

# Bethphage

## BUZZ



## Welcome to Bethphage Buzz

**Established in 1994 Bethphage is a charity that supports adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs in Shropshire and the West Midlands.**

Welcome to our newest 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.



[www.bethphage.co.uk](http://www.bethphage.co.uk)

8 Longbow Close, Harlescote Lane, Shrewsbury, SY1 3GZ

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## What's going on? Day Opportunities



### Blossom Barns



### Innage Lane



### Our Space Community Hub & Library

We are still looking for feedback to help us shape Blossom Barns! Please answer the short survey below, your responses will help us when planning events, writing grant applications and in our discussions about future plans for the farm. We are considering setting up a farm shop and seasonal community café to complement the community orchard. There will be parking and a toilet available.

Want to see us this summer? We'll be at the Chelmarsh Fete and Burwarton Show, come and say hello!

[Take the survey](#)

Our Summer BBQ is fast approaching! Come and join us on the 27th of June 12pm – 2pm for a raffle, DJ, tombola and more!

If you or someone you know is looking for support, we are hosting regular drop ins to visit Innage Lane, with the opportunity to do a taster activity if you wish! Our next open morning is on June 17th 11am – 1pm and we'd love to see you there!

You can find all of our events, including open mornings, fundraisers and where we will be selling our products on our Facebook page on the link below.

[Find out more](#)

There's still time to join our social lottery! Enter by 10th July to be in the June – December draws for £12 (£2 per month per number). Monthly winnings are split between the winning number and Our Space Hub (based on amount of numbers sold at time of draw- max monthly winnings £100) Only sold numbers are entered into the draw and you must be 18 or over to enter. Contact Our Space to find out more! ([ourspace@bethphage.co.uk](mailto:ourspace@bethphage.co.uk) or 01691 622 584)

*Bethphage Lottery  
Licence Number: 18/04637  
Registered Charity: 1046225*

A reminder that every Wednesday whilst the library is open for self-service (9am-12pm) we open our Community Café as a part of the Shropshire Warm Hub, come along for a cup of tea!

Our Facebook page is the best way to stay updated with our events!

[Find out more](#)

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## A huge thank you to Mott MacDonald Bentley!



Blossom Barns recently welcomed fantastic support from Mott MacDonald Bentley (MMB), who generously donated their time, skills and resources to relay stone on our rear driveway. This vital upgrade has already made the farm more accessible and supports our plans for future developments.

The connection began thanks to Daisy, one of our Support Workers, and her dad, Anthony, who works at MMB. After sharing the work we do, Anthony championed the project within his team and we're so grateful he did!

Working closely with Ceri, our Service Manager, the MMB team and their suppliers, including Lynch, Simons, Frazers, Welfare Hire and Severn Trent, provided machinery, materials and expertise to complete the project. They spent a week on-site, happily explaining the process to the people we support, who loved watching the driveway take shape.

Once finished, we celebrated with an official opening and a tour of the farm. The improved driveway is a huge boost for our future plans, and we're excited to continue working with MMB. They've already supported us by selling Blossom Barns produce at their offices and invited us for a visit in early 2026.

We look forward to creating bird boxes for their upcoming projects and welcoming them back later this year for a corporate day. Thank you, Mott MacDonald Bentley, for making such a meaningful difference at Blossom Barns.

**If your business would like to get involved or host a corporate away day, please contact us at [blossombarns@bethphage.co.uk](mailto:blossombarns@bethphage.co.uk).**

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## Jess' dance group helps people shine!

Jess, who is supported by Bethphage in Shrewsbury, co-founded and runs the Crazy Creative Dance Group with her mum, Jo. The group was created to showcase what people with disabilities can achieve when given the opportunity, offering a safe and welcoming space to perform, build confidence, develop skills, make friends and express themselves.

Inspired by her parents' theatre company, Able and Disabled, performing has always been central to Jess's life. After training as a dance leader during the pandemic, she was determined to create something of her own. In early 2025, she and Jo launched the group at The Gateway in Shrewsbury, growing it into a thriving community initiative.

Jess's resilience and dedication have been key to its success. Even following an operation, she returned to perform from her wheelchair, demonstrating remarkable commitment to the group and its members!

Starting with just six dancers, the group has grown to 15 regular members, with support workers often joining in. As participation has increased, so too have confidence, creativity and a willingness to try new things.

Future plans include taking part in Shrewsbury Folk Festival, organising trips to watch leading disabled dance companies, and expanding workshop opportunities to give members new experiences and skills.

The group celebrated its one-year anniversary in February with a performance that showcased members' talents and raised an impressive £850 towards ongoing costs. It also gave dancers a valuable opportunity to share ideas and demonstrate their abilities.

Recent sponsorship from a parent's business has helped ease the pressure of venue hire costs and fund T-shirts for members, something Jo described as a "huge relief." However, Jess and Jo are keen to build on this success and are seeking additional support.



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## How can you support?

The group is currently looking for help with transport for trips, funding for visits to other inclusive dance groups (such as Freefall in Birmingham), and volunteers to support sessions as demand continues to grow.

Beyond dance, Jess is also a talented artist and poet. Her work is gaining recognition, with pieces displayed in Shrewsbury and her first commission secured. She is also due to begin a course at Shrewsbury Museum to further develop her portfolio.

**Watch this space for more updates on Jess!**



### Disabled A poem by Jess

*Scared, I'm different.*

*Nervous, who am I?*

*I don't know.*

*Angry*

*We are the same,*

*But I am different*

*I am disabled.*

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## A royal recognition for Dylan

We are proud to celebrate Dylan, a support worker at Arden Place in Birmingham, who was recently invited to Windsor Castle for a special reception recognising carers across the UK.

Dylan attended as part of his role on the Care Worker's Charity Champions Board, where he has been an advocate for the social care sector for the past two years. The event brought together care professionals from across the country and offered a rare opportunity to meet His Majesty the King and Queen.

The day began with a walk through the grounds of Windsor Castle, followed by a reception where guests were welcomed with refreshments. A highlight of the occasion was the arrival of the King and Queen, alongside the Prime Minister. Their Majesties took the time to speak with every guest, with the King personally introducing himself to each person. Dylan described the experience as both surreal and inspiring. To mark the occasion, all attendees received a personal letter of thanks from the King and Queen.



Learn more about the  
Care Worker's Charity at  
the website below

[Visit the website](#)

Dylan has worked at Arden Place since 2022 and is known for his compassion and dedication. His passion for social care, shaped by his experiences following his own autism diagnosis, drives his commitment to ensuring those he supports feel understood and heard. Alongside his role, his work with the Care Worker's Charity has also seen him contribute to sector advocacy and recruitment campaigns.

Dylan's invitation to Windsor Castle is a testament to his commitment to both the people he supports and the wider care community. We're delighted to see his efforts recognised on such a special occasion.

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## Concerns over immigration changes

Bethphage is deeply concerned about the proposed changes to settled status in the Immigration and Asylum Bill, which risk unfairly affecting our dedicated visa-sponsored staff who helped sustain the social care sector through critical workforce shortages. These colleagues came to the UK expecting settlement after five years, yet proposals now suggest extending this to 10 or even 15 years for lower paid roles like care, effectively moving the goalposts and failing to recognise their essential contribution. This could leave valued staff unable to secure their future through no fault of their own, increasing anxiety and impacting stability in a sector already under pressure.



We remain committed to supporting our staff and advocating for a fairer approach, and we welcome your support in raising awareness of the impact on both our colleagues and the people who rely on these fantastic care workers.



**We are always looking for businesses  
to sponsor us, get in touch to find out more.**



**Thank you you for reading**

If you would like to get involved or support us,  
please contact [marketing@bethphage.co.uk](mailto:marketing@bethphage.co.uk).



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