

The Meres Community Centre

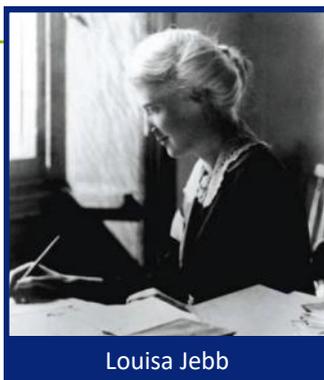


Bethphage is delighted to have been selected by Shropshire Council to develop the Meres Community Centre in Ellesmere. Bethphage is a not for profit organisation which has been providing support services in Shropshire since 1994. Our vision is of inclusive communities where all people have the opportunity to live the life they choose.

We already provide over 7200 hours per week of supported living and residential care to adults with a learning disability in Shropshire and the West Midlands. We are looking forward to diversifying our areas of expertise and taking on the provision of these services in Ellesmere.

Getting to Know Each Other

Bethphage started providing services in Shropshire 23 years ago when Donna Werner, a senior manager for an American support provider visited the UK. Since the early days, we have been a stand alone UK charity providing care and support services to adults with learning disabilities and similar needs. We run five residential care homes in Shropshire and the West Midlands.



Louisa Jebb

Since the Cabinet approved Bethphage as the new provider in July 2016, we have been working closely with Shropshire Council to set the budget, plan the building works to modernise the building and access prior to transfer and engage with the community. We have been regular visitors to Ellesmere, using this time well to get to know and understand the people. We have seen for ourselves how much the people of Ellesmere value their library. We have learnt about the local significance of the Meres building, its origins with Louisa Jebb and the establishment of the League of Friends who along with Olga Cureton, fought tirelessly to keep the Cottage Hospital open.

We are thrilled that the development of the Meres means that the library and customer service point can continue to operate in Ellesmere, moving across to the Meres Centre, merging with the day services to create an innovative community hub.

From now until the transfer in the summer, we will be working hard to ensure that all the necessary arrangements are in place for a smooth transition; listening closely and responding to the needs and requirements of everyone involved including commissioners, staff, families, carers, library users and people



who use day services. Ensuring continuity of services is a key priority for us. You will see the same staff delivering the services as before. Equally, we



will make sure that each person has a safe support plan based on person centred principles.

We want the changeover to be as smooth as possible. This means keeping as much as we can the way it is already until we know you well. Then we will want to introduce you to new opportunities.

We aim to realise our vision of inclusive communities by enabling people to live the life they choose. In Ellesmere, the Meres provides a fantastic opportunity for us to support local people and established organisations to create an innovative community centre which builds on community enthusiasm and local ideas. We view our role as that of managing the premises, delivering really good care and library services and facilitating community enterprise by empowering local leadership, making the Meres Centre a thriving community resource.

We are particularly looking forward to the opportunities this project presents for joint working between the day services, library, Town Council and community organisations. We want the Meres to

become a community led centre so please tell us what you would like it to be. We welcome your thoughts and input. If you want to have your voice heard, please contact Bethphage Development Manager, Alice Blakeman on **01743 272880** or email **ablakeman@bethphage.co.uk** to discuss further.



Bethphage staff at the 2016 conference

It is all about you! Our task is to make The Meres the thriving community centre you want it to be! Between now and July, Bethphage will be working closely with Marjorie and Sheila to prepare for making this happen.



Sheila Williams,
Branch Manager
Ellesmere Library



Marjorie Stopworth
Assistant Locality Manager
The Meres



Xee Davies
Day Services Coordinator



Alice Blakeman
Development Manager



Stef Kay
Operations Director

Get in Touch

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