



FOREST CARE

CARING SINCE 1981

Autumn 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

Residents at Cedar Lodge enjoyed a wonderful day out to the lavender fields, where they took in the vibrant displays and fresh air. The trip was followed by a delicious pub lunch, providing the perfect opportunity to relax, socialise and enjoy time together.



Residents from Rowan Lodge and Elm Lodge enjoyed visits to the beautiful sunflower fields in Rotherwick, admiring the vibrant blooms, spending time outdoors, and creating special memories together. The experience continued back at the homes, where residents had the opportunity to grow their own sunflowers and enjoy watching them flourish.



Residents at Oak Lodge enjoyed a visit to the Overton Scarecrow Festival before creating their very own scarecrow, Charles Forget-Me-Not the 1st. The project sparked plenty of creativity, teamwork and laughter along the way.





Residents at Holly Lodge were delighted to welcome some very special visitors from Miller's Ark Farm. From close-up encounters to plenty of furry cuddles, it was a truly heartwarming experience that brought smiles all round.

Residents at Oak Lodge enjoyed a wonderful performance from the Purple Company Choir, who treated everyone to a fantastic selection of songs and uplifting entertainment. A special thank you to Karen, who originally set up Oak's Lodge's choir and continues to visit regularly to lead the group, helping to foster valuable community connections through a shared love of music. Residents from Rowan Lodge also regularly join at Oak Lodge for the choir sessions, making them a lovely opportunity for everyone to come together, sing and socialise.



Residents from all our homes enjoyed a wonderful Afternoon Tea Week. Throughout the week, homemade treats were served daily at 3pm, including Bakewell tart, scones with jam and clotted cream, cheese & chive scones, apple pie and ice cream, finger sandwiches, and heart-shaped biscuits.

Other highlights included teas from around the globe, a Prosecco & Poetry afternoon, and Elvis cupcakes to celebrate Elvis Day. A fantastic week enjoyed by all!



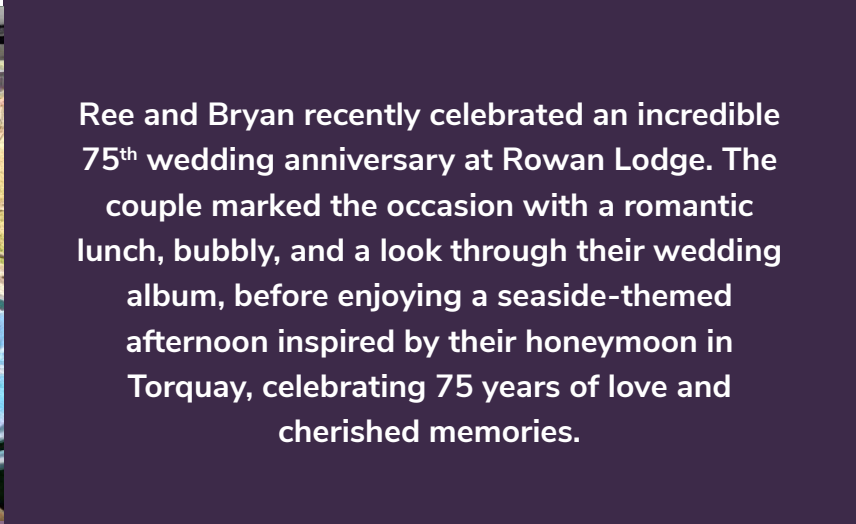
Oak Lodge resident Nick enjoyed time with Ernie, a rescue pony at Forever Loved Horse Therapy in Highclere. Grooming and feeding Ernie brought back happy memories of Nick's horse-riding days, a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with his love of horses.



Residents across our homes enjoyed watching the recent solar eclipse, which saw up to 90% of the Sun covered in the UK, the highest coverage since 1999. As daylight dimmed and temperatures dropped, residents gathered to observe this fascinating natural event and learn more about the science behind it, sparking plenty of discussion and curiosity.



Cedar Lodge residents enjoyed a sunny boat trip along the River Wey, making the most of the beautiful weather and scenery. The outing was made even more special when Wendy kindly brought cake for everyone to celebrate her birthday. Along the way, residents enjoyed spotting swans and taking in the peaceful riverside views, making it a lovely afternoon for all.



Ree and Bryan recently celebrated an incredible 75th wedding anniversary at Rowan Lodge. The couple marked the occasion with a romantic lunch, bubbly, and a look through their wedding album, before enjoying a seaside-themed afternoon inspired by their honeymoon in Torquay, celebrating 75 years of love and cherished memories.



A big thank you to The Pheasantry for bringing some special visitors to Elm Lodge! Residents loved meeting donkeys Pier and Buttercup, Shetland ponies Elvis and Curly, Daphne and her chickens, plus guinea pigs and Benji the rabbit. There were plenty of cuddles and feeding fun, and gardener Luke even had a little less lawn to mow!



Rowan Lodge residents recently enjoyed fantastic trips to Southsea, taking in the sights, sounds, and memories of the seaside. To keep the seaside spirit going, Activity Coordinator Claire brought the experience into the home, visiting residents in their rooms and hosting a relaxing afternoon on the terrace, where everyone enjoyed reminiscing about holidays, beach days, and all things seaside.



Cedar Lodge residents enjoyed a Crufts-inspired dog show with Lola, Bobby, Mia, Harley and Charlie Bear. The dogs showed off their tricks, competed for rosettes and enjoyed some well-earned treats afterwards.

Community Engagement

Residents from Oak Lodge, Rowan Lodge & Elm Lodge enjoyed attending the Veterans' Garden Party at Dashwood Manor Care Home. With entertainment from The Not Forgotten Association, special guests, great company and plenty of camaraderie, veterans and their spouses spent a wonderful afternoon socialising and enjoying the beautiful gardens together.



Residents at Rowan Lodge and Elm Lodge enjoyed a lively visit from the Surrey Jivers. From fantastic dance performances to learning a few jive moves themselves, residents and staff joined in an afternoon filled with music, laughter and fun, rounded off with a traditional sing-along.



Oak Lodge celebrated a fantastic achievement at the Oakley Village Show, winning both 1st and 2nd place in the Best Commercial Pot category. A wonderful recognition of the hard work, creativity and dedication that went into creating the beautiful displays. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Students from Robert May's School in Odiham visited Rowan Lodge to share their exciting STEM Racing journey, as well as hosting a fun quiz and reaction-time challenges for residents.

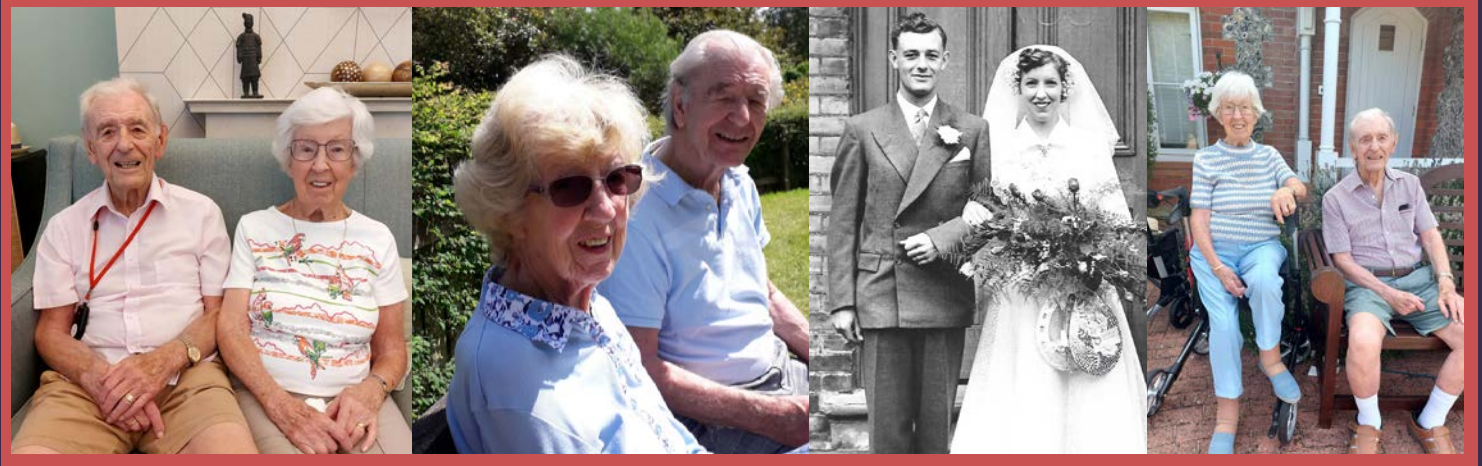
The team, Nemesis, achieved an impressive 2nd place in the UK National Finals and are aiming for the World Finals. Residents loved learning about their miniature Formula 1 car project and hearing about the work that goes into competing.

Millie at Elm Lodge worked for Huntley & Palmers for over 43 years, progressing from biscuit packer to team manager. A keen collector of the company's novelty tins and memorabilia, she later donated much of her collection to Reading Museum. Millie loved sharing the story of Captain Scott's Antarctic expeditions. Her favourite biscuit? The much-loved Chocolate Oliver!



Resident Spotlight

Mr & Mrs Harris at Oak Lodge



Maureen was born in December 1929, with Bernard arriving a year later as a Boxing Day baby in 1930. Their story together began at Luton Co-op in 1947, where Bernard was a young Accountant/Secretary and Maureen a Comptometer Operator. As Maureen fondly puts it, she had caught herself a “toy boy”!

Bernard was an only child, while Maureen grew up as the middle of nine children, with four brothers and four sisters. The couple married on 10th July 1954 and went on to have two daughters, Susan and Julie, followed by granddaughter Georgia, who became a successful Theatre Director.

Travel has played a big part in their life together. After tiring of the British weather, the family ventured abroad in 1964 and soon enjoyed two overseas holidays a year, travelling as far as New Zealand, Australia and the USA, as well as Switzerland, Spain, Greece and many other destinations. One particularly memorable adventure was a trip on Concorde to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary, travelling at twice the speed of sound.

Bernard's career took the family from Luton to Cheshire in 1970, where they made their home for 51 years. In 2022, they moved to Basingstoke to be closer to their daughter Susan.

Maureen has always had a passion for crafts, from knitting Fair Isle jumpers from the age of five to china painting, crochet and beautiful embroidery. Remarkably, she is still knitting at 96! Bernard, meanwhile, has been a lifelong Manchester United supporter and held a season ticket for 50 years. He still enjoys watching the Reds today.

Now enjoying life at Oak Lodge, Maureen and Bernard take part in the many activities and events on offer and enjoy spending time with the new friends they have made. Most recently, the couple celebrated an incredible 72 years of marriage, marking another wonderful milestone in a lifetime of memories together.

Staff Spotlight & Celebrations



Claire Lambert

- Activities Organiser at Rowan Lodge

Lottie Awards

Forest Care has been named one of the UK's Top 10 Small Care Providers in the Lottie Awards 2026, recognising the exceptional dedication of our teams and the high standards of care provided across our homes. We are also proud that Cedar Lodge, Elm Lodge, Oak Lodge and Rowan Lodge were named among the UK's Top 100 Care Homes, with Oak Lodge receiving additional Top 10 awards for Wellbeing and Outdoor Space.



Rowan Lodge has always held a special place in my heart. My lovely Dad Rod, lived at Rowan Lodge in 2022 and I was always grateful for the fantastic care he received. I never imagined then, that a few years later, I would find myself working there too!

After 30 years as a primary school teacher, I knew I wanted to use the skills and experience I gained throughout my teaching career, but in a completely different setting. When I started looking for something new, I saw the Activities Organiser role at Rowan Lodge. It felt like perfect timing – an opportunity to use my skills while returning to a place that already held such wonderful memories for me.

I find every aspect of my role rewarding, especially the variety. I am passionate about finding ways to create experiences that bring memories to life. A seaside day at Rowan Lodge was a particular favourite, bringing a little bit of the seaside into the home. Some of the most special moments, though, are the quieter ones – spending time one-to-one with residents, having a chat, listening to their stories and finding out about the lives they have lived.

Outside of work, I enjoy going to the gym, wild swimming, crafts and travelling with my family. I also take great pleasure volunteering in my local community. I am Chair of Hook Community Shed which has recently opened after many years in planning. I run an intergenerational club called Young @ Heart, bringing together teenagers and people over 65, and volunteer with Read Easy, supporting adults who are learning to read.



Chicken Korma

Recipe from Chef Bhanu at Cedar Lodge

1. Marinate 1kg of diced chicken breast in 150g of Greek yoghurt, ½ tsp turmeric, 1½ tsp cumin and a pinch of salt. Leave for 30 minutes.
2. Heat 2 tbsp oil in a large pan for 30 seconds, add 1 cinnamon stick, 4 crushed cardamom pods, 2 finely sliced medium onions and cook for 8–10 minutes until soft and golden.
3. Add 4 chopped garlic cloves and 1½ tsp of grated fresh ginger. Cook for 1–2 minutes. Then stir in 1 ½ tsp ground coriander, 1 tsp garam masala and ½ tsp chilli powder.
4. Add the chicken mixture to the pan and cook for 5–7 minutes, stirring regularly.
5. Add 250ml of chicken stock, then simmer for 10 minutes.
6. Stir in 100g of ground almonds and 200ml of coconut milk (or 200ml of double cream). Simmer uncovered for 10–15 minutes, until the chicken is fully cooked and the sauce is thick and creamy.
7. Add 2 tbsp butter and 1 tsp sugar (optional). Taste and adjust salt.
8. Finish with 2 tbsp fresh coriander and 50g of toasted flaked almonds. Serve with plain or pilau rice and naan bread.

Testimonials

“The Rowan Lodge staff are amazing and it is a huge relief to know that Mum is happy and well cared for...We are so pleased that we found this amazing place.”

“Mam was treated with the utmost care and compassion, especially during the last few weeks of her life. My family and I will be forever grateful to the Holly Lodge staff for the support and sensitivity shown throughout her stay.”

“My friend is extremely happy at Elm Lodge. I have visited her often and all the staff are amazing. They are taking good care of her and I know she is happy there.”

“My friends were residents of Cedar Lodge for 4 years. I was a regular visitor and completely satisfied that they were at all times treated with the utmost care, kindness, dignity and respect.”

“All the staff were happy and clearly good friends. It was wonderful...My husband received exemplary end-of-life nursing care, the kindness and concern for his and my wellbeing was excellent. Oak Lodge has been my family for the past 9 months. I recommend it highly.”

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