

The History Of Scottish Autism

1968

The Scottish Society for Autistic Children (the original name of Scottish Autism) is founded by Marjorie Morrison, who became chairperson.



1977



Struan House School opens.

The Countess of Roseberry is named patron of the Scottish Society for Autistic Children.

1983

Balmyre House opens in Alloa, providing twenty-four residential support and four day places with continuing education and training programmes.

Ludgate Alloa Stained Glass Work, Woodwork and Arts and Crafts day services opens.



1984

Ian Critchley, a supported individual living in Balmyre House, wins a gold medal for swimming.

1989

Balymre Training Centre in Alloa opens. The building is leased for just £1 per year, from United Distillers, before being handed over in 1995. This service provides a range of activities that support 'whole life needs', including independent living skills, further education, accessing the community and craft based work.



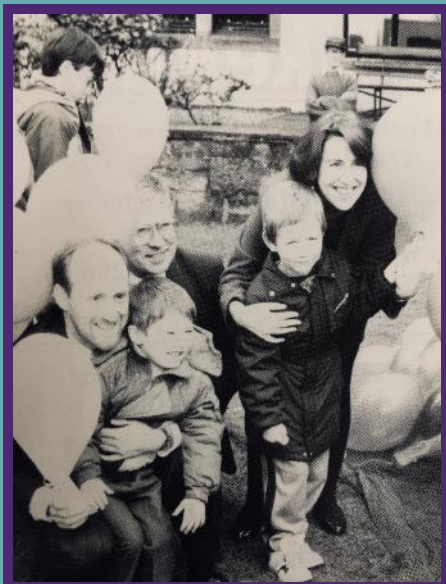
Hervey Street in Alloa, North Street in Clackmannan and Collier's Court in Tillicoultry opens, collectively providing a community house for three adults.

1990

Ridgepark House in Lanark is opened on the 3rd September by Convener of Strathclyde Region, Councillor DM Sanderson, J.P. This service provides residential care for twenty young people with autism.



1991



Struan House School Project appeal launches, supported by BBC TV presenter Kirsty Wark and local MP Martin O'Neill. The appeal raises money for a special educational play area at the school.

We're thrown into the digital age with the arrival of computers at Head Office.

A charity football match takes place between Balmyre House and Struan House School to raise money for an outdoor splash pool at Struan House School. The match resulted in a four-all draw.



1993



25th Anniversary of the founding of the Scottish Society for Autistic Children.

First Scottish Autism Awareness Week is launched by the cast of Les Miserables and covered by STV.



1995



Head Office moves from Edinburgh to Hilton House, Alloa.

Jigsaw café opens in Balmyre Training Centre, offering tea and cakes to family and friends.

1996



Clannalba Respite and Short Breaks Centre opens. The original bid for the Chalets at Clannalba was to accommodate families, this service now supports adults.

Preparations to the Balmyre Horticultural Unit (now Gartinnny Nurseries), begins.



The National Lottery Charity Board awards a £482,000 grant to the charity to build a new, purpose built two-bedroom bungalow specifically for adults at Clannalba.

Musselburgh Day Service now known as the Autism Resource Centre opens.

1997



Her Royal Highness Princess Anne opens Struan House School Cottage. Several older pupils stay here to allow them to develop their independent living skills and aid their transition into a more adult environment/service.

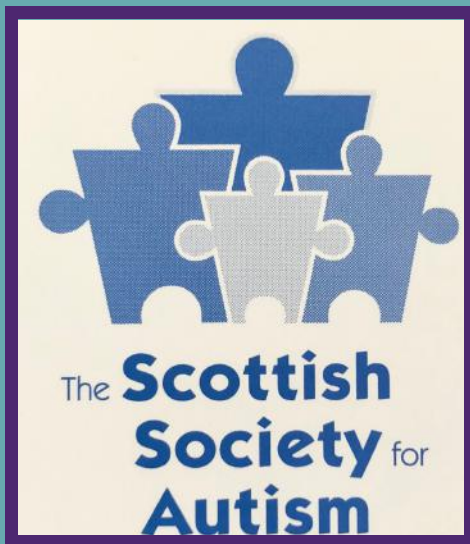
CETA (Centre for Education and Training in Autism) formally launches with the publication of its first six month programme of autism-specific training.

1998

30 year anniversary since the founding of the Society. This is marked with a number of events, including a White Water Raft Race on Easter Sunday, and a Family Fun Day at Ardean in Dollar.

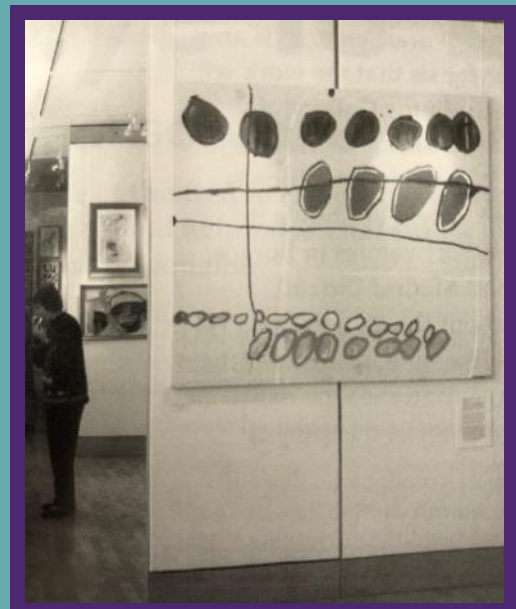


The Scottish Society for Autistic Children is rebranded to The Scottish Society for Autism.



2000

Autism-Europe Congress 2000 is held at the SECC with 1500 participants from all across Europe. As part of this conference, an exhibition of art produced by people with autism, Artism 2000, launches at the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow.



2001

Art Exhibition in Scottish Parliament, titled 'A Celebration of Autism' is opened by First Minister Henry McLeish.

2002



Rugby player Gavin Hastings conducts the ground-breaking for New Struan House. This celebrates the first day of construction on the project.

Commencement of SHARE project. This was a partnership project involving our advice team, South Lanarkshire Council and Strathclyde University. The project involves all partners working together to deliver a joint play approach that aims to develop communication and interaction skills.

2003

A group of supported individuals from Central Services travel to France Loire Valley for a holiday to experience cultural differences.



The Robertson Trust pledges £250,000 for New Struan School building project.

2005

Opening of New Struan School in Alloa. The new purpose built school can provide teaching and learning on site for autistic children aged 5 -17 years old. The architect of New Struan School, Andrew Lester of Aitken Turnbull Architects, is also the parent of a young autistic woman.



2008

Chrysalis day service in Clackmannan opens. This service offers a base for individuals with autism to access community activities and develop independent living skills. There is a strong focus on developing communication which includes using the latest technology.

Scottish Autism becomes an approved centre for the Scottish Qualifications Authority to enable us to deliver formal qualifications to staff.

2011



Charity rebrands as Scottish Autism and our new website launches.

Scottish Strategy for Autism launches. The Scottish Government introduced this strategy with the vision to ensure that "individuals on the autism spectrum are respected, accepted and valued by their communities and have confidence in services to treat them fairly so that they are able to have meaningful and satisfying lives".

2012

First Knowledge Share Seminar takes place in Edinburgh. The aim of Knowledge Share events is to create a forum where we can communicate directly with parents, carers, professionals and individuals with autism, while delivering practical information on a range of issues that directly impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of autistic individuals and their families.



2013



The first One Stop Shop opens in Dunfermline, as part of a two year Scottish Government initiative. This now remains open with the support of Fife Council.

Right Click online parent support programme launches.

Scottish Autism supported individuals and staff give two performances of 'The Tree and the Abbey' at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



New supported living service opens in Orkney, supporting three individuals.

Scottish Autism achieves Committed to Excellence award through Quality Scotland.

2014

The Tree and the Abbey wins a National Autistic Society Award for 'Most Creative Community Project'.

Peter Howson completes a fundraising walk across Scotland raising a fantastic £109,056.



The online Autism Toolbox officially launches. Created by the Scottish Government in partnership with Scottish Autism with support from Autism Network Scotland, the Toolbox is a resource for Scottish schools, which provides support and advice to encourage the inclusion of autistic children and young people in mainstream education.

Understand Autism interactive animation launches, aiming to raise awareness and understanding of Autism.



2015

Scottish Autism achieves the international award Recognised for Excellence Award 3 Star – through Quality Scotland.

2016



The Falkirk Wheel is illuminated in purple and our logo and purple sheep appear on the M8 motorway pylons for Autism Awareness Month.

Women and Girls Right Click Programme launches. This programme is funded by the Scottish Government, and has been designed to provide valuable information in addressing health and wellbeing challenges for autistic females of all ages, as well as their parents, carers and other professionals in the field.



2017



Official reopening of Cafe Kudos after being closed for refurbishment. Aileen Campbell MSP cuts the ribbon.

Scottish Autism achieves the Recognised for Excellence 4 Star Award through Quality Scotland.



Scottish Autism is announced as The Rangers Charity Foundation's new national charity partner.



2018

Scottish Autism celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

Scottish
autism
CELEBRATING
50 YEARS