

BRIDGES NEWS



AUGUST 2024

Compiled by Julia Church

A summer newsletter from the BRIDGES Centre

SUMMERTIME AT BRIDGES

Regular Activities at BRIDGES

Lego Club

For kids aged 8-11 years old.
Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm
term time

Hi Kent

2nd/4th Monday
10am-11.30am
(not August)

FOLK MUSIC

1st Tuesday
12 noon-2pm
(next session, 3rd
September)

In Stitches

knitting and crochet group
3rd Tuesday
7.30pm-9.30pm

Dandelion Café

1st Wednesday
2pm-4pm

Creative Café

2pm-4pm
2nd Wednesday

Place of Welcome

Every Friday
2pm-4pm
with free refreshments!

Would you Like to HIRE
the Centre
for your activity?

Please speak with Mary
for details.

TEL: 01732 868186 or
07900 890159

Greetings from the Chair

With the summer and summer holidays now upon us, I hope you are enjoying an opportunity to visit family, travel to a new or favourite destination or simply take a rest from normal routines. Soaking up some wonderful, warm sunshine, I've spent most of the weekend trying to bring some order to my garden, which has been threatening to get out of control, with the grass and weeds growing equally fast! On Sunday evening, it was time to reflect on our work, while enjoying a glass of wine with supper and catching up on the day's Olympic stories. I love watching sport, and I find the Olympics very motivating, the effort and dedication of so many athletes striving to be the best they can be. There are some incredible feats of endurance, strength and sheer determination that leave me in awe of the competitors. And it is incredible to see the respect that they have for each other, appreciating the talents and skills that are being demonstrated. Individually, we may not be world champions when it comes to athletic prowess, but I am sure we can all be proud of what we do for our friends, family and community. And that is what BRIDGES is all about - generosity and thoughtfulness that doesn't get rewarded with gold medals, but does leave those on the receiving end of such kindness with a feeling that they are valued and not forgotten in their community.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, supporting Team GB and BRIDGES with equal enthusiasm!

Richard Dyson,
Chair of Trustees



LAZER LIGHT KIDS CLUB

The Lazer Light Kids Club meets every Thursday during term time from 3.30-5pm offering a range of activities for kids aged 4-11 and it's FREE! Come and enjoy a range of games, crafts, bible stories and songs and there are PRIZES!

More more information call Sue White on 07757 325152 or e-mail sue.white@gcceden.org.



Coffee, Cake and Chat

The morning of Saturday 25th May saw another idea for a fundraising event take place - our first ever "Coffee, Cake and Chat" session at BRIDGES. The idea was to not only boost funds but to create an inviting place for people to sit and chat over a coffee and a slice or two of delicious homemade cake or a scone.

On the day the centre looked lovely with white vintage tablecloths and vases of roses decorating the tables. We laid out an amazing raffle and all we needed were guests! I am pleased to report that the event was well attended and everyone enjoyed it - another success for BRIDGES! We hope to hold another similar event in a few months' time.

Chrissy Minahan



Buckingham Palace Visit 8th May 2024

Back in February I received a letter sent from Buckingham Palace from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent inviting me with a guest to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Wednesday 8th May.

The day itself dawned, warm and sunny, and it was glorious from start to finish! When Martin and I arrived at London Victoria we saw others wearing hats and looking very smart, which was a “giveaway” sign that they also had received an invitation to the big event.

It was wonderful making our way to the palace passing through the main gates to the back garden. The sheer size and space before us was breathtaking – a huge tea marquee was positioned at one end of the lawn and two bands played at either side, playing at intervals during the afternoon.

Tea was served from 3.30pm then at precisely 4pm the Royal party appeared – King Charles and Queen Camilla. The guests formed two pathways down the lawn and it so happened that King Charles chose to walk my way! He looked very relaxed and happy, chatting with various people along the route but I am certain he was glad of his tea, and a sit down, in the Royal Tea Marquee at the end of his walkabout.

The food was delicious, and served on dainty china plates having a space for a cup at one end. Later in the afternoon ice cream was served. To round off the afternoon we strolled around the perimeter of the gardens admiring the work of those whom it was evident lovingly look after the vast green space. It was also delightful to people watch! To view the wonderful, carefully chosen outfits on display, to enter the joy and laughter surrounding us on the lawns, and to admire everything going on around us.

How fantastic it felt to represent everyone @ BRIDGES. Such an honour! What an occasion! For me and for my husband, it was our first Royal visit. Suffice to say, it will live on in our memory and never be forgotten.

Mary Perrett



Mary in all her finery at the Garden Party



Mary and Martin in the grounds of Buckingham Palace



King Charles mingles with guests

BRIDGES AWARDED A 5 STAR FOOD HYGIENE RATING

We are pleased to announce that after our recent inspection we received Food Hygiene Rating 5 from Sevenoaks District Council.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work!



HEARING AID MAINTENANCE CLINIC

Twice a month on a Monday morning, from 10-11.30am, volunteers from the Hi Kent Sound Support charity for people living with hearing loss, hold a Hearing Aid Maintenance Clinic in BRIDGES. Anyone can call in to the clinic to have their NHS hearing aid cleaned and retubed and collect new batteries.

Volunteers Roger and Ian from the charity are on hand to advise, providing a valuable service for the NHS. For more information visit www.hikent.org.uk or call 01622 691151.

HEARING AID CLINIC DATES Mondays from 10am-11.30am

No Clinic August
9 September * 23 September
14 October * 11 November
25 November * 9 December


The poster features a circular logo on the left that says 'BRIDGES 29 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY'. The main title is 'Oktober QUIZ fest' with 'Oktober' in blue and 'QUIZ fest' in red. Below the title, it says 'Saturday October 5th, 2024; 7 pm sharp!'. The background shows a red and white striped awning with a basket of food. The text reads: 'Our friendly, fun quiz with Pam Dench, our usual Question Mistress, plus hot supper & dessert. Bring your own drinks & glasses & a team of up to eight (max)!'. There are three boxes at the bottom: 'Tickets £15 per head from The BRIDGES Centre High St, Edenbridge, TN8 5AJ 01732 868186 www.bridgescentre.org', 'Crockham Hill Village Hall TN8 6RP (Beside the church and school)', and 'Bring family, friends, neighbours and have a go! Our questions are geared so everyone can answer some and no one can answer all. (Call or e-mail if transport is a problem, we'll try to help)'.

The poster has a purple background with a rainbow logo at the top that says 'BRIDGES'. The text reads: 'BETTER FOR THE POCKET BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT', 'PRELOVED CLOTHES SALE', 'FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024 7pm - 8.30pm', '£3 ENTRY INCLUDES A CLASS OF WINE AND NIBBLES'. It also lists the location: 'The BRIDGES Centre, High Street, Edenbridge TN8 5AJ Tel: 07132 868186 www.bridgescentre.org'. At the bottom, it says 'For more info, please contact Mary mary@bridgescentre.org 07900890159'. The poster is decorated with illustrations of various clothing items like trousers, a shirt, a dress, a cardigan, and shoes.


If you're having a summer clothes sort-out, BRIDGES would be very grateful for donations of pre-loved clothes for its sale in August. Please bring donations to BRIDGES, thank you.




Wine Tasting Evening another sparkling success



Some 40 guests enjoyed a splendid evening on Saturday 20 July courtesy of the Dyson family and supported by BRIDGES' Andy Neame. Firstly, Richard Dyson (Chairman of BRIDGES trustees and wine expert) introduced us to two rosés, including one made in Kent. We then sampled a white wine from Portugal and a red from Australia. All four wines were delicious. Richard said that he always looks for a good bargain when buying wine and went on to explain how he hunts value at Majestic Wine. We enjoyed a glass of our preferred wine with a delicious two course meal which was prepared by Richard's wife with help from their daughter and her boyfriend, along with Andy, and Isaac, who has been volunteering at BRIDGES as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award.



As a special bonus we enjoyed a special cake because it happened to be Barbara Mitchell's birthday, after singing Happy Birthday to her. The evening raised the excellent sum of over £600 for BRIDGES. So thank you Dyson family for all your hard work!



David Stafford

DIGITAL SKILLS SESSIONS @ BRIDGES
COOKING WITH AN AIR FRYER
WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Please keep an eye on our website for the above, coming to BRIDGES this autumn. Speak to Mary for further details.



“Cheers!”



Birthday Girl, Barbara Mitchell and the celebration cake.

**Happy
BIRTHDAY**

Youngsters celebrate success at BRIDGES Lego Club

There were lots of proud smiles at BRIDGES recently when awards were presented for all the wonderful models created by members of the Lego Club.

The club for 8-11 year-olds, meets every Tuesday at BRIDGES from 3.30-4.30pm during term time. It will be reconvening after October half-term once children have settled in at school.



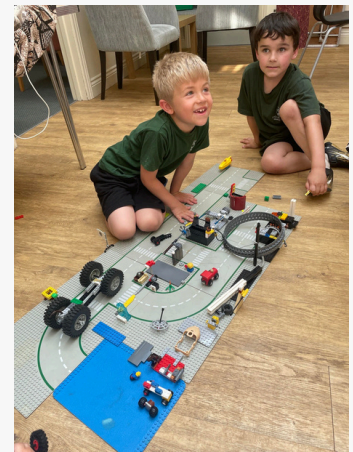
Oliver and Max alongside their Lego "Safe House".



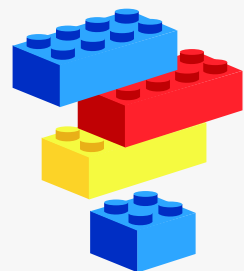
Delighted club members with the certificates for their Lego creations.

BRIDGES BOOKSHELF

Looking for your next good read? Then you need look no further than the BRIDGES Bookshelf! Either swap your old paperback with a book from the shelf or if you don't have a book to swap you are welcome to help yourself for a small donation please.



Aristarkh and Finley with their Lego model "Amsterdam".



PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

If you are not sure what to do with your old printer cartridges, please drop them into BRIDGES for recycling - it's great for the environment and helps BRIDGES to raise funds to help run the Centre.