

# Shared Lives

Midlothian Christmas edition



# Inside your Christmas edition!

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# The Enchanted Forest

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Kevin



Set in the beautiful Faskally Wood in Pitlochry, The Enchanted Forest welcomes around 80,000 visitors every year ...including Kevin!



It is an amazing light and sound show that had Kevin wanting to re-book for next year. The ticket price was just over £26 with the option of taking cancellation insurance for just a few pounds more. There were a limited number of free carer tickets as well which is great.

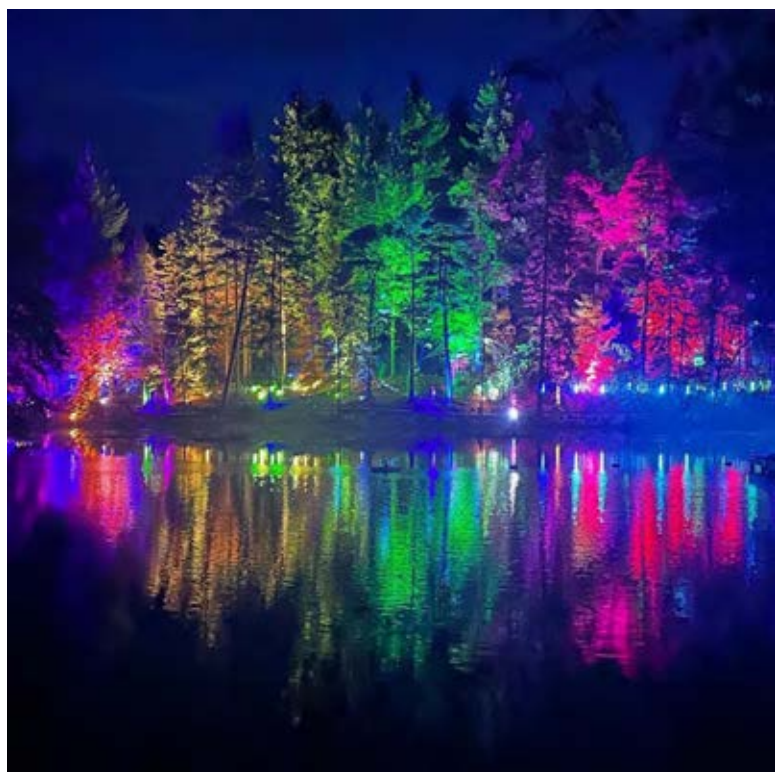


Kevin's verdict was that it was well worth the money! The show was magical with beautiful reflections of lights and trees on the water. The paths were good and the staff were fantastic and really friendly.



The theme was 'From the Deep'. You felt you had been plunged into the ocean, surrounded by sea creatures that lit up the darkness with their bright glowing colours.

Kevin went over seabed stepping stones, which changed colour when you stepped on them, a 'bubble' bridge and then he weaved himself through bright green plankton.



It was more than just a show. It was a real interactive experience.

The sounds really made it come to life! Kevin chatted to the guides who said he was really lucky he had come to the early show as later on it would get really busy.



# London in Style

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## John & Robin

John had been wanting to go on holiday for many years but had been unable to due to the pandemic as well as other factors. Finally, in September this year, he was able to take a luxury trip to London and asked Robin, his Shared Lives carer, to accompany him.



John said he loved London and is hoping to go again next year! John and Robin share a lot of the same interests and as well as seeing all the sights and landmarks they also went to various west end shows.





John sat in the Captain's chair on HMS Belfast. HMS Belfast is so big that you could lie Big Ben across its deck – twice! The photo on the bottom left shows John and Robin in the Horse and Guardsman Pub and the photo below shows them in Fullers Brewery doing the tour.







John said his hotel was fantastic.

Both John and Robin said the breakfasts at the hotel were 'superb'! John's empty plate can verify that! Last but not least, Robin & John, took a selfie outside the gates of Buckingham Palace. John hopes to book up again soon to return in June 2024!

# Whatton Lodge

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Sam & Frances



Sam and Frances went on holiday for 10 days, down to Whatton Lodge in Gullane. They were so lucky to get some beautiful weather.

Whatton Lodge is a beautiful place with amazing views of Gullane Bay and over to Fife. It boasts it has the 'finest view in the United Kingdom'! They were able to relax in the beautiful gardens and sit in the summer house and enjoy it.





Whatton Lodge used to be a place where ex-miners could come for a bit of rest and relaxation. It is now used for breaks for older people and people with disabilities as well as being available for private lets.

The lodge is decorated traditionally with a lot of the original features such as beautiful plaster cornicing - a real 'home from home'.

Sam said the meals were great! Sam and Frances met lots of lovely people and made friends with many of them, even returning to meet up for a cuppa with them after their holiday. Sam said he will definitely return again!



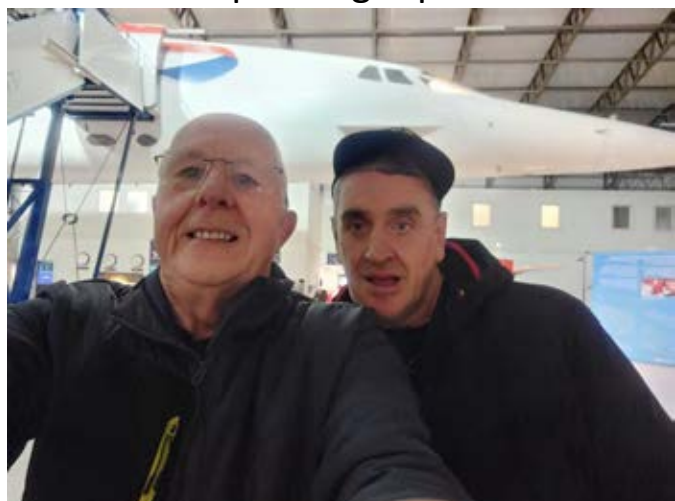
# Concorde Experience

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Steven, Robin, Kevin & John - The National Museum of Flight



Steven and Robin (above), Kevin (below) and John (overleaf) visited the National Museum of Flight. They enjoyed seeing Concorde and other aeroplanes such as a Red Arrows Hawk, a Scottish Air Ambulance plane, a Sea Hawk and fighter jets such as a Spitfire and a Tornado and the Vulcan bomber. There are passenger planes as well - like the kind you would take on holiday, but everyone's favourite seemed to be the military aircraft.





Everyone was fascinated in particular, by the Harrier Jump Jet and also by the array of missiles and bombs.

The Museum is on a huge site at East Fortune. The ticket price is £11 for a concession and carers go free.

The Concorde Experience was another favourite as everyone could remember when Concorde came up the A1 to be housed in East Lothian.



When it flew it went from London to New York in about the same time that it takes to get from Edinburgh to London by train! You can climb onboard and experience it for yourself

...unfortunately it isn't going anywhere these days!

# Meet Hammy

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Claire & Jordan



Claire and Jordan recently enjoyed meeting Hammy, a wee border terrier boy, when they visited the home of their potential short break carer. Hammy was really excited to meet them too!



Jordan said he had spotted Hammy at the window when he drew up in the car and said straight away that he liked dogs!

He and Claire had a cuppa first and a cake before meeting Hammy so that he had time to calm down as he was soooo excited! They both enjoyed clapping Hammy and talking to him. He wanted to kiss them ....but kisses from a dog involve licking!!!



Hammy jumped up beside them on the sofa even though he has his own armchair! Hammy has an armchair but he has no arms!!!





# The Employers Fayre



Midlothian Parental Employability Support team organised the recent Employment Fayre held at St John's & King's Park Church. The Shared Lives Team were there to promote the service.



# Santa Ponsa

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## Family Fun

Karl, Steven, Samantha, Louise & Steven enjoyed their Spanish holiday in Santa Ponsa and visited friends in Magaluf as well! Double the fun!

Look at that blue sky and the beautiful blue water ...makes you wish you were there!



# Shared Lives Week

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We had a stall in Eskdail Court in Dalkeith to promote your Shared Lives service and celebrate Shared Lives Week 26-30 June.

We were also hoping to recruit some short break carers. Thanks to all our clients and carers who came along to support and chat with members of the public.



# Jacobite Adventure

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## Archie & Billy

Archie & Billy took their first overnight trip together earlier this year. They had booked to go on The Jacobite Express – a steam train that goes along the Glenfinnan Viaduct. It's sometimes known as 'The Harry Potter Train' as it's featured in the Harry Potter films.



Due to a landslide on the track their holiday was changed at the last minute. However, Archie said they still had a great time. Archie is a train enthusiast. He loves trains and has his own model railway. So as soon as he could he and Billy booked up again when the line re-opened and they got to experience what it was all about.

Archie said he absolutely loved his trip. He said he would like to return another time with Billy but that they also have plans to see other new places such as the city of York and perhaps Holy Island.



# Word Search

K	R	A	H	P	L	O	D	U	R
O	S	N	H	Y	E	K	R	U	T
T	E	M	O	C	V	I	D	Y	G
R	V	F	L	E	O	N	E	L	O
E	L	H	L	O	L	D	L	L	N
E	E	O	Y	U	L	E	L	O	G
O	P	V	I	X	E	N	U	J	G
H	I	C	E	Y	O	J	M	E	E

COMET

IVY

ELVES

YULELOG

VIXEN

TURKEY

TREE

RUDOLPH

NOEL

EVE

EGGNOG

JOLLY

HOLLY

MULLED

ICE

LOVE

LOL

ME

HARK

KIND

ELF

POLE

JOY

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HO



# Swim to Victory

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## Jordan - Scottish Learning Disability National Summer Games

With over 500 athletes competing in sports, including boccia, football, badminton, cycling, tennis, athletics, indoor bowling and swimming, The Scottish Learning Disability National Summer Games was a fantastic event. It took place back in July at Stirling University.



Jordan conquered his fear of the water and swimming and trained with The Dolphins Swim Club at Lasswade High School Centre.

He entered the 25 metre swim event and chose to swim freestyle. He was awarded the 'White Medal' for individual achievement.

Well done on his fantastic achievement!



# FOOTBALL

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...a family affair!



Karl, Samantha and Steven enjoyed their trip to Birmingham recently for The International Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games.

The World Games is the largest high-level international event for athletes with visual impairment. They were held at the University of Birmingham and wider region.

Samantha was playing for England in the Women's Blind Football.





# We are Hiring!

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Start your shared life – become a shared lives carer.



We are looking for Carers to support us – in flexible paid positions which truly make a difference.

Our Carers are self-employed and work from home to support an adult with a learning disability for a short break.

Short breaks are respite placements that could be overnight, over a weekend, a week or longer and you must have a spare room.

In return you will receive £71.50 a day fee from the Council plus expenses for travel, food and drink and additional activities.

No experience is necessary as we will provide all relevant training. You will need a PVG.

Get in touch for more information – we would love to hear from you.

- **JAMES HILL** – SHARED LIVES COORDINATOR – 0755 441 5930  
[james.hill@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:james.hill@midlothian.gov.uk)
- **TOBY TURNER** – SHARED LIVES COORDINATOR – 0782 690 5196  
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- **BRENDA SMITH** – SHARED LIVES WORKER – 07733 314520  
[brenda.smith@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:brenda.smith@midlothian.gov.uk)

# Loch Katrine

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## Kevin and Brenda



Kevin & Brenda visited the beautiful Loch Katrine in June and sailed up the loch on a boat called The Lady of the Lake.

Kevin thought the boat trip was good value for money! It was priced at £19 for an adult. Unfortunately, they did not offer free carer tickets.

It was ice cream weather and Kevin enjoyed a cone.

Kevin & Brenda plan to take their bikes next year on the boat up to Stronachlachar, then cycle the lochside road back to Trossachs Pier. It's a quiet, smooth road stretching for 14 miles and with the help of a picnic and plenty water they should manage that no problem!



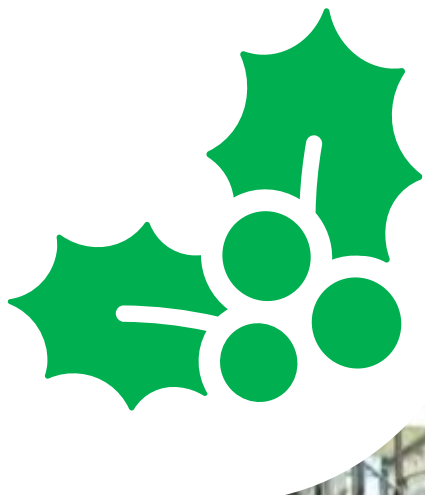
# A *cut* above the rest

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Drew



Drew dressed up at Halloween.



# Contact us

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**Gary Copland - 07703 972102**



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**Brenda Smith - 07733 314520**



**James Hill - 07554 415930**