



# FOREST CARE

CARING SINCE 1981

# Summer Newsletter 2026

Welcome to our latest newsletter packed with celebrations, meaningful outreach, cherished lifestories and joyful moments from across our Forest Care community, plus a delicious recipe to try at home. Happy reading!



# Memorable Moments & Celebrations

Berkshire Birds of Prey recently visited Rowan Lodge, delighting residents with an unforgettable hands-on experience. Residents enjoyed holding and stroking the birds, watching them fly across the room, and learning fascinating facts through a lively Q&A session. The visit was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Oak Lodge and Holly Lodge welcomed residents and families for enjoyable summer fete celebrations packed with fun, food, and community spirit. From circus performers, Morris dancers and classic cars to BBQs, garden games and face painting, there was plenty for everyone to enjoy. Guests browsed craft stalls, sampled cakes and Ying's popular spring rolls and sauces, sipped Pimms, and soaked up the garden party atmosphere. Special thanks to Basingstoke Community Radio for the fantastic music at Oak Lodge, and to Andy and his family for the delicious hog roast.



Residents at Oak Lodge got creative with paintbrushes in hand as part of the Creative Mojo Summer Art Project, creating colourful artwork and expressing their creativity. Meanwhile, residents at Elm Lodge enjoyed a flower arranging class, designing beautiful displays in a relaxing and social setting.



Cedar Lodge marked Philippine Independence Day with a wonderful celebration filled with delicious traditional food, beautiful cultural dress and a special Filipino dance performance. Residents enjoyed a lovely lunch and a joyful day of culture, community and fun.



Father's Day was celebrated across our care homes with special activities, delicious treats and time spent with family and friends to honour the fathers and father figures within our homes.

# Community Engagement

Elm Lodge enjoyed a fantastic day at the Hartley Wintney Festival, making the most of the sunshine and wonderful community atmosphere. With fun games, plenty of laughter and the support of residents who came along to join in, it was a truly special day enjoyed by all.



Residents at Rowan Lodge enjoyed a fascinating visit from local beekeeper Ally, learning amazing facts about bees and beekeeping. The session included tasting fresh honey and honeycomb, candle making with beeswax, and a delicious homemade honey cake, making it a truly memorable and buzzing day for all.



Cedar Lodge recently hosted informative sessions on future care planning, covering Lasting Powers of Attorney, care funding options and financial planning. Residents and families found the events valuable and insightful, with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion.



Rowan Lodge and Holly Lodge came together to support the Time for a Cuppa fundraiser, enjoying homemade cakes, refreshments and great company. Together, the homes raised an incredible £202.85 for a wonderful cause.

Rabbit Class at Whitewater School welcomed residents from Rowan Lodge for a heartwarming Intergenerational Day. The children enjoyed sharing songs, artwork and stories, creating a wonderful morning of connection, friendship and smiles.



Oak Lodge enjoyed a special day as residents connected with Hospital Radio Basingstoke during its Open Day. Mary and Hema from Oak Lodge visited the station, while residents tuned in to listen, creating plenty of excitement and smiles all around.



Residents at Cedar Lodge celebrated the completion of a six-week music programme with a fantastic showcase performance. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and grateful to The National Lottery Community Fund and Present Stage CIC for supporting this uplifting project.

# Resident Spotlight

## Joyce Bailey at Cedar Lodge



I was born in Southeast London in 1931. My father was a scientific glassblower, and my mother a housewife. I have a younger sister, now 90, who lives nearby and whom I see regularly. My father was awarded the British Empire Medal for his work at the National Physical Laboratory, where he led the scientific glassblowing department. He received the medal from the Duke of Edinburgh, and his work was also featured at the Festival of Britain in 1951.

I left school at 14 and began working for a dressmaker, starting with hand sewing before being allowed to use the machines. I've always made my own clothes, including my wedding and bridesmaid dresses. At 16, I was dancing in summer shows and toured the country in a nine-week pantomime, also entertaining in what was then known as "old people's" homes. My sister and I performed together as an acrobatic duo during these shows.

I met my husband, Reg, at a local village dance when I was 18. My friends had pointed him out, and when he asked me to dance, it was love at first sight for both of us. We married when I was 21 and went on to share 72 happy years together, affectionately known as "ReJoyce." After having our daughter Chris, I returned to work in BA's accounts department, while continuing dressmaking in my spare time, creating clothes for both Chris and myself.

We had one daughter, Chris, who gave us two wonderful grandsons and three beautiful great-grandchildren. Reg and I loved holidays at Furzeleigh Mill in Devon, often taking the boys with us, and we also enjoyed cruising - Rome and Venice were highlights for me.

I've always lived by my mother's advice: "Always look for the good in people - everyone has good in them."

At Cedar Lodge, I enjoy joining in activities, especially the choir, and I love the entertainment it is first class.

# Staff Spotlight & Celebrations



**Lewis Munyama**  
- Head of Care at Rowan Lodge

I was born in Zimbabwe and speak both English and Shona. My cultural background shapes the warmth and connection I bring to my work. As a teenager, I was passionate about pool, competing at a high level and representing the Zimbabwean national team. Though I once saw it as my future, I entered nursing school before turning 20, a path my mother believed in for me, which ultimately became my true calling.

My passion for nursing deepened when I met my wife, Brigitte, at nursing school. As college sweethearts, we supported one another, and she remains a constant source of strength. Brigitte now works as a nurse at Rowan Lodge, making our connection to the home even more special.

When I moved to the UK in 2019, my wife was pregnant with our second son, and I promised to work hard to build the future we dreamed of. It was the toughest time of my life, he was born while I was away, and I remember crying during a shift from both joy and determination. Covid delays kept my family apart longer than expected, but it only strengthened my resolve to keep going, work hard, and support others until we were reunited.

I have two sons, whose births are the greatest moments of my life. Outside work, I enjoy pool, chess, football, and lively match debates. I love sports, stay up to date, and with good music playing, I'll always find a reason to dance.

Outside of work, I'm a hands-on father, busy with school runs and taking my sporty boys to activities like karate, football, swimming, and scouts. My hands are full, but it brings me the greatest joy.

Bob Marley's Three Little Birds keeps me grounded, reminding me to stay positive and grateful. Rowan Lodge has been my home since 2019, where I value the positive environment and meaningful connections. My dream is to own a home in the UK, and with faith, I believe I'll achieve it.

## Celebrating Nurses Day and Carers Week

with stories, gifts, pizza, cake, bubbly and honouring residents who had careers in nursing. We're so grateful for our nurses and carers and their dedication every day.



## Dash of Colour

Our Colour Run brought fun, colour and community spirit to Frimley Lodge Park, all in support of Phyllis Tuckwell.



Support our fundraising target  
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## Blackberry Meringue Pie

Recipe from Chef Ola at Rowan Lodge

### Blackberry Filling:

Mix 50g sugar with 30g cornflour. Warm 350g blackberries in a saucepan, add mix, cook until thick. Cool.

### Shortcrust Base:

Mix 3 large egg yolks with 30g sour cream., leave to one side. Sift 210g plain flour and combine with 60g caster sugar and a pinch of salt, rub in 90g of cold cubed butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs . Add wet mix, knead into dough, wrap in cling film and chill for 30 mins.

### Meringue Topping:

Whip 90g egg whites with a pinch of salt, gradually add 140g caster sugar, beat to stiff, glossy peaks. Transfer into piping bag.

### Assembly:

Press dough into lined tin, bake at 190°C for 15–20 mins until golden. Cool. Spread blackberry filling, pipe meringue on top. Bake at 150°C for 30–40 mins.

## Testimonials

“Cedar Lodge’s “magic” worked from day 1. So welcoming without being over-bearing. Always a kind face from all of the staff. My mum was quite artistic and thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the superbly prepared activities...I cannot praise Cedar Lodge enough.”

“We take huge comfort in knowing that she absolutely loved the time she stayed at Elm Lodge. Every. Single. Day. She was comfortable and secure. She didn’t have the daily worries. She was surrounded by the most caring and friendly staff...She had fun, she went on outings, she was encouraged to take up art again, a great love of hers which had fallen out of focus.”

“Holly Lodge provided exceptional care for my mother. Mum enjoyed so many activities at Holly Lodge; we were so grateful for all the staff for the love and care which they showed to Mum and the other residents.”

“All of the staff at Oak Lodge are wonderful, so friendly and caring. I cannot praise them enough. They have all helped my husband settle in and feel at home. There is such a lovely atmosphere...Thank you to Grace and all the team.”

“From first enquiring, through introduction, taking up residence, I have nothing but kindness, understanding and efficiency. Rowan Lodge is outstanding in its standards of care, safety and kindness.”

Forest Care Honey Coming Soon!

Pick up your jar of honey from September 2026



0333 305 1785  enquiries@forestcare.co.uk

www.forestcare.co.uk

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