

Bridgend Centre

Annual Report 2019-2020



Message from the Chair



Bollington Community Association was established in 1990 as a Centre to help build a positive life for people, especially those who are isolated. It is a place for people to come, socialise, carry out activities and contribute to the community. 2019-2020 marked another hugely significant year for our charity, for several reasons.

To put the situation into context, in December 2018 the charity purchased the building that we occupy. Some urgent repairs were required to ensure the safety and security of the building, including a new flat roof on the rear extension, plus re-wiring of this area and refitting the interior. This work had to be done as a matter of urgency, as the previous roof was leaking, and some areas had been identified as approaching being structurally unsafe by our surveyors.

The project was huge, covering over 280 square metres of flat roof and involved removing the old roof and replacing the steel supports for the structure before replacing with a new roof. This meant a massive level of disruption in the building below. Therefore, when the work started on 6th January 2020 and with the kind permission of Cheshire East Council, our core activities temporarily moved to the 'Pavilion on the Rec'. These included the community drop-in service, support from community workers, information services and weekly activities such as choir, art and crafts. We also continued to operate the 'Bridgend Buddies' scheme from there.

The project came to an end on 13th March and the result is a fantastic flat roof. The rear of the building has been fully re-wired, and we have a new false ceiling installed to improve the energy efficiency and appearance of the interior. Staff and volunteers then united in the herculean effort of refurbishing, carpeting and painting the building, in readiness to re-open at the end of March. This was a magnificent achievement for everyone involved in the project.

At this stage, global events overtook us and it became apparent that the Coronavirus crisis and the Health and Safety risk it posed to vulnerable people meant that we would be unable to carry on our services for the time being. The nationwide lockdown was announced by Boris Johnson on 23rd March.

While we were closed for 'lockdown' we continued to keep in touch with our staff, volunteers and service users through online social groups and telephone support and the weekly newsletter, edited by Becky, which was, and continues to be, especially supportive for those in isolation. Unfortunately, however, we were not able to run any activities or services for vulnerable and isolated people at the Centre. Also, our charity shop, which provides the largest proportion of our annual income, had to close throughout this period.

As restrictions eased, we managed to re-open the shop on 13th July, with strict social distancing measures in place to protect our staff, volunteers and customers, but are still unable to run any services in person at the Centre. That said, Becky and the staff have come up with innovative ways of maintaining contact with our community as a whole, through activity sessions held on Zoom, requesting contributions to the newsletter from local people and even running a virtual Hill Race this July. This not only helped to keep people fit, but also generated much-needed funds for the Centre.

Before we had to close our doors because of the renovations and then the Coronavirus crisis, our services have gone from strength to strength. Amazingly, for the period from March 2019 up to the end of February 2020, more people than ever used the Centre and we had again seen an increase in footfall, this time of 6%. We had to say goodbye this year to Alan Scott, who has retired from the Board of Trustees after five very productive years' service and we thank him for all his hard work and dedication. We would now like to welcome Jo Maitland onboard.

Lastly, I personally would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all our staff and volunteers and the wider community of Bollington and Cheshire East - you all do a fantastic job and this is why the Bridgend is such a warm and welcoming Centre for everyone.

Geoff Brown - Chair
Bollington July 2020

Bridgend Services

Drop-in community kitchen

A light, airy and welcoming space which is the heart of the Centre. Perfect for a friendly chat over a hot drink



Walks

Guided walks for all fitness levels throughout the week



Volunteering

Provides work experience and enables people to contribute to the local community



Social Groups and trips out

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



Information Hub

We have lots of leaflets and materials regarding local services. Our community workers are on hand to point people in the right direction



Support

Community Workers are always on hand to be someone to talk to

Activities

A wide range of sessions including Art, Bridge, Mah Jong, Choir, Crochet and Spanish



Walking Trails

We have refurbished our 'Heritage Walking Trails' that explore the beautiful surrounding countryside



Bridgend Buddies

Reducing loneliness and isolation in our community



Charity Shop

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



Social Impact

April 2019 – March 2020

Despite moving our services to the Pavilion on the Rec from January to March 2020 and closing due to lockdown, our footfall for 2019-2020 is still up on the previous year. This is a phenomenal achievement.



Footfall of 23,835 adults in twelve months (up 6% on the previous year)
92 adults per day visited the Centre (up from 87 per day in the previous year)



253 different people went on 87 walks 1181 times



78

Clients accessed community support for personal crisis or mental health problems



**254 people attended
369 activity sessions
2549 times**



80

People accessed information from the Centre

22 miles of Tree Trails refurbished



24 people matched up with a Buddy



263 volunteers worked 4968 hours during the year

Financial Overview

The Statement of Financial Activities (“SOFA”) for the year ended 31 March 2020 is shown on page 8 of the End of Year Accounts.

This year was a challenging year for the charity as the building and charity shop were closed for three months due to roof renovations, followed by lockdown due to the Coronavirus crisis. However, we still ended the year with a trading surplus of £9,474 (2019: £21,378).



Income:

Our total income was £203,153 (2019: £350,853). Income from our charity shop was £71,344, which is a very healthy income, given the shop was only open for nine months of the year due to being closed when the work on the roof being carried out.

Expenditure:

Expenditure was £193,679 (2019: £165,302). Apart from the considerable costs incurred with the property renovations, all other expenditure was in line with expectations and reflected the Charity’s growth.

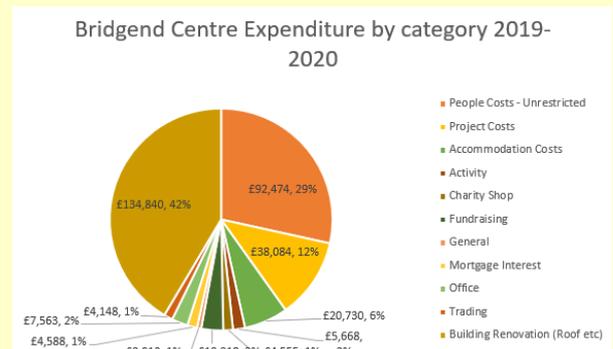
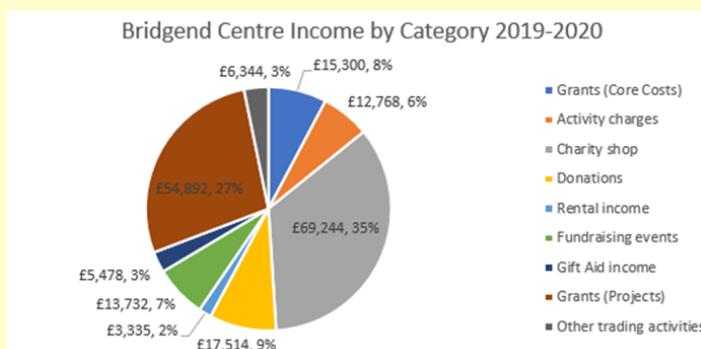
End of year position:

The Charity generated a cash outflow of £76,187, with cash at the end of the year of £ 71,638 (2019: £147,824). Negative cashflow was due to the roof costs.

Net current assets were £108,381 at the year end (2019: £157,006)

As with many other charities and businesses, the current financial year has been very challenging for the charity due to the Coronavirus crisis and associated lockdown which forced us to close our charity shop for many months. Going forward, many economic challenges will remain as the wider economy has slowed significantly and social distancing measures remain in place. As soon as the crisis emerged, our Trustees created an emergency budget to forecast income and expenditure for the coming financial year. We are currently projected to have a deficit at the end of this financial year but the current level of reserves are sufficient to cover this. Should the deficit be larger than planned or if any deficit should continue into the following financial year, we would implement appropriate expenditure reductions in the form of reducing the breadth and volume of services delivered.

Barry Matthews—Treasurer

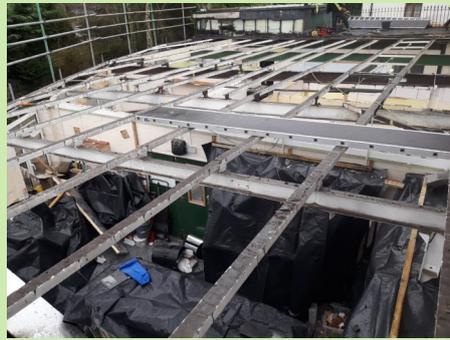


The Bridgend Flat Roof Project

Earlier this year we were closed for a number of weeks in order to install a new roof to the rear of the Bridgend Centre. The project was huge, covering over 280 square metres of flat roof and involved removing the old roof and replacing the steel supports for the structure before replacing with a new roof. This meant a enormous level of disruption in the building below. We are so pleased with the end result, which has created a modern, open space that will be fit for purpose for our Centre for many years to come. Our sincere thanks go to Bollington Town Council who loaned us the money through the Public Works Loans Board to pay for the project and the Macclesfield Round Table and Macclesfield Lions for assisting us financially and practically with the renovations inside. Also, a number of volunteers helped with these renovations as well.



The old roof



The old roof comes off



Oops there's no roof



The shop with no roof on



Installing the new French doors in the Education Room



The new deck goes on



Painting the floors



The new deck



New stairs and platform



Door into the shop



The finished job

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

The Bridgend Centre would not exist without the vital support from our donors, supporters and sponsors. As well as the wonderful people who regularly support our Centre through their valuable time and monetary donations, we would also like to thank the organisations below for large grants and donations that have made a vital contribution this year.



Bollington Probus

Bollington Town Council

Broadheads Garage

Bryan Lancaster Trust

Co-Op Community Fund

Edward Gostling Foundation

The Emerson Foundation

Garfield Weston Foundation

Geoff Ludford's CT

Love Bollington Market

Lynn Foundation

Macclesfield Lions

Macclesfield Round Table

Magic Little Grants—Local Giving

Poynton Foundation

Robert Clutterbrook Foundation

RS Brownless Charitable Trust

South West Peak Landscape Partnership

Tytherington Treacles WI

UKH Foundation

YBS Charitable Trust

Zurich Charitable Trust



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We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity number: 1123287



Trustees

Geoff Brown—Chair

Barry Matthews—Treasurer

John Gooding—Secretary

Johanna Maitland

Lisa Cox

Sue Brocklehurst

Alison Leah