



The Daisy Chain

September 2025

Foreword

Apologies for the lateness of this issue – but it's always better to be late than never!

In this issue, we celebrate the life of Joy – a wonderful woman that we supported up until her death. As we will say later on, we have the privilege of supporting a lot of people up until the end of their life – and we would like to begin using The Daisy Chain as a sort of vigil for them.

We also look at the End of Life Care Ambassadors' programme, which Joseph

Joseph Clark-Skinner
Office Manager

graduated from in July. We look at his final project, **Talking for England**, and how you can use it if you want to.

We look at our recent session on Advance Care Planning with South Devon UTC, for their Year 12 Health students. We celebrate our Daisy Island Discs activity, and we have an article and game submitted from Jackie!

The quote for this edition is from a poem called 'Bed-time' by Thomas Hood. When I was sat with Joy, I found it in one of her poetry books and read it to her. I thought it was quite a poignant piece.

*'The bees are returning,
No more the birds sing.
Their labour is over, their nestlings are fed;
It's time little people were going to bed!'*

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Staff anniversaries:

Sean – 8 years (12/01/17)

Emma – 3 years
(25/02/22)

Sharon – 8 years
(01/03/17)

Louisa – 1 year
(06/03/24)

Rachael – 6 years
(05/08/19)

Amelia – 4 years
(05/08/21)

Nikita – 1 year
(18/08/24)



Our newest Angel!

Welcome to our team, Nikki! Having joined us at the end of July, Nikki is finishing up her induction training and shadow shifts, before getting ready to be flying solo!



Daisy Island Discs

Thank you to everyone who took part in Daisy Island Discs! We had some great choices made, including (but not limited to):

Everybody Wants to Rule the World by Tears for Fears

Toto by Africa (a classic that was included by a couple of people!)

Team by Lorde

Hold On (To My Love) by Jimmy Ruffin (which was co-written by Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees)

Tougher Than The Rest by Bruce Springsteen

Barbary Coast (Later) by Conor Oberst

Dance by Rick Astley

For books, some of the choices included:

The Seven Sisters (book series) by Lucinda Riley

There Will Come Soft Rains by Ray Bradbury

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Cold Shoulder by Lynda La Plante

And for luxury items, some choices included:

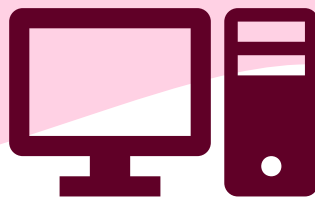
Sewing – because there's plenty of it!

A non-stick frying pan, to make roots and grubs a bit more delectable!

A posh pillow, to really treat yourself

Thank you again to everyone who took part in Daisy Island Discs! Those of you who requested a booklet with your choices in, we're in the process of putting them together, so they'll be with you soon!

Scam awareness



Joseph, what do you cover in your session on scam awareness?

This session is all about identifying signs that someone might be being targeted by scammers, and might have become a scam victim. We look at the 4 main types of scams: postal; phone; online; and doorstep scams.

Is this a statutory training subject?

The Skills for Health recommendations include being aware of scams, but in relation to staff using their phones so that data isn't breached. This session opens that up to safeguarding people we support as well. The content is made by **Friends Against Scams**, with some minor tweaks by me – this means that all of our staff become certified Friends Against Scams after completing the session.

Is there a piece of information from the session that you can share with us?

Did you know that it's estimated that 95% of all scams go unreported?

End of Life Care Ambassadors:

Graduation day!

'I'm always rattling on about the importance of advance care planning. So it made perfect sense to me that my project for the End of Life Care Ambassadors programme at Rowcroft Hospice should be intrinsically linked to it.

'Most advance care planning I come across tends to only include medical decisions. That is absolutely fine and valid, if that is all that we want to plan for. But when I talk with people, a lot of times they don't realise just how much they can actually plan for with advance care planning.

'And it doesn't have to be a big, scary process with forms and signatures and witnesses. Some types of advance care planning are like this, but some types can be written on the back of a scruffy napkin, or can just be told verbally.

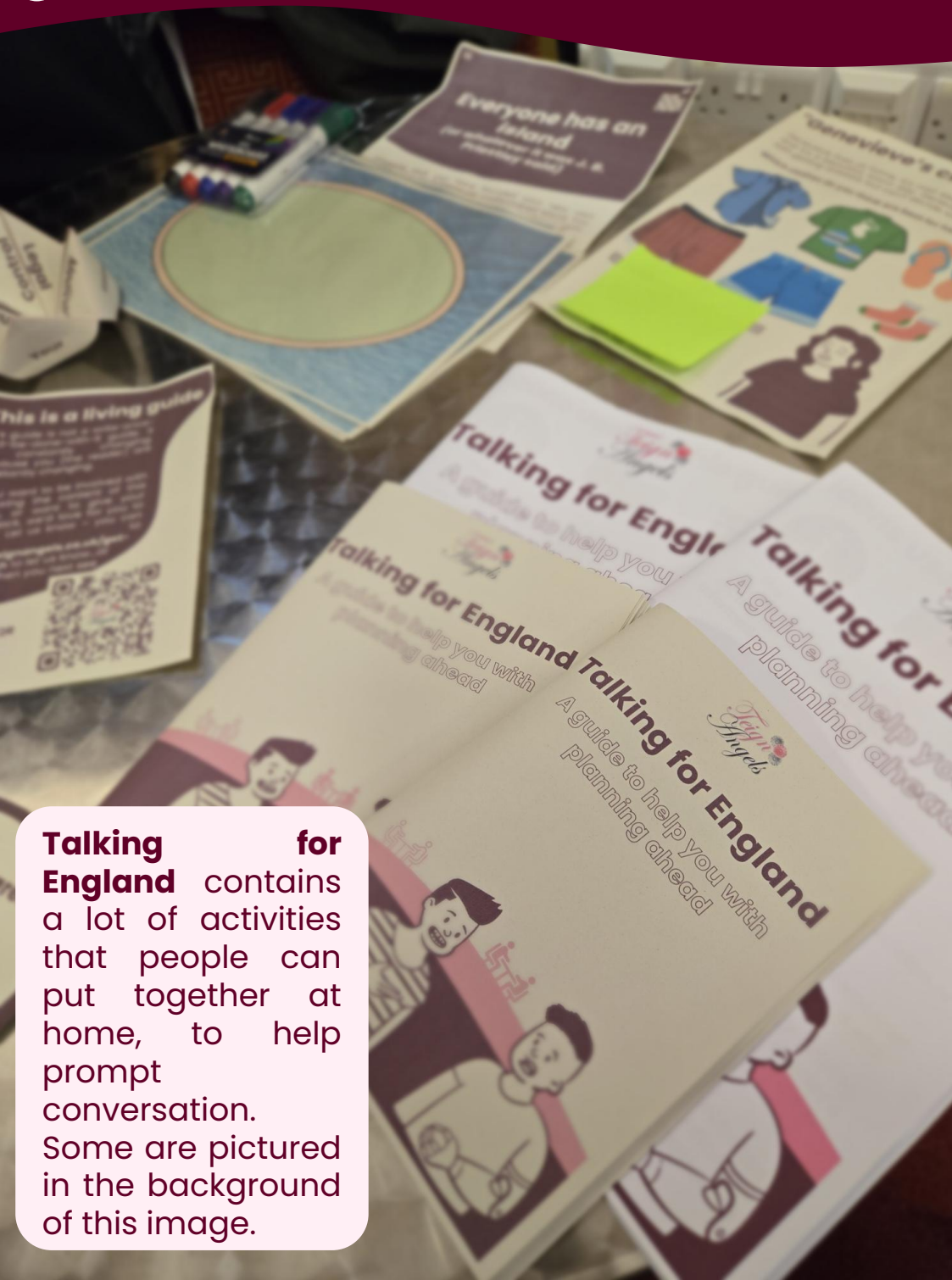
'For example, did you know that you can include how you like your hair to be looked after in your plans? Or support you might need to help carry out any religious rituals or practices you do (i.e. going to church, praying at home, not having your feet point towards the door, having your bed positioned so it's facing Mecca etc).

'My project is called **Talking for England**. It's a DIY, pick-your-own guide full of loads of different topics that people can go through and talk about with people around them. There might be some topics that just don't interest them, or aren't relevant, so they can skip over those bits without affecting the rest of the guide. There's a section on music, on our identities, on our digital estates (i.e. if you have social media, what do you want to happen to it when you die?), on our favourite foods and drinks, on artificial feeding and hydration in case we lose the ability to swallow, on our spirituality etc.

'It's available for free on our website, for anyone to print at home. And I'd love to have as many people as possible on the review panel – the guide will be reviewed at least every 12 months, to reflect changes in legislation, changes people have suggested, and to make any other nips and tucks here and there. If you'd like to be involved, let us know!



'I also managed to speak about the importance of advance care planning and how this guide can help, with **Laura Fuller** (pictured), who is the Head of Clinical Education at Torbay & South Devon NHS; **Andie Day**, who is the Palliative Care & Cancer Liaison Nurse for the area; and **Kate Lissett**, who is the Chief Medical Officer for Torbay & South Devon NHS.



Talking for England contains a lot of activities that people can put together at home, to help prompt conversation. Some are pictured in the background of this image.

'I want to say a massive thank you to Kerry, Catherine, and Jo, who make up the Rowcroft Education team, for running this programme. And to all the speakers who have come in over the past 9 months to help us really get to grips with end of life care in order to become ambassadors.

'And last, but not least, a huge congratulations to all of the graduates from this cohort. There were some amazing projects on display! From guides on anticipatory grief, comfort boxes for people who are bereaved, supplies for family carers who want to be involved with looking after loved ones at the end of their life, jewellery bags so that belongings can be handed over to loved ones after someone has died in hospital in something nice and appropriate, an entire training framework for a residential home in the South Hams, and much more besides.

'It's been amazing being a part of this programme, and I'm looking forward to seeing how everyone's projects develop (as well as how my own project will develop, too!)'.

Joseph

Our Office Manager,
'lynchpin' as Soph calls him,
and now End of Life Care
Ambassador



Feedback so far...

We are so grateful for all of the feedback we receive. We've still got a couple of months left of our current 6-month feedback cycle, but as things stand, we have some incredible feedback!

We've sent feedback surveys to around half of all the people we support so far, and **100%** of respondents have rated us as 'excellent'! And for all six of our quality statements, **100%** of respondents strongly agree!

This is the first time, since launching our new feedback survey in 2023, that this has happened. We are so astronomically proud of our wonderful team for striving to provide the highest standard of care and support possible, every day of the year.

From November, our feedback surveys will have a new look but will work in the same way. This is because the programme we designed our current ones on is being closed down soon. If you want to leave us feedback but haven't got one of our surveys, you can get in touch with us, or go to **teignangels.co.uk/feedback** to tell us what you think online.

Some feedback from our surveys:

'Attendance important. Well over 1000+ visits, attendance? 100% excellent! As I've said before, 'forget the rest, they're the best in the west!'

'Lovely people; so kind, so helpful. I feel my care is on my terms which means a lot'

'I'm so pleased we found Teign Angels when we did'

'superb'

'We are so glad as a family that we chose Teign Angels to help & support our Dad. They have been wonderful. Dad likes and trusts his carers and speaks highly of them. I think he feels he has new friends that visit him!'

'Thanks to all of you at Teign Angels for all your help. You have made Dad's recovery from his hospital stays a lot easier and comfortable with your support.'

'Just wanted to thank you and the team once again for the amazing care and support you have given to my aunt recently. I cannot express my thanks enough.'

'You are all incredible!'

Carers are amazing

Sent to us by Jackie

'As you know the Carers at Teign Angels are AMAZING but I have recently found out that they are not the only ones.

At the end of last year, I unfortunately fell on some black ice and broke my Humerus bone at the top of my right arm just below the Shoulder collar. I was given a collar and cuff to wear (no plaster cast) and therefore have had to be looked after by my Partner who has never been the most emotional, caring, romantic person throughout our long relationship.

He has however, shown that he is a very caring, loving person throughout the last 2 months as he has had to do the cooking, shopping (which is not his favourite job), cleaning as well as having to be very patient with me, putting up with my mood swing, tears and frustrations, etc. I know he loves me but he has gone above and beyond that and even though I was my Father's carer during the majority of last year I never felt my caring tendencies were as good as they could be.

My partner has however, shown me that we all have a "caring" bone in our body but some people are better at it than others. The people in the Caring industry, the NHS and even in families all do fabulous jobs and I cannot praise them enough. We are so lucky to have these people and we must treasure them and show them, tell them all the time how WONDERFUL they are.'

A big thank you to carers

9th to 15th June was Carers' Week. Whilst all of our team are brilliant, and we're so proud of every single one of them, Carers' Week is specifically for unpaid carers (i.e. family carers). Professional Carers' Week takes place later this year.

We estimate that we work alongside around 40 unpaid carers every single day. The care they provide ranges from doing weekly shops and trips to GP appointments, right the way up to full-on care except when we're visiting.

Unpaid carers are the backbone of this country – there are an estimated 113,606 in Devon alone, and between 2.5–3 million across England. A lot of people don't tend to consider themselves as 'unpaid carers' – they're just taking mum and dad to the shops, or they vowed to love their spouse in sickness and in health when they married, or of course they're going to support their sibling. And some even feel guilty about feeling tired or needing a break, so they tend to forego these.

If you are an unpaid carer and want to look at what support might be available to you, contact Devon Carers either by phone (**03456 434 435**) or on their website (**www.devoncarers.org.uk**).

Lastly, I want to say a massive thank you to all of the wonderful unpaid carers we work alongside. You're doing amazingly, and if we can do anything more to help, please let us know.

15 College engagement

On 28th April, Joseph visited South Devon UTC to talk all about advance care planning to their Year 12 students studying health and social care.

After talking about the principles of advance care planning, Joseph set the students on an independent project.

‘Some of them picked one from Advance Decisions to Refuse Treatment, Advance Statements, Powers of Attorney, and digital wills, and produced posters about what they found out during some independent research.

‘And the rest sampled two different games people might use to help talk about advance care planning. We used the Crucial Conversations Game from Huunuu, and the Fortune-tellers that we made and are available for free on our website to print at home.’

The session was received well, and overall was rated 9.6 stars out of 10. Joseph hopes to be able to visit more schools in the future and talk to their students all about advance care planning.

‘It’s so important – there are so many reports coming out that show that lack of knowledge and confidence in professionals often leads to poorer outcomes for people. By speaking to the professionals of tomorrow at this stage, I hope it’ll encourage them to find out more about advance care planning and how it relates to their chosen career paths’

We are lucky enough to support some absolutely amazing people, and we have the privilege to look after them right up until their death. We thought we would start to use the Daisy Chain as a way to remember them.

Joy

(23rd Mar 1930–4th Aug 2025)

A retired nurse, Joy knew what she wanted and didn't want, but was also very kind and cheery. We'd always have a lovely chat with her – especially when we told her the antics that our dogs had gotten up to recently!

We will remember Joy for her chuckle, her warm personality, and her sense of humour. She was a lovely woman, and we will miss her dearly. Our deepest condolences go to Richard and all who knew her.



Here's a picture of Joy showing the Queen around a hospital ward!



Soph becomes an Oxford don!

On 15th and 16th July, Soph was at the University of Oxford, delivering training to some of their staff on how to use a hoist! Having recently installed a publicly-accessible changing place in a new building, the University needed to get some of their staff trained in using the hoist for people who might need it. Soph was only too happy to help!

The sessions went really well, and Teign Angels is now the official hoist training provider on the University of Oxford's books!

Answers to January's puzzles

7	3	2
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75	25	8	10	8	6
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$$75 \times 10 = \underline{750} \quad +6 = \underline{756}$$

$$756 - 25 = \underline{731}$$

$$8 \div 8 = \underline{1} \quad +731 = \mathbf{732}$$

or

$$75 - 25 = \underline{50} \quad -8 = \underline{42}$$

$$10 \times 8 = \underline{80} \quad + 42 = \underline{122}$$

$$122 \times 6 = \mathbf{732}$$

4	8	5
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100	2	8	1	3	4
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$$100 - 3 = \underline{97}$$

$$4 + 1 = \underline{5}$$

$$5 \times 97 = \mathbf{485}$$

or if you want to use all the numbers

$$100 - 3 = \underline{97}$$

$$8 \times 2 = \underline{16} \quad 16 \div 4 = \underline{4}$$

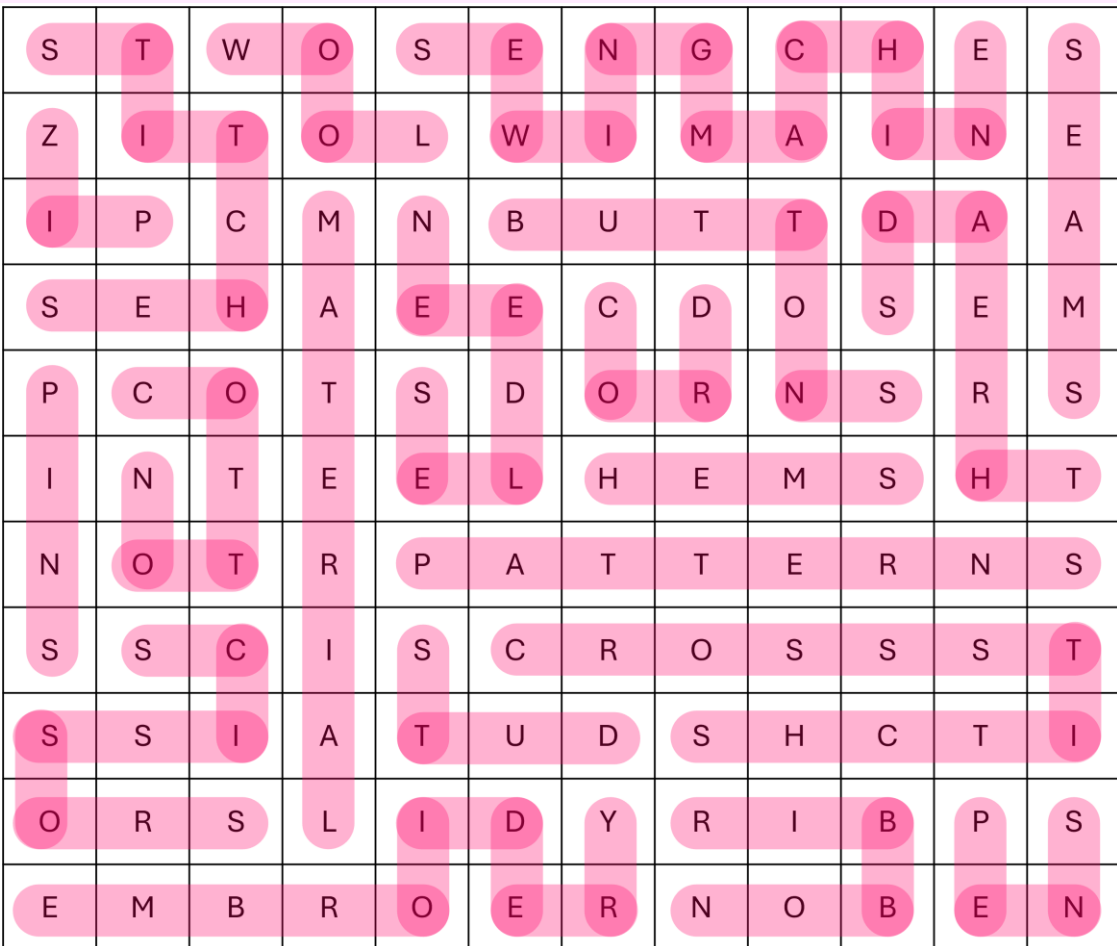
$$4 + 1 = \underline{5}$$

$$97 \times 5 = \mathbf{485}$$



Jorol Vorderclark has escaped from Countdown and has set two number puzzles – can you get to the numbers displayed? Use the blank space for your workings out! You can use the numbers in purple boxes only once per sum!

Pathfinder



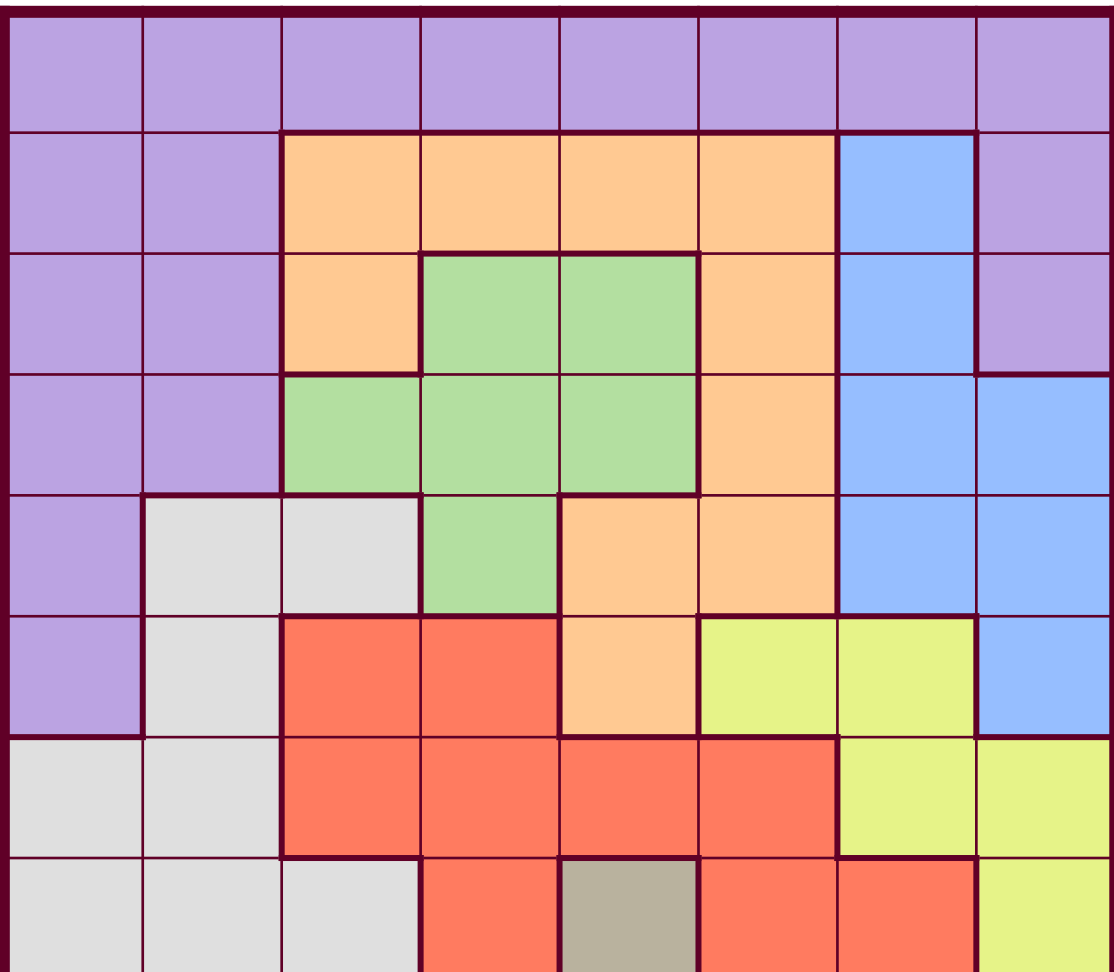
Following the trail from the word above, try to find all of these words in the maze!

Stitches	Material	Threads	Seams
Cotton	Wool	Buttons	Hems
Pins	Scissors	Pens	Ribbon
Zip	Patterns	Studs	Cord
Cross stitch		Embroidery	
Sewing machine			

Made by Joseph

Family houses

Eight siblings split a large field into an 8x8 grid. They each want to build a house for themselves. Mark on the grid below where they could build their houses. Each coloured area relates to one sibling's plot. There can only be one house per plot, per column **and** per row. And the houses cannot touch one another (i.e. they can't be in a neighbouring square, even diagonally)



Word search

Try to find the places in Devon below in the wordsearch overleaf!

Avon Dam	Ivybridge
Becky Falls	Ludgate
Bellever	Lydford
Bleak House	Okehampton
Buckfast	Princetown
Burrator	Scorriton
Challacombe Down	Sharp Tor
Christow	Tottiford
Dartmeet	Trenchford
Fingle Bridge	Two Bridges
Haytor Rock	Widcombe
Hennock	Yelverton
High Willhays	Yes Tor
Hound Tor	

Made by Jackie

F	N	W	O	D	E	B	M	O	C	A	L	L	A	H	C	H	I
I	B	M	D	O	K	E	H	A	M	P	T	O	N	B	B	E	B
N	U	L	Y	D	F	O	R	D	D	O	P	J	A	L	O	N	E
G	R	E	S	A	I	C	C	E	D	N	T	R	C	E	V	N	C
L	R	T	A	R	T	M	H	B	H	R	O	E	O	A	E	O	K
E	A	A	B	T	L	I	S	R	E	I	B	V	E	K	Y	C	Y
B	T	G	Y	M	U	D	V	N	I	M	P	G	A	H	P	K	F
R	O	D	T	E	W	R	C	Y	O	S	R	Z	I	O	R	T	A
I	R	U	W	E	L	H	O	C	B	T	T	G	K	U	I	O	L
D	S	L	O	T	F	V	E	T	B	R	H	O	T	S	N	T	L
G	C	N	B	O	Y	D	E	E	P	W	I	S	W	E	C	T	S
E	O	H	R	A	I	H	L	R	I	R	A	D	Y	L	E	I	T
C	R	D	I	W	H	L	E	L	T	F	A	E	G	T	T	F	R
I	R	D	D	E	E	I	L	F	K	O	S	H	U	E	O	O	A
J	I	C	G	V	B	H	A	C	W	T	N	R	S	Y	W	R	C
K	T	L	E	G	A	L	U	M	O	S	N	P	X	M	N	D	E
T	O	R	S	Y	K	B	J	R	O	T	D	N	U	O	H	N	Y
Q	N	F	S	K	C	O	R	R	O	T	Y	A	H	V	O	U	V

Want to stay up to date with what we're doing?



Why not go to our news section on **teignangels.co.uk**?



Why not follow **Teign Angels** on Facebook?

Want to submit something for our December 2025 edition?

Have you got something you'd like to share?

Whether it's a film review, book review, thought piece, a picture, a recipe, or something else, we'd love to hear from you!

Call us on **01626 201364**, or email **daisychain@teignangels.co.uk**, and we can discuss it with you