

Care and Connect *for families*



March 2025 Issue #36



Welcome!

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40th Birthday Celebrations

As you probably already know, this year marks the 40th Anniversary of Sense Scotland! Next month, on Thursday, 10 April, we will be kicking off the festivities with birthday parties across our TouchBases and support services, alongside an extremely exciting visit from a very special guest.

On the day, we are expecting a visit from HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of Sense Scotland, to TouchBase Glasgow. The last time HRH visited TouchBase Glasgow was to officially open it in 2008, and it will be wonderful for her to see how the TouchBase has changed in the intervening years.

But our 40th Anniversary isn't just about TouchBase Glasgow! We'll also be encouraging all of our services, from our smaller supported living services to our TouchBases, to throw a 40th birthday party for Sense Scotland. Our shops will also get involved in the festivities, with brand-new window decals provided by the Communications team. We look forward to sharing photos from all of the different celebrations with you next month.

Euan's Guide

Euan's Guide provides disabled access information for public places across the UK. They recently published their 2024 Guide Access Survey, through which 70% of respondents said the lack of disabled access has directly affected their goals, plans or aspirations.

Euan's Guide is calling on the public, businesses, policymakers, and local authorities to take immediate steps to improve disabled access information. One way for you to help is by submitting a disabled access review on EuansGuide.com - you don't have to be an expert, just share what you find at your local coffee shop, supermarket, or play park. Your reviews will help others find great places to go with confidence, and each one helps make the world a bit more accessible.

Blantyre Short Breaks

We have availability at our short breaks service in Blantyre! Blantyre Short Breaks, our respite service for people over 16 with additional support needs, offers short holidays in a cosy, well-designed house in Blantyre, Lanarkshire, where guests have the opportunity to have the break they want, no matter where in the country they live.

If you or someone you know may be interested in accessing Blantyre Short Breaks, we are holding two drop-in days at the service (117 Auchinraith Road, Blantyre) on Friday, 2 May and Friday, 6 June from 11am – 2pm, where you can find out more. To RSVP, email Sam Taylor at

staylor@sensescotland.org.uk. You can find out more about Blantyre Short Breaks at sensescotland.org.uk/blantyre-short-breaks.

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.

Ladies' Lunch 2025

Tickets for our Ladies' Lunch are now available! Join us on either Saturday, 31 May or Sunday, 1 June at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow for a 1980s-themed 40th birthday celebration with fizz, fun, friends and family, hosted by Edward Reid and featuring Glaswegian drag sensation Miss Bella Houston. Book your tickets now at sensescotland.org.uk/ladies-lunch. We can't wait to see you there!

Aberdeen Kiltwalk

The first Kiltwalk of the year in Glasgow is now sold out, but if you still want to get your kilt on for Team Sense Scotland, there are three more to go! The next event will be held in Aberdeen on Sunday, 1 June, where you can enjoy the beautiful sights of the city and shire, and take on 18 or 4 miles in support of Sense Scotland. To find out more, and grab your free entry code, visit www.sensescotland.org.uk/kiltwalk.

Upcoming Events

Twinkle Tots – Every Wednesday, 10:30am – TouchBase Lanarkshire

Our weekly toddler group for children aged 0 - 5 with additional support needs continues at our TouchBase in Lanarkshire (43 Leys Park, Hamilton). Book your tickets at <https://bit.ly/twinkle-tots-25> or email advisory@sensescotland.org.uk to find out more.

Connect and Play – Wednesday, 9 April – Calderglen Country Park

Our Early Years team will be holding two Connect and Play sessions in April for children aged 0 – 12 with communication support needs and their families. The first will take place at Calderglen Country Park on Wednesday, 9 April from 10am – 1pm. Enjoy a 40th Anniversary party in the park

with classic party games and Easter-themed activities. Book your free ticket at <https://bit.ly/connect-play-calderglen-april-25>.

Connect and Play – Sunday, 13 April – TouchBase Ayrshire

Our Early Years team's second Connect and Play session in April for children aged 0 – 12 with communication support needs and their families will take place at TouchBase Ayrshire on Sunday, 13 April from 10am – 1pm. Celebrate our 40th Anniversary with classic party games and Easter-themed activities. Book your free ticket at <https://bit.ly/connect-play-tba-april-25>.

Connect and Sensory Play – Thursday, 17 April – Abbeyview Community Hub

Our next Connect and Sensory Play session for children aged 0 - 18 with additional support needs and their families will take place at Abbeyview Community Hub in Dunfermline on Thursday, 17 April from 10am – 12pm. Come along and see the wide range of sensory toys we have available to borrow. It's also a great opportunity for professionals working with families to find out more about our services and how we can help support you! For more information, email Lorna Thomson at LornaThomson@sensescotland.org.uk or call 01592 646015.

Coffee and Connect – Tuesday, 29 April – Online via Zoom

Join our Early Years team for an online Coffee and Connect session, giving parents and carers the opportunity to catch up with each other and seek advice from our team. Book your free ticket at <https://bit.ly/coffee-connect-april-25>.

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.