

Care and Connect *for families*



December 2025 Issue #45



Welcome!

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40th Anniversary Ball

Our 40th Anniversary Ball took place on Saturday, 15 November at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where guests once again enjoyed an evening of excellent entertainment, great food, and enjoyable fundraising activities within an iconic venue.

This year, our host was Alex Fleming, who was on top form with his cheeky banter and kept the event running very smoothly. Alex introduced a number of creative fundraising activities, including 'Santa's Jolly Jackpot', where guests entered a draw to win a cash prize of £1,000.

By far, the most impactful part of the night was hearing from our Trustee, Gary Simpson, and one of his sons, Gerard, who is supported at TouchBase Glasgow alongside his twin brother, Martin. Gary and his wife, Maureen, sought support from Sense Scotland around 30 years ago, and Gary and Gerard spoke about the incredible impact that this support has had on their lives - and how our guests' support could help families just like them.

The evening also featured some spectacular entertainment. As well as returning nine-piece live band Big Vern 'n' the Shootahs - who had everyone on their feet - we were also delighted to have DJ Matthew Ward perform a nostalgic, 80s-themed set, with some true retro favourites.

Thanks to our guests' generosity - as well as the generosity of those who bid in our Online Auction - we raised over £70,000 for the people we support. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Christmas Card Design Competition

Our Christmas card competition, open to people we support, is back! Our Fundraising team are looking for the people we support to create a piece of art that could be used as part of our range of festive cards for Christmas 2026. The only rules are:

- The design should be original and not borrowed from somewhere else
- It must be Christmas-themed
- The design should be no smaller than 25cm x 25cm

The winner will receive a £50 cash prize, and their design could be chosen to be the next official Sense Scotland Christmas card.

If the person you care for is supported by Sense Scotland and would like to participate, please visit this link to download an entry form: bit.ly/sense-scotland-card-competition-2025.

Entries must be sent to fundraising@sensescotland.org.uk or dropped into the Fundraising office at TouchBase Glasgow by Friday, 30 January 2026.

Charity Shops

Our charity shops across Scotland will be closed between 25 - 28 December and 1 - 4 January. Until then, however, please feel free to pop in and have a browse – you might find a unique gift for that person in your life who's extremely hard to buy for! To find your nearest Sense Scotland charity shop, visit www.sensescotland.org.uk/find-your-nearest-shop.

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.

Gingham and Glitz

All of our fundraising events for 2025 are now over, but the team is already planning 2026's events – including Gingham and Glitz!

Gingham and Glitz – our country-themed afternoon of entertainment and fundraising – is back on Sunday, 15 February 2026. If you're struggling for gift ideas, what's better than having something to look forward to in the New Year?

Enjoy line dancing, finger food, fundraising activities and top entertainment from Edward Reid, Nicole Flynn, and Bella Houston. Plus, we're excited to offer an Early Bird discount - get your individual tickets for only £30 each before Wednesday, 31 December.

To book your tickets, go to www.sensescotland.org.uk/gingham-and-glitz.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Concert – Thursday, 18 December, 1pm – 3:30pm – TouchBase Glasgow

Join us for our annual Christmas Concert at TouchBase Glasgow (43 Middlesex Street, G41 1EE) and enjoy festive performances from some of the people we support.

Christmas Tea Dance – Monday, 22 December, 1pm – 3pm – TouchBase Glasgow

Join people we support, staff, and families for a Christmas tea dance at TouchBase Glasgow (43 Middlesex Street, G41 1EE) and enjoy a small lunch, refreshments, and a festive performance from Arietta Choir.

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. Sessions will resume weekly on Wednesday, 14 January 2026.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Pantomime – Saturday, 17 January 2026, 1:30pm – 3pm – TouchBase Glasgow

Come along to a magical and relaxed pantomime at TouchBase Glasgow (43 Middlesex Street, G41 1EE), performed by Hopscotch Theatre Company and funded by Better Breaks, in association with Sense Scotland. Please arrive at 1.30pm, with the performance running from 2pm - 3pm. A touch tour is available from 1.30pm. Book your tickets at bit.ly/sense-scotland-panto-2026. **Please note that tickets for this event will be available from Friday, 19 December.**

From all of us at Sense Scotland, we'd like to wish you a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2026. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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.