

Care and Connect *for families*



April 2026 Issue #49



Welcome!

In this issue of Care and Connect...

- Find out about our **first-ever Sporting Dinner**
- Read an update on **Mecoco**
- Get involved in our **upcoming fundraising events**
- Read **news from your service**

Sporting Dinner

On Thursday, 26 March, we held our first-ever Sporting Dinner at the Mouldsdale Foundation Museum in Bishopbriggs, welcoming a crowd of mostly new faces to an event filled with fantastic guest speakers, a live and online auction, a prize draw, wonderful food, and a chance to walk around the Foundation's museum - housing a breathtaking collection of over 400 classic cars and motorbikes.

As our guests took their seats, our Chief Executive Officer, Angela Bonomy, welcomed and introduced them all to Sense Scotland: explaining our 40-year history, our roots in deafblindness, and who we support. After Angela, our host, Alex Fleming - returning after our 40th Anniversary Ball last November - took to the stage to run our guests through the next few hours.

First, guests enjoyed a multi-course meal, before hearing from Wendy Stewart, mum of Amy, who is supported at TouchBase Dunbartonshire. Wendy spoke about Amy's difficult journey through life, having been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and later a cerebral visual impairment at a young age. Through support at TouchBase Dunbartonshire, Amy can now live a meaningful life with support from people who understand her wants and needs. In closing her speech, Wendy introduced our Capital Appeal for the next two years, which aims to save TouchBase Dunbartonshire by raising £500,000 to allow us to buy the building. Returning to the stage, Angela Bonomy asked our guests to make a commitment to help us reach this milestone.

Soon after, guests were thrilled to enjoy what many of them came to see - a Q+A session with Ben Collins, former Top Gear Stig and stunt driver in films like Quantum of Solace, Skyfall, and Solo: A Star Wars Story. Ben spoke to the audience about his incredible career, with anecdotes eliciting gasps and laughter. Later, after our live auction, Ben was joined by Jonny Smith, founder and frontman of 'The Late Brake Show'. Both guests answered a number of questions from our audience as they sat in armchairs on the stage.

Our first-ever Sporting Dinner was a massive success - introducing a host of new faces to Sense Scotland, and raising over £76,000 in the process. Thanks, as always, to our fantastic photographer, Ken Clark, who captured a number of amazing moments on the night. You can view all of Ken's photos at sensescotland.org.uk/sporting-dinner.

Mecoco

Mecoco, our charitable enterprise where disabled and non-disabled volunteers work together to create scented candles, wax melts, and reed diffusers, has had a very busy couple of months! In March, we launched our unique Subscription Mystery Boxes - a feel-good monthly (or occasional)

treat that directly supports our work. Each box includes a thoughtful selection of Mecoco products, which may include:

- Candles, melts, and diffusers
- Home fragrance accessories
- Artwork by our disabled artists at Sense Scotland
- Our much-loved whoopsies (slightly imperfect or end-of-line products, with the same gorgeous scent)
- A personal thank-you card from one of our Mecoco volunteers

For supporters who like to receive something tangible in return for their donation, this is a lovely way to do just that. Rather than a one-off gift, this is an ongoing way to support Sense Scotland while enjoying something special at home. You can find out more about our Subscription Mystery Boxes at sensescotland.org.uk/mecoco/subscribe/.

Later, in April, the Mecoco team was absolutely rushed off their feet with markets and stalls over the Easter holidays. With stalls at the Riverside Museum, St. Enoch Centre, and the Rail Yard in Glasgow; Kelburn Castle in Largs; and Stewarton Market and Saltcoats Cove in Ayrshire, the team have loved selling products and speaking about the Mecoco story to customers across the west of Scotland. To stay up to date on Mecoco's upcoming markets and events, make sure you follow Mecoco on Facebook at facebook.com/mecocouk and on Instagram at @MecocoUK.

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.

Tough Mudder

We're excited to announce that we have a number of charity places available for this year's Tough Mudder event in South Queensferry on Saturday, 6 June - and if you sign up now, you'll get your place for just £20.

Tough Mudder creates hardcore obstacle courses designed to test your all-around strength, stamina, and mental grit. With the most innovative 5K and 15K courses and millions of participants worldwide to date, it is the premier challenge series in the world.

When you sign up for a charity place with Team Sense Scotland, you'll get entry for just £20! In exchange, we ask that you raise a minimum amount for Sense Scotland (£150 for 5K, £250 for 15K). And when you're crawling through the mud, splashing through water, or climbing over walls, you'll be helping to raise funds for the people we support. To sign up now or find out more information, visit sensescotland.org.uk/tough-mudder.

Aberdeen Kiltwalk

The next Kiltwalk of the year will take place in Aberdeen on Sunday, 7 June. Two routes are available for this Kiltwalk: the Mighty Stride (18 miles) from Banchory to Aberdeen City Centre, and the Wee Wander (four miles) from Cults to Aberdeen City Centre. Are you keen to take on a fundraising challenge in Aberdeen? If so, you can register your interest at sensescotland.org.uk/kiltwalk.

Highland Fling

Our Fundraising team are excited to be offering an all-new event this year: the Highland Fling! On Sunday, 6 September, you can take on either the Killie Zip - zipping through the trees and across the River Garry in the stunning valley of Killiecrankie, Perthshire – or the Highland Swing - the first purpose-built, permanent swing platform from a bridge in Britain – while raising vital funds for Sense Scotland. For those of you outside of Perthshire, our team will be running a bus transfer from Glasgow on the day. To find out more and sign up, visit sensescotland.org.uk/highland-fling.

Upcoming Events

Connect and Play – TouchBase Lanarkshire – Saturday, 9 May

Our Early Years team's first Connect and Play session in May, for children aged 0 – 12 with additional support needs, their siblings, and family, will take place at TouchBase Lanarkshire on Saturday, 9 May from 10am – 1pm. Due to all of the changes in weather we've had recently – from snow and hail to sun and rainbows – this session will feature weather-themed activities – so please make sure to wear old clothes, as some of the activities will be messy! To book, visit bit.ly/connect-play-TBL-may-26.

Connect and Play – TouchBase Ayrshire – Saturday, 16 May

Our Early Years team's second Connect and Play session in May, for children aged 0 – 12 with additional support needs, their siblings, and family, will take place at TouchBase Ayrshire on Saturday, 16 May from 10am – 1pm. Like the previous session, this will feature weather-themed activities – so please make sure to wear old clothes, as some of the activities will be messy! To book, visit bit.ly/connect-play-TBA-may-26.

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.