

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.



Bethphage Summer Party!

We were so pleased to have the opportunity to hold our summer party in June. Held at Mereside Community Centre in Shrewsbury, our party brought staff, Shared Lives Carers and people we support together from across Shropshire and Birmingham for an afternoon in the sun.

With a fantastic DJ set from Simon Whitehouse, karaoke, a raffle and games, there was something for everyone. With karaoke hits such as "The Circle of Life" from the Lion King and "You'll Never Walk Alone" and Simon the DJ leading us all in "Sweet Caroline" happening inside, outside guests were treated to an array of garden party games to be played in the sun. No party would be complete without cake, enjoyed while we called our raffle.

Our Summer party was the first time we had been able to bring people together since the pandemic and thank staff for their hard work and rebuild social connections.

It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves together following on from the past few years of uncertainty.



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Thank you for your support!



This party was made possible by our supporters and "Friends of Bethphage", we would like to thank everyone who helped us make the day a success.

Thank you to Basil Houghton for their contribution of £1200, the Blakemore Trust for their contribution of £100 and Helen Pugh who raised £130 for the event.

Thank you to all of our donors; Jo Redmond, Tracy Crawford, Vanessa and Nigel Ball, Derek Lum, Ruth Houghton, Donna Werner, Karen Eyre, Jennifer and Mary. A huge thank you to everyone who attended our "Friends of Bethphage" dog walk.



Thank you to the following people and local business who donated raffle prizes to us: Jo Plimmer, Karen & Suzy, Hilary Howell, Jane Thomas, Yvonne Blakeman, [Stop café](#), [Shrewsbury Duck Store](#), [The British Ironworks Centre in Oswestry](#), [Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings](#), [XscapeNow](#) and the [Theatre Severn](#).

We would also like to thank all our staff volunteers on the day!



Want to learn more?

If you would like to learn more about our upcoming projects and how you can support us visit our Friends of Bethphage at the link below or email marketing@bethphage.co.uk.

Friends of Bethphage

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What's going on? Day Opportunities



Oak Farm

With summer in full swing, we've had lots to do at Oak Farm. We've been selling our fresh produce, along with our jams and chutneys, all made on-site. We've also been getting out and about with visits to the Ironworks Centre and Severn Valley.

We recently attended the Burwarton Show, we were responsible for hanging baskets and the flowers in the members' tents and provided cut flowers for 50 tables as well as selling our produce, jams and chutneys. We were proud to win several Women's Institute horticultural awards including 1st prize in courgettes, 2nd prize in eggs, 3rd prize in beans and 3rd prize in onions! Read more in the [Shropshire Star](#).

We would also like to send a huge thank you to Lydia, who joined us at the farm on work experience, she was a great addition to the team, and we wish her the best of luck with the rest of her studies!

[Find out more](#)



Innage Lane

From baking, gardening and bowling we've had a busy few months.

The Bridgnorth Lions kindly donated £500 to us to purchase items for our games room and sensory equipment! We've also made a number of products that are on sale at the Gateway in Shrewsbury.

We enjoyed our Summer Fete on the 19th of August, with garden games, BBQ, music, a tombola, raffle and more, there was something for everyone!

Click the link below to find out more on our Facebook page.

[Find out more](#)



Our Space

The summer holidays are here, and the Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing.

The Library is hosting a range of activities throughout the summer. We recently hosted a Water Colour Painting Challenge workshop and Hula-hooping with Shelley!

Thanks to a generous donation from Basil Houghton Trust, our Social Enterprise Group is up and running and so far created, cards, bookmarks and keyrings.

Utilising our fantastic interactive Smart Screen which we secured via Severn Trent Community funding a few years ago, we are also hosting film shows for over 60s in Our Space and have been enjoying visits around Shropshire with our Friendship Group and day opportunities group.

[Find out more](#)

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North Shropshire MP visits Our Space



North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan and her colleague Mary Davies met with representatives from Bethphage at Our Space Community Centre and Library in Ellesmere. Our Chair of Trustees, Derek Lum, Trustee Ruth Houghton, CEO, Stef Kay and Our Space Manager, Rachel Davies were also accompanied by Ellesmere Mayor, Anne Wignall who was there to highlight the community food share service that is operated from Our Space.

Helen was keen to hear about the different work being undertaken at Our Space as well as discuss the challenges facing the sector. She was interested to understand how much of the local authorities' budgets are spent on learning disability and autism and learn about the difficulties in recruiting new staff, resulting in needing to recruit people who need a work visa.

Rachel gave Helen a tour of the building and introduced her to people whilst explaining the range of person-centred services provided at Our Space.

Helen Morgan MP said:

"It was a real privilege to visit Our Space in Ellesmere and learn more about the vital work they do for the local community. The team work incredibly hard to create a lovely environment in which people can access the support they need in a safe community environment, particularly for adults with learning disabilities, autism and older people."



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Spotlight On: Shared Lives Week



Shared Lives Week is an annual event hosted by Shared Lives Plus as a way to highlight and celebrate the fantastic work happening in Shared Lives across the country. Our Shared Lives team organised a week-long event ending with a day at Freda's Day Centre including cake and a raffle!

Shared Lives Carers and people supported were invited to drop into our head offices between Monday and Thursday to chat to the team and other members of Bethphage over coffee; we also sold products from our day opportunities Oak Farm and Innage Lane throughout the week.

On Wednesday, we were visited by Shared Lives Plus along with carers, our Registered Nurse Sue Harris and our CEO Stef Kay to share experiences and talk about all things Shared Lives.

We also used the week to launch our new Shared Lives [Facebook page](#) and share the first in a series of videos created about Shared Lives. The week built up to a day-long celebration at [Freda's Day Centre](#) in Oswestry on Friday. The day brought together the Shared Lives team, carers and people supported for tea, cake and our raffle, with prizes donated by; [Costa Coffee](#), [Starbucks](#), [Dough & Oil](#), [Hollywood Bowl](#), [White Orchard](#), [FarmFoods](#), [British Iron Works](#), [STOP Coffee Shop](#), Tracy C, Sue F, Ali D, Sue B.



Click the link below if you would like to learn more about Shared Lives.

[Find out more](#)

Our Shared Lives Manager Stacey Bourne said:

"Thank you to everyone that attended our Shared Lives Week celebrations and supported us through donating a raffle prize. We really appreciated the opportunity to spotlight the wonderful work happening across Shared Lives by our carers and to connect with Shared Lives Plus. It was fantastic to see so many carers and people supported throughout the week and our raffle on Friday at Freda's Day Centre was definitely a highlight. We were excited to launch our new Facebook Page and our "Introducing Bethphage Shared Lives" video that really encapsulates what we do and why we do it.

I feel immensely proud of how far we have come in Shared Lives since Bethphage took over the delivery of the service in 2020 and we're looking forward to the future. If you'd like to learn more about Shared Lives or have any ideas or suggestions for our Shared Lives Week celebrations next year, please get in touch!"

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Friends of Bethphage Dog Walk

Thank you to everyone who came to our first Friends of Bethphage Dog Walk to help us raise money for our summer party! We raised £77 to contribute to our fundraising pot. We had a lovely sunny morning walking through the Quarry Park and ended by stopping at the coffee kiosk for a drink and ice cream.



We are hoping to hold another dog walk later in the year, keep your eye out for updates!

Follow us on Social Media for updates

facebook.



Celebrating our Staff



Support our charity

To find out more about how you can help Bethphage or make a donation follow the link below.

[Make a donation](#)

We would like to congratulate the following staff members who received a long service award recently! Thank you for all your hard work!

5 Years Long Service

Christine R, Ruth H & Miriam S

10 Years Long Service

Dawn W & Malgotzata M

20 Years Long Service

Steve B

We would also like to thank Linda Gordon, who after over 20 years' service is leaving Bethphage. We hope you will join us in thanking Linda for all her hard work and the difference she has made for the people we support.



Thank you you for reading

If you would like to get involved or support us, please contact marketing@bethphage.co.uk.



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