

Care and Connect *for families*



January 2025 Issue #34



Welcome!

Happy New Year from Sense Scotland! In this issue of Care and Connect...

- Be a part of our **40th Anniversary celebrations**
- Learn about Mecoco's recent **corporate partnerships**
- Get involved in our **fundraising events calendar for 2025**
- Check out our **upcoming events**
- Read **news from your service**

40th Anniversary Celebrations

This year, Sense Scotland turns 40! If your loved one is supported by Sense Scotland and is also turning 40 this year, we'd love to celebrate our joint milestones. Let us know by email at communications@sensescotland.org.uk.

We're also looking for help to choose a new logo illustrating our 40th Anniversary Celebrations. Can you help us? Check out the options at <https://bit.ly/40th-logo> and vote at <https://bit.ly/40th-logo-vote>.

Mecoco Corporate Partnerships

We're excited to announce two recent corporate partnerships through our charitable enterprise Mecoco, which works with disabled people to produce candles and scented products. Over the past couple of months, we have worked with Robertson Homes - the Stirling-based housebuilder - and voco Grand Central Hotel Glasgow - part of the IHG group - on two exciting projects!

The first, with Robertson Homes, saw children across Scotland being set the challenge of designing the packaging of a new Christmas-themed Mecoco candle, which will be donated to food banks. The winner of the label design was Isla from Kinmylies Primary School in Inverness, and the name of the candle - "Merry Berry" - was created by Jamie from Rosewell Primary School in Midlothian.

We were also very excited to recently partner with voco Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow, where we host our Ladies' Lunch annually (including this year's 40th Anniversary Ladies' Lunch!). This marked the first ever partnership between Mecoco and a hotel, in which a bespoke candle design was created to be featured in the hotel's Christmas client hamper.

If you know of any businesses who may be interested in partnering with Mecoco on a future project, please give us an email at hello@mecoco.org.

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.

2025 Events

For our 40th Anniversary year, our Fundraising team have put together a cracking schedule of events – kicking off with Gingham & Glitz Reloaded on Sunday, 23 February at Glasgow’s Grand Ole Opry. Due to popular demand, we’re returning to the Opry for a western-themed afternoon of line dancing, country music, pizza, karaoke and prizes, and there are still tickets available! Book yours now at sensescotland.org.uk/gingham-and-glitz-reloaded.

Check out the calendar of events for 2025 – and even a few in 2026 – below.

Date	Event
Sunday, 23 February 2025	Gingham & Glitz Reloaded
Saturday, 26 April 2025	Glasgow Kiltwalk (Big Stroll only)
Sunday, 27 April 2025	Glasgow Kiltwalk (Wee Wander, Big Stroll, and Mighty Stride)
Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 May 2025	Edinburgh Marathon Festival
Saturday, 31 May 2025	Ladies’ Lunch (Day 1)
Sunday, 1 June 2025	Ladies’ Lunch (Day 2)
Sunday, 1 June 2025	Aberdeen Kiltwalk
Saturday, 7 June 2025	Tough Mudder
Sunday, 15 June 2025	Glasgow 10K
Sunday, 17 August 2025	Dundee Kiltwalk
Friday, 22 August 2025	Glasgow Zipline
Sunday, 14 September 2025	Edinburgh Kiltwalk
September 2025 (date TBC)	Psychic Night with Norah Howie – TouchBase Glasgow
Sunday, 5 October 2025	AJ Bell Scottish Run
October 2025 (date TBC)	Forth Rail Bridge Abseil
October 2025 (date TBC)	Sense of Humour – Comedy Night
Saturday, 1 November 2025	Supernova Run

Sunday, 2 November 2025	Knockhill Event
Saturday, 15 November 2025	40 th Anniversary Ball
Saturday, 6 and Sunday, 7 December 2025	Santa Paws
February 2026 (date TBC)	Gingham & Glitz
February 2026 (date TBC)	Valentine's Fire Walk – TouchBase Glasgow

If you would like more information on any of these events, or would like to sign up, please contact the team at fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk. Make sure to check sensescotland.org.uk/fundraising-events regularly as more events will be added soon.

Upcoming Events

Coffee & Connect – Wednesday, 29 January – TouchBase Glasgow

Our Early Years and Family Advisory team is holding an in-person Coffee and Connect session at TouchBase Glasgow from 10am – 12pm for parents and carers of people with additional support needs. Come along and meet Natalie from Soul Space Wellness, who will lead a session in guided meditation, breathwork, and yoga. As well as participating in a much needed rest and relaxation session, this is also a great opportunity to catch up with other parents and carers as well as our advisors. Book your free space at <https://bit.ly/coffee-and-connect-jan-25>.

Sight Village - Wednesday, 21 May – Glasgow Science Centre

Sight Village is the UK's leading exhibition for people with vision impairments, offering a unique opportunity to explore a wide range of products, services, and resources aimed at improving independence and quality of life. On Wednesday, 21 May 2025, the exhibition is coming to Scotland for one day only, with an event at Glasgow Science Centre.

Whether you're looking for assistive technology, mobility aids, or information on support services, Sight Village has something for everyone. To find out more about Sight Village, go to gac.ac.uk/exhibitions.htm.

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.