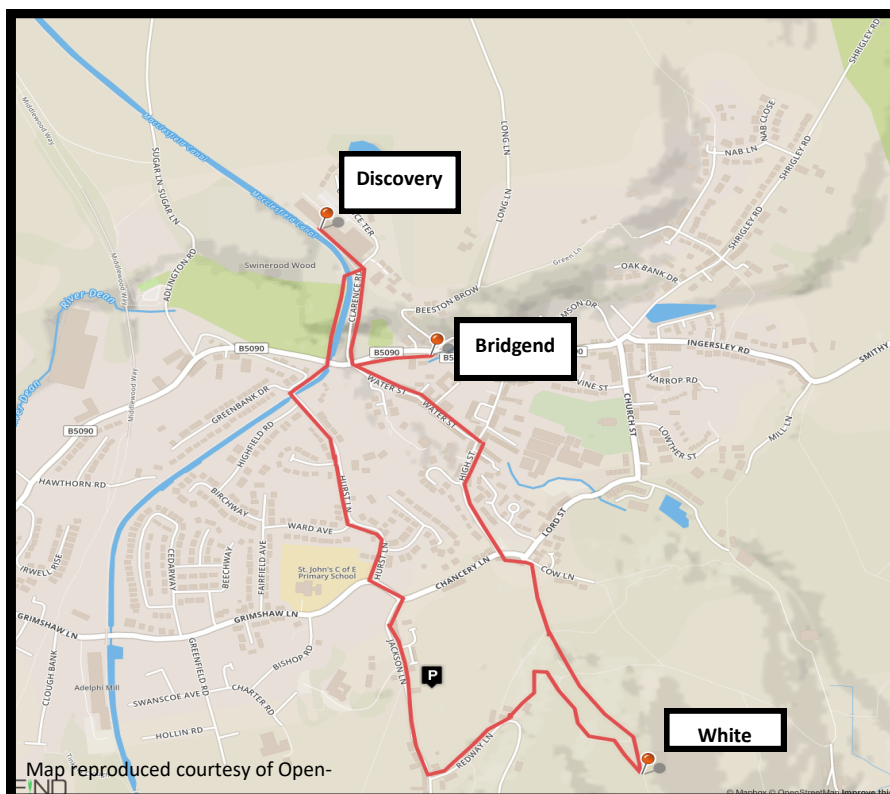
Hard/Strenuous route

- 4b. Turn right after the gate and follow the steep path uphill with the drystone wall on your right. This path can be muddy and slippery in wet weather. Go through the gate at the top, turn left, go up a few stone steps to another gate which leads to a concrete surfaced track. Look for a signed footpath opposite leading up stone steps.

Climb the stone steps up to the top of the hill where you will find White Nancy. Take some time to get your breath back and admire the panoramic view.

Return either by the same route or the alternative route:

5. With your back to White Nancy, walk back towards the top of the steps you came up and look for a metal kissing gate diagonally on your left. Go through the gate and follow the steps downhill through the woods. The path ends at a concrete paved track. Turn left and follow the track downhill until it meets a road. Turn right and take the pavement along the front of a row of cottages. The road ends at a T junction with the Bull's Head pub on the corner.



Map reproduced courtesy of Open-

Christmas walk up White Nancy continued....

6. At the T-junction turn right onto Oak Lane which after a few yards becomes Jackson Lane. Continue along Jackson Lane, passing the entrance to Hollin Hall hotel on your left. At the junction with Chancery Lane continue along Jackson Lane to the left. After a few yards turn right into Hurst Lane.
7. Follow Hurst Lane downhill until you reach the canal bridge. The road crosses over the canal and then bends to the right.
8. **To return to the Discovery Centre.** Shortly after the canal bridge, look for a gate on your right leading to the towpath. Go through the gate and turn left. Follow the towpath until you reach a footbridge. Cross the bridge to reach Clarence Mill and the Discovery Centre.

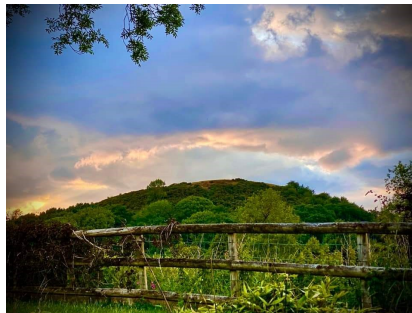
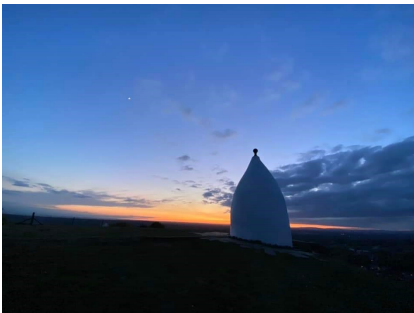
To return to the Bridgend Centre. Take the path which leads downhill in front of Aqueduct Cottage. This path leads to some steep steps down to Wellington Road. (To avoid the steep steps continue to the end of Hurst Lane and turn right). Turn right onto Wellington Road, and walk under the Aqueduct to the traffic lights. Cross Water Street and continue ahead along Palmerston Street. The Bridgend Centre is on the right hand side.



Walkers are Welcome, Bollington

Beautiful Bollington

Louise McEveley really has a good eye for photo composition. She sent us these shots taken around the area. We are sure you will agree that they really are stunning.



Painting of Bridgend by David Steeden

We are absolutely thrilled with this new painting of Bridgend by David Steeden. David has supported the Centre a great deal over the last few weeks as he donated a beautiful painting of the Packhorse Bridge over the River Harrop on the Gritstone trail to our Winter Prize Raffle. He also donated a print of a giclee illustration of Buxton Opera House, which the winner was very pleased with.

David produces some stunning artwork of local landscapes and architecture and you can find out more about him on Facebook and on Instagram @davidsteedenart



Bridgend books come up trumps

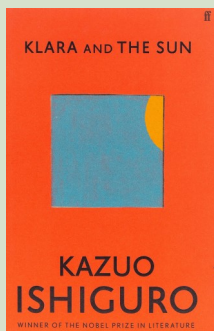
The Bridgend charity shop always has a fabulous collection of books for sale and this week has been no different. We saw some fabulous titles come in through our doors and with many of them at 10p (fiction) and 20p (non-fiction), who could resist a little purchase or two? Some might even make good stocking fillers!

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Kazuo Ishiguro won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature for his work, "in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world".

His latest book, *Klara and the Sun* is "an intriguing take on how artificial intelligence might play a role in our futures ... a poignant meditation on love and loneliness".

Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behaviour of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. *Klara and the Sun* is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?



Everything I never told you by Celeste Ng

Celeste Ng's second book 'Little Fires everywhere' hit the big time when it was made into a hugely popular Netflix series starring Reece Witherspoon.

Everything I never told you, her first novel, is about Chinese-American family in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favourite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfil the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia's body is found in a local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos.

A profoundly moving story of secrets and longing, this is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait about love, lies and race.



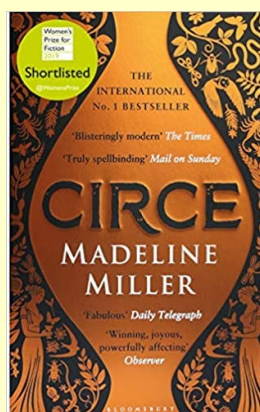
Circe by Madeleine Miller

Madeleine Miller is a Greek and Latin teacher who has popularised some of the most famous Greek myths into excellent novels.

2011's *Song of Achilles* is an adaptation of Homer's *Illiad* from the perspective of Patroclus and won the Orange prize for fiction.

This book, *Circe*, is an adaptation of various Greek myth's, most notably Homer's *Odyssey*. Circe is the daughter of Helios, God of the Sun, and Perse, an Oceanid nymph. Despite her divinity, she is less beautiful and lacks the skills of her siblings, so she is largely shunned and ridiculed among the godly.

When she falls in love with a mortal who, of course, is fated to age and die, she is desperate enough to experiment with a different and illicit type of power -- potions and witchcraft, and with it she discovers her own ability to bend the world to her will.



The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Previously a No.1 Sunday Times's bestseller, this story is about Nora, whose life has been going from bad to worse, then on her last day on earth she finds herself transported to a library. This novel is described as "an uplifting and poignant novel about regret, hope and second chances".



Recipe—Mince Pie Brownies

Ingredients

- 185g unsalted butter, cubed
- 185g high-quality dark chocolate, chopped
- 85g plain flour
- 40g cocoa powder
- 3 large eggs
- 275g golden caster sugar
- 6 mince pies or 9-12 mini mince pies
icing sugar, for dusting

Melt the butter and chocolate in a medium bowl, either in a microwave – cooking for 1 min on High, then stirring and continuing to heat in 20-second blasts – or by setting the bowl over a pan of simmering water and stirring occasionally. Once melted, leave the mixture to cool.



Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line the base of a shallow 20cm square tin with non-stick baking parchment. Sieve the flour and cocoa into a medium bowl. Whisk the eggs and sugar with an electric mixer on maximum speed until thick and creamy, about 3-8 mins, or when the mixture runs off the beaters and leaves a trail for a second or two.

Sift in the cocoa and flour mixture and continue gently folding. The mixture will look dry and dusty, then fudgy. Stop just before you feel you should, as you don't want to overmix it.

Spoon a little mixture into the prepared tin, then add the mince pies, leaving them whole. Scrape over the rest of the mixture, gently easing it between and over the pies. Level the top. Put in the oven for 25 mins. If the brownie mixture is very wobbly in the middle, it's not quite done, so bake for another 5 -10 mins, or until the top has a shiny, papery crust and the sides are just beginning to come away from the tin. Take out of the oven and leave to cool in the tin. Dust with icing sugar. Cut into quarters, then cut each quarter into four squares.

Will keep in an airtight container for a week and in the freezer for up to a month.

Carols Around the Tree

Bollington Town Council are expecting a fantastic return to their hugely popular event, Carols Around the Tree with Bollington Brass Band, on Christmas Eve. The event starts at 6pm and takes place in front of the Town Hall.

The event will take place outside where transmission of Covid-19 is less likely, however they do encourage everyone to remain mindful of social distancing and support the use of face masks.

Please do not attend if you have any of the symptoms of Covid-19, even if they are mild, you've tested positive for Covid-19, someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate), you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive. Further details can be found on the NHS website.



Quiz of the year

January—March

1. Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States - how old was he at the time? _____
2. Captain Sir Tom Moore, sadly died at the age of 100. How many lengths of his garden did he walk in raising £32 million for NHS Charities Together? _____
3. In March, what percentage pay rise did the government propose for NHS workers? _____
4. "Oprah with Meghan and Harry" was the TV interview of 2021 - what is the name of their son? _____

April—June

5. Marks & Spencer went to war with Aldi over what cake? _____
6. Which retail brand closed its final store, after more than 240 years in business?

7. In June, the G7 Summit was hosted in Carbis Bay in which part of the UK?

8. Police are called as hundreds flock to Diddly Squat Farm Shop - who is its famous owner?



July-September

9. Which billionaire joined three other passengers to blast into space aboard New Shepard?

10. What sort of animal was Geronimo, who resided at Shepherds Close Farm in Gloucestershire? _____
11. Emma Raducanu won the women's US Open singles title, how old was she when she won it? _____
12. The 2021 Labour Party conference took place in which seaside resort? _____



October-December

- 13 Which TV programme celebrated its 60th anniversary, with the Queen sending a personal message of congratulations? _____
14. The contactless payment limit is increased from £45 to how much? _____
15. Voyage is a studio album released on 5 November 2021 by which retro group? _____
16. At the end of November, which country became the world's newest republic? _____



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Bridgend Centre, 104 Palmerston Street,
Bollington, Cheshire. SK10 5PW

Email: info@bridgendcentre.org.uk
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at the  of our community