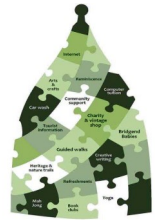


BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS



Bridging Social Isolation - Edition 1

Bridgend is still here for you



Dear Bridgend Family,

As you will all know, the Bridgend Team had to make the difficult decision to keep our doors closed after our recent renovations. It is imperative that we comply with the government guidelines to protect everyone in these troubling times.

Whilst we can't be physically there for you right now, we are doing everything we can in order to support the community at a time when people may need us more than ever.

We can be reached on the phone via our temporary contact number 01625 813173.

If there is no-one available to take your call when you ring, please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. If you prefer to email, we can be reached on info@bridgendcentre.org.uk

We will be producing this newsletter every week to hopefully brighten spirits, entertain you, keep you informed and most important of all to help everyone feel that even though we have to put physical distance between ourselves none of us are alone.

We will be looking for contributions from our readers, so if you have an idea, recipe, story, book suggestion, drawing or activity you think others would love, please send it to info@bridgendcentre.org.uk for us to include.

Accessing help in Bollington at this challenging time

Led by Bollington Town Council, BRAG (Bollington Resilience Action Group) has been set up to facilitate local residents working together to support the vulnerable in our community. If you feel you can help, or if you need support during this challenging time, please email them at communitysupport@bollington-tc.gov.uk or phone 01625 786575. They also have a Facebook page, where you can access support, information and discuss local issues. The aim is for this Facebook page to be a positive one, that helps people to find solutions and provides support.

BRAG distributed this leaflet to every household in Bollington this week.

Community Advice Corona Virus



Bollington
TOWN COUNCIL

Please Read

Bollington Town Council is developing a community resilience plan in response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. This is to ensure advice and support are available to any Bollington community member who needs it. One of the steps we are taking is to build capacity across the community to support the vulnerable and sick. To do this we need community members to be involved in helping to develop a sustainable system of support.

Can YOU help?

If you are fit and well here is what you can do:

Check in with your neighbours and let them know that you can offer help while you are healthy and let them know how they can contact you.

Below are some examples of how to volunteer such help via the Bollington Resilience Action Group (BRAG) Facebook Site. The types of tasks you could offer to help with may be:

- Food shopping
- Other supplies delivery
- Collecting prescriptions
- Even pet care such as dog walking
- Household jobs e.g. putting out bins etc
- Wellbeing – a chat on the phone for anyone feeling frightened or lonely

You can also sign up as a warden for your road or street and we will put you in touch with someone on your street who needs help,

Call: 01625 786575

Or email communitysupport@bollington-tc.gov.uk

You will need to give your name, address and telephone number and how you can help, and we will get back to you.

Important points to consider:

1. Of paramount importance is ensuring you protect yourself from the virus too.
2. Make deliveries without making physical contact e.g. leave supplies at the door, in a porch or lidded box.
3. Avoid entering premises, do not hand over keys and maintain minimal use of personal data to make the contact.
4. Consider how payment is arranged – can it be done online by bank transfer? There will be a fund supported by the Town Council and the community to cover grocery bills for people requiring help with shopping who are unable to make bank transfers to the volunteer shoppers. Hopefully relatives of those in need of support will keep the pot topped up so we can continue to support everyone that needs it.

Do YOU Need Help

The Town Council will continue to co-ordinate information, support and advice in relation to Covid-19. If you have any queries, concerns or need help in the ways listed above please contact our team at the Bollington Town Hall via this number:

Call: 01625 786575

Or email: communitysupport@bollington-tc.gov.uk

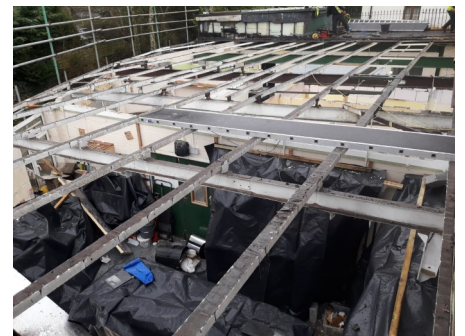
You will need to give your name, address and telephone number and what help you would like to receive. You will then receive a call back from one of a group of Council staff and Town Councillors and we will aim to arrange for that help.

Bridgend Renovations

After a great team effort we were ready to unveil the new-look Bridgend just before we had to take the decision to remain closed for everyone's safety. We are immensely proud of the changes to the centre so we thought we would take this opportunity to share a few before and after pictures to whet your appetite for when we re-open.

We hope you will take the opportunity whilst being at home to have a good sort out and when the time comes we will be grateful for your donations! (Please don't leave anything at Bridgend now though)

Before



After

New roof in place and much better insulated than before.

New door in the education room, allowing in more light.

New-look shop, all freshly painted. New fixtures and fittings in the shop and a fantastic new set of windows at the end to give a much more light and airy feel.



Bridgend Tree Trails Project

Unfortunately our Tree Trails project has had to be put on hold due to the current situation along with all our usual services.

However we have already walked all the routes to check them out the new trail directions and these will be proof-read. When we get back, we hope to order the new markers and we will be looking for volunteers to go out and install them on the trails.

Anna Barker, one of our Community Workers, is also a wonderful artist and has produced some beautiful illustrations for the markers. Here is a gorgeous picture of a Hawthorn Blossom, which will be blooming in the countryside very soon.



Silver Linings

We have never before in our lifetimes experienced a situation like the one we find ourselves now. Our natural tendency as people is to draw together and now we are instructed to stay home with the other members of our household and away from the rest of our communities. It can be hard to see the silver linings in this situation but they are definitely there. We are forced to slow the pace of life, so now is the time to appreciate the beauty of our homes and gardens. Read that book that has been sitting neglected on the shelf. Start the hobby that you have always wanted to try. Finish all those little jobs that you would get round to if you just had the time. Rekindle your love of home cooking. Explore the lost art of letter writing and brighten someone else's day. Paint, draw, sew.....you don't have to be "good at it" it is for you not for anyone else.

If you have any ideas for activities and new hobbies that you'd like to share with us, please do get in touch

Gareth Malone—Uniting the nation through song

Missing the Bridgend community choir? Why not join in with Gareth Malone's Great British Home Choir?

Every week day evening at 5pm Gareth will be holding choir practice on his you tube channel. If you want to join the choir, go to <https://decca.com/greatbritishhomechorus/> and click the register button.

You will then be emailed all the details of how to join in with the choir. Happy singing!!



Your Bridgend needs you!

Like many other people, businesses and charities across the UK, Coronavirus has hit the Bridgend Centre hard. It comes at a particularly bad time for us as we have just been closed for 2.5 months while essential repairs were made to the building in the form of a new roof.

The Centre has been in Bollington for nearly 30 years now, delivering vital services to the whole community. So many vulnerable people depend on the Centre and will need it more than ever when life gets back to normal. Bridgend's dedicated team of staff is supported by hundreds of fantastic volunteers.

Now we have to close our Centre, with all the activities, projects and charity shop, for an indefinite period, losing a massive part of our income.

We know it is a very difficult time financially for many people, but if you can afford to make a donation however large or small, we would really appreciate it. Becoming a regular donor is also a great way to support us with sustainable income.

If you would like to help, please go to our website and donate: <https://bridgendcentre.org.uk/home/donate/>

Alternatively if you have any fundraising ideas, please drop us a message or email.

Thank you



Bridgend Centre Contact Details

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

Temporary phone number :01625 813173 Email: info@bridgendcentre.org.uk

www.bridgendcentre.org.uk

Registered charity number 1123287

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

