



Yew Tree News

Welcome to the Yew Tree Autumn newsletter, slightly later than hoped, and our second newsletter written during a national lockdown! This year has been one like no other, very much up and down for all parts of our business-realistically more down than up! Our Summer season was half the normal length, starting in July rather than April but encouragingly that short time of walks and adventures was very well supported with many wonderful memories for customers.



Elgar with blood donors Bruno and Pedro

Elgar pulls through

In September just as the season ended, we nearly lost one of most valued alpacas Elgar. Elgar had been slowing up on walks in late August, in early September he experienced severe weight loss and he became very weak.

On vets advice we rushed him to the Royal Vet College Brookmans Park where he had three blood transfusions from our boys Pedro, Bruno and Nico. The diagnosis pointed to a blood sucking parasite the Barbers Pole worm for which the warm wet conditions have been ideal over the summer.

Thankfully after convalescence Elgar is recovering well and happy to be back with his herd mates.



Yogi with Zebedee & Enya

Yogi Arrives

We have had a roller coaster birthing season this year which started on a low with our oldest and first alpaca Jessica passing away in cria birth. Happily Yogi her cria survived thanks to quick action by vet Janneke. Round the clock bottle feeding with goats milk (or nearly!) followed for the next 6 weeks. All this in the middle of a Covid walking season, definitely a challenge!

Things looked up for the remaining births as our first grey was born (Zebedee) soon after Yogi. By the end of August we had a total of seven cria of which five were boys. The more boys the better for us as we need to breed boys for our walking team.



First Sparkling cream tea of the

Walks & Covid

We celebrated on July 4th this year with the first day of our walking season, a full 3 months later than planned!

With Covid risk assessment done and Covid measures in place we were fully booked on walks both AM and PM and everything went smoothly. All our customers loved being in the open air and the alpacas got back into the swing of things very quickly. The season went incredibly well and other than one day in July we were fully booked for all 28 alpaca walks July -Sept 12th.

We were still able to hold two new events this year - **alpaca walks with a sparkling cream tea to finish** were very successful. We will certainly be adding more of these to the diary next year., a great way to celebrate that special birthday or event.

Yew Tree Alpacas
Christmas Shop
 Meet our lovely Alpacas & buy your Christmas gifts
Monday 7th - Saturday 12th December
10.30am - 4.30pm each day

Our range of alpaca products and other Christmas gifts include:

- Supersoft Alpaca socks.
- Premium Alpaca yarns from the Yew Tree herd
- Hand knitted luxury accessories including a wide range of alpaca hats & scarves.
- Handmade Alpaca pillows *
- Alpaca greeting & Christmas cards
- Scented Christmas candles
- Yew Tree chutneys, marmalades & local honey

* made to order - samples on display
 N.B. Covid measures will be in place

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Complimentary refreshments

Christmas Diary Meltdown

You won't be surprised to hear that our Christmas season is slightly different this year. A typical season would be five fairs of 2-5 days where all our alpaca range is on display, lots of new customers and lots of alpaca pressies bought. But this year after our successful Early bird shop on 31st October national lockdown two arrived and cleared the November diary!

HOWEVER **positive news** at the time of writing, our **Yew Tree Christmas shop** can go ahead (and hopefully our Frosty walks). We will be **OPEN Mon 7th - Sat 12th December 10.30-4.30pm each day**. Aswell as alpaca products there will be homemade Marmalades and chutneys, local honey and homemade bakes, and Christmas Candles on sale. Refreshments complimentary and our mums and babies will be grazing in our new paddock adjacent to the shop. Come, browse, shop and relax at Yew Tree any day 7th-12th December.

Dates for Alpaca Walking 2021 to be released Dec 1st 2020

Remember, Remember the 1st of December!

For booking any of your alpaca activities ...there's alpaca walks, treks, adventures or adoptions the 1st of December should be in your diary. This is the day all the dates for our April – September season go live on our website. Alpaca walks will be most Thursdays and Saturdays each month starting on Sat 3rd April (Easter Saturday). The last date will be Saturday 18th September. Morning walks (10am) will be walk plus refreshments & biscuits, afternoons (2pm) with home made cream tea and cakes. There will be six dates for the special sparkling cream teas.

For those buying alpaca walks, (or treks or adventures) as a present either via a gift voucher or specific date we will be offering the **alpaca walking gift box** which will be online to buy with your purchase from 1st December.

The A5 gold gift box comes with either a hard copy gift voucher or a 'walking' greeting card with the date selected, **plus** colour leaflets about our alpaca walks, the schedule for the morning/afternoon, a leaflet on Yew Tree , a fact sheet on alpacas and an alpaca greeting or Christmas card.

Keep warm as the nights draw in with our lovely alpaca hand knits

A reminder you can buy alpaca beanies, scarves, gloves and wristwarmers at Yew Tree online or at our Christmas shop 7th-12th Dec. Expertly hand knitted in Buntingford by our select team of knitters in three styles, you can match both colour and style. Either in 100% alpaca from our own herd or knitted in a lovely range of coloured alpaca yarns, they are all extremely soft and warm and make lovely presents or buy for yourself as a Winter warmer.



Twist scarves in Mustard and Moss green



Beanies and lilac pink and plum with two colour poms in our wheat and cable styles



Ivory 100% Yew Tree alpaca beanies in Twist style

Choose Alpaca Christmas Cards to go with your alpaca pressie

As well as our range of greeting cards we have a selection of four Christmas cards showing our alpacas in snowy/frosty scenes. All in our online shop. Click here to take a look in our

YOU CAN ALSO BUY Beanie and scarf Christmas **knitting kits** in our matching twist design

