



Bridges – making global connections

Bridges Community E-Bulletin

Making Global Connections in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

www.shropshirebridges.org.uk

Tel: 01952 255526 Email: nina@shropshirebridges.org.uk

Welcome to Bridges Winter e-bulletin. Please read on to find out more about our work and how you can get involved.

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1. Opportunities... opportunities from Bridges and others

Are you Globally Connected?

Here at Bridges we are putting together a network of Global Connections in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

We would love to know about your Global Connections:

- Maybe you have family or friends in other countries?
- Are you involved with a charity that has a partner organisation overseas?
- Does your business have overseas links?
- Does your faith group have overseas partners?
- Did you used to live in another country or do you travel to other countries as part of your job?
- Is your school linked with a school in another part of the World?
- Does your community group have sister organisations overseas? e.g. Girl Guiding groups, Rotary groups
- Do you attend or run an ESOL group?

Bridges would like to know how we can support your overseas links. We would like to bring groups together so that we can learn together. In addition, we would really like to build connections with people to help us promote cross cultural understanding in schools and communities across our region.

Please get in touch with Ali at Bridges on alison@shropshirebridges.org.uk or 01952 255526.

Volunteer at Bridges

Bridges relies on volunteers to support our work. We currently have an opportunity for a Web Design and Editing Volunteer to join our volunteer team. For more information please contact Nina.

Free Talks And Workshops For Local Groups

Are you looking for speakers to visit your group or club? Bridges is currently able to visit local groups to talk or run workshops at no charge.

- The Great Banana Split
Find out more about Fairtrade bananas and chocolate.
- Love Fashion, Hate Sweatshops
Join the campaign to make fashion fair and learn about the lives of factory workers in India.
- Waste Rethink
Explore ways to reuse and recycle things we often throw away.
- Life in the Land of Blue Sky
Tales from a year volunteering in Mongolia.

If you are part of a group that would like to receive a talk or workshop then please get in touch.

Global Health Focus

Does your work involve health topics, issues, promotion or treatment? Bridges is currently focusing on global health and is looking for groups and organisations that would be interested in getting involved in raising awareness and taking action to make everyone healthier, in the UK and around the world.

2. Going global... activities with a global connection

Africa United

A fantastic new film, Africa United is an adventure through the heart of Africa as three children travel from Rwanda to South Africa for the opening ceremony of the World Cup.

The film is in cinemas now, find a screening at

www.africaunitedmovie.com

Also available, a free DVD of trailers, clips and resources for schools and youth and community groups. Request your free copy at: www.damaris.org/africaunited



Bridges is looking for groups who'd like to host a community screening of the film next Spring. If you'd be interested please get in touch with Nina.

World AIDS Day – 1st December

HIV and AIDS affect millions of people around the world including 15 million children who have been orphaned as their parents have died from AIDS.

World AIDS Day is an international event to support and help people infected or affected by HIV www.worldaidsday.org.

Bridges is looking for events and venues that could host their interactive stand with information and activities to raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS around the world and how we can all help. If you'd like us to visit your event or venue then please get in touch.



3. Find out more... Bridges' top tips for Christmas

Bridges top ten tips for a fantastic Christmas

- 1. Make it Fair**

Help producers in some of the world's poorest countries by buying gifts with the Fairtrade mark. Treat family and friends to delicious Fairtrade chocolates, tasty Fairtrade coffee or gorgeous Fairtrade body products that are extra special.

Our favourite – Boots Extracts Fairtrade Toiletries including, lip balms, body butters and shower creams www.boots.com/en/Boots-Extracts-Fairtrade
- 2. Spend Wisely**

Buy your gifts from someone who'll spend the profits wisely. Try the gift shop in your local museum, charity shops that often stock new items at Christmas or the gift shop at your local National Trust property. If there's nowhere nearby get online and see if your favourite charity has an online shop.

Our favourite – Grow a Christmas Tree in Reindeer Poo a unique gift from Oxfam's online shop www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/ethical-collection
- 3. Get it Wrapped**

Get creative and wrap your presents in something different to save pennies and the environment. Try the Sports section of the newspaper for football fans, old scarves for a touch of luxury, or pictures from wall calendars. Next, make your gift tags from last year's Christmas cards.

Our favourite – keep kids entertained by wrapping their presents in pages from comics.
- 4. Second Hand Santa**

Give the office Secret Santa a new twist by asking everyone to bring something from home to give away, a book they've enjoyed reading, a pair of mugs from an overcrowded cupboard or the new jumper that just never quite fitted!
- 5. A Tree is for Life – Not Just for Christmas**

Save a tree this Christmas and invest in an artificial one that can be used every year. If you can't resist a real tree, get one in a pot then keep it in your garden and bring it in again next year. Buy your Christmas tree from Greenacres Farm (Fenemere Lane, SY4 2JA) who provide training in agriculture and horticulture for adults with learning disabilities.

Our favourite – rent a tree from the Christmas Tree Man, delivered to your door in a pot and then collected and put back in the ground in the New Year.

www.christmastreeman.co.uk
- 6. More Christmas – Fewer Cards**

Save a few trees from ending up on the mantelpiece and then in the recycling bin by suggesting work colleagues all put a few pounds in a pot to donate to charity instead of giving each other cards.

Our favourite – visit Guide Star to find a charity to support www.guidestar.org.uk
- 7. Feed a few more**

Put a few extra tins in your trolley when you're out shopping and donate non-perishable food to a local homeless charity. Try the Kip Project in Wellington or The Ark in Shrewsbury.
- 8. Give a gift to someone you've never met!**

Give a gift to someone who really needs it by buying a present for someone living in a poorer country. The perfect gift for someone who has everything!

Our favourite – Winter Coats to keep kids in Vietnam warm on the way to school

www.giftsinaction.org.uk/gift/winter-coats-for-two-schoolchildren

9. More presents – Less Packaging

Be picky with your presents and chose gifts that aren't over-packaged in plastic and boxes that you'll have to find space for in the bin!

10. Clear out for charity

Give your local charity shop a present by clearing out in November to make space for all those presents and all the friends and family that will be visiting over the holidays.

4. Shropshire's Been Busy... an update on Bridges activities

Working Together Locally for a Fairer World

What would a fairer world be like? What would we be doing in Shropshire? These questions were posed to participants at the Bridges AGM at TCAT in October. The responses helped us think through what our vision of supporting knowledge and learning for a fairer world really means in Shropshire. Does fairness mean equality? Or Justice? Can something that is fairer for you be unfair for someone else? These arguments are taking centre stage in politics and around the coffee cups and computers here at Bridges. Let us know what you think, contact Davina on Davina@shropshirebridges.org.uk.

Here's what delegates at our event said about it:

"Really uplifting. In testing times it was great to set such an positive and optimistic tone"

"A lesson to us all on how to run an AGM – the stories of staff were inspiring".

5. About the e-bulletin

Bridges works with communities across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin to raise awareness of global issues. The e-bulletin is to help keep you informed of global issues, campaigns and action in, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and the surrounding areas.

We would like to share what's happening with you, but if you would like to unsubscribe please email admin@shropshirebridges.org.uk with Unsubscribe in the subject line of your message.

Contribute to the e-bulletin

If you'd like to promote your events or activities in this e-bulletin we would love to hear from you. Just email a link or a short article, with any permitted photos you'd also like to share and we will add this to our next e-bulletin as appropriate.

Bridges, The Studios, Mansell Rd, Wellington, Telford, TF1 1QQ

Telephone. 01952 255526 Email. info@shropshirebridges.org.uk Visit. www.shropshirebridges.org.uk

Bridges is a Shropshire-based education organisation that aims to support an understanding of the diverse world and communities in which we live, and the issues that affect us all. We world to empower people, individually and collectively, to take a full and active role as responsible global citizens.

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