

Bridgend Heritage Trails, Bollington Project Summary

Our Project Worker Avril Corbett and our fabulous volunteers really enjoyed working on this project.



In November 2018 the Bridgend Centre started work on a project to revise and update their eight Nostalgia Trails. These walking routes had been set up around ten years previously and had suffered the effects of time in terms of the route information in the leaflets and condition of items out in the environment.

Funding was acquired from a variety of sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund through South West Peak partnership, The Hobson Trust, Peak District National Park Authority and Cheshire East Council. Practical support was received from Design Monkeys, The Bollington Photo Archive, the Canal and River Trust and a host of volunteer helpers.

Between December 2018 and February 2020 over 25 volunteers were involved. Many walked the routes, assessing their current state and making recommendations. Once these were put in place a further set of route assessment was done by volunteers out in the field and also by proof readers working from home.

Alongside this, new way markers were designed with eight revamped characters and colours for each of the different walk under the new name 'Bridgend Heritage Trails, Bollington' and layouts, maps and illustrations acquired for a new range of leaflets. Landowners were contacted and permission and paperwork completed to allow us to remove and/or replace markers on the routes.

By October revisions had been finalised and the next set of volunteer work commenced. This involved removing and replacing way-markers on the walks, adding labels and refurbishing fixtures such as benches and musical instruments on the routes. Some of the same volunteers who had been instrumental in the making and installation of items the first time around were involved again!

January 2020 saw the receipt of 40,000 leaflets, produced locally and in a pleasingly sturdy paper that should be robust enough to survive for more than a few walks. Accompanying children's quizzes and activity ideas were put together and designed to coordinate with the main trail leaflets.

Once completed the leaflets, a large print version and the quizzes were made available for download at <https://bridgendcentre.org.uk/walking-trails/> on a dedicated page that also features an interactive map outlining each trail.

The final stage of the project is the celebration launch event, which was scheduled for Friday 3rd April 2020. Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus crisis, this has been postponed for the foreseeable future.

Avril Corbett
Heritage Trails Project Manager – Bridgend Centre
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