archway
care + support built around you

ARCHWAY NEWS AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

WELCOME TO OUR

Autumn/ Winter Newsletter

There's been lots going on and we hope you enjoy reading all about it!

Message from CEO Iain McKenna

As the leaves fall and the air turns crisp, we find ourselves entering the autumn and winter months – a time to slow down, cosy up, and reflect on the year gone by.

It's been a year filled with both challenges and meaningful moments, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible strength, patience, and love shown by all of you – the parents, guardians, and carers who give so much every single day. Your continued dedication and resilience never go unnoticed, especially during a time when financial pressures from local Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) are being felt more than ever.

I'd also like to gently remind you that **Self-Directed Support (SDS) Options 1, 2, 3, and 4** are ***your right.*** You should never feel pressured into accepting a package that doesn't meet the needs of your family. These supports are meant to empower you – you know best what works for your loved one. And just as we focus on the needs of the people we care for, please remember that **you are entitled to a carer's assessment too**. Your health and wellbeing matter deeply. Looking after yourself – mentally, emotionally, and physically – is essential, not just for your own sake, but because it helps you continue being the incredible support you already are.

Girls just want to have fun!

BERRYDEN MILLS

Beth and Mary have enjoyed a range of outings and activities over the summer months.

Beth has been carriage riding regularly while Mary has been building her cookery skills at her AMZ class and both ladies have enjoyed food shopping and helping to prepare meals and doing some baking at Berryden Mills.

They've taken advantage of the lovely summer weather with gentle walks and picnics at the park.

Sunday 14th December

Our

CHRISTMAS PARTY

is at the **Beach Ballroom** on the 14th December, 1.30 - 4pm.

Look out for your invitation soon!

ParentsCatch Ups

Archway parents and Board Members Lisa and Belinda have organized regular informal coffee catch ups at the Recharge Café in the Bon Accord Centre for parents to meet and share ideas and information.

More are planned – the dates are later on in the newsletter. Please come along if you can.

HAVING SO MUCH FUN

Residents kicked off the summer with an 80's-themed Family BBQ and party for the 4th of July!

Everyone had a blast picking out their neon outfits, big hair, and retro accessories – and DJ Paul kept the party rocking with everyone's favourite 80's hits!

Eilidh had an unforgettable trip to Glasgow where she saw her favourite star, Billie Eilish, while Rosalind also had her moment to shine, heading to Glasgow to see an Elvis concert. Eilidh, Rosalind, Carolyn, Susan, and Marisa enjoyed a wonderful day exploring the Montrose Basin Visitor Centre & Wildlife Reserve, while John and Paul had a fun-filled boys' day out at the Banchory Show. Carolyn and Nicola had a relaxing short break at Betty's, while Susan, Marissa, and Sheila went on a fantastic bus trip to Blackpool to see the dazzling lights!

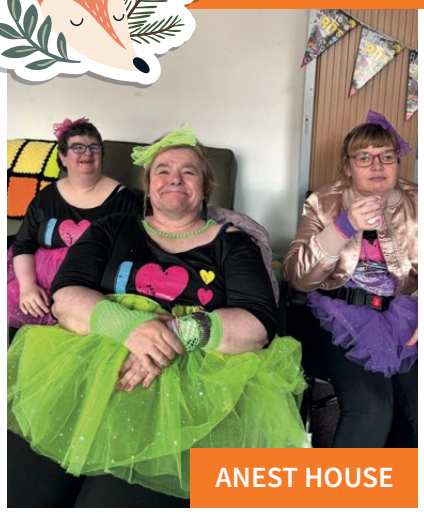
Michelle loved her trip to the circus and a family holiday, and Davey has been keeping busy rehearsing with his band and working at the Breadmaker – rock on, Davey! Weekdays are just as action-packed with AMZ classes, Phoenix Club, wheelchair dancing for Ann, Zumba, bowling, City Moves, and Makaton Choir keeping everyone active and smiling.

Now, everyone's getting into the spooky spirit as Halloween planning is well underway – and there's plenty of excitement as everyone decides which creepy character they'll be this year!

We were also delighted to welcome Sarah Mouncher as our new Manager.

WESTBURN ROAD

DANCING, EXCURSIONS AND SHOPPING!



ANEST HOUSE

The ladies at Anest House have been keeping busy and having lots of fun! They've been joining in with Zumba classes, heading out for coffees and shopping trips, and even enjoyed a lovely day out at Camperdown Park.

Anna individually and Valerie and Morag together had a fantastic time on short breaks at Betty's Place, Archway's fully wheelchair-accessible holiday home in Nairn. With sunshine on their side, they enjoyed local excursions, on-site activities, and plenty of entertainment – the perfect getaway!

Everyone had a blast dressing up for the 80's themed party at Westburn Road, complete with big hair, bright colours, and lots of dancing! Meanwhile, Valerie has been creating some gorgeous tapestries, transforming them into beautiful cushions and bags – true works of art!

We also said a fond farewell to Claire, who has moved to St Margaret's Place – we wish her all the best in he r new role.

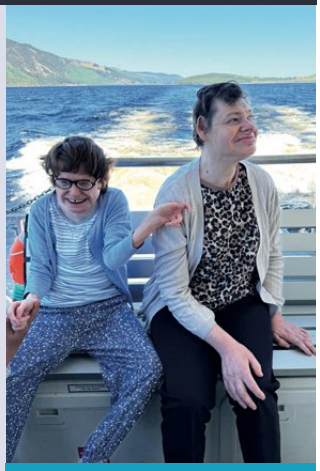
We're on a mission . . . to spot Nessie!

The ladies have been very busy over the last few months and have enjoyed discos, trips out with the minibus, picnics, and walks. We welcomed Claire who has settled in really well.

Nicola, Lesley, Pauline, and Kirsteen had a fantastic holiday in Fife, filled with adventures and plenty of smiles. They loved their trip to the V&A in Dundee, and even went on a mission to spot Nessie at Loch Ness! Pauline also had a brilliant time visiting Edinburgh Zoo, and her birthday party was a huge hit with everyone.

Back at the house, things are looking fresh and welcoming with some lovely redecoration, and new flooring is on the way to keep everything bright and cheerful. It's been wonderful to see the ladies bonding, supporting each other, and becoming great friends.

And on the staffing front, a big congratulations to Liene, who has been promoted to Service Manager.



ST MARGARET'S PLACE

7till9

Our 7till9 Club, continues to meet weekly on-line and regularly face to face.

Open to any adult with a learning disability it's a great way to meet socially, make friends and have some fun.

If you would like to give it a try, get in touch and we will share the log-in

THANK YOU

Thanks To All The Amazing Individuals, Families, Companies and Community Groups who have supported us and help change lives recently including:

Aberdeen Student Show • CNOOC International • CNR • Craig Donaldson • Dyce Rotary Club • EnQuest • FAB Walking Group Banchory • Bill Falconer • FlexiStore • Lesley Gilmore • Grampian Chapter of the Black Widows Bikers • House of Hair • Allan Henderson • Edith & Aila MacDonald • Kellas Midstream • Motive • Morrison Construction • The Kingswells Singers • Miss Caroline Jane Spence Fund • St Machar Rotary Club • Notes Community Choir Torphins • James Stevenson • St Machar Rotary Club • SubSea 7 • TAQA • TMM Recruitment • Trade Widows Fund • Unicorn House at New Deer Primary School

We are deeply grateful to those who have supported Archway in memory of a loved one. Your generosity is a touching tribute and helps us continue our vital work.

FAMILY FUN DAY FUN

With a sprinkle of magic, some fun and games, music, tasty treats and ice creams from the ice cream cart, our Family Fun Day in June just flew past.

Our thanks to Cults Kirk Centre for hosting us and all their hard work organising the event and helping on the day. We had a ball!

SubSea 7 Beast of a Challenge!

Huge Thanks to Paul Simpson and the team at SubSea 7 who raised almost £10,000 at this year's Beast Race.

THE HOUSE IS WARM AND WELCOMING!

It's been a busy time here at Dyce! From sunny days in the garden to adventures on the bus, train, and beautiful local walks, there's been no shortage of fun and laughter.

We're thrilled with the results of our refurbishment project – the fresh flooring, stylish furniture, and bright décor have made the house feel even more warm and welcoming.

Exciting things are still to come! Plans are in motion for a brand-new sensory environment (coming in the New Year!) and a sensory bathroom is also being designed – fingers crossed for funding to make it a reality!

A huge shout-out to staff members Lucy, Shona, and Louis, who bravely took on the Banchory Beast in September and to Lucy again for hosting an amazing Jazzercize fundraiser at Danestone – what energy!

We recently said a fond farewell to Manager Sharon and were delighted to welcome Falake as our new Assistant Manager.

We're excited about the next chapter and can't wait to welcome a new Manager soon!

DYCE

WE'VE HAD SUCH A GREAT SUMMER

Thanks to our new bus, we've been out and about on all sorts of adventures – from big days out at Landmark, Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, and Blair Drummond Safari Park to fun local trips to the beach, castles, parks, shops, pools, and picnics galore!

Back at TMC, we've been just as busy with karaoke sessions, arts and crafts, baking, pamper days, and birthday parties. Our story times and sensory sessions in the brand-new sensory room have been a huge hit too! A special shoutout to Amy, who took fundraising to new heights (literally!) with her spectacular skydive in August, helping us finish the refurbishment of our Activity Room.

Our garden also got a fabulous makeover this summer – complete with a new BBQ, perfect for sunny afternoons spent together. We've sadly said goodbye to a few of our service users who have moved on – we'll miss them and wish them all the very best – and we've also welcomed 13 new service users who are already settling in beautifully.

We're also delighted to welcome Makensie to the team as our new Assistant Manager, and we can't wait to see what exciting activities the next few months will bring.

TWO MILE CROSS

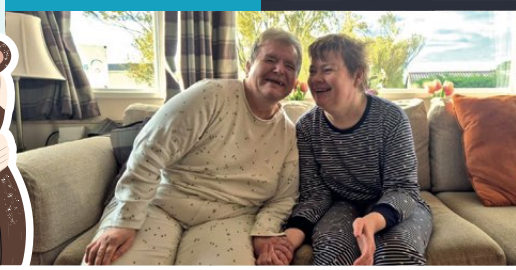
MAKING MAGICAL MEMORIES

Betty's Place, our wonderful wheelchair- accessible holiday home at Lochloy Caravan Park in Nairn, has been full of life all year, giving many Archway families and service users the chance to spend quality time together and create truly special memories.

We've received so many heartfelt messages from families sharing how much their stays meant to them – it's clear that Betty's Place holds a special place in many hearts. While it will close for the season in November, we're already looking forward to welcoming everyone back in the spring, and bookings are now open!

To secure your date and find out more, visit **www.archway.org.uk/service/holiday-home/**

BETTY'S PLACE



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday 20th November

Fellow Archway family members Belinda Ashcroft and Lisa Thomson have organised a number of informal Coffee Catch Up's for parents and carers and would like to invite you to join them for the next one which will be held on at Recharge Cafe (long table by the till) in Bon Accord Centre.

You can drop in anytime between 10.30am and 12.30pm. All Welcome. This is a chance to come along and meet with fellow Archway parents/ carers and have a coffee and a chat and share experiences and support one another.

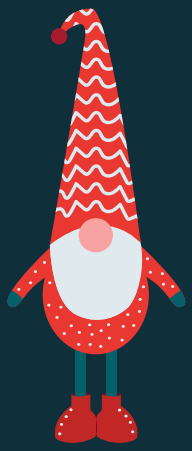
Any questions or suggestions welcome, please email **lisat@archway.org.uk**

HR Update

We've been busy behind the scenes making things better for everyone working at Archway!

All permanent staff (including any new team members) now have their very own Archway email address to keep communication smooth and simple. Our Support Worker recruitment campaign over the summer was a huge success!

We're welcoming 20 new Support Workers between September and November, helping reduce the need for agency staff and strengthening our amazing team.



Sponsor a Table at our
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas Party is one of the highlights of the year for many of our families and service users giving them a rare opportunity to enjoy a fun filled event with other families.

With rising pressures on funding, we're reaching out to our amazing supporters to help keep this magical event alive. For just £250, you can sponsor a table for 10, ensuring that no one misses out on the sparkle and togetherness of the season. Whether you're a company, community group, or individual, your support will make a real difference.

If you or someone you know could help, please share this opportunity – or get in touch with Janine to find out more.

Together, we can make this Christmas unforgettable.

RESIDENTS AT HUXTERSTONE HAVE BEEN BUSY BEES!

Laura has been loving her weekly AMZ cookery classes and had a fantastic visit to Wynford Farm, where she got to pet animals, brush guinea pigs, feed the goats – and even hop into the driver's seat of a big tractor!

Mark and Hayley enjoyed a brilliant day out at Camperdown Wildlife Centre in Dundee, followed by a lovely picnic in the sunshine. Everyone's also been getting their hands dirty in the garden, planting bright flowers, tasty veggies, and juicy fruits – and even having a friendly competition to see who could grow the tallest sunflower!

HUXTERSTONE

We celebrated Hayley's birthday in true Huxterstone style – with a pamper session, makeover, brunch, party games, and a disco with karaoke!

Meanwhile, Mark and William took a fascinating trip to the Peterhead Prison Museum, and later joined Hayley for an amazing day at the circus – what a treat!

As autumn approaches, everyone's excited for Halloween and all the festive fun coming up soon. We said goodbye to Falake, who moved to Dyce, and gave a warm welcome to Nicolle Wiseman, our new Service Manager.

Here's to more adventures, laughter, and happy days ahead at Huxterstone!

Refurbishment and New Sensory Environment at Dyce

Thanks to generous support from a number of sources including The Trade Widows Fund, CNOOC International and The Miss Caroline Jane Spence Fund we have been able to raise over £20,000 to create an amazing new sensory environment at Dyce.

We are now fundraising to upgrade the bathroom and create an amazing sensory bathroom too.

How You Can Help

- Tell people about Archway and what we do and ask for their support
- Nominate Archway at work
- Set your own sporting, or other challenge
- Ask for donations to Archway in lieu of occasion or birthday gifts
- Make a donation or set up a regular monthly donation plan or remember us in your will
- Support our fundraising events

Could you be our next champion?

Partnering with Archway highlights your organisation's commitment to social responsibility and local community support.

If you work for or know of a company who would enjoy partnering with Archway for a one off event or longer, please contact Janine.

REGULAR GIVING

Even small monthly donations add up to make a big, lasting impact – helping create stability and real change all year round.

£10 a month — can help fund toys, games and craft equipment

£20 a month — can help fund outings or activities

£30 a month — can help fund emergency respite breaks

If you would like to start giving regularly please visit our website **www.archway.org.uk** or contact Janine at **giving@archway.org.uk**

A huge thank you to our families and others who already support us this way.

FESTIVE APPEAL

Like many charities, we are facing some of the most difficult times.

Rising costs and increasing demand mean it is harder than ever to raise the funds we need and now we need your support to keep delivering these vital services.

Quite simply, your generosity could make all the difference this Christmas. Whether you are a parent or carer, an individual wanting to give a meaningful gift, start giving monthly, or a company looking to make your festive celebrations even more impactful, your donation has the power to change lives.

Every pound you give goes directly towards creating opportunities, funding services and special equipment for those who need it most.

Supporting Archway is quick and secure: you can donate online at **www.archway.org.uk**, or contact **Janine** at **giving@archway.org.uk** to find out more about current fundraising projects.

Gift Aid it if you can

DONATE NOW

WHY WE FUND RAISE

At Archway, fundraising plays a vital role in ensuring we can continue to provide exceptional care and enriching experiences for the people we support.

Funds raised contribute directly towards the **purchase of specialist equipment, sensory facilities, furniture and furnishings**, as well as **refurbishments, outings, and recreational activities**.

In addition, fundraising enables us to **purchase and maintain wheelchair-adapted vehicles**, and provide **toys, games, TV's, garden furniture and equipment**, along with hosting **Fun Days and community events** that enhance wellbeing and inclusion.

Each year, we must raise over **£150,000** to sustain these essential services, and with increasing costs, that figure continues to grow. Your support ensures that everyone who comes to Archway continues to benefit from a warm, engaging, and fully inclusive environment.

Archway Charity Shops

Our Charity Shops have done an absolutely brilliant job raising much-needed funds, and we couldn't be more grateful. A huge thank you goes to our dedicated volunteers and managers whose hard work and commitment make it all possible – we truly couldn't do it without them.

And of course, we couldn't do it without you either. Your donations of good-quality clothing, household items, bric-à-brac, jewellery, handbags, shoes, and accessories are the lifeblood of our shops.

Every item you give helps us continue supporting those who rely on Archway.

You can drop off donations at any of our shops:

- Aberdeen: 95 Rosemount Place
- Stonehaven: 56 Barclay Street
- Banchory: 68 High Street

Please spread the word to family and friends too – every donation makes a difference.

You can find us on social media and the internet:

www.facebook.com/archwayaberdeen

7till9 Club www.facebook.com/7till9ClubAberdeen

www.instagram.com/archwayaberdeen

www.linkedin.com/company/archwayaberdeen

www.archway.org.uk

If you would like to speak to us about any fundraising idea you may have contact Janine on **07833 208089** or email **Janine.davies@archway.org.uk**

YouTube

We are also on YouTube – search for Archway Aberdeen

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