

Yew Tree Gazette

What a Fabulous Garden Party!

Our Annual Garden Party took place on **Saturday 11th July 2026**, and what a fabulous day we had! ☐

Thankfully, the weather was very kind to us, allowing residents, families, friends and staff to make the most of our beautiful gardens and enjoy a fantastic day together.

There was **lots to see and do throughout the day**, with something for everyone in the family to enjoy. From games and activities to tasty treats, laughter and plenty of time spent together, it was wonderful to see our gardens filled with so many happy faces.

We hope you had **as much fun as we did!**

A Huge Thank You to Our Volunteers

We would like to say a **massive thank you** to all of our wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to help make the day such a success. From setting up and running activities to helping behind the scenes, your support was truly appreciated.

Without our amazing volunteers, we simply wouldn't be able to hold these special events.

Raising Money for Stour Valley Cat Rescue

This year, our chosen charity was **Stour Valley Cat Rescue**, and thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone who supported our Garden Party, we were delighted to raise an amazing: £710!

We are sure this fantastic amount will go a long way towards helping the charity with the costs involved in caring for and supporting cats throughout the year.

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated, bought raffle tickets, took part in our activities or simply supported the event. Every penny makes a difference.

If you would like to find out more about **Stour Valley Cat Rescue** and the wonderful work they do, please visit their website.

www.stour-valley-cat-rescue.org

Thank You for Making It Such a Special Day!

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who came along and helped make our Annual Garden Party such a memorable occasion. It was lovely to see our residents enjoying time with their families, friends and the wider Yew Tree community.

Employee Of The Month

This month we were inundated with nominations for one very deserving member of our team!

So, please join us in giving a huge congratulations to Carer Kirsty Thompson, who has been named our Employee of the Month for July 2026!

Kirsty received numerous nominations from her colleagues, who wanted to recognise the kindness, professionalism and positive attitude she consistently shows.

In particular, Kirsty was praised for the support she gives to new starters and student nurses, always taking the time to make them feel welcome, offering guidance and helping them settle into their roles.

It is wonderful to see colleagues recognising not only the hard work Kirsty puts into her role, but also the kindness and encouragement she shows to others.

Well Done, Kirsty!

A huge well done and thank you, Kirsty, for everything you do and for being such a fantastic support to your colleagues.

Your kindness really does make a difference!

Congratulations on being our July 2026 Employee of the Month!

Our Garden Transformation Is Underway!

There's been lots happening in the gardens at Yew Tree, and our garden transformation is well and truly underway!

Our wildlife pond and meadow area are receiving a fantastic makeover, giving the gardens a fresh new look while creating an even more enjoyable space for our residents and our wildlife to enjoy.

The old, rotten decking has now been removed and replaced with a lovely new patio area, creating a safe and welcoming space where residents can sit, relax and enjoy the garden.

There's still plenty more to come! Over the coming months, the existing borders and hedgerow will be cleared and transformed, with a fresh new border screen planned to give the area a completely new lease of life.

But before we get stuck into that, our car park planters are next on the list for a much-needed refresh!

Meet the Ground-Force!

We couldn't talk about our garden transformation without giving a huge thank you to the people making it happen!

A massive thank you to Assistant Gardener Luke and our wonderful volunteers Warren (Head Gardener) and Steve (Gardener/Pool Maintenance) for all their hard work, dedication and elbow grease.

They have worked incredibly hard to help make our grounds look absolutely fabulous, and we are so grateful for everything they do.

Together, they have become affectionately known as...

THE GROUND-FORCE!

We think the name suits them perfectly!

There is still plenty more work to come, but we can't wait to see the finished transformation and, most importantly, see our residents enjoying their beautiful new garden spaces.

Celebrating Our Future Stars!

Recognizing hard work, dedication and achievement

We are delighted to announce an exciting new initiative celebrating the Future Stars within our staff families!

We know how much hard work, encouragement and dedication goes into helping children succeed at school, and we want to take the opportunity to recognize those achievements.

Who Could Take Part?

All staff members were invited to nominate their children who are of school age and aged 16 or under.

We are not just looking for children with perfect grades. We want to recognise children who have demonstrated progress, dedication, determination and a real commitment to their studies.

Whether your child has achieved fantastic grades, made a huge improvement, overcome challenges or simply worked incredibly hard throughout the school year, we want to hear about them!

Ten Prizes Up for Grabs!

**There will be TEN prizes up for grabs, with prizes including:
£100 Gift Voucher and £100 Cash**

The prize draw is our way of saying well done to our young achievers and recognising the effort they have put into their education.

And That's Not All... Every child who enters will also be invited to a special end-of-term Future Stars Celebration which will take place on Friday 14th August 2026.

This will be an opportunity for us to come together, celebrate their achievements and give our young stars the recognition they deserve.

Each child taking part will also receive a special Future Stars 2026 Certificate, celebrating their hard work, dedication and achievements.

Let's Celebrate Our Young Achievers!

We believe every child deserves to have their achievements recognised. Sometimes success isn't just about the highest grade it's about how hard you worked, how far you've come and how much you've grown.

So let's celebrate our children, encourage their ambitions and remind them just how amazing they are.

Keep learning. Dream big. Work hard. Shine bright!

Good luck to all of our Future Stars!

YOU'RE INVITED TO

FAMILY FUN DAY

CELEBRATING OUR

FUTURE STARS!

Join us for a day of fun,
laughter, and community
as we celebrate our amazing
children and the bright
future ahead!



GAMES



ACTIVITIES



FUN FOR
ALL AGES



PRIZES



GOOD FOOD
GREAT MEMORIES



DATE

FRIDAY

14TH AUGUST 2026



TIME

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



LOCATION

OUR SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND

LET'S
CELEBRATE
OUR STARS
AND BUILD
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW!



ALL
FAMILIES
WELCOME!

COME PLAY, CONNECT, CELEBRATE...

TOGETHER, WE SHINE!

Autumn Menu's

Our Chef, Emmanuel, is currently busy working on our new Autumn menus!

As always, we want to make sure our menus include dishes that our residents love and enjoy. So, if you have a favourite meal, pudding or perhaps a dish you'd love to see make an appearance this Autumn, we want to hear from you!

If you have any suggestions for the new menu, simply ask to speak with Emmanuel. He would be delighted to spend some time chatting with you and hearing your ideas.

Who knows... your favourite dish might just make it onto the Autumn menu!

Happy suggesting – and happy eating!



Building Maintenance & Improvements

It's not just our gardens that are getting some attention! There are also lots of exciting improvements planned inside Yew Tree over the coming months.

❏ Keeping Cool!

With the warmer weather we've experienced, we're making sure everyone can stay comfortable. We already have new air conditioning units installed in the first-floor office and café, and there are more on the way!

Over the next few months, air conditioning will also be installed in:

- First-floor corridor
- Garden Lounge
- Nurses' Office

These new units will help keep these areas comfortable throughout the warmer months.

New Fire Alert System

We also have an important upgrade coming in September, when our new and improved fire alert system is scheduled to be installed.

The new system will provide us with much more precise information when an alarm is activated, allowing us to pinpoint exactly where within the home the alarm has been triggered. The system will also be connected to directly alert the fire brigade, providing an important additional layer of protection and reassurance for our residents, visitors and staff.

There's certainly plenty going on behind the scenes at Yew Tree, and we're looking forward to seeing these improvements completed over the coming months!

Watch this space for more updates!



Activities Program

Tuesday 11th August - Singer Izzy

Wednesday 12th August - Vee Sweeney

Friday 14th August 10am to 3pm Family Fun Day - To include Garden Games, Buffett and Awards Ceremony

Tuesday 18th Music Bugs

Wednesday 19th August - Shake Rattle and Roll

Tuesday 25th August - Singer Steve

Wednesday 26th August - Singer Clive

Saturday 29th August - Singer Suzie

Tuesday 1st September - Music Bugs

Wildlife Watch at Yew Tree!

For anyone who is new to Yew Tree, did you know that we have our very own little nature reserve at the bottom of the garden?

We have wildlife cameras set up around the area, allowing us to keep an eye on all the wonderful creatures who visit us. We regularly spot badgers, squirrels, foxes and even deer stopping by to say hello!

But recently, our cameras captured something rather special... a little family of polecats!

It was a wonderful surprise to see them exploring our grounds. Sadly, they haven't made another appearance since, but they certainly gave us something exciting to talk about!

We regularly share some of the best wildlife videos captured on our cameras over on our Facebook page, so make sure you give us a follow and join us on our wildlife adventure.

Who knows what might appear on camera next?