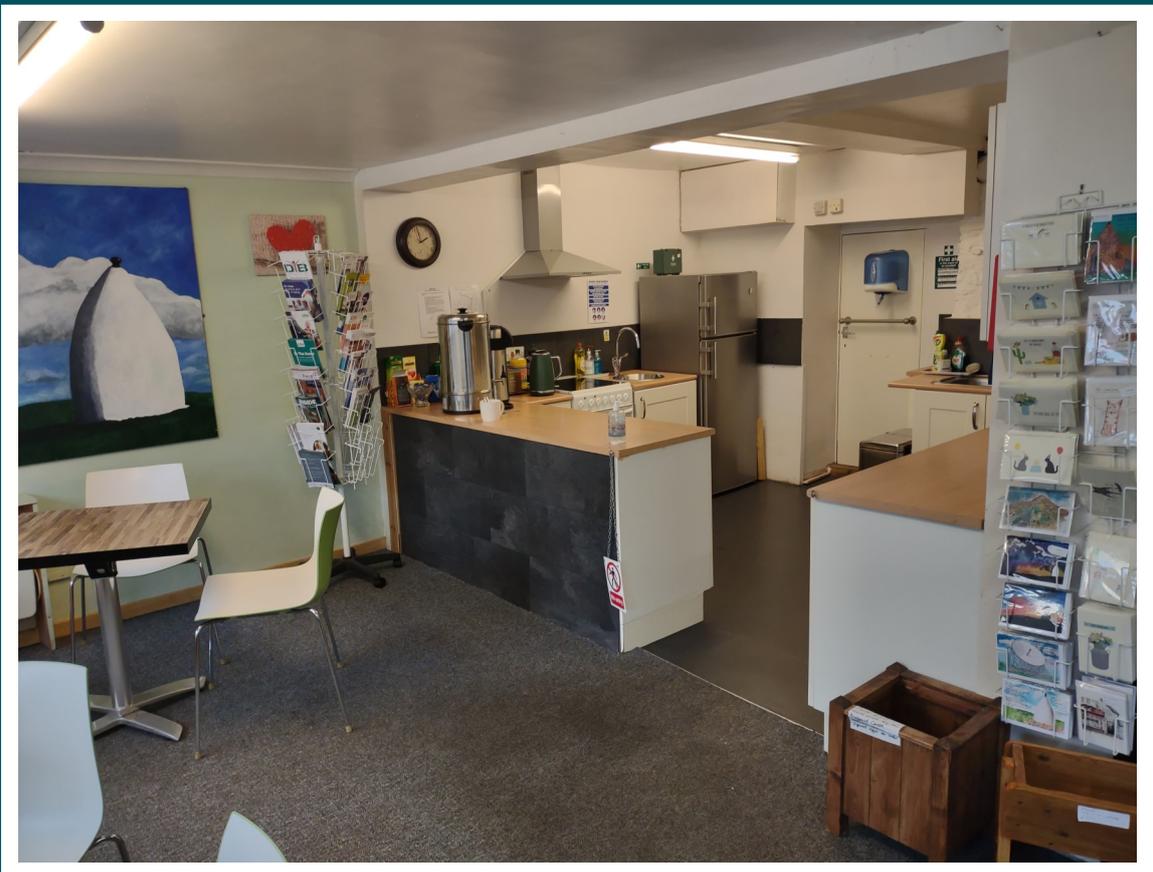


Bridgend Centre

Annual Report 2021-2022



Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

The year 2021-2022 was yet another year of transition and adaption as the Bridgend Centre moved out of Covid restrictions and back to 'normal' operations.

In terms of Coronavirus rules, in April 2021, shops were able to re-open but there were still limits on groups meeting and mixing inside. As the year went on, our services and shop gradually got back to 'normal' but this did take time and it was a time of great transition for our staff, volunteers and service users. I would like to thank everyone for their flexibility and understanding during a very challenging period.



By the end of the year, most of our services were taking place back in person in the Bridgend Centre itself, which is wonderful for social interaction and connecting with people, which is what we are all about. Activities and groups can be heard in our meeting rooms, the café and the shop are bustling with people and laughter and our group walks could be seen heading off for the hills.

It turned out to be another excellent year for the charity shop, with another record for sales. Turnover almost reached £100,000 for year, which considering the challenges of the beginning of the year is wonderful and testament to the hard work of everyone involved.

We held some great fundraising activities during this year, such as the online Winter prize draw, which raised £1,800 and a welcome return of the Vintage Fair in February 2022. All these events are great fun but also have the important purpose of raising money to allow us to keep the doors of the Bridgend Centre open. Thank you to the local businesses, donors and volunteers who contribute to ensuring they take place.

A huge thank you must go to our hard-working staff and volunteers. We are so grateful for the work they do, their contributions every single day make Bridgend the truly unique place it is. Thank you also to our Board of Trustees whose contribution and support to Becky and the team is invaluable. Everyone's dedication and flexibility have been a huge support to us during uncertain times in the last few years. As we look forward to the future I am sure we will face many exciting and positive developments at the Centre as a team.

Geoff Brown

Bollington January 2023



Bridgend Services

The Bridgend Centre provides a range of essential services to our community to reduce social isolation and improve people's lives

Drop-in community kitchen The perfect place for a friendly chat over a hot drink whether it be with friends or to meet new ones.

Support service Community Workers are always on hand to be someone to talk to during opening hours.



Activities A wide range of sessions including Art, Craft, Bridge, Mah Jong, Choir and Spanish. Also, new for 2022 are woodcraft classes in our workshop, which are proving very popular

Walks We lead two guided walks per week, a shorter 'walk for health' on a Monday and a longer walk on a Wednesday (between four and six miles). We are also instrumental in the organisation of the very popular annual Bollington Walking Festival.



Volunteering Enables people to contribute to the local community, meet friends and have fun

Information Hub Leaflets and materials regarding local services. We also signpost people in the right direction for more specialist advice



Bridgend Buddies Reducing loneliness and isolation in our community by teaming up volunteer buddies with someone in the community who may struggle to get out



Social Groups Our 'Talk and Games' group meet every Thursday afternoon and take regular trips out to local attractions

Walking Trails Our beautiful 'Heritage Walking Trails' and 'Tree Trails' that cover nearly forty miles of paths that explore the beautiful surrounding countryside

Bridging Social Isolation newsletter Connecting our community, this reaches approximately 500 per edition (100 of which are hand-delivered to people who may find it tricky to get out and about)



Charity Shop Our unique shop is an Aladdin's cave. Visitors love to browse and make new friends in the process!



11th March 2022
Bridging Social Isolation
No. 22
Welcome to Edition 22 of Bridging Social Isolation.
There is no escaping the fact that world events are currently very concerning. It feels slightly like we were talking from the start of the lockdown only to be thrown straight into war at the end. It can certainly be a difficult balance to keep ourselves informed with the news without becoming overwhelmed in it.
With all this in mind, we have been discussing what that can look like. We have done and have decided to include this edition in information and care.
We have a fantastic double page spread of beautiful local photographs from people in the community. We are sure it would be like to each a picture from you!
If you have any articles, pictures or ideas that you would like to share with us, please drop us a line to info@bridgendcentre.org.uk or pop in to the centre to tell us in our a cuppa.

Social Impact of the Bridgend Centre for the year 2021-2022

724

People registered with us and used one or more of our services



76

People accessed one-to-one emotional or practical support from a community worker on 249 occasions



93

People volunteered at least once working 3,855 hours for the Centre



30 editions of our newsletter Bridging Social Isolation produced and distributed to the local community. 100 of which were hand-delivered to people who found it challenging to get out and about

251 people attended an activity session

188

people went on

73

different walks



6

Buddies partnerships continued to give support through the tough times



Bridgend Walking Trails

One of the Bridgend Centre's biggest achievements in the last few years has been the renovation of the Heritage and Tree walking trails.

Originally developed by Ann Mayer at the Centre in the early 2000s, the two sets of trails cover nearly forty miles of paths around the Bollington area. There are eight Heritage Trails, all with a different theme of the history of the area and the four Tree Trails, which celebrate the trees that can be found along the way. The Tree Trails can even be joined together to form a 14 mile circumnavigation of Bollington. There are way-markers at regular intervals around the routes to show the way.



The projects included developing new leaflets (Heritage Trails) and booklet (Tree Trail); checking out the route descriptions and maps to update and ensure they are correct; re-designing these leaflets and book and also the way-markers; and repairing or replacing some of the installations that were on the trails, such



as benches, sculptures and musical instruments.

We benefitted hugely from the expertise and time of volunteers, as they played a vital contribution in various roles. These included walking the routes, checking the route instructions in the leaflets, re-writing the directions, copy-editing and even some of the graphic design was carried out on a volunteer basis.

There are a number of benefits to having the trails; they promote walking, which has many physical and

mental health benefits for people; they encourage and promote walking in the Bollington area, which encourages incoming visitors and therefore business; and they also ensure that paths are utilised and maintained.

The projects were funded by various funders including the South West Peak Partnership, Cheshire East Council, the Peak District National Park and the Hobson Trust. We are very grateful that these funders gave us the money to ensure that

these trails live on for many more years to come. Thank you so much to everyone involved!



Financial Overview

The Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA") for the year ended 31 March 2022 is shown on page 6. This financial year was a challenging year for the charity as society emerged from the restrictions enforced by the Coronavirus.

We ended the year with a trading deficit of £11,713 (2021: surplus of £5,625).

Income: Our total income was £170,929 (2021: £174,451). Income from our charity shop was £100,373 (2021: £47,640), which is a very healthy performance, given the limitations imposed on us as detailed in page 1 above. Income through the Government 'Furlough' scheme was £4,794 (2021: £35,061) and statutory sick pay refunded by the Government was £770 (2021: £Nil). Last year, we also received other 'COVID' grants totalling £19,669. No such grants were available this year. Fundraising activities contributed £7,907 (2021: £5,689).

Expenditure: Expenditure was £182,642 (2021: £168,826). The main expenditure was staff costs of £123,801 (2021: £114,468).

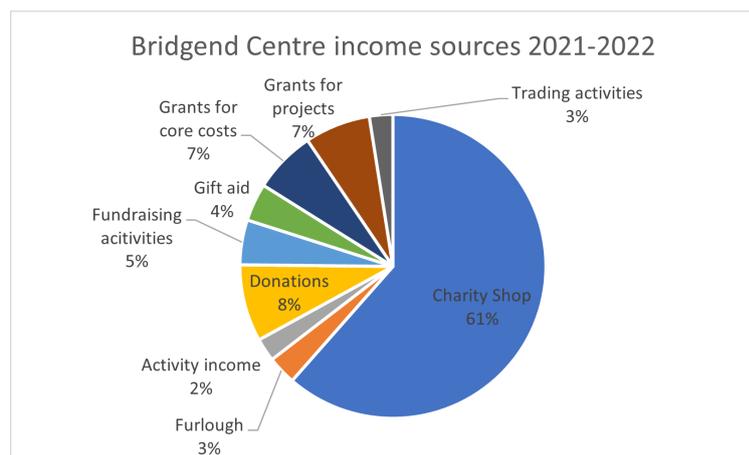
End of year position: The Charity had a cash outflow of £9,704 (2021: cash inflow £27,710), with cash at the end of the year of £89,644 (2021: £99,348). Net current assets were £102,471 (2021: £113,278) at the year end.

Reserves policy

Charity's reserve levels are routinely reviewed by the Trustees in order to ensure that it has sufficient funds to cover unknown liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity. In doing so, they consider both previous actual and future projected levels of income and expenditure. It has established a policy whereby liquid reserves, not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets, held by the Charity should be a minimum of 3 months of running costs. Based on the expenditure for the financial year 2021/22, this amounts to £42,000. In addition, Trustees consider it prudent to set aside £25,177 to ensure any liabilities on "restricted funding" can be met. We have also put aside £20,000 for essential building works required for the Bridgend Centre building. Within our loan agreement with Charity Bank is a covenant requiring us to maintain minimum cash balances of £30,000; this is included in the total funds detailed above.

Barry Matthews

Treasurer



Thank you to our Funders and Supporters.....

The Bridgend Centre would not exist without the vital support from our donors, supporters and sponsors. Many wonderful people and local businesses regularly support our Centre through their valuable time, monetary donations and contributions to raffles and competitions. We would also like to thank the organisations below for large grants and donations that have made a vital contribution this year. We couldn't do it without you all. Thank you.



- Autumn Stone Foundation
- Blakemore Foundation
- Bollington Town Council
- Broome Family Trust
- Charles Haywood Foundation
- Cheshire East Council
- Co-op Food
- Dennis Alan Yardy Charitable Trust
- Edward Gostling Foundation
- The Emerson Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Green Hall Foundation
- Irving Memorial Trust
- James Wise Charitable Trust
- John and Margaret Wootton Memorial Trust
- Lee Bakirigan Trust
- Love Bollington Market
- Macclesfield Lions
- Macclesfield Round Table
- Magic Little Grants
- MOTO
- North East Cheshire Community Partnership
- Risley Medical, Research and Charity Trust
- Russell Trust
- Squire Patton Boggs Charitable Trust
- William and Christine Eynon Charity



Bridgend Centre

104 Palmerston Street

Bollington, Cheshire

SK10 5PW

www.bridgendcentre.org.uk - info@bridgendcentre.org.uk

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity number: 1123287

Trustees

Geoff Brown—Chair

Barry Matthews—Treasurer

Johanna Maitland

Lisa Cox

Sue Brocklehurst

Alison Leah

Staff

Centre Manager—Rebecca Lea

Deputy Centre Manager—Anna Hatley

Kerry Langstaff, Jane McGill-Hoyland, Anna Barker, Maxine Lomas (Community Workers)

Bev Henderson (eBay Co-ordinator) Robert Davies (Finance Officer) Diana Storey (Charity Shop Worker) & Helen Turner (Cleaner)



Photo: Bridgend staff team 2023

With thanks to Adam Francis for producing the wonderful graphic image of the Bridgend Centre and to Andy Aitchinson Photography for allowing us to use his photographs in this report