



Welcome to Bethphage Buzz



Welcome to our Winter edition of Bethphage Buzz! Our quarterly newsletter aims to keep you updated with what is going on across Bethphage with both the people we support and our dedicated staff.

We've had a busy few months, with various events across the summer including "Oak Fest" and the Shrewsbury Flower Show, closing out September with our first Staff Conference since the pandemic; you can read more about what we have been up to below.

Our vision is of inclusive communities where all people have the opportunity to live the life they choose.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We hope you enjoy our newsletter, we welcome your feedback. Please email marketing@bethphage.co.uk if you would like to get involved or support us.



Bethphage blooms at Shrewsbury Flower Show

Our Marketing and Recruitment team headed to the famous Shrewsbury Flower Show in August to promote what we do. It fell on one of the hotter weekends of the year but luckily with our gazebos and chairs at the ready we were able to offer visitors of the show a place to sit in the shade while we chatted about all things Bethphage and social care. One visitor even dubbed us the "friendliest stall" they had visited that day!

We also spent the day promoting "Friends of Bethphage" and our newsletter; everyone who signed up over the Flower Show weekend was entered into a prize draw for our prize hamper. The winner of the hamper was Jane from Shropshire, congratulations Jane! We hope you're enjoying the prize!

Thank you to everyone who came to say hello to us at the Flower Show, we look forward to seeing you at another event soon.





Staff Conference & Colleague Awards

September saw us hold our first staff conference since 2019; we were excited for this chance to bring colleagues together for the first time since the pandemic, for staff to learn from each other's experiences and share knowledge. We took the opportunity to focus on a range of topics through workshops, including Equality & Diversity, Speaking Up, Mindfulness, Staff Wellbeing and Assistive Technology. The conference was also the stage for our 2022 Colleague Awards.

We wanted to shine a light on the hard work of all of our staff during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, especially our support workers. During our Colleague Awards we heard of the fantastic work our staff have been doing across the organisation.

We launched our new "Upstander, not Bystander" award, with the help of Karen Littleford, the Safeguarding Adults Lead in Shropshire. This award recognises teams and individuals that are Upstanders. Being an Upstander is about speaking up and taking action rather than assuming someone else will or turning a blind eye. It is about being professionally curious – exploring and understanding a situation rather than making assumptions about it and then taking action – "leaving no stone unturned". Find out more about what being an upstander means by watching our short film [here](#).

We also marked long service awards, educational achievements and celebrated staff across the organisation for their teamwork, resilience, and their commitment to the people they support and Bethphage's values.

Congratulations to all of our award winners!



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Oak Fest - A huge success!

We were delighted to host the family fun biennial Village Show at Oak Farm, Ditton Priors, near Bridgnorth. Oak Farm provides learning opportunities outdoors in a working farm environment for the people we support.

Fueled with enthusiasm, the team at Oak Farm put hours of preparation and dedication into making sure the show was a huge success! With a mixture of craft stalls, live entertainment, displays, food & drink, the event also welcomed a staggering number of dogs and their owners to enter the infamous Dog Show. Waggiest tail, prettiest eyes, shiniest coat, best rescue and worker's choice, there was a class for every dog to enter. With the sun shining, the village show was everything we love about a Great British summer outdoors!



"We would like to say a special thanks to all the volunteers, OFFA (Oak Farm Friends Association), the people we support and staff team who have worked hard behind the scenes to prepare for today. Thank you to our stall holders and entertainment, to all the dogs/owners who took part in the show and a massive thank you to everyone who came along to support this wonderful event.

We have raised an incredible £2,500 for Oak Farm, which after the last 2 years of not being able to fundraise at all, will be a great investment for Oak Farm! This money will go towards helping improve the service we offer to the people we support and extend the opportunities available to them." We run Oakfest on a biennial basis, so we look forward to seeing you all again for the next one in 2024!"

Ceri Burgess - Oak Farm Manager

Thank you to Team Veg Racing



Find out more about Oak Farm

Visit the Oak Farm website at the link below or visit their Facebook page [here](#).

[Visit the website](#)

We would like to send a huge thank you to Alex, Stefan and Nicholas, also known as: Team Veg Racing, for all their fundraising efforts for Oak Farm. They recently took part in the "Screwball Rally" which sees teams drive across Europe in a car costing no more than £750. The adventure was across 8 countries (UK, France, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Lichtenstein, Switzerland and Italy) and needed to be completed in 5 days. Team Veg Racing took on the task in "Rupert the Rover", along with the Oak Farm nominated mascot Ditton the pig! They kept us updated throughout the rally and made it to Italy and back safely, all while raising funds for Oak Farm along the way. The journey was 1819 miles in total!

Alex, Nicholas and Stefan raised an amazing £1,444 for Oak Farm. We hope you will join us in thanking them!

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Assistive Technology



With restrictions lifting we are now beginning to focus on new projects to further support people. There is an increasing focus on "Assistive Technology" (sometimes called AT) within Social Care. The aim of Assistive Technology is to help people become more independent, this can come in lots of forms; it could be an Alexa with reminders for someone to take their medication, or more specialised equipment like fall detectors or epilepsy pillows. We are working with the people we support, support staff and assistive technology providers to identify where AT could help enhance people's independence.

We also featured a number of Assistive Technology providers at our Staff Conference including; Grandcare, Abilia and Service Robotics along with a fellow support provider, Home Farm Trust who have been successfully implementing Assistive Technology (or "Personalised Technology") for many years.

If you would like to learn more about Assistive Technology, please contact: marketing@bethphage.co.uk.



Become a Friend of Bethphage

We are facing unprecedented times, we are all subject to increasing costs and like everyone else, we are looking at all the ways we can minimise the impact and make savings.

The support Bethphage provides to adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health is funded via Council's Adult Social Care Departments whose budgets are under increasing pressure following years of austerity, the pandemic and now the cost of living which means that in order for us to provide additional resources and activities for the people we support so they can thrive, we need your help more than ever.



Support our charity

Support us in any way that you can, whether that is offering your skills, your time, responding to requests for specific equipment, sponsoring our events, donating via our Just Giving page or following our social media accounts and sharing our posts.

Please get in touch with marketing@bethphage.co.uk for more information.

Make a donation

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Greenfingers at Arden Place

Bethphage works in partnership with Bromford Housing Association to provide, Arden Place a purpose-built, supported living development for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism in Birmingham.

In Spring this year, the residents at Arden Place started their garden project. The main aim of the project was to bring everyone together to develop a sense of community at Arden Place. We all know gardening promotes both physical and mental wellbeing so we were keen for all Arden tenants to benefit from the Arden Garden Project. The project encourages everyone involved to be creative, develop new skills and enjoy the natural wildlife taking root.

One of our tenants has his own allotment. He encouraged his neighbours at Arden Place to get involved in transforming their garden into a beautiful, quiet space they can all enjoy, and grow their own fruit and vegetables.



We were delighted to be successful in our grant application to The Patrick Trust who awarded £1000, allowing Arden Garden Project members to be supported to manage their own small budget and purchase items from their wish-list, truly making the project their own.

Thanks to the commitment and hard work of the residents of Arden Place; this summer we opened the garden to the local community, families and carers of people we support to enjoy this beautiful natural habitat and space.



Support the Arden Place Garden Project

If you have any expertise in gardening, items to donate, or would just like to support the project then we would love to hear from you. Please contact marketing@bethphage.co.uk.

[Visit the Arden Place Website](http://www.bethphage.co.uk)

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Bethphage retains Bradbury Court



After a competitive tender process earlier this year, Bethphage were delighted to retain Bradbury Court, a registered care home for adults with learning disabilities, a home Bethphage has managed on behalf of Shropshire Council since 2015. Under the new contract there is a shift in focus to provide short term support to prepare individuals to move on into more independent accommodation which the team are really excited about.

Service Manager, Kizzy Moss wanted to give a "Big thank you to the team for their fantastic support and embracing the changes."

"Bethphage are really excited about the opportunities this new service model brings.

It enables our talented team to reach more people, making a positive impact on their lives through person-centred support that focuses on preparing them for independent living from day one."

*Helen Burton -
Head of Operations*

"I am delighted that Bethphage continues to run Bradbury Court for a further 5 years which will offer continuity of service to those they support. I am also really pleased that there will be a new focus on developing support that will really help prepare adults with learning disabilities to reach their full potential and help assist them to live independently."

*Councillor Simon Jones -
Cabinet member for Adult Social Care &
Public Health at Shropshire Council*

Happy holidays from Bethphage!



If you would like to get involved or support any of the activities/projects please contact:

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