



A hat-trick of awards at the SSSA

The 9th November, 2022, will go down as one of the most memorable nights in the history of SOL. We are delighted and honoured to announce that we won 3 categories at the Scottish Social Services Awards.

These national awards recognise organisations and individuals who champion good care and support and make a positive impact on the lives of the people they work for.

We feel really proud to have won these awards at a time when the challenges have never been harder. Winning in this way, recognises that the people we support are always at the heart of everything we do, and highlights and acknowledges the people who make sure this is always the case - our fantastic colleagues and teams!

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We produce a video version of each issue of The SOL Singer. If you would prefer to watch this issue visit our YouTube channel. If you have a smart phone or tablet just scan this code.



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An award winning night at the Scottish Social Services Awards

We scored a hat-trick at the Scottish Social Services Awards on the 9th of November at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow. One of our support workers was also a runner up in one of the categories!

The Scottish Social Services Awards have been taking place since 2017 (except in 2020 due to COVID-19). Their aim is to raise the profile of social services, promote the work of organisations, and demonstrate how good care and support can make a real impact on people's lives.

The SSSA invite individuals and organisations to put forward nominations, from across Scotland, that showcase examples of best practice. The applications are then scored by a judging panel including Scottish Government policy officials.

It's a really prestigious awards ceremony. We were competing for these awards against some of the best social care professionals and providers from across Scotland.



John and his team enjoying a special night

To be there on the night was just amazing. The awards ceremony was held in the Old Fruitmarket in the Merchant City in Glasgow. The night was hosted by STV's weatherman, Sean Batty.

Congratulations to our award winners and nominees. We're all really proud of you!



Looking dapper at the awards



SOL Connect show Sean Batty their award!

The categories the organisation were nominated in, and nominees, were:

Excellence in Mental Health Services

SOL Connect (Winner)

Excellence in Disabilities Services

John's team (Winner)

Social Care Worker of the Year

Alan Linskey (Runner Up)

Outstanding Contribution to Social Services

Jake Gibson (Winner)



The team enjoying the awards ceremony



Jake receiving his award

the SSSA received

250

applications

We were nominated in

4

categories

We won

3

awards

Oh, what a night!

I have worked in social care for over 25 years, but I can honestly say seeing SOL and SOL Connect win 3 awards at the SSSA is one of my career highlights.

When we found out that we had been shortlisted in 4 categories, I was over the moon. Although I am not surprised that we shone as brightly as we did at the awards, I am more delighted that the hard work of everyone involved has been recognised at this level. It truly was a proud moment for us all.

I want to thank everyone in the organisation for the amazing work they do each day. These awards are testament to that hard work and commitment you all do for the people we support. I also want to pass on my congratulations to SOL Connect, John's team, Alan Linskey, and Jake Gibson for being nominated for your respective categories. You did us proud! Congratulations.

Donna Thompson



Donna Thompson

Chris is on his travels

Myself and Barry (a member of my team) packed our bags and went on our travels. The first place we visited was London where we enjoyed a three day stay.

London

Some of the highlights from the first day of our trip included a visit to Buckingham Palace, 10 Downing Street, House of Commons and Leicester Square. We rounded off a busy first day with a trip to the theatre to see Matilda. It was amazing!

On the second day we went shopping for some gifts for my family. We then visited the London Eye but I decided against going on it. We rounded off day two with another trip to the theatre, this time to see The Lion King. It was another terrific show.

As my fantastic trip to London was drawing to a close we headed home. Just before we did though, I managed to visit Platform 9 and 3/4 from the Harry Potter films. It was a great way to end the trip.



Chris visiting 'Big Ben' in London



Chris and Barry in Manchester

Manchester

My travels continued when myself and Barry headed down to Manchester. It was a bit of a stressful journey as our train was affected by the rail strikes. We had to sit on the train for 3 hours... not exactly the start to this trip that I wanted!

Saturday was our big day as we did the Old Trafford stadium tour. It was amazing to walk about the stadium. I got my picture taken with my favourite Manchester United player's shirt, Ronaldo. I also got to see all the trophies they have won over the years.

On Sunday the travelling stress continued as it took 3 trains to get home and took us over 6 hours because of the strikes. However, it was worth it just to see that amazing stadium.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

All the ghouls and goblins came out to play recently when UPTAE held their Halloween party.

This was UPTAE's first 'in person' event and by all accounts it was a great one.

The party took place in LAMH's cafe, close to our Wishaw office.

Even though there weren't that many Halloween costumes on display, everyone still enjoyed catching up and having a bite to eat!

If you would like more information about UPTAE, please contact Laura Kilpatrick at the SOL office on 01698 276206.



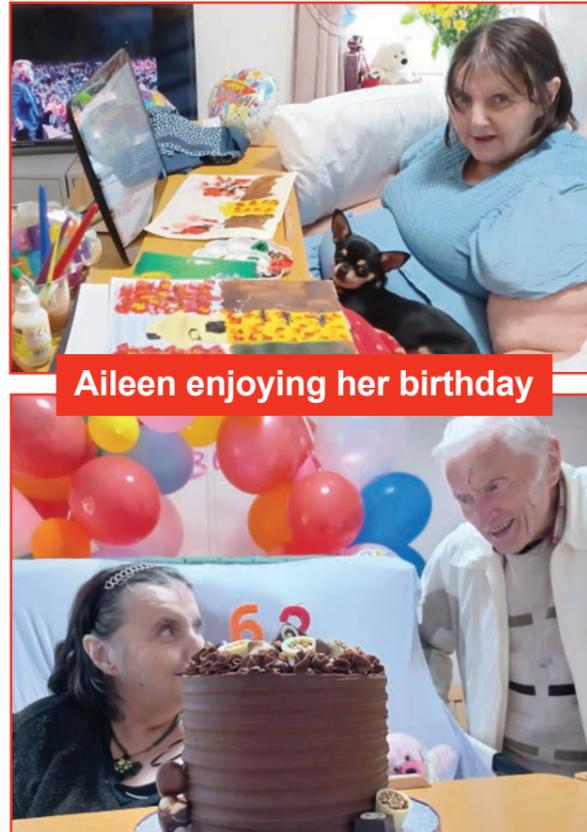
Aileen's brilliant birthday surprise...

Aileen celebrated her birthday recently with her family and her team.

A very special surprise present came in the form of her new dog 'Oreo'. Aileen was over the moon with her present and fell in love with Oreo straight away. Oreo has been making himself at home and has settled in really well. As you can see by the top picture, Oreo is pretty good at giving Aileen a helping hand with her UPTAE Art Class.

That's one birthday present Aileen won't forget in a hurry!

Pictured is Aileen and her Dad with her fabulous cake.



Aileen enjoying her birthday

Tracey's feeling right at home

Tracey recently moved into her new house in Wishaw. She has settled in well and is absolutely loving her new home.

One of the things Tracey enjoys most is her new television that has Netflix and Disney Plus on it. She can now chill-out on her new sofa and enjoy her favourite films and TV shows.

As you can see by her smile, Tracey is delighted to be in her new home with all of her new furniture.

We hope you have many happy years in your new home, Tracey.



I love my new house.

Tracey settling in to her new home

John is having a laugh at Mrs Brown's Boys

John and Wullie went to see Mrs Brown's Boys in June at the Hydro and they had a rip-roaring night.

The hit BBC show returned to its roots when it took to the stage in Glasgow. Brendan Carroll (who plays Mrs Brown) first performed as Agnes Brown in 1992. For a period of 7 years, Mrs Brown would perform in the Pavillion Theatre in Glasgow, three times a week. BBC Scotland then decided to produce a 'Mrs Brown' TV show that made her a national star!

John has always been a fan of the show, so he was in his element seeing all the cast on stage and he had a fabulous night.

It was a quality show.



John and Wullie at the Hydro



Out and about with Helen

We've all been enjoying a return to 'normal' life, since the easing of lockdown restrictions. None more so than Helen.

Helen has been out and about again, visiting the hairdressers, going shopping, and enjoying a wee lunch out... which she absolutely loved! These are all things that we couldn't do during the pandemic so it's good to appreciate them now!

Pictured is Helen enjoying one of her lunches.



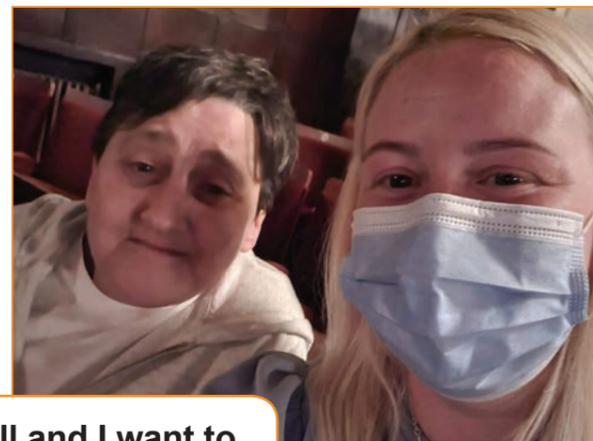
Helen enjoying being out and about

Linda enjoys the Lion King

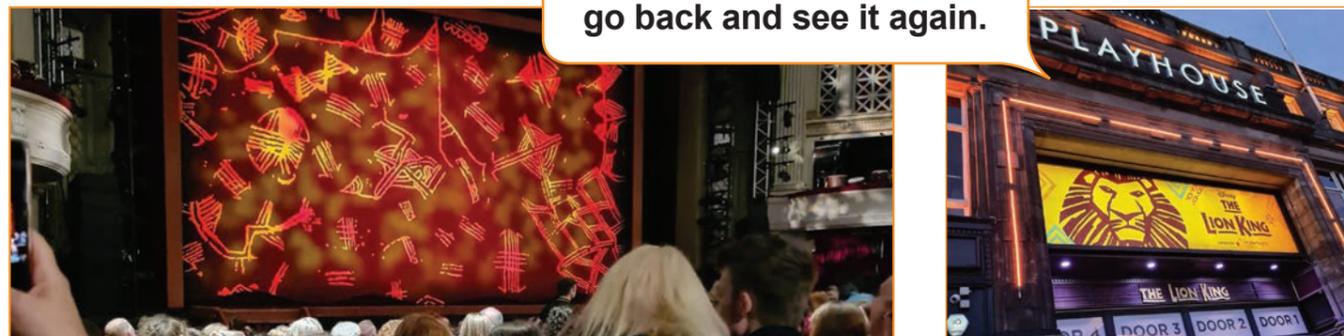
Linda and Ashleigh took a wee trip by car to Edinburgh in June to see The Lion King at the Playhouse.

It was a show Linda had always wanted to see and she was enthralled by all the costumes, the music and the cast.

One of the highlights was when the cast walked through the audience. It made them feel part of the show.



I loved it all and I want to go back and see it again.



Iain reveals the past

Iain and Tricia recently attended an archaeological dig in Lanark. This was organised by Ross, the Team Leader at Clydesdale Community Initiatives where Iain works every Thursday.

There were 3 Archaeologists on site and, armed with their trowels, Iain and Tricia set to work. Three hours later, they managed to find some coloured pebbles and some pottery they were told could be 150 years old. There were also other discoveries on the day that they are waiting to hear about. Exciting stuff!

Iain and Tricia had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed their experience.



Some of the items that were found



The team uncovering the past



I had an amazing time.



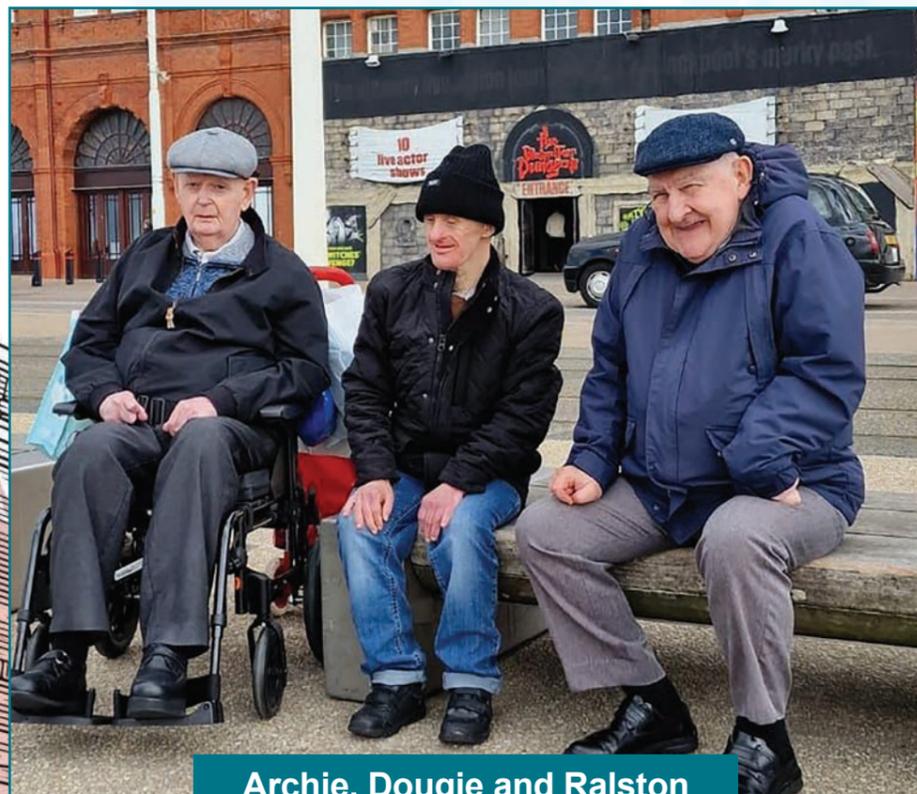
Iain hard at work but having fun.

Blackpool

A few of the people we work for recently enjoyed some time away in Blackpool.

Enjoying the sites!

Archie, Dougie and Ralston headed down to the seaside town to enjoy a few days break. Below is a picture of the guys outside one of Blackpool's premiere attractions... The Blackpool Tower Dungeon!



Archie, Dougie and Ralston enjoying their break away



Derek enjoys a chilled out break...

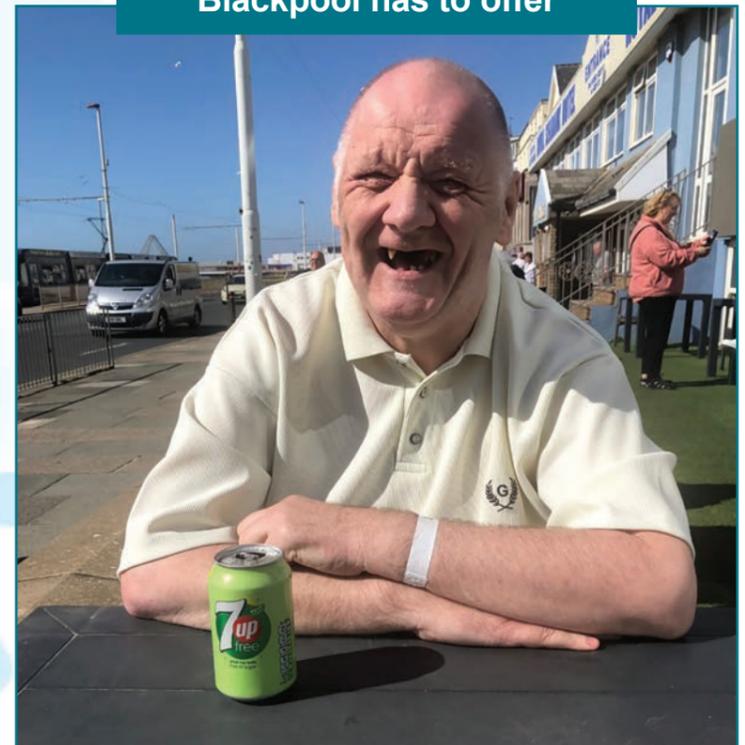
Derek and Pat also had a wee break in Blackpool recently. They stayed at the Royal Seabank Hotel, which was lovely and the food was really good.

As Derek had been to Blackpool before and had done all the sights, he was quite happy just looking around all the wee gift shops. He was in his element!

Derek also loved the entertainment at the Craig-y-Don Hotel and going on the trams.



Derek enjoying all that Blackpool has to offer



It's all going on at



Alan enjoys a break away

Alan and Susan recently had a fantastic week long break at Craig Tara.

Walking along the beach every day was one of the things Alan really enjoyed and he also loved going on the train that takes you around the park. He also loved the entertainment team (as you can see in the picture below).

Alan had a brilliant time and thoroughly enjoyed himself.



Alan and the entertainment team



Alan enjoying some sea air



Taking a trip around the park

Davie takes it easy in Ayrshire!

Davie and Stephen had a wee trip to Ayr recently from Monday to Friday to a caravan at Craig Tara. They travelled by taxi which gave Davie the opportunity to enjoy some of the beautiful Ayrshire scenery.

Davie really enjoyed going to the live shows on site and going out for something to eat. Luckily the weather was fine for them.

Davie enjoyed just taking it easy and relaxing in the caravan.



Davie and Stephen enjoying a bite to eat



Davie relaxing at his caravan



Enjoying the beautiful scenery and lovely beach



Archie's TV and Film Reviews

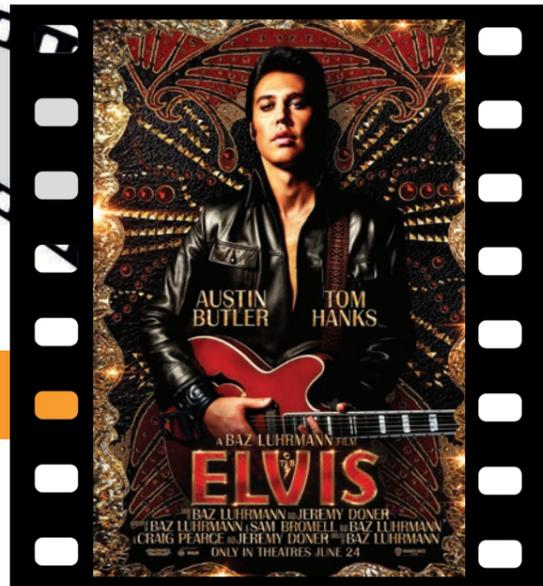
SOL's movie expert, Archie, reviewed something to get us "all shook up"... 'Elvis' and a brilliant Christmas film.

Elvis

Tom Hanks plays Colonel Tom Parker in the movie and Elvis is played by Austin Butler. It tells the story of Elvis's childhood through to his relationship with his manager (Parker).

Archie's verdict:

I really enjoyed this movie, especially on the big screen and I would highly recommend it.



Archie gives it: $\frac{9}{10}$

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Michael Caine stars as Scrooge in the telling of a Muppets Christmas Carol with all the favourite Muppet characters and he plays the role brilliantly

This is a film for the young and the old and is a fabulous version of the story including all the Muppet Magic.

Archie's verdict:

This is a not to be missed movie so if you haven't seen it, grab the DVD and have a great watch.



Archie gives it: $\frac{10}{10}$

Word Search Quiz

Find the Christmas Songs/Carols

Marys Boy Child, Jingle Bell Rock, Mistletoe and Wine, Santa Baby, Marys Boy Child, Feliz Navidad, Run Rudolph Run, A Winters Tale, Silent Night, Deck the Halls, The First Noel, We Three Kings, Blue Christmas, One More Sleep, Sleigh Ride, Away in a Manger, Joy to the World, Frosty the Snowman

D	E	L	A	T	S	R	E	T	N	I	W	A	P	J
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I	R	R	E	G	N	A	M	A	N	I	Y	A	W	A
M	U	F	E	L	I	Z	N	A	V	I	D	A	D	N

1. How many ghosts appear to Scrooge in a 'Christmas Carol'?
2. In the film 'It's a Wonderful Life' what happens every time a bell rings?
3. In the song 'Twelve days of Christmas', how many Pipers are there?
4. In the film 'Home Alone 2' what City does Kevin get lost in?
5. In the film 'Elf' who plays Buddy?
6. Who had a hit with 'Step into Christmas'?
7. What did the three wise men bring to the stable for Baby Jesus?
8. What Brenda Lee Christmas Song did Mel Smith and Kim Wilde record?
9. Who plays the lead role in the 'Die Hard' movies?
10. Boxing Day is also known as what?

The answers to the quiz questions are on the back page. Good Luck!

Star spotting with Thomas

Look who Thomas bumped into while out shopping in the Celtic Shop in Glasgow City Centre recently. The one and only Paolo Nutini.

Thomas asked him for a wee selfie. Great picture Thomas.



A warm welcome to Duncan

Duncan McInnes has joined the organisation as our new Head of Business Support and Development.

Duncan has a wealth of experience in working with social care organisations and he takes over from Bernard Ruddy who has moved on to pastures new!

Duncan commented: **My recent background has been within the Health and Social Care sector, and I am aware of the challenges we face. I am looking forward to meeting and introducing myself to the Business Support Team and the extended SOL family in the coming weeks.**

I'm sure we would all like to welcome Duncan to SOL and wish him well in his new role.



Duncan McInnes

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1. Four
2. An Angel gets their
3. Eleven wings
4. New York
5. Will Ferrell
6. Elton John
7. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
8. Rockin' around the Christmas Tree.
9. Bruce Willis
10. St Stephen's Day

Quiz Answers:



May winners

- 1st James Devine
- 2nd Steph Anderson

June winners

- 1st Ashleigh Barbour-Niven
- 2nd Craig Irons

July winners

- 1st Barry Davidson
- 2nd Emma Brown

August winners

- 1st Donna Thompson
- 2nd Craig Irons

September winners

- 1st James Whitefield
- 2nd Aaron Winter

October winners

- 1st James Devine
- 2nd Leeann Double