



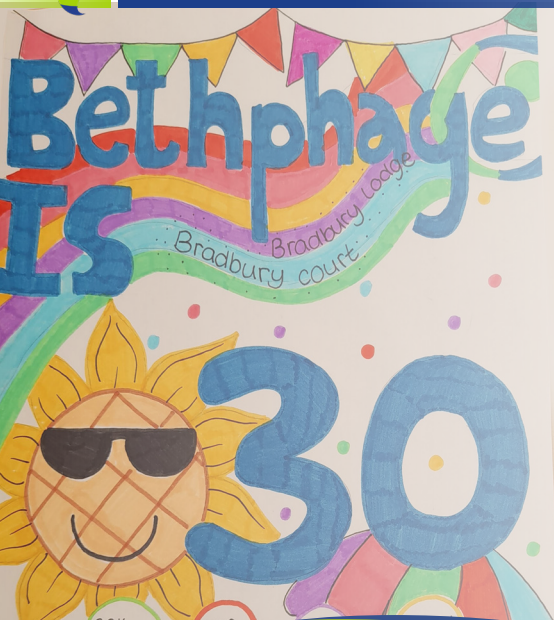
Welcome to Bethphage Buzz

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 turns 30!



Bethphage are really excited to be celebrating our 30th year in 2024. To commemorate this special year, we will be holding a series of events to mark our 30th birthday, including a summer party for our staff, people we support and shared lives carers and a stakeholder's event later in the year. Our trustees and executive management team will also be hitting the road to visit our services to chat with some of the people we support and our dedicated staff.

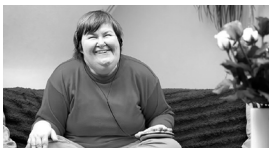
Our 30th year gives us the ideal opportunity to reflect on our origins as a charity and be proud of what we have achieved. We were established in 1994 by our American founder, Donna Werner.

Since then, we have gradually grown as an organisation, now supporting over 200 people across Shropshire and the West Midlands in various settings. We employ over 330 staff, most of whom are Support Workers, passionate about what they do.

www.bethphage.co.uk

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

01743 272880



Our CEO Stef Kay said:

"At Bethphage, we are blessed to work with some amazing people and staff, it is a privilege to support people to develop their strengths, learn new skills and grow. Our staff are our most important asset, they regularly go above and beyond to make amazing things happen in people's everyday lives and we want to bring everyone together to celebrate what the organisation has achieved at our 30th Birthday Party!"



"Social care is going through some significant financial challenges, however people with learning disabilities and autism will always need high quality care and support services and at Bethphage that is what we do, supporting people to take as much control as they can over their lives."

Bethphage intends, through our new strategic plan, to have a greater focus on understanding what people and families want from social care in the future and we want to work with families to develop support models that support people's hopes and dreams for their future."



We would like to express how grateful we are for the support we have received over the last 30 years, especially in the past 4 years during the pandemic. As a local charity and social care provider, support from our community is never taken for granted.



Support Bethphage

If you would like to support us in our 30th year, please consider donating a raffle prize for our 30th birthday party. Email marketing@bethphage.co.uk or donate to JustGiving on the link below.

Make a donation

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What's going on? Day Opportunities



Oak Farm



Innage Lane



Our Space

We would like to send our thanks to the community for their support following some on-site issues at Oak Farm, we continue to operate out of a temporary base in the village. We are thankful for our fantastic team at Oak Farm who have been adaptive and resilient, looking for different ways to continue to support people and ensuring everyone that attends Oak Farm has an enriching and fun experience.

Now spring is here, we are looking forward to working out at the farm more. We have a number of items for sale including hanging baskets, bird feeders, eggs and more – stop by the shop if you are passing through Ditton Priors!

We also said goodbye to our mini-bus driver Dave in early April, we hope you will join us in wishing him a happy retirement! We're excited to welcome Andrew to the minibus driver role!

[Find out more](#)

We would like to thank the community for their support following the recent theft of our mini-bus. The people we support (PWS) are devastated by the theft of the mini bus, as this has meant that several sessions we usually provide have had to stop.

We are grateful that a member of the community is transporting the PWS to horse-riding, our staff have been amazing with rapid changes of community sessions; we have adapted the "Discovering Shropshire" group to "Discovering Bridgnorth history and heritage". We have a new sales venue at Highley, for the amazing crafts produced at Innage Lane as well as the Gateway in Shrewsbury.

We are currently fundraising to help Innage with additional transport costs due to theft of mini bus, if you would like to help then please donate by clicking [here](#).

[Find out more](#)

We've been enjoying a range of events at Our Space and Ellesmere Library recently, including a screening of "Murder, she said" and our popular "Lego club".

We have continued to sell products created by our social enterprise at Ellesmere Market. We are still regularly holding Tiny Tunes, Memory Cafe, Teen Book Club and more, keep an eye on our Facebook page and Bethphage's event's page for more information.

Ellesmere also recently hosted Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, to unveil a plaque at the memorial garden dedicated to Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton.

Members of the Our Space Friendship Group enjoyed a visit to see the Princess. Later, Her Royal Highness met local artist and our library assistant, Sally Poynton who shared her work creating an illustrated booklet celebrating the life of Eglantyne Jebb. You can read more about Sally's project below! *"Photo courtesy of Ken Done".*

[Find out more](#)

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Shared Lives Week

The 24th – 30th of June marks Shared Lives Week and we are excited to celebrate all things “Shared Lives”.

We support 38 people in Shared Lives settings throughout Shropshire, with 61 Shared Lives Carers. Shared Lives offers a unique model of support, where individuals are supported within the home and community of our registered Shared Lives Carers.

This scheme gives people support in a family setting and can be long-term, live-in, or respite.



Shared Lives Daytime Drop-In Celebrate our carers!

25th June 10am-3pm | Bethphage Head Office

Join our drop in to help us celebrate our carers and learn more about Shared Lives. Open to all, the drop-in will feature a raffle, board games, lunch, the unveiling of our new Shared Lives Mural and the premiere of a new video all about Shared Lives.

Our Shared Lives team, health and improvement lead, assistive technology lead and representatives from Shared Lives Plus will be on hand to answer any questions!

Sue's Fundraising Challenge

Our Shared Lives Officer Sue is taking on a Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge over her birthday in June to raise money for a Shared Lives social fund to help us hold more events for carers, people supported and families.

"I have worked for Bethphage for 11 years and on the Shared Lives Team for 3. Working with the carers and people supported, I have really seen the fantastic work they do and would love to be able to organise some social events for them to enjoy."

Donate to Sue

Meet & Mingle

We'll be hosting a "Meet & Mingle" event for people supported by Shared Lives on the 26th of June, giving them the opportunity to build connections and socialise in a relaxed setting.



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Coming soon : Our Spaces talent artist Sally creates tribute to Eglantyne Jebb

We would like to show you a sneak preview of what the talented Sally Poynton, Our Space's Library Assistant, has been working on. Sally, who is also a well-established local artist, is creating an illustrated booklet for the people of Ellesmere to celebrate the life and times of local hero, Eglantyne Jebb. Bethphage are proudly supporting this community project which we successfully secured grant funding for.

Eglantyne Jebb the co – founder of Save the Children, also drafted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, groundbreaking human rights legislation which was formally adopted by the League of Nations in 1924 and it is the centenary of this milestone in human rights law that Sally's booklet will be celebrating later this year.



Sally has put a huge amount of work into this project. She began by reading and researching the life of Eglantyne, selecting the key events in her life she wanted to illustrate. Sally has created the images by delicately cutting silhouettes from black paper which are then scanned to enable the layout to be completed

Eglantyne Jebb was born in Ellesmere in 1876 but despite her achievements, remains relatively unknown. We hope this booklet will address this and contribute towards raising the profile of both Eglantyne and of Ellesmere.

We hope you will all join us in wishing Sally all the best with her project and we will keep you updated as she progresses. We cannot wait to see the finished booklet later this year.



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Celebrating our staff

Above & Beyond Award

Following feedback, our Staff Forum recently created our "Above and Beyond Award" to celebrate the good work happening across Bethphage. Our first winners were selected last quarter by our staff forum.

We would like to congratulate our first winners:

Innage Lane, Bridgnorth for supporting an individual to furnish her home, including sourcing furniture and collecting this on their own time.

Sue F, Shared Lives for consistently advocating for people supported and carers, ensuring the best quality of life for all.

Lizzie C, Finance for saving the day on our HR system build using her fantastic excel knowledge and experience.

Rebecca P, Our Space Ellesmere for leading on the set up of a social enterprise for the people we support to make and sell products at a local market, often in her own time.

We would also like to congratulate our other nominees: Whitchurch Outreach team, Arden Place Team, Abi W.

We hope you will join us in thanking our fantastic 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](#)



Long Service Awards

We would like to congratulate the following staff who have recently celebrated a long service milestone and thank them for all their hard work!

Five Years Long Service: Gemma S, Diane E, Lizzy W & Laura M

Fifteen Years Long Service: Jason G



Thank you for reading

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



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