

February

News



EllenorLions Hospices

'Hospice care for children & young people'

Charity of The Month: **chYps** – for children and their families

chYps started life in 1994 as the Children & Young Peoples' Service of Ellenor Lions Hospices in North West Kent. The charity

has pioneered a new concept in children's hospice care, with an energetic presence in our area.

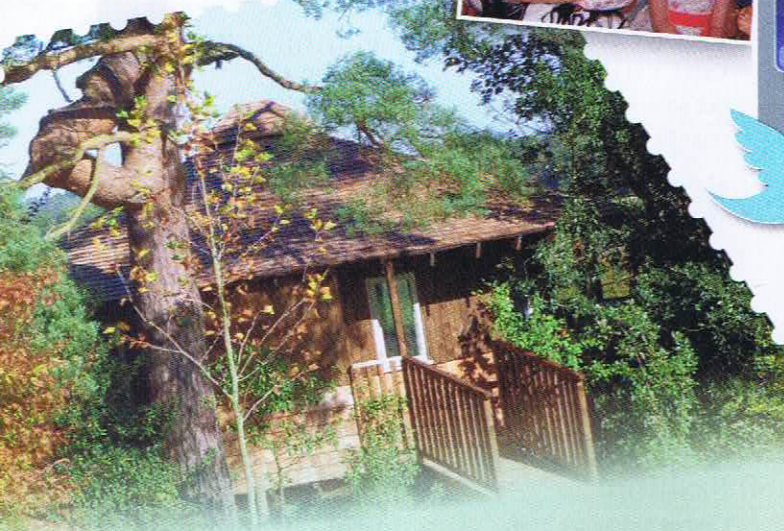
Instead of taking the child to the hospice, chYps takes the hospice to the child, providing full hospice treatment and care in the family's home, enabling them to stay together in the comfort and security of familiar surroundings. The charity has an on-going case load of up to 100 children and young people and, in addition to medical care, chYps' team provides support for the whole family through respite, counselling, therapies, youth groups and coffee mornings, spiritual care and bereavement support. For more information on how you can support chYps, see www.chyps.org.



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Fancy a green and local spring get-away?

Fair Oak Farm, in Mayfield, East Sussex, which already offers an imaginative selection of boutique accommodation ideas from its Grain Store to its gypsy caravan, has just opened two new eco tree lodges that will provide couples with complete privacy and uninterrupted valley views across gorgeous Sussex countryside. Built almost entirely of sustainable timber and fully insulated, luxurious accommodation includes en-suite wet rooms, queen-sized beds, flat screen digital TVs with integral DVD, wireless broadband and a DVD library – all very adult. Prices from £255 for two people for three nights. For details, see www.fairoakfarm.co.uk, or call 01435 884 122.

Pinetum staff make Vietnamese breakthrough

Chris Reynolds and Dan Luscombe from Bedgebury National Pinetum (with Chris shown with a mature specimen, right) have broken new ground by achieving the first successful propagation of a rare and critically endangered Vietnamese conifer, The Golden Cyprus. Following a trip to Vietnam in 2008 and subsequent years of work, six seedlings germinated successfully for the first time ever and, in four years' time, they will hopefully have matured enough to be planted out in the Pinetum, joining nine other Golden Cypresses grown from cuttings donated by the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and planted in 2005 – possibly the first ever planted outside Vietnam. Despite the much colder British climate, experts at Bedgebury report that these specimens are doing well.

