

Care and Connect *for families*



November 2024 Issue #32



Welcome!

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Christmas Appeal

This year's Christmas Appeal is now live, and focuses on Matthew's story - a young man supported by Sense Scotland who sadly passed away last December. Through art and music sessions with us, Matthew found a new way to communicate, reflecting the massive potential for these programmes to change lives.

You can read a short excerpt of Matthew's story, told by his parents Katriona and Paul, below. Matthew's full story is available on our website at sensescotland.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2024.

"This Christmas is going to be difficult for us. Last year, on December 29th, our precious son, Matthew, died. He was our only child and he was the centre of our world. We future-proofed our house because we knew he was going to live at home full-time when he left school and we set about looking for activities that would make his life stimulating and multisensory. We always knew he had a 'life-limiting disorder' but we didn't expect him to die so suddenly after Christmas 2023. He had been so well and joyful – he was just 26 years old.

As we approach our first Christmas without him, we wanted to share his story – because in doing so, we hope to honour his memory and continue the huge legacy that he has left behind – his infectious smile, his incredible artwork, his ability to connect with others."

Read Matthew's story at sensescotland.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2024.

Christmas Card Competition

Entries are now open for our 2025 Christmas card competition! Our Fundraising team are looking for the people we support to produce a piece of art which can be used as part of our range of festive cards for Christmas 2025. The only rules are that the art should be as 'Christmassy' as possible and the artwork must be original and not borrowed from somewhere else. You can be as creative as you like; use paints, pens, photography – anything! You are only limited by your imagination.

Please consider encouraging your family member or the person you support to take part in our competition. All entrants will receive a special certificate and the winner will get a £50 cash prize. Email fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk to find out more. Entries must be received by Tuesday, 31 December 2024.

Annual Review

We are excited to reveal our Annual Review, which gives a lovely summary of everything Sense Scotland between April 2023 and March 2024. The Annual Review, written and designed by members of our Communications team, kicks off with a monthly summary featuring the most noteworthy events from April to March, before diving into sections dedicated to many of our amazing teams and stories of the people we support that are sure to entertain and inspire.

You can read a digital copy of our Annual Review at sensescotland.org.uk/annual-review/.

Fundraising Opportunities

Sense Scotland is a charity. Many of our services rely on funding from trusts, foundations and the public. We need to raise at least £1million every year. Can you, your family, friends or employer help? To find out more about our fundraising activities and opportunities, please sign up to our fundraising newsletter at bit.ly/sense-scotland-fundraising, give the team a call on 0300 330 9292 or email us at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.

Christmas Shop

Our online Christmas shop is now live at sensescotland.org.uk/shop and includes a massive variety of festive products, including jewellery, soft toys, scented gifts from Mecoco and cards designed by the people we support, including Mark Niven's "Christmas Winterland", which won last year's Christmas card competition. Mark took his inspiration from traditional Christmas sweets and cake wrappers as well as biscuit tins and posters. Make sure to get your orders in soon to ensure delivery in time for Christmas!

2025 Events

We have a fantastic roster of fundraising events to take part in next year, including Kiltwalks, marathons, and unique runs. If you'd like to find out more, visit sensescotland.org.uk/fundraising-events, or email us at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk.

Upcoming Events

Twinkle Tots (Online) – Weekly on Tuesdays

Our weekly toddler group for children under five with additional support needs occurs weekly on Tuesdays from 10:30am – 11:30am. Our last session of the year will be on Tuesday, 10 December before resuming on Tuesday, 21 January 2025. These sessions offer a virtual

opportunity for toddlers to get together, play and have fun. Book your free space at bit.ly/twinkle-tots-online.

Christmas Fayre (TouchBase Ayrshire) – Wednesday, 27 November

Come along to TouchBase Ayrshire's (41 Princes Street, Ardrossan) annual Christmas Fayre from 5:30pm – 7:30pm and enjoy craft stalls, a tea room, Santa's Grotto, and raffles!

Christmas Fayre (TouchBase Lanarkshire) – Saturday, 30 November

Join TouchBase Lanarkshire (4 Leys Park, Hamilton) for their Christmas Fayre from 10am – 2pm and enjoy Santa's Grotto, handmade crafts, a tombola, and soup and refreshments.

Christmas Fayre (TouchBase Dunbartonshire) – Saturday, 7 December

TouchBase Dunbartonshire's (59 Springfield Road, Bishopbriggs) Christmas Fayre will take place between 1pm and 3pm and will include treats, stalls, competitions, hot drinks, Santa's Grotto, and many prizes to be won.

Christmas Fête (TouchBase Glasgow) – Saturday, 7 December

TouchBase Glasgow's (43 Middlesex Street, Glasgow) Christmas Fête will take place between 11am and 2pm and will include stalls, festive treats, a tombola, and more!

Christmas Party (Ellon services) – Sunday, 8 December

Come along to Ellon Royal British Legion (70 Station Road, Ellon) on Sunday, 8 December from 1pm - 5pm and celebrate the festive season with our Ellon services. Tickets cost £10 and include finger food, music, games, and more. If you're interested in buying a ticket, contact Rachel on 07725 788 212.

Christmas Party (TouchBase Ayrshire) – Saturday, 14 December

Our Christmas Party at TouchBase Ayrshire (41 Princes Street, Ardrossan) is suitable for children aged 0 - 12 with additional support needs and their families. Come along from 11am – 1pm and take part in a number of Christmas activities! This is also a great opportunity to catch up with Sense Scotland advisors and meet other families. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/TBA-Xmas-Party.

Christmas Party (TouchBase Glasgow) – Sunday, 15 December

Our Christmas Party at TouchBase Glasgow (43 Middlesex Street, Glasgow) is suitable for children aged 0 - 12 with additional support needs and their families. Come along from 11am – 1pm and take part in a number of Christmas activities! This is also a great opportunity to catch up

with Sense Scotland advisors and meet other families. Book your free ticket at bit.ly/TBG-Xmas-Party.

Please let us know what you think of Care and Connect. Send your feedback to communications@sensescotland.org.uk.

You can find past issues at sensescotland.org.uk/care-and-connect.