



BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

Foreword—Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager

2018 has been a pivotal year for the Bridgend Centre. In December, after months of hard work sourcing funding and carrying out all the relevant legal work, we purchased the Bridgend Centre (more details in the article below). This is such an exciting development for our charity as it helps to ensure that the Bridgend Centre is here for many more years to come.

Other developments in the last three months has been the start of the Heritage Walking Trails project which involves renovating eight of our most popular trails; and Bridgend Buddies which aims to expand the number of isolated people we help on a one-to-one basis. Both these projects are great ways to increase the number of people we help and showcase the work of the Centre.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Bridgend Community News. If you have any ideas for articles in future editions, please do contact the Editor Kerry Langstaff.



Building Purchase

This year, a fantastic opportunity arose to purchase the building that we have occupied since the year 2000. We are pleased to announce that with the support of Charity Bank and thanks to a generous grant of £150,000 from the Garfield Weston 60th Anniversary Fund, the purchase of the was completed in December and we are now the proud owners of our building!

The building does need a large amount of renovation work. We are very grateful to Bollington Town Council for their loan towards the costs of replacing the roof which is our first priority. We will try our best to keep disruption to a minimum whilst this vital work is carried out but do appreciate your patience during this time.

Staff Changes

In December 2018 our longest serving member of the team, Tricia Hodgkiss, retired after 10 years with the Bridgend. She was a much loved member of staff and provided comfort and support to so many people during her time with us. We wish her an enjoyable retirement and thank her for her service. Anna Hatley will be spending more time focusing on the fantastic Bridgend Buddies project (see article on page 3).

To backfill both these roles we have recruited Anna Barker and Maxine Lomas (for more information about Maxine please see page 5).

We are also delighted to welcome Victoria Scholes, Project Worker Heritage Trails, to the team. She will be with us for 12 months revamping our Heritage walks which you can read all about below.

Exciting changes all round as the centre continues to thrive and grow!

Heritage Trails Project

In November 2018 Victoria Scholes joined the Bridgend team to project manage the overhaul of our 8 much loved Heritage Trails. The trails have been in place for 18 years and as some updating of the routes, markers and accompanying leaflets is required.

The 12 month project has been made possible by funding from Southwest Peak Partnership, Peak District National Park, Cheshire East Council and The Hobson Trust.

Victoria is immensely grateful for the fantastic team of volunteers who are involved. The trails total approximately 45 miles and the volunteer team have recently completed the first phase of the project. This involved walking the trails and providing feedback about changes that might need to be made, the condition of the trail markers and the art installations along the way.

The next phase will involve acting on this feedback and making the necessary changes and maintenance to the trails.

We are very excited to see the results of this fantastic project that will keep these much loved walking trails a part of the Bridgend experience for many years to come.



Volunteers Wanted

Bridgend could not function without the continued help and support of our dedicated team of volunteers.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers for everything you do, whether it is working in the shop, managing our eBay shop, leading walks, teaching IT or one of the other varied roles we rely on volunteers for.

If you have some free time and fancy giving volunteering a go, why not join our friendly, hard-working team. Please ask one of the staff team for an application form.

Bridgend Buddies Update

We are pleased to announce the expansion of our fantastic befriending service Bridgend

Buddies. Funding from The National Lottery Award for All has enabled us to run the project for another year and meet the great demand that there is for this service to help and support socially isolated people within the local community.

The scheme has a dedicated project worker, Anna Hatley, who is currently recruiting for volunteers (See below for details of how you can get involved) If you know someone that would benefit from having a buddy please contact Anna.



Bridgend Buddies



Help to make 2019 a positive year by becoming a
Bridgend Buddy

Being a Bridgend Buddy will empower you to help to make a change within your community by combating loneliness and to provide non-judgemental support.

Our dedicated project worker will support you to develop a relationship with an individual who due to their personal circumstances is experiencing loneliness and isolation. You will provide companionship and support the individual to explore activities and pursue interests, or simply just enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

We are very proud of the relationships Bridgend Buddies has helped to build previously. One beneficiary has described the scheme as 'smashing.' Before they became part of the project, their only interaction with the outside world was to attend medical appointments. Bridgend Buddies has got them out and about and positively changed their outlook on life.

You will see how your visits will bring invaluable change, a positive difference to your life and the individual you support. For further information please contact Anna Hatley at the Bridgend Centre anna@bridgendcentre.org.uk telephone 01625 576311

The Marie Kondo Effect

January is always a busy time for donations in the charity shop. People take the New Year as an opportunity for a clear out and a fresh start. This year donations have been coming in thick and fast and there is some conjecture within the media as to whether this is due to the "Marie Kondo Effect."

For anyone that isn't aware of the phenomenon, on her popular Netflix show, Marie Kondo shows people how to declutter their home. She encourages viewers to hold each item of their clothing and if it doesn't "bring them joy" they should donate it to charity. Items that do bring joy are intricately folded to maximise storage within the home.



Here at Bridgend, all the donated items bring us joy as anything that isn't of saleable quality still generates money for the centre. A company buys our unwanted items by weight, generating us valuable revenue and recycling the items thereby reducing landfill.

The shop continues to go from strength to strength and we are extremely grateful for everyone's donations so if you are inspired to have a clear out why not bring us some joy.

Bridgend Activity Calendar

Monday

14:00 Bridge
14.00 Talk and Games

Tuesday

10.30 Craft Club
11.30 Reading Group (once a month)
13.30 Art Club

Wednesday

10.15 Guided Walk
14.00 Mah Jong
14.15 Creative Writing (fortnightly)

Thursday

10.15 Creative Arts (£4)
11.00 Reading Circle

Friday

10.30 Community Choir (£4)

Saturday

Long guided walk (once per month)

Puzzle Corner

Just for fun, can you find the words below that all relate to the Bridgend Centre

Bargains
Bridgend
Buddies
Community
Donations
Groups
Shop
Support
Walks
Woodcraft

I	R	D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	E
Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	D	V	X
F	S	H	D	G	M	W	A	L	K	S	W
T	N	V	C	O	S	H	O	P	Q	L	O
U	I	B	R	I	D	G	E	N	D	K	O
F	A	Z	K	W	N	S	S	Z	T	X	D
F	G	T	R	K	V	E	Y	O	R	G	C
G	R	O	U	P	S	I	K	G	O	D	R
S	A	T	J	O	F	D	Y	J	P	O	A
U	B	Y	X	Q	F	D	C	D	P	S	F
G	X	U	Q	L	W	U	A	Z	U	N	T
M	V	R	V	G	W	B	D	K	S	I	C

Focus on a Bridgend group - Talk and Games

Every Monday 2pm—3pm

A friendly and welcoming social group designed to combat social isolation in the local community. Whether its reminiscing about times passed or setting the world to rights on current events, we always enjoy a good chat and a hot drink.

The group also enjoys quizzes, puzzles and talks from guest speakers on a range of different topics.

Once a quarter we arrange a trip out to local places of interest such as garden centres or stately homes with the help of the Rainow Community Bus. Feedback about these trips has been overwhelmingly positive, they enable a sense of independence for people that otherwise feel they have to rely on family to be taken out for the day. New members are always very warmly welcomed.



Focus on a Staff Member—Maxine Lomas

Maxine is the newest member of the Bridgend Team and joined us in December as a Community Worker



but has previously helped at the centre as a volunteer. She is very kind and friendly and is proving to be a great addition to the team. Her previous working background has been in the insurance industry but in addition to her work at Bridgend, she also works as a holistic therapist focusing on Reflexology and massage.

Outside of work, Maxine is a keen walker and enthusiast of outdoor sports such as sailing and diving. She also enjoys playing badminton and the Ukelele. (although not at the same time!)

Focus on a Volunteer— Chris Holohan



Chris is a very valuable part of the Bridgend Buddies scheme. She spent time every week with her Buddy Ken and often brought him down to Bridgend for a cup of tea and a good browse around the shop.

In addition to her buddying, Chris also volunteers in our charity shop every week.

Sadly, just before publication Ken suddenly passed away. Chris brought friendship, support and companionship to Ken at the end of his life and their bond has inspired many people to join the Buddies scheme.

Thank you Chris for all you do here at Bridgend and all you did for Ken.

Meet our staff



Rebecca Lea
Centre Manager



Anna Hatley
Community Worker/Project Worker
(Bridgend Buddies)



Kerry Langstaff
Community Worker/
Business Administrator



Jane McGill-Hoyland
Community Worker



Maxine Lomas
Community Worker



Anna Barker
Community Worker



Robert Davies
Finance Officer/
Community worker



Diana Storey
Charity Shop Worker
(Saturday)



Victoria Scholes
Project Worker (Heritage Trails)

Donations

We are always very grateful for any financial donations. Your donation allows us to provide continued support to the people of Bollington and surrounding areas.

If you would like to make a cash donation to the Centre please visit our web page at www.bridgendcentre.org.ok/donate or call 01625 576311 and ask for Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager.

Bridgend Centre Contact Details

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