



# BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

## Foreword—Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager

At last, Summer is here again and here at Bridgend we have lots of lovely activities to make the most of it, with evening walks, longer walks on a Saturday and even a Hill Race if you fancy something a bit more strenuous. We are also very excited and proud about our Contemplation Garden is being included in the Bollington Open Gardens event for the first time on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June. I hope that lots of you come down to see the planters on the veranda and our riverside wildflower area that aims to attract bees and insects. We also have a great music gig on at the Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> June with Dawson Dean playing for us to raise valuable funds, so there really is lots going on.

I had a proud moment today when I was talking to a relatively new volunteer to the Centre, Kathleen. Kathleen started volunteering with us when she moved to the area from Wales after very sadly losing her husband. She told me that coming to the Centre on a weekly basis had changed her life and had helped her settle into the area and meet local people. That is what the Bridgend Centre is about; giving people the opportunity to make a difference, feel valued and hopefully enhance their lives a little bit along the way. 🌟

Have a great Summer.

Becky x



## New Mural By Bollington Art Group

As part of the 2019 Bollington Festival, the Bollington Art group were looking for somewhere to paint a mural depicting life in our beautiful village. The great expanse of white wall outside the Bridgend Centre seemed like the ideal spot for the intricate design by Keith Higginbotham, right in the heart of our community .

The hardworking team from the Bollington Art group transformed our blank wall into a fantastic piece of art for the whole community to enjoy. We have had many compliments about the mural and it has become a real talking piece that will last long after the festival is over. We would like to extend our thanks to all the artists involved for bringing such a lively, colourful artwork to life.

## Afternoon Tea with the 2018-2019 Mayor of Bollington



On May 31st we hosted an afternoon tea in honour of Councillor Jon Weston and his wife Helen to thank them for all they did for the Bridgend Centre during Jon's tenure as the Mayor of Bollington.

Jon picked the Bridgend Centre as his Mayor's charity of choice and during his year as the Mayor he raised a fantastic £4,182 towards our core running costs. He fundraised by organising charity dinners, raffles and running a 5k race with his wife Helen and our Centre Manager, Rebecca Lea.

Financing our core costs is vital to keeping the centre running and are always challenging to raise as many funders prefer to fund specific projects. One of our major sources of core costs is through people making regular monthly financial donations, please contact the team if you feel you could help us in this way.

Many thanks to Jon and Helen for all their hard work for the Centre and the community of Bollington as a whole.



We would like to thank the organisers of the Love Bollington market, a local artisan market that occurs once a month, for their very kind contribution of £500 to the Bridgend Centre. These vital donations from kind benefactors enable us to keep serving our community. Thank You!

### 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 providing 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](mailto:anna@bridgendcentre.org.uk) telephone 01625 576311



### 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.

## 15th Annual Bollington Nostalgia Hill Race



Sunday 14th of July sees the return of our ever popular Bollington Nostalgia Hill race. Runners from all over the region come to challenge themselves to run the 6.77 miles (1184 feet of ascent) in order to raise money for the Centre. The event would not be possible without the fantastic team of volunteers who give us their time as marshals year after year in order to ensure the smooth running of the event. We extend our thanks in advance!

This year we have a slight change in the route due to a path closure. For more information on the new route, please refer to our website: <https://bridgendcentre.org.uk/bollington-nostalgia-hill-race/>

If you would like to run in the hill race, you can down load the application form from our website [www.Bridgendcentre.org.uk](http://www.Bridgendcentre.org.uk) or call in to pick one up. The cost is £8 in advance or if you wish to just turn up on the day it is £10. All proceeds go towards the running of the Centre.

### 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)

#### Friday

10.15 Crochet Corner (£4)  
10.30 Community Choir (£4)  
1.30 Spanish Conversation

#### Saturday

Long guided walk (once per month)

## Would you like a Bridgend Buddy?

Ken wanted the opportunity to explore new interests  
and to enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Bridgend Buddies made that happen.

**We introduced Ken to Chris.**



**Ken describes his time with Chris as 'smashing.'**

Would you benefit from our befriending service? Life can be busy, you might feel like you are surrounded by friends, family or neighbours but you don't really spend time together.

A Bridgend Buddy will support you to explore your interest, activities and provide companionship.

If you would like to find out more about Bridgend Buddies project or to make a referral please contact Anna Hatley at the Bridgend Centre [anna@bridgendcentre.org.uk](mailto:anna@bridgendcentre.org.uk) telephone 01625 576311





## Heritage Walking Trails Project—New Project Worker Avril Corbett

In May Avril Corbett joined the team to take over from Victoria Scholes as the Heritage Trails project worker. Victoria made a great start to the project; we thank her for her hard work and wish her all the best for her new ventures. Since taking over the project, Avril has been working with a team of volunteers, walking the trails and checking routes. The next stage of the project involves further work to the route leaflets, updating way-markers and repairing the installations along the routes such as the wooden musical instruments in Harrop Wood.



## Spring Vintage Fair



On Saturday 30th of March we held our Spring Vintage Fair and artisan market. Our education room was filled to the brim with vintage bargains

and our customers were delighted with the range of products available. Outside there were a variety of artisan stalls, a barbeque and bar and live music from the Bridgend Community Choir, Macclesfield Brass and Sambamba, a local Samba band.

It was a fantastic event which raised over £1500 for the Centre. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen. Why not join us at our Autumn Fair on Saturday 2nd November.

## An Evening with Dawson Dean



On Friday 14th June, fantastic folk duo Dawson Dean are playing at sell out gig right here at the Bridgend centre. There will be a bar and raffle to raise further funds. Many thanks to all who have given prizes or time to help with this exciting event.

*"Dawson Dean play self-penned songs which are a fine blend of acoustic Folk/pop/Americana, with strong melodies, close harmony vocals and duelling guitars"*

**Focus on a Bridgend group - Creative Arts   £4   (Thursdays 10.30—12)**



The Creative Arts group meets on a Thursday morning and is run by Avril Corbett.

The session alternates between textile crafts one week and paper crafts the next. Participants learn to use sewing machines to make bags or to paper fold to make fabulous gift boxes and much, much more in this interesting and varied guided craft group. It is a mixed ability group, open to all and Avril does a great job of making sure everyone is catered for no matter what their level of ability. Why not come and learn a new skill.

**Focus on a Staff Member - Anna Barker - Community Worker**



Anna joined the team in December 2018 as a community worker and has done great work in organising our wood workshop.

Outside of work Anna is known by many people in the community for her involvement in the local art and music scene. She is in a musical duo with her partner and is also part of the Bollington Belles singing group and has a keen interest in Folk music. Her artistic interests include wood whittling and organising art workshops.

Welcome to the team Anna!

**Focus on a Volunteer— Alison Leah**



Alison has been volunteering with us for nearly two years. In addition to volunteering in the shop, Alison does great work helping with our social media presence. She frequently posts on Facebook and twitter for us, to keep the public updated about what is happening at the centre and the work we do here. Alison works for Estate Planning Solutions (EPS) in Cheadle and came to us as a volunteer through Cheshire connect. Her hobbies and interests include walking, travelling, champagne and handbags! Many thanks for all your hard work.



## 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)



Avril Corbett  
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](http://www.bridgendcentre.org.ok/donate) or call 01625 576311 and ask for Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager.

## Bridgend Centre Contact Details

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