



The Daisy Chain

January 2026

Foreword

Firstly, I want to wish you a very Happy New Year if I haven't already! And welcome to this January 2026 edition of the Daisy Chain!

2025 was a busy year for us at Teign Angels. We introduced our new care management system, we co-hosted two county-wide events at County Hall in Exeter, and we began hosting work placement students for the first time since 2019. Plus we've been working hard to carry on providing the high quality of care and support that we're known for.

But we must have broomsticks and cauldrons hidden somewhere in our office because, as they say, no rest for the wicked!

We've got a lot to share with you in this edition, and Jackie has been working hard on putting together another puzzle for all you swots to have a go at!

We hope you enjoy looking through this January 2026 edition, and watch this space for the first edition of our new two-monthly newsletter, **Sprout!** (see page 8).



Joseph Clark-Skinner
Office Manager

'The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all' – Josiyah Martin

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Staff anniversaries:

Dawn, Soph, and Hilary –
9 years
(10/10/16)

Joseph – 9 years
(14/10/16)

Sarah – 7 years
(30/10/18)

Sandra – 6 years
(02/11/19)

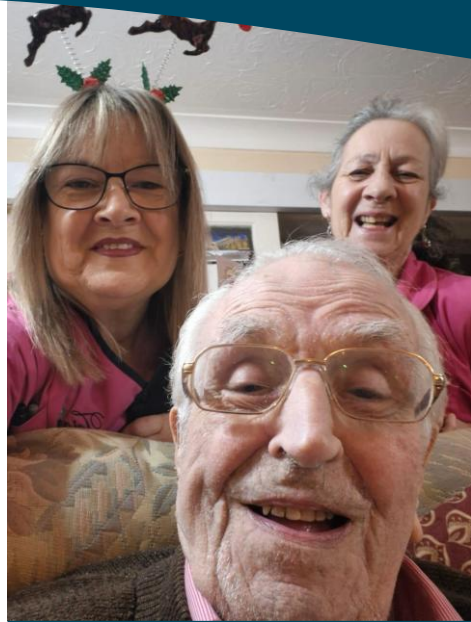
Teresa and Andrea – 9
years
(07/11/16)

Julie – 9 years
(19/11/16)

Christmas 2025

We're so grateful for the wonderful presents we've received this year. Tins of chocolates, jars of fresh honey, biscuits, and much more besides. And, of course, a gift from a secret someone – our team keep trying to guess who it's from, but we won't tell them!

Claire and her husband Ian



Jim with Sharon and Sandra

And we also loved seeing all the festive selfies coming on Christmas Day! We've made a montage of them over the next few pages.

We hope everyone has had the best Christmas possible! And thank you to all who gave us cards, gifts, and Christmas cheer over the festive season!

We couldn't fit all photos in the Daisy Chain, but you should have a **Teign Angels Christmas 2025** album with this edition as well. But here are some of the Christmas selfies we received:



~~Mrs Christmas~~ Kath



Rachael



Pat with
Rachael



Monica with Teresa



Barbara with
Rachael and
Teresa

And we also want to say a massive thank you to our wonderful Angels, who spread Christmas cheer wherever they went on Christmas day.

'We have a truly amazing group of carers here at Teign Angels. And we're lucky enough to support such a wonderful group of people. Thank you to every single person we support!' says our Office Manager, Joseph.

We could only fit some of the many Christmas selfies we received in the Daisy Chain. But there are more enclosed in our **Christmas Photo Album 2025**, which is available to everyone we support and our team.



*Teign
Angels*

Christmas

Photo album
2025

Work placement reflections

We were very pleased to host a work placement student from September to December 2025. Charley, who is in the second year of her Level 3 course in Health and Social Care at Exeter College, worked on our very first **work placement live project**.

This is a project that aligns with something that we are working on. Work placement students, if they wish to, can then work on something that meets the brief, and will potentially end up in the public domain.

We've been working on our new **Bereavement & grief hub** on our website (teignangels.co.uk/bereavement), which aims to provide support to loved ones after a person they know has died; as well as, in some case, before they've died.

As part of this, Charley independently researched three types of grief: ambiguous loss; anticipatory grief, and; disenfranchised grief. She then put her research into action to create a leaflet on each. These leaflets are available to download on our website.

When we spoke with Charley about her experience on placement with us, she told us that the live project felt like her time with us was really worthwhile. It wasn't just something to keep her busy; it was a real-world project that is now available to the public. She said it felt good that it has a real purpose.

'I've definitely got something out of my placement with Teign Angels. I've learned so much being here', she told us. It's been a pleasure to host Charley, and we look forward to hearing how she does in the rest of her course, and going forward.

Charley aspires to work in forensic psychology in the future. After her course finishes in Summer 2026, she hopes to go off to university and study, to put her in the right lane for this career ambition.



Whilst we're sad Charley's placement is over, we're looking forward to 2026, when we'll be hosting more work placement students (more details coming soon!)

And we're currently working on projects for them to be a part of, if they wish to!

Daisy Chain changes



We love putting *The Daisy Chain* together. However, it is very much a labour of love, and is often subject to a lot of delays.

Because of that, we're going to be making a few changes – but don't worry; the Daisy Chain isn't going anywhere! It's just going to have a sibling joining the fold!

Our plan going forward is that we will publish *The Daisy Chain* **twice a year**: a Winter/Spring edition; and a Summer/Autumn edition. These will most likely be in January and June.

In between these editions, *The Daisy Chain*'s little sister will be making an appearance. **Sprout**, which is also the name of our new online blog (available on our website), will be a much shorter two-monthly newsletter. This will give us a chance to tell you more about what's going on in the Teign Angels community, rather than only the stories that we can fit into the Daisy Chain.

We hope that *Sprout* will make it easier for us to keep you updated with what we're doing, as well as what is going on in our local community!



From left: Ruth Wells (Headway Devon); Joseph Clark-Skinner (Teign Angels); Leila Manion (Disability Together); Diana Cole (CEDA); Lucie Spiers (Devon County Council); Rosemary Newman (Teignbridge CVS); Nrvan Zowal (Hikmat Devon), and; Helen Rainbird (Devon County Council)

Celebration of strengths-based approaches

On 2nd December, the **Community Services Co-production/Co-design Group** (of which Joseph, our Office Manager, has been a part of since it started in 2023) hosted an event at County Hall.

The event was to showcase strengths-based ways of working, and looking at how they can help to shape the future of care commissioning in Devon.

Strengths-based working means to look at what a person is able to do, and might be able to with a bit of support; rather than focused on what the person cannot do, by default.

Joseph said: 'It was a really interesting day, with lots of care providers in the room. I supported some workshops looking at dementia support and services across the county, and it led to some really interesting discussions.

'For example, we talked about public messaging on dementias, and whether there was scope for it to be improved in order to reinforce the message that it is possible to live well with a dementia.

'Another discussion we had was about public awareness of dementias. One care provider commented that many people seem to think of Alzheimer's disease when they hear the word "dementia". To be fair, this is likely because Alzheimer's accounts for between 65% and 75% of all dementias worldwide. But there are many different types of dementias, each with its own causes, and its own symptoms.

'By raising awareness of some of the other types of dementias, it might lead to more people getting diagnosed early on and accessing support from day one.

'It was a really great event, and I'm looking forward to sitting down with my colleagues in the Co-production group in the New Year to dissect what came out of the conversations we had on that day.'

Congratulations, Dawn!

We'd like to say a huge congratulations to Dawn, who has passed her exam and is now a qualified **Foot Healthcare Practitioner (FHP)**. This means that Dawn is now able to provide some basic treatments for foot problems, like corns and verrucas, and cut toenails too.

Dawn started her course in late 2022, and as the final step of the course, she spent two weeks in Birmingham, doing clinic-based practice and taking her exam.



We've been attending more learning from hospices both locally and internationally over the past few months! We're so lucky to have Rowcroft Hospice on our doorstep, and their caring ethos flows through to their Education team.

'We've made great use of Rowcroft Education over the past few years. They've provided us with a lot of information, insight, guidance, and skills, and we look forward to attending some of their future events' says Joseph, our Office Manager.

'Dawn and Sophia are booked in to attend a face-to-face session at Rowcroft Hospice soon, to look at supporting people living with advanced Parkinson's at the end of their life – this is a session that Sophia and Joseph attended a few years ago, so when we saw it was running again, we jumped at the chance!

'Sophia is currently developing in-house training specifically on supporting people living with Parkinson's disease, to bring together information which is peppered across the rest of our training. So we hope this upcoming session at Rowcroft Hospice will be invaluable!'

'We've also recently attended some online sessions from HopeHealth Hospice, which provides hospice care to people living in the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It's been really interesting to see how they do things across the pond; there are lots of similarities and differences! The insights are very useful!'



Digital legacy planning (26th November, Rowcroft Hospice)

This session looked at the intricacies and hurdles of planning our digital legacies (such as our social media, online bank accounts, game profiles, online films etc). It was a really useful refresher on the training we attended in 2024.

An introduction to supporting someone facing loss & bereavement (8th October, Rowcroft Hospice)

The Rowcroft Education team kindly let our work placement student attend this session, which looked at what bereavement and loss are, and how a knowledge of human nature can help us to effectively support people.





Late-stage Parkinson's disease and End-of-Life Care

(18th September, HopeHealth Hospice (in Rhode Island))

It was really interesting to see the similarities and differences in procedures, systems, and protocols between the UK and US!

Unique needs when caring for a veteran

(11th November, HopeHealth Hospice (in Rhode Island))

We proudly support and have supported a number of veterans over the years. This session helped to reinforce some of the considerations we may need to make when supporting veterans in our service.



We love what we do. We're so flattered by the feedback we receive from people we support – our surveys have had glowing feedback in them without exception this year!

Over the course of 2025, we have delivered just over **15,800 hours** of care and support – over 1,400 hours more than in 2024! We've supported 42 people across the year, including the **14 people we welcomed to our service**.

We're also lucky enough to have welcomed **Nikki and Chloe** to our team of Angels. Both are real assets to Teign Angels, and we're so glad they decided to apply for a job with us!

As 2026 rolls around, we're excited for what it'll bring (namely, our 10th anniversary in October!). The world of adult social care is changing, and we are working hard to meet the challenge.

Finally, we gather so many statistics that we have to report to so many bodies and organisations. How many hours of care do we provide a week, rounded to the nearest whole number; how many double-handed visits have we provided between one new moon and the next; what is the average length of everyone's third toe on their right foot, etc. So on the next page, we've gathered some slightly less-serious (i.e. utterly useless but vaguely interesting) statistics. Happy New Year!

The average age of people we've supported this year is:	83 years and 7 months
Most people's first names began with the letter:	J (11 people)
Most people's surnames began with the letter:	S (7 people)
The most common postcode sector was:	TQ12 1
The least common postcode sector was:	TQ12 6
Number of miles our carers travelled by unicycle:	0 (sadly)
Most of our team's first names began with the letter:	S (5 people)
Most of our team's surnames began with the letter:	C or M (both 4 people)
How many of our staff know the secret entry code to access the Crown Jewels?	[REDACTED]

Steve

(18th November 1946 – 20th August 2025)

Steve was a lovely gentleman and, although we didn't know him for very long, we always enjoyed visiting him. We send our deepest condolences to his partner Alison, their dog Brodie, and all who knew Steve.

Robert

(3rd April 1953 – 14th September 2025)

In 2020, we began supporting Robert and his late wife, Wanda, at home. In those five-and-a-half-years, Robert put us through our paces, indulged us in his razor-sharp wit, and ran rings around us with his understanding of current affairs.

He didn't have an easy time over those years; he faced quite a few significant challenges. But he showed determination throughout, and fought hard for as long as he could. Joseph will miss hearing 'there's just one problem with that' every time he suggests a new moving & positioning equipment or technique! Our condolences go to all of Robert's family, as well as his dogs, Poppy and Holly.



Robert and Wanda
on their wedding
day



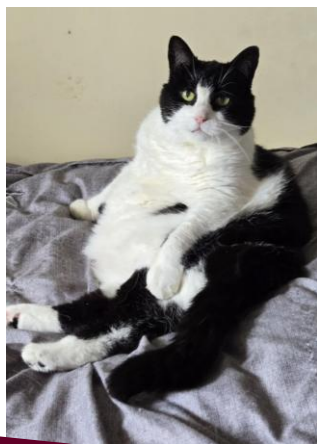
Myra

(24th March 1934 – 26th September 2025)

What a lovely lady Myra was. She certainly made a huge impression on us all...even those of us who only ended up meeting her once! She had a heart of gold and was always a pleasure to chat with.

A retired Deputy Headmistress, Myra never minced her words. She was never anything but polite and courteous – but would always get straight to her point! She will be missed dearly by us all, and our condolences go to her cousin, Lindy, and all of her other cousins, family members, and friends.

Pudding

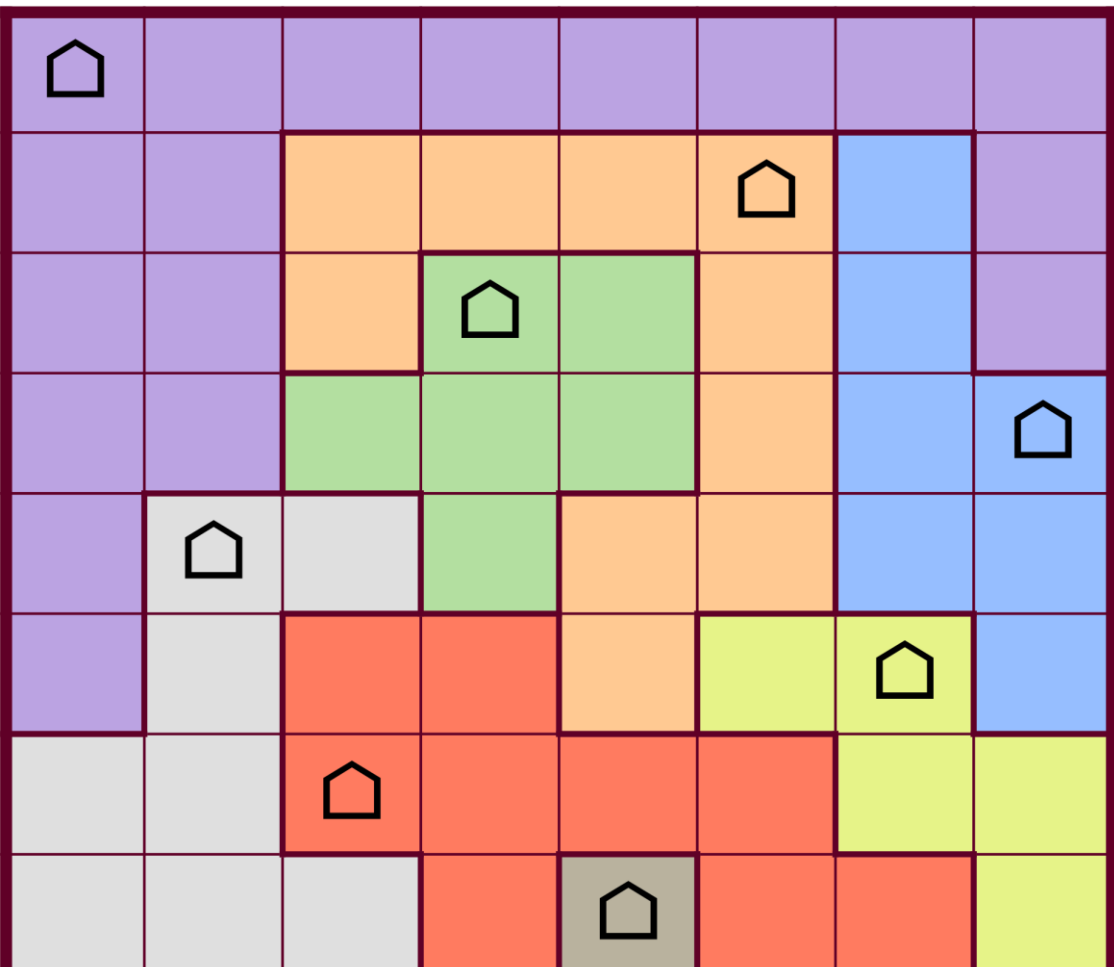


We want to pay a special tribute to Pudding, who was Sophia's cat. Having lost her cat Daisy earlier this year, Soph decided to offer a retirement home to the beautiful Pudding.

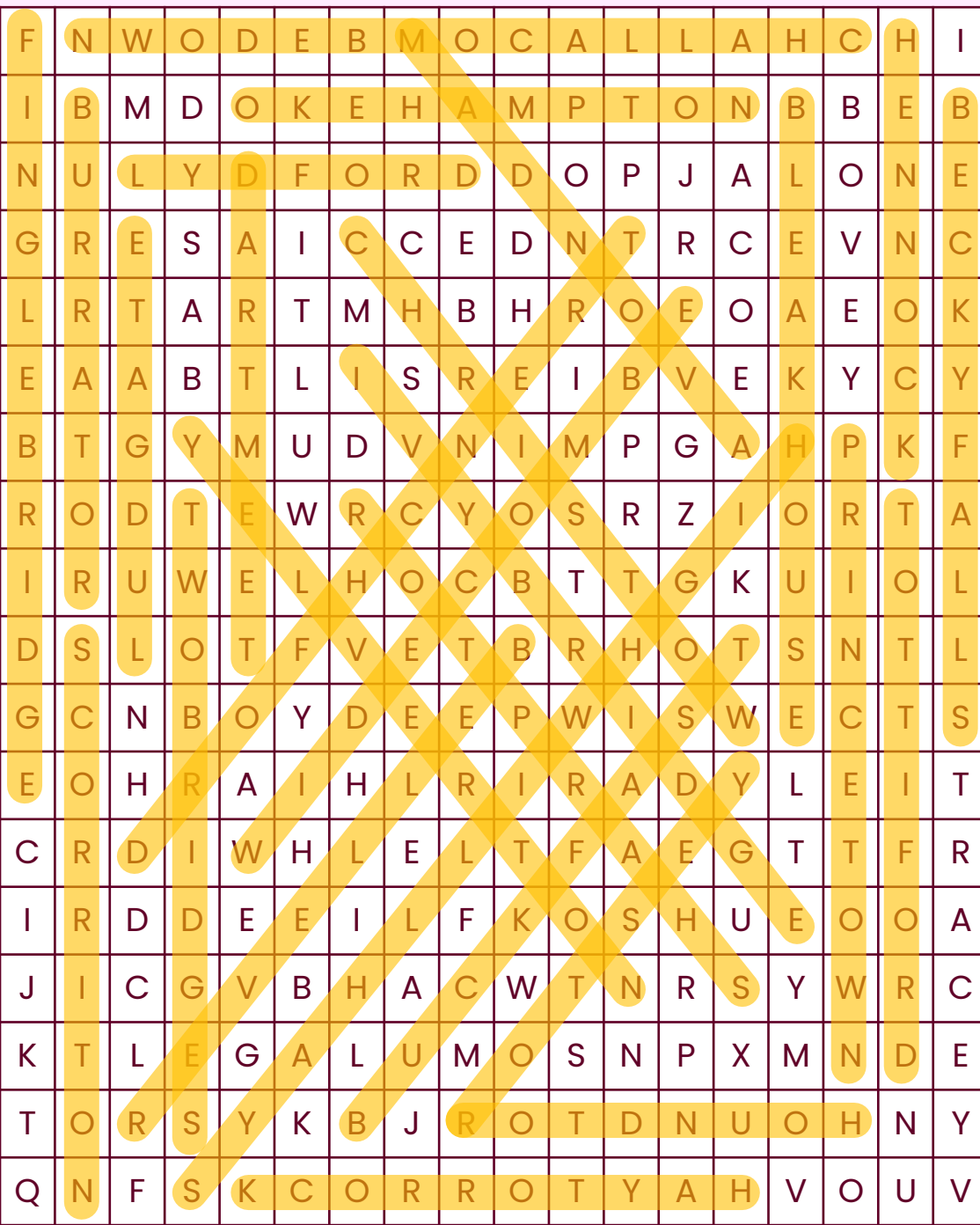
Sadly, Pudding became very poorly, and Soph did the last act of love, in preventing her from suffering. Our deepest condolences go to Soph.

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)



Made by Jackie











Late for a very important date!

Jackie's been putting her calendar together, but it's all broken apart! In the enclosed wordsearch, are you able to help her find all of the below dates? We've put in brackets what each day is, and written each date exactly as it appears in the wordsearch.

1st Jan (New Year's Day)	21st June (Father's Day)
14th Feb (Valentine's Day)	31st August (Summer Bank Holiday)
17th Feb (Shrove Tuesday)	23rd September (First Day of Autumn)
18th Feb (Ash Wednesday)	31st October (Halloween)
1st Mar (St David's Day)	5th November (Bonfire Night)
15th March (Mothering Sunday)	21st December (Winter Solstice)
17th March (St Patrick's Day)	25th December (Christmas Day)
20th March (First Day of Spring)	26th December (Boxing Day)
4th May (Early Spring Bank Hols)	31st December (New Year's Eve)
25th May (Spring Bank Holiday)	

Stars and moons

Complete the grid below, so that there is an equal amount of moons and stars for each row, and each column. But beware – no more than two of each may be directly next to each other!

X: these two cells cannot hold the same thing			=: these two cells <u>must</u> hold the same thing		
					
			X	X	
				X	=
	X				
		X			
		=			
		=			

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



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

Want to submit something for our Summer 2026 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