



SHARING OUR NEWS WITH OUR SUPPORTERS

## Some normality begins to return?

We have adapted to a mid-pandemic lifestyle and a way of working at Hansel, and are delighted that our customers and staff remain healthy and in good spirits, albeit understandably a little weary after the relentless challenges of 2020. Over the last few months we have seen remarkable work carried out by so many individuals across the organisation to keep our customers and team members safe and we thank everyone for their commitment and hard work.

Working with South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership we have introduced a new micro-break service enabling a limited number of customers the opportunity to visit the Baird Centre at Broadmeadows and receive one to one support in a range of activities, all with safety protection in place. In addition, subject to local restrictions, family members have been able to safely meet their loved ones who are Hansel residents in Lindy's by using a booking facility. However, Lindy's remains closed to the public and our Head Office site at Broadmeadows remains closed to non-essential visitors.

Like many other charities, our physical fundraising events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. We would like to extend our gratitude to the wider community whose expressions of support and kindness have been astounding and have given everyone a boost as we continue to face challenging times – it really does mean a lot!



## A Big Thank You!

We are humbled by the continued generosity we receive from people in our community despite current challenges. The support has been widespread and varied and this is just a flavour of the goodwill we have received over the past few months:

Caledonian Paper, part of UPM Corporation, donated a staggering 10,000 face masks as part of their Share & Care programme.

Arran Aromatics provided a beautiful selection of toiletries for our 273 frontline care workers.

The Co-op in Symington have donated toiletries and other goodies for our residents at Hansel who can't get to visit their shop.

Members of the Dunelm Kilmarnock Sewing Bee made laundry bags and local volunteers made face coverings.

Janice Maxted from Symington even made some face covering adaptors.

A special mention must go to 13 year old A J McMaster who saw our appeal and donated seven of his Playstation 4 Games for our customers to use in the Baird Centre.



## All Aboard

We were delighted to welcome several new appointments to our Boards for this year.

Our structure means we have two Boards of Directors; Hansel Foundation which is the parent charitable company responsible for development strategy and corporate services, and Hansel Alliance which delivers support to customers throughout Ayrshire.

At the end of the year the daughter of our founding members, Blanche Nicolson MBE, is stepping down from her trustee role with Hansel after a journey of over 40 years with the charity. During that time Blanche served as governor, Board chairperson, Director of Care Services, and latterly trustee Director. We are delighted that Blanche is now accepting the role of Hansel Patron, as she continues to enjoy her well-earned retirement with family and friends. Also leaving us after 17 years on our Hansel Boards is Tom McClements. In his recent role of Foundation Chairman, Tom played a significant part in developing Board governance and now leaves the organisation in very good hands. We thank Tom for his tremendous support over the years, and look forward to continuing a journey of a different sort with Blanche.

Our new non-executive directors include Jim McIntyre, Royal Bank of Scotland; David Chalmers, UPM-Kymmene (UK) Ltd; Chris McMail, Microtech Support Ltd; Dr Robert Reekie, Symbiosis Pharmaceuticals; Carolann Lanigan, consultant and private care provider organisation; Colin Young, Morgan Stanley and Lisa Neilson, Worksmart Contracts.

Hansel Foundation Board will now comprise of David Chalmers, Jim McIntyre, Chris McMail, Dr Robert Reekie, alongside existing members Chairman Alastair Dewar, Vice Chair Lorna Gibson, Adam Currie, Ruth Dorman, Robert Dow and Reverend Alec Wark.

The Hansel Alliance Board will include Chairman Jim McIntyre, David Chalmers, Adam Currie, Alastair Dewar, Carolann Lanigan, Colin Young and Lisa Neilson.

Gerry Lindsay, our Managing Director, who sits on both Boards as an Executive Director said, "The challenges facing the care sector have been well documented over recent years and pressures are likely to continue for some time to come. We have been working closely with health and social care partnerships and local authorities and will continue to do so, in support of our customers and families throughout Ayrshire. The combined skill sets of our new non executive directors will broaden the strength of our business expertise and help us in our strategy planning. We are also incredibly grateful to our previous board members who have decided to stand down after years of continuous voluntary service and to our staff whose exceptional dedication during this challenging time has been outstanding."



Gerry Lindsay, Managing Director



Tom McClements



Blanche Nicolson MBE

## Putting the FUN in fundraising

Although disappointed that our fundraising activities had to be cancelled this year we continue to be amazed by our supporters who recognise our ongoing need and come up with tremendous, innovative ways to still carry on fundraising in aid of Hansel. Like all charities it's been tough and your support really is such a welcome boost.

By far the sporting activities have been the most popular as more and more people embraced their precious time outdoors in nature. Unfortunately the London Marathon and Kiltwalk were cancelled but instead people took up the 2.6 Challenge and virtual Kiltwalk which was a great success with many undertaking sponsored walks, runs, and cycles.

One of our most eye-catching events was the Front Steps Project organised by photographers, Andrew Bell and Amanda Gemmell of Picturu who took family portraits on their front doorsteps to document life under Covid-19 and capture moments of joy. In return for a professional portrait the couple asked for a donation and raised £468.75 which smashed their fundraising target of £250!

Local business owner, Emma Morton, of Aaron's Book Corner, generated a touch of magic when she pledged a donation from the purchase of her Magic Painting Books which feature detailed illustrations which are transformed into a rainbow of colours when water is added. Her early learner followers – and parents – were quick to add their support and Emma raised £70. Not only that, Emma asked her customers to donate the price of a book which she then purchased and donated to the residents of our Small Group Living Service to enjoy.



We've all been missing live entertainment and were disappointed when we had to cancel all our events. Ayr duo Ebb & Flow had been booked to entertain everyone at our music night in Troon however, undeterred they moved online and staged a free virtual concert with fans and enthusiasts pledging donations from the comfort of their homes.

One of our most energetic group of fundraisers has to be the members of the Ayrshire Association of Young Farmers Clubs. In celebration of their 75th anniversary the group asked members, past and present, to consider a challenge that could be achieved over a 75-day period and raise sponsorship to benefit Hansel, Ayrshire Hospice and the Royal Highland Education Trust. Rising to the challenge members organised various events including a 750-mile cycle, one member climbed Cairn Table ten times and another cycled and walked 75 miles. The challenge culminated in a celebratory streamed 75 minute live music event with a performance by Ayrshire District Chairman, Donald Erskine. The initial target was to raise £750 in total however, that was smashed and £1105.59 was raised for each charity!

We are extremely grateful to everyone who chooses to fundraise in aid of Hansel. Your support is appreciated by everyone at Hansel and the money you raise helps us to deliver new projects and services to benefit the many people we support with additional support needs across Ayrshire.



**Virtual**  
**#kiltwalk**  
**WEEKEND**

**hansel** SC001514



**Save The Date : April 23 - 25 2021**

Registration opens in the New Year at [www.thekiltwalk.co.uk](http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk)

# Fun and laughter - despite lockdown

Although many of our Hansel Support services have taken a different approach due to the pandemic, fun and laughter still prevailed. From Halloween and summer parties to bake-offs and crafts, our customers' – and team members' – artistic skills shone! A special thanks to all the musicians who have kindly donated their time to keep us entertained. Here is a selection of some of the fantastic activities that have taken place during lockdown. Well done everyone!







At **7pm** on **Thursday 24th December** we are asking everyone to go outside and ring a bell for 2 minutes to spread the Christmas Spirit.

Let's end 2020 with a bit of magic, hope and togetherness!

**Let the bells ring out for Christmas!**

If you are willing to be photographed/videoed, you could be featured on Hansel's Facebook page or in the local press!! For more information, please contact Anne Brown/HSLs.

SCRN: SC001514

**If you would prefer not to hear from Hansel please let us know by calling us on 01563 830340 or by writing to us at the address below**

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