

# Yew Tree Gazette January 2026

What happened to December? We blinked... and somehow it's already the middle of January!

Christmas and New Year were a wonderfully busy time at Yew Tree, with our residents enjoying visits from a range of singers and entertainers. And then there was our Christmas surprise how many of you guessed what it was before you even arrived? With how animal-loving Yew Tree is, we suspect quite a few of you were already on the right track!

Residents, staff, and visitors had a fantastic time meeting the reindeer and feeding them moss. We did briefly wonder if we'd need to inspect car boots on the way out, just to make sure nobody tried to take a reindeer home!

A big thank you to everyone who joined in the fun we hope you enjoyed the surprise just as much as we did (and that all the reindeer made it safely home!).



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Refurbishment works have recommenced and have now moved onto the first floor in Zone 6. We hope you love the new colour scheme we've already received some very positive feedback!

One of the highlights is a beautiful wall dedicated to Snowdonia National Park in Wales, which has been much admired. We'll also be adding more wall art across the first floor, so keep an eye out and see if you can spot all the locations!

## Snow Alert!

Yes, we've had our first snow of 2026, making sure the year started with a real bang!

A huge thank you to the staff who braved the elements and to those who stayed over to ensure the home remained fully covered and running smoothly. We'd also like to extend our thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped the maintenance team clear the car park and keep everyone safe.

Your support and teamwork truly made all the difference.



## CEO UPDATES

Merry Legs was definitely *not* a fan of the recent cold snap. Like any stroppy teenager, she flatly refused to wear her coat! Thankfully, Luke has very kindly built an additional enclosure to help protect the ponies from the elements.

Looking ahead to spring, we'll be updating the pony fencing and creating a more permanent structure, giving them extra sheltered spaces perfect for staying dry in winter and shaded in the summer. We'll keep you updated as plans progress.

Anyone who visits the home will know that, despite having cat flaps, neither cat actually likes to use them and both much prefer entering via windows. Unfortunately, Millie has recently been struggling with the gap. We briefly worried she might be pregnant, so a trip to the vet was in order!

Happily, Millie is absolutely fine it turns out she's simply been enjoying a few *too many* treats lately. We worked out she was enjoying around ten Licky Sticks a day, plus treats, fresh chicken, and wet and dry food... so it's safe to say a treat reduction plan is now in place!

We kindly ask that if you do give the cats treats over the coming weeks, please keep these to a minimum while we help Millie slim back down. Thank you for your understanding and support.

During the winter months, the cats are spending much more time indoors, so you may spot them popping up around the home and even enjoying a nap on residents' beds.

We also had a surprise visit from Duncan at the Garden Lounge door, as he popped by to say hello while free roaming. This caused plenty of smiles and amusement among residents and families alike!



### CHARITY EVENTS

In November 2025, we held a charity day in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and were delighted to raise a total of £131.19.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us and helped make the day such a success every donation truly makes a difference.

Our next charity event will be a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 4th February 2026, in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, to mark World Cancer Day.

The event will run from 11:00am to 2:00pm, and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for a cuppa, a chat, and to support this wonderful cause.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## VALENTINES DAY MENU

### Starter

*Tomato and Basil Soup with  
crusty Bread*

*Prawn cocktail with Marie  
Rose Sauce and wholemeal  
bread*

### Main Course

*Poached Salmon with Dill  
Sauce*

*Lamb Chops with mint gravy  
Both served with asparagus,  
carrots, broccoli and dauphi-  
noise potatoes*

### Desserts

*Cherry Bakewell cheese cake  
with Ice cream*

*Chocolate Truffle Torte with  
Strawberries and cream*

## FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Kerry and Chloe have been busy plan-  
ning some lovely events throughout Feb-  
ruary. Families and Friend are welcome  
to join us any time.

4th Feb 11am to 2pm Charity Event

6th Feb - Trevor Santini

10th Feb - Music Bugs 10.45am to  
11.45am

11th Feb - England v West Indies Game  
an afternoon of Cricket and Beer

13th Feb - Valentines Day Meal at  
lunchtime followed an afternoon of val-  
entines themed activities and kissing  
booth.

17th Feb - The start of Chinese New  
Year - Arts and Crafts making lanterns  
and playing snakes and ladders.

17th Feb - 2pm Vee Sweeney

19th Feb - Music Bugs

24th Feb - Animal tastic

25th Feb Debbie Mills

27th Feb - Paulo Pinto

You are cordially invited to celebrate Valentine's Day with us and your loved ones on **Friday 13th February** (we know... Friday the 13th — eek! ) at **12:30pm**.

Spaces are limited, so if you would like to attend, please let us know **as soon as possible**, including:

- The number of guests attending
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- Any dietary requirements or allergies
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- Your meal selection
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If you have any questions, please speak to **Chloe or Kerry**.

We look forward to celebrating with you!