Leuchie

Transform

Your support | Changing lives

ISSUE 10

A message from the Chief Executive

Every day, families tell us what a difference your support makes. For many people living with neurological conditions, and for the carers who support them, the services provided at Leuchie and beyond our walls are a **lifeline**.

Guests and carers get time to rest, reconnect, and recover and are given every opportunity to regain some independence, improve their health and simply enjoy the company of others without restriction. Thanks to you, more families than ever are experiencing these life transforming benefits.

In 2022, your support enabled us to initiate a two-year strategy to double our impact and we did just that. As the need continues to outpace our capacity, we made the decision to expand our impact tenfold over the next five years - a commitment we shared with you earlier this year. Since then, we've been identifying critical gaps we can fill, growing our team, and forming new partnerships to meet rising demands on our services. **Our goal is clear: to provide lasting support and transform more lives.**

In 2024 your support enabled us to deliver 4,500 respite nights, each one combining expert clinical care, innovative technology and family-focused support to prevent avoidable health issues from developing. Those who we support are at the centre of all we do. As one of our guests recently told us: *"My holidays at Leuchie make such a huge difference to my mental and physical health."*

Our Patron, HRH Princess Anne, inspires us with her understanding of the pressures faced by unpaid carers and has agreed to chair a national conference on respite and the future of care, bringing together leaders from across sectors to drive change. We are also joining forces with other organisations supporting people with neurological conditions and hosting our first Scottish Parliamentary Round Table, to advocate for better services across Scotland.

Partnerships are essential for expanding our reach. Sky is helping guests bring re-enabling technology into their homes to regain some of the independence they have lost. We hope that Logan Air will soon help us connect hard-to-reach families in the Highlands and Islands. In November, we'll host our first event in London, at PWC UK's head office.

Our purpose is motivated by **the people behind the impact stories** we share. People like Sharon and Neil. Their story on page 4 reminds us that respite can be a lifesaver for families living with the effects of a neurological condition who, too often, find themselves at complete breaking point.

We are fortunate to have such a strong community of supporters, like you, enabling us to do more for families like Sharon's, who deserve to live their lives with compassion and dignity.

Mark Bevan
Leuchie CEO

Leuchie does a wonderful job bringing sunshine into peoples' lives. Long may you continue.

You are a truly special group of wonderful people, creating a wonderful caring and friendly place for us to come, and enjoy the care, ethos, and everything!

I'm really happy that we've found a place where my mum is in her element. It's a huge testament to the Leuchie team and the facilities.

It was rewarding to know that we could make even a small difference to their lives.

Transforming lives

Sharon is vibrant, funny, and down-to-earth, and she lights up Leuchie with her warmth and wit. But behind her smile is a story of resilience, love, and the life-changing power of asking for help.

Sharon grew up in Eyemouth and met her husband Neil in 1994, just as he was preparing to join the Army. Their life together took them across the UK and abroad, raising two sons along the way. Sharon was always independent, running the household, working in a secondary school, and supporting Neil through his military career.

But things changed when Sharon began experiencing strange symptoms. Whilst driving to her mum's one day, her leg suddenly felt very heavy, and she struggled to lift it from the brake to the accelerator. Concerned, she took herself to the GP immediately. Doctors initially suspected a trapped nerve, but eventually, Sharon was told she had MS.

As devastating as it was, I decided to roll with it. I was clumsy anyway, so I just used a stick and kept going. I didn't even tell my parents to start with.

As her condition progressed, Sharon leaned more and more on Neil. "Suddenly, Neil was doing everything – his job, the kids, the house, and caring for me. **I kept saying we were fine, but we were broken. We just weren't husband and wife anymore.**"

Neil, already living with PTSD from his time in the Army, reached a crisis point, feeling overwhelmed and without hope, he drove off on his own. A stranger noticed something was wrong and intervened, saving his life. That moment opened the door to support they hadn't known existed, in the shape of Leuchie.

Social work introduced the idea of respite to them. "People forget respite is for Neil and our boys. I get this amazing holiday in North Berwick, but Neil gets a vital break."

Having never heard of Leuchie before, Sharon commented. "I worried it would feel like an old people's home. I'm a young 52! But it couldn't be further from the truth."

She was so nervous on her first visit that she ate dinner in her room, too anxious to join others. But the next morning, everything changed.

"The staff were amazing – they all knew my name. I wasn't 'mum' or 'love' – I was Sharon again and that meant everything."

She discovered activities tailored to her interests, from woodland walks to Motomed bikes – specialist

At Leuchie, I'm Sharon again.

exercise machines which help Sharon reconnect with her body, by moving her legs for her.

The physio team spent time adjusting her wheelchair and coordinated with the Wheelchair Smart Centre to ensure her mobility needs would be supported once she returned home.

She enjoyed the freedom to choose from a range of outings and activities that suited her and she connected with fellow guests, shared stories, and planned future visits with her newfound friends!

I used to avoid leaving the house because I didn't want to be looked at. But at Leuchie, the doors are open. I can go out on my own, sit in the sun, and feel safe.

While Sharon enjoys her break, Neil gets time to rest, visit family, or simply work in the garden without watching the clock. Their sons can relax, knowing their parents are so well supported.

"The urgent need to raise money for Leuchie is real. Without support, it could all fall apart and for me, that's a scary thought, so to everyone who donates to Leuchie, thank you. **You've given me more than just a break; you've given me back my confidence, my independence, and a chance to feel like myself again.**"

Sharon holding court at a Leuchie event hosted by HRH, The Princess Royal last year

Our supporters in the spotlight

In 2025 we received our **biggest ever legacy gift**

Corporate support

Individuals

Events

£1.5 million donated over 12 months from our generous supporters

Community Fundraising

Legacies

Trusts & Foundations

329 new donors in 2025

Support from 72 volunteers in 2025

146 gifts **from guests and carers** in 2025

Leuchie's Legends

In 2024/2025 our 'Leuchie Legends' faced their fears, beat their personal bests, and brought together the local community all in the name of Leuchie. Through many challenges and fundraisers, our supporters have raised vital funds for the families we support. Thank you all!

Over **£54,000** raised in a year from community groups and supporters!

Sophie and **Lee** completed the Three Peaks Challenge, climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon in under 24 hours! An amazing challenge to take for Leuchie. They raised a fantastic £1200!

A big thank you to **Lorna**, regular Leuchie guest, who has been busy running a number of fundraising initiatives, from beat the goalies challenges to raffles, in her home town of Falkirk, raising over £650 (and counting!).

Our very own care assistant, **Rosie Goodall**, ran the London Marathon in April, smashing her running and fundraising targets, raising an incredible £1550!

Ann, a long-term supporter and former Leuchie Trustee, gathered all of her friends and family for an evening of live music, a raffle and bingo, raising £1700! Thank you Ann for your unwavering support over the years.

We're absolutely delighted that Gary completed his first marathon an

– Kenny (Gary's dad)

In December, **The Echt players**, friends to guest **Peter** and his wife **Jackie**, raised £885 from proceeds from their Wizard of Oz pantomime performance. Showing us that there truly is "no place like Leuchie!"

Captain of Gifford Glub Club, **Peter Imrie**, completed his 72 Hole Golf Challenge, raising £720 for Leuchie. Thank you Peter!

Runners in this year's Edinburgh Marathon Festival raised a grand total of £7000 for Leuchie! Thank you to **Gary**, **Rachel**, **Ivanna**, **Annabella**, **Fraser** and a well-known face **Emma** (Leuchie's Director of Care and Health)!

Thanks to the **locals of North Berwick**, we were lucky enough to get your vote through **Tesco's Stronger Starts** and Blue Tokens - each token contributed to us receiving a £1500 award!

Supporter spotlight

In May, Leuchie supporter **Gary Saunders** completed his first ever marathon at the Edinburgh Marathon Festival, finishing 652nd in a field of around 25000! Aside from this incredible achievement, Gary also managed to raise a whopping £5000 for Leuchie from his efforts.

We are incredibly grateful to Gary and his family for the support they have given us over the years, and this amazing feat tops it all off.

d contributed to such a great cause.

More Leuchie's Legends

Our very own **Cristina**, Community and Events Fundraiser, raised £1000 by taking on her very first Scottish half marathon in August, getting those pins ready for her upcoming wedding!

Glorious gardens across East Lothian once again opened their gates for Leuchie this year as part of Scotland's Gardens Scheme, raising over £5000 (and counting!). A big thank you to everyone at **Tyninghame House**, **A Blackbird Sings**, **Greywalls**, **Papple Steading** and **Blackdykes**.

In October last year, **CrossFit Haddington** got 'Spooky for Leuchie' as they took on a Halloween themed CrossFit extravaganza, raising £3238!

J's Tennis Club Cafe donated their summer opening day proceeds to Leuchie in May, raising over £300 by serving their delicious drinks and snacks down at the Tennis Club in North Berwick!

Huge thanks to regular guest **Iain**, who, took on another fundraising challenge in aid of Leuchie. Paddleboarding from North Berwick to Prestonpans, Iain, managed to raise an amazing £1400 shared between Leuchie, Beyond Boundaries East Lothian and the Walk with Scott Foundation.

Our dad, Andy has enjoyed several excellent breaks at Leuchie and w

– Stuart and Colin Bain (Tough Mudder competitors)

Taking to the sky, regular guest **Lorraine** raised £325 when she completed her microlight flight to raise vital funds for Leuchie. "As a RAF veteran, being back in the air, after a decade grounded, just filled me with joy and made my heart sing."

In August, the **New Town Hash House Harriers** once again took to the streets of Edinburgh and donned their fabulous garments to fundraise as part of the Red Dress Run, raising £794 for Leuchie!

Our supporters took to the stage at North Berwick's Fringe by the Sea this year to raise funds to support Leuchie's guests and carers. Thanks to **Ali Blevins**, the **Prov Johnstone Band**, **Christopher Biggins** and **Patricia Hodge** for putting Leuchie front stage!

Christine raised an incredible £1275 for Leuchie by boldly taking on Sober October last year. She definitely deserved her glass of wine at the end of it all!

Supporter spotlight

Stuart and **Colin** laced their trainers and faced the grueling Tough Mudder challenge in June this year in memory of their father Andy, a former Leuchie guest. Determined to push themselves to the limit, they battled through miles of muddy obstacles and ice-cold water and in doing so, smashed their target, raising £712!!

Thank you to Stuart and Colin for this huge effort and to everyone who donated.

...e wanted to give something back!

Corporate Support

Strengthening Leadership, Expanding Impact

At the beginning of this year, global leadership development organisation Ceannas came on board as Leadership Partner for this year's Leuchie Leaders Club and we couldn't be more grateful for their thoughtful support.

Ceannas was founded by Don Ledingham, a long term supporter of Leuchie who four years ago, along with friend Gordon Hunter, launched his photography and Poetry book, *Edinburgh Revisited*, donating all proceeds to Leuchie and the 500 miles charity. Since then, with Don's son Lewis at the helm, Ceannas has become a committed corporate partner for Leuchie.

To support Leuchie, Ceannas recognised that their greatest contribution lay in their core expertise: developing leaders and strengthening organisations. They have helped Leuchie build internal capacity, develop our team and grow sustainably, while also actively supporting fundraising and income generation.

This year, Ceannas is sponsoring the Leuchie Leaders Club, a space created for CEOs, founders, and business owners to connect, share experiences and grow together. Their commitment to creating long-term impact for leaders and their organisations makes them a perfect fit. As part of their sponsorship, they'll be offering a series of leadership development workshops and hosting 'Jefferson' dinners to explore the themes emerging from our fireside conversations.

This is partnership at its best, where shared values, expertise and generosity come together to make a lasting difference to our guests and their families. We're incredibly thankful to the Ceannas team and look forward to growing more relationships like this in the future.

Stewart Investors deepens long-term support for Leuchie

Stewart Investors

Stewart Investors, have supported Leuchie's mission for nearly a decade and 2025 marks a significant milestone in our relationship, as the company has pledged a multi-year financial commitment that will help ensure Leuchie can continue delivering life-changing respite breaks and outreach services for people living with neurological conditions and their carers, while giving us the stability to plan ahead and meet their needs with confidence.

The decision to formalise long-term support reflects Stewart Investors deep understanding that it takes sustained investment to create lasting change and meaningful impact in peoples' lives. Their renewed commitment helps us build stability, resilience and growth for the years to come.

Stewart Investors' is rooted in shared values and because our ethos aligns with their own principles of integrity, responsibility, and long-term thinking.

They trust our team to use their support wisely and effectively, ensuring that every contribution helps sustain our services and enriches the lives of our guests.

We are immensely grateful to Stewart Investors for empowering Leuchie to plan for the future, one where every guest and unpaid carer feels supported, valued, and cared for. **Their commitment is a powerful example of how corporate investment enables Leuchie to reach more families who need us.**

> Leuchie represents the ideals we cherish, and that guide our thinking about investing for a better world. We are proud to support Leuchie, and we want others to join us. We would welcome opportunities to discuss our support with any groups who may be considering Leuchie as a long-term partner.

Volunteering

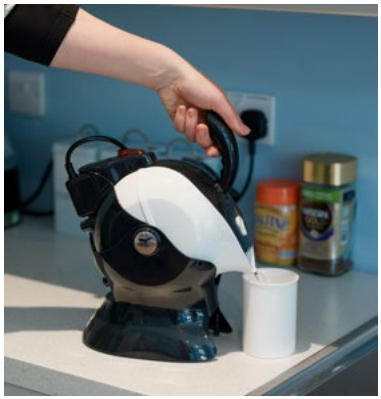
MBM ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS LAWYERS

Over this summer, a group of volunteers from **MBM Commercial** spent the day at Leuchie to learn more about what we do and to help build planters and vegetable beds for our kitchen garden - thank you all!

sky

In October last year we welcomed some of the **Sky** team to help us get winter ready around Leuchie's grounds. They spent the day barking the woodland pathway, raking, pruning and other necessary jobs whilst trying to keep warm!

The Hugh Fraser Foundation – Supporting innovation through enabling technology



We are very grateful to The Hugh Fraser Foundation for their generous support of our Enabling Technology programme at Leuchie House.

As the needs of people living with neurological conditions and those who care for them continue to grow, so does our commitment to pioneering health and care-related technologies that restore independence and dignity. This vital funding enables us to recruit and retain the very best enabling technologists, whose expertise directly supports our guests in living more autonomous, fulfilling lives.

Thanks to this support, we're expanding access to assistive technology not only within Leuchie but also across the wider community, helping more people experience greater choice, confidence and connection.

> New technology, or gaining a better understanding of existing technology, can make a significant difference to our guests' ability to stay in touch with friends and relatives. This can help improve mental wellbeing and return a sense of independence.
>
> **- Kevan Gordon, Leuchie Enabling Technology Team**

I've been having trouble operating my phone so Kevan explained the right commands to help me access it through voice command. Upstairs I can now put the TV on with my voice. Using the voice commands Kevan has shown me has made things much easier for me – it's exactly what I wanted. Thank you!

- Kevan Gordon, Leuchie Enabling Technology Team

Events

Gourmet Golf Day

Thanks to everyone who took part in last year's Gourmet Golf Day at The Renaissance Club.

With tasters from the best food and drink East Lothian has to offer, our fourth Gourmet Golf Day was a tremendous success, raising **£40,000**. Thank you to our sponsors **Pure Malt**, **Copper Grey**, and **No12 Hotel & Bistro**. A special thank you to Peter Miller, who shared a moving reflection on what Leuchie means to him and his wife and regular guest, Angela. The generosity on the day is a reminder of what your support can achieve for the families who rely on us.

RENAISSANCE CLUB

PureMalt

No12 HOTEL & BISTRO

COPPER GREY DEVELOPMENTS

£40,000 raised!

Bridge Afternoon & Tea

November last year saw Leuchie hosting another fabulous afternoon of Bridge and afternoon tea raising **£2,748** for our charity! Many thanks to our wonderful committee Jane, Ali, and Janey for giving up their time to organise this.

Next one is set for 31st October - to book, email cristina@leuchie.org.uk.

£2,748 raised!

Funds a hoist to safely transfer guests.

Leuchie Long Lunch

£172,000 raised!

2024 saw the most successful Leuchie Long Lunch yet, raising an incredible £172,000!

As an event themed around leadership and laughter, we were honoured to welcome motivational speaker and bestselling author **Damian Hughes**, who inspired the room! Guests were wowed by magic from **Ben Hanlin** and thrilled by a surprise return performance from **MC Hammersmith**, who's on-the-spot freestyling left everyone amazed.

Thank you to our brilliant MC **Natasha Raskin Sharp**, our dedicated volunteers and our sponsors **MBM Commercial**, **Stewart Investors**, **Progeny**, **Hamilton**, and **Cox & Co**.

MBM ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS LAWYERS

Stewart Investors

progeny

Hamilton Giving waste new life

COX&CO WE KNOW PROPERTY

Genesis Scottish Open

In July this year, as one of the charities supported by The Renaissance Club Charitable Foundation (TRCCF.org), Leuchie was again trusted with looking after the Fanzone Mini Golf area!

A huge thank you to our fantastic group of volunteers, including some from our long term corporate supporters, McInroy & Wood (pictured). Over five days, the team helped to raise £16,000 for the TRCCF, which will benefit local causes across East Lothian! A big thank you to the TRCCF for this opportunity.

In addition to this, over the last three years, Leuchie has been awarded an incredible £85,500 worth of support from The Renaissance Club Charitable Foundation, which has had a hugely positive impact on the families who benefit from our services.

the renaissance club Charitable Foundation

GENESIS

£16,000 raised!

THE BIG ASCOT BASH

It's not too early to book for the 18th of June!

SCAN HERE TO RECEIVE A £250 DISCOUNT IF BOOKED BEFORE OCTOBER 2025

This year's Big Ascot Bash was a truly unforgettable day raising an incredible £107,000!

Held at the appropriately named *Stables* at Prestonfield House, we are so grateful to owner, **James Thomson** for generously donating the cost of the event for the fourth time running! Thanks to him and his team and everyone supporting on the day, we're still on cloud nine!

Natasha Raskin Sharp and **Edward Reid** returned as our charismatic co-hosts, for an afternoon filled with fun, flair, and heart. A moving moment came from full time carer Jim, husband of Leuchie guest Ann, whose touching story was beautifully shared in a live interview with former Chair of the Board, Stephen Pearson.

A huge thank you to our Headline Sponsor, **LGT Wealth Management**, and our other sponsors **Upper Class Travel**, **Archerfield Walled Garden**, and **Justin D'Agostino** and **No12 Hotel & Bistro**. And of course, a big thank you, to our wonderful volunteers.

£107,000 raised!

PRESTONFIELD
PRESTONFIELD HOUSE EDINBURGH

Archerfield WALLED GARDEN

N°12 HOTEL & BISTRO

LGT Wealth Management

Upper Class Travel

JUSTIN D'AGOSTINO

Legacy Tea at Leuchie: Planning for the Future

Nearly 7 in 10 adults in Scotland don't have a will or have one that's out of date

This summer, Leuchie House hosted a special Legacy Tea event, welcoming guests and volunteers to an informative session led by local supporter and friend, Gordon Symon.

Gordon, a retired solicitor, generously shared his time and wisdom to talk about the importance of writing a will and powers of attorney.

Held in the safe and welcoming environment of Leuchie, the event gave guests the chance to ask questions and reflect on how planning ahead can bring them and their families peace of mind.

We're incredibly grateful to Gordon for his thoughtful presentation and to everyone who attended. Events like these remind us that planning for the future is so important!

For Leuchie, legacy gifts help ensure that people living with neurological conditions and their families can continue to access life-changing respite care for years to come.

£1 in every £5 donated to Scottish charities comes from gifts in wills

To learn more about leaving a gift in your will to Leuchie or to sign up for our FREE wills service, visit: leuchie.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will

Keep an eye out for our plans to shine a spotlight on North Berwick next summer...

We wish we could highlight all our amazing supporters here. If you don't feature, please know we truly value all you do for Leuchie.

Leuchie

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Fundraising Team

Standing L to R – Matt, Hannah, Cristina, Gemma, Claudia, Emma