



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.



Save The Date : April 23 - 25 2021

Registration opens in the New Year at 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!



Fundraising & Communications - team news

Since 1963, Hansel has been supporting people living with learning disabilities and autism, and their families, throughout Ayrshire. We seek creative ways of supporting and empowering people, helping them to remove any barriers they may face and ensuring people the right to have a voice and that they experience equality, choice, dignity and respect. It has been humbling to see my colleagues do their very best to continue to deliver this vital support to those who need us most during the pandemic. This has meant providing support in different ways and adhering to COVID restrictions but their creativity and commitment has shone through.

We continue to review the services that we provide and are currently in the process of adapting our respite and short breaks service at Hansel. We aim to be able to support more people who need this service in the New Year and are actively seeking funds to help renovate an underused building on site into a hub to provide more community type supports, within COVID restrictions. We hope to be able to provide a cinema room for people to watch their favourite films, a chill out/music room with sensory equipment/ musical instruments, project and craft facilities where people can enjoy art, pottery and small woodwork projects, kitchen stations to help people to learn independent living skills or just to make a tasty treat as well as having the opportunity to participate in horticultural therapy groups. We also plan to provide a woodland caravan respite service at Hansel soon and are currently looking for donations of new, good quality bedding, towels and kitchen equipment to make our visitors stay as enjoyable as can be. If you would like to support us with either of these projects please get in touch by calling 01563 830340 or by emailing agnes.paton@hansel.org.uk

As all our fundraising activities were cancelled due to the pandemic, both Fundraising Assistants, Debbie and Claudia were placed on furlough as there were no events or activities to organise and run. The pandemic has given many charities the opportunity to review how they fundraise, especially those who are reliant on generating income from events. We have taken this opportunity as well and will be working hard to develop our fundraising and communications work with our much valued supporters in the future.

I am pleased to tell you that Claudia has now returned from furlough as our Fundraising & Communications Administrator. However, after 28 years at Hansel, Debbie has chosen to move onto pastures new and has now finished working for Hansel. Debbie's happy and cheerful personality will be missed around Hansel and by many of our supporters who would meet her at our events and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her well for the future.

I've missed seeing you all at our fundraising events and activities and hearing all your news but I hope you and your loved ones have remained safe and well over the last few months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support and on behalf of everyone at Hansel, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes.

Merry
Christmas!



Debbie, Claudia & Agnes

Agnes Paton
Fundraising & Communications Manager



Join us for

Hansel's Christmas Eve

Jingle



Xhansel

Tag us on Facebook or Twitter
@HanselAyrshire
#christmasevejingle2020
#worldwidejingle2020

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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Registered Office - Hansel, Broadmeadows Estate, Symington, KA1 5PU



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