

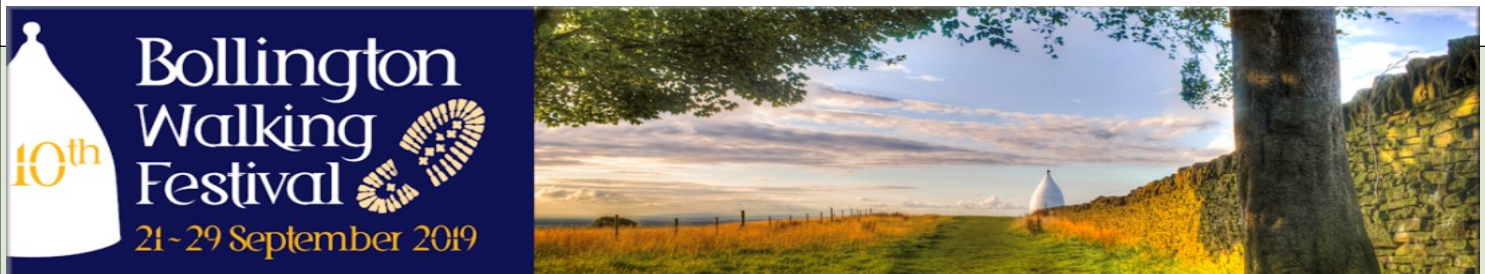
BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

Foreword—Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager

Welcome to the Autumn 2019 edition of Bridgend Community News. It has been another very busy and eventful three months for the Centre. In July, we experienced an unprecedented flood in which water entered the building front and back and much of our stock and furniture were damaged. The outcome of this challenging event was hugely positive and we were totally overwhelmed by the community support we received in response. As a result we were able to re-open our doors within five days of the flood taking place, which is an amazing achievement. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out in very wet and dirty circumstances!

As well as this significant event, there has been lots of other things going on at the Centre, including the Walking Festival, our regular Vintage Fair and Artisan Market, the annual Ghost Walk and the Dawson Dean fundraising gig. All this on top of our usual busy day-to-day schedule of activities, walks, chats and cups of tea brewing. Nothing ever stands still for long at Bridgend and the next three months look just as busy and eventful, so keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates on what is going on.

Becky x



This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Bollington Walking Festival which ran from the 21st until the 29th of September. The weather was not as kind as previous years but that didn't deter the 424 walkers who took part in 36 walks and raised valuable funds for the Centre. Walkers came from as far away as Stoke, North Manchester and Crewe to enjoy the variety of guided walks.

The Walking Festival could not take place without the hard work of all the volunteers involved; from the members of festival planning committee to the army of walk leaders who give up their precious time to make this fantastic event such a success year on year. Thank You and here is to next year!



The Trustees of Bridgend

Whilst you might recognise our team in the Centre, there are a group of people who are integral to the running of Bridgend who you may not be familiar with.

We are governed by a Trustee Board made up of 7 local people that bring valuable skills and experience in the fields of finance, teaching, senior business management and the voluntary sector.

Geoff Brown - The Chair of the Board of Trustees, has been involved in the organisation for many years and is very passionate and supportive about its Vision, Purpose and Values.

Barry Matthews - The Treasurer, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience through his role, as he guides the organisation on formulating, monitoring the budgeting monthly and annual accounts.

John Gooding - Secretary an ex head teacher, brings valuable leadership, strategic and people management skills to the organisation.

Alan Scott - joined us after taking early retirement from HSBC and his excellent business strategy, financial and auditing skills are highly valued.

Sue Brocklehurst - works for the Princes' Trust as a business advisor and brings a wealth of experience in the voluntary sector.

Lisa Cox - works at AstraZeneca and has great project management, training facilitation and staff management skills.

Alison Leah – Brings Social Media, PR and Business skills

Together they ensure that Bridgend runs smoothly and according to our core values. A big thank you to them all for the work they do.



THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH

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 in September. These vital donations from kind benefactors enable us to keep serving our community. Thank You!

Dates for your Diary

07.12.19 Bollington Belles at Christmas—Fundraising evening at the Bridgend Centre £7 includes a glass of mulled wine. Doors 7pm. Tickets available in advance or on the door.

13.12.19 Christmas party at Bridgend. See posters in the Centre for details.

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.

Building News



Floodwater pouring in at the front of the Centre



Volunteers coming together to fix the damage

On July 31st, The Bridgend Centre was hit by the flooding that affected so many people locally. The River Dean to the rear of the Centre burst its banks and poured in through the back doors. The water that caused the majority of the damage was washed off the main road by passing traffic and in through the front doors and windows.

The clean up operation lasted 5 days and involved pulling up all the water damaged carpets and fixtures and disposing of all the damaged stock. The Wood family came with large machinery to help rescue our heavy outdoor storage cabinets that were displaced by the water. The Co-op sent volunteers, cleaning supplies and food for all the workers. We were incredibly grateful to the local community for all their help.

The next planned project for the building is a new flat roof to the rear of the property and we are hoping that this work will start in January. We will be taking the necessary step of closing the Centre whilst this essential work is carried out and are currently in the process of organizing a temporary home so that we can continue to serve the community whilst the building is off limits. Further details will be posted on our website and social media when we have them.

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

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)

Sara Knowles—Fundraising for Bridgend



We would like to extend our thanks to Sara Knowles for raising £325 for the Bridgend Centre. Sara ran the gruelling Gritstone Grind, a 35 mile linear run along the Gritstone Trail between Kidsgrove and Disley to raise the funds.

This achievement is all the more impressive when you consider that Sara is new to running. She has always been a keen hiker that doesn't fear a challenge and her previous adventures include hiking to Machu Pichu!

Last summer, Sara completed a couch to 5k program and well and truly caught "the Bug" for running. She has achieved 10k runs and a half marathon too. She is a proud member of the Bollington Harriers, 16 of whom ran the Gritstone Grind.

Sara chose to fundraise for Bridgend as she was keen to support a local charity and believes that our work combatting social isolation is vital. Thank you so much!

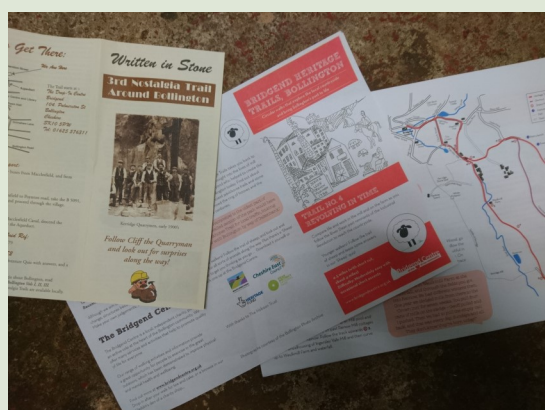
Heritage Walking Trails Project Update



Our project to update the Nostalgia trails is coming close to completion. All 8 trails – now known as the Heritage Trails have been test walked against updated directions and marker positions by a range of willing volunteers. Wind, rain and mud were no issue as they helped to fine tune directions and the leaflets are now at the editing stage with the graphic designer. Still out in all weathers, yet more volunteers have been removing, replacing and re – siting our new markers now featuring Bridgend’s web address along with new colourways and graphics. Only one trail has to be completed at the time of writing.

Many thanks are due to all who have helped - walking the routes, cleaning and repairing information boards and sculptures, way-marking and proof reading all of the information, it wouldn't have happened without that input!

We are also extremely grateful to our funders Southwest Peak Partnership, Peak District National Park, The Hobson Trust and Cheshire East Council.



Next up, our Tree Trails booklet is also being re-vamped. If you would like to be involved with this exciting project please contact Project Worker Avril Corbett at the Bridgend Centre. She can normally be found here on a Thursday or alternatively please phone 01625 576 311 or email avril@bridgendcentre.org.uk

Focus on a Bridgend group - Crochet £4 (Friday 10.15 - 12.15)



Lead by talented Crochet enthusiast Sara Rathbone, this friendly social group is suitable for both experienced crafters and complete beginners alike. Swap ideas and enjoy a chat over tea and biscuits whilst learning new skills.

Yarn crafts can help to manage stress and relieve anxiety and depression. Studies have shown that Crochet can reduce the risk of Alzheimer's by 30-50%. By engaging in cognitive exercises and stimulating your mind, you can slow down or even prevent memory loss.

No booking necessary, just come along and have a go!

Focus on a Staff Member - Kerry Langstaff - Community Worker/ Business Administrator



Kerry has been part of the Bridgend Team since July 2016 as a Community Worker and in the last 2 years has also been providing admin support to the Centre Manager. This involves being editor in chief of the newsletter and various other tasks to aid the smooth running of the Centre, particularly important is the biscuit order!

Inside work she is known by our service users as the one with the ever changing hair colour, who is good with technology.

Outside of work, Kerry is a proud single parent to two fabulous little girls. Her hobbies include reading, knitting and felted textile art.

Focus on a Volunteer— Peter Needham



Peter has been volunteering at Bridgend for the last 18 months and is a much loved member of our woodcraft team. In addition to making wooden items for us to sell in the shop, Peter also lends his considerable skills to maintenance jobs around the Centre.

During the flood in July, Peter worked extremely hard as part of the team that managed to get the Centre back open in record time. He is currently crafting bespoke fittings for our new look Haberdashery section. Thank you for all you do.

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 or call 01625 576311 and ask for Rebecca Lea, Centre Manager.

Bridgend Centre Contact Details

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

Tel :01625 576311 Email: info@bridgendcentre.org.uk www.bridgendcentre.org.uk

Registered charity number 1123287

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Newsletter Editor: Kerry Langstaff

