

# The PLATELETTER

## WELCOME TO YOUR FESTIVE PLATELET DONOR NEWSLETTER!

As there are only 1,166 platelet donors in the whole of Scotland, The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) hopes you enjoy this Platelet Donor Newsletter. We aim to:

- Update you on the importance of your donation
- Update you on news
- And thank you for being so very special



## FESTIVE CHOCS

SNBTS would like to celebrate our incredible platelet donors who go above and beyond for patients all year round. As a token of our thanks, from Friday 12 December to Sunday 4 January, SNBTS would like to give every platelet donor a little gift: two heart-shaped chocolates in an organza bag. We hope this shows you a little of just how much you mean to us.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO KERR REID!

This donor pictured above is Kerr Reid, a longstanding platelet donor who has recently surpassed 600 donations in Glasgow. As of December 2025, Kerr is actually on 627 donations!

Kerr started his donating journey in 1979. He has been donating platelets every 3 to 4 weeks ever since. His commitment is such, that he has donated during transport strikes, adverse weather and made himself available during exceptional times, like the Gulf War and Covid-19 pandemic. He is an inspiration and highly regarded by our Team.

Well done and thank you from all at SNBTS, Kerr!



Pictured L-R alongside Kerr are Senior Donor Carer Claire Kelly, Charge Nurse Fiona Devon, Interim Head of Territory Pauline Stewart and Merial Fisher.

GIVE  PLATELETS

## MAKE YOUR #FESTIVEDONATION - AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Scotland needs more platelet donors... and we'd like to meet your friends and family!

If you know someone who might make a good donor, don't keep it to yourself. Pick up a leaflet for them next time you donate - for the good of the National Elf Service!

## SHINE BRIGHTER THAN THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

This Christmas time, while candles glow,  
And winter winds bring falling snow,  
A brighter gift than stars above,  
Is one that's given out of love.  
A single drop, a selfless start,  
Can warm the coldest, faintest heart.  
So give the gift that saves a life,  
Outshines the tree, the bells, the pipes.  
For brighter than the festive nights,  
Is hope restored, and future sights.  
So join the cause, make spirits bright,  
Give platelets and be someone's light.

*Poem by Gwen Fenton, SNBTS Recruiter*



Aberdeen platelet donor  
Gordon Nobes looking very festive



Dundee Recruiter Gwen Fenton  
and chum

## NEW GRAPHIC IDENTITIES

In September we were proud to unveil two new additions to our family of donation graphic identifiers: 'Give plasma' and 'Give platelets'.

These new designs are inspired by our iconic 'Give blood' identity and reflect the vital role that platelet and plasma donors play in saving lives across Scotland.

We hope you love them as much as we do!

**GIVE**  
**BLO**  **D**

**GIVE**  **PLASMA**

**GIVE**  **PLATELETS**



## **HLA MATCHED PLATELETS: A LETTER FROM SYLVIA MCCONNELL**

As the Laboratory Manager of the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I) Laboratory, I work closely with donor services and clinical teams across Scotland, to ensure that patients receive the appropriate HLA-matched platelets.

Your donations play a vital role in helping patients manage bleeding, supporting individuals undergoing cancer treatment, and protecting babies affected by Foetal Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia (FNAIT).

With platelets having a lifespan of only seven days, the Christmas period presents particular challenges and requires careful planning. To maintain safe and reliable cover throughout Christmas and the public holidays, we urgently require donations before, during, and after the festive period. Every appointment you are able to make helps us provide matched platelets precisely when they are needed most.

On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued generosity, time, and commitment. Your contributions make an immeasurable difference to patients and their families.

I wish you a peaceful festive season and a healthy New Year.



**Scotland needs platelet  
superstars this Christmas.  
Is it your time to shine?**

**PLATELETS: FESTIVE APPOINTMENT TIMES**

	<b>ABERDEEN</b>	<b>EDINBURGH</b>	<b>GLASGOW</b>
<b>MON 22 DEC</b>	<b>8:30AM-3:30PM</b>	<b>9:45AM-2:30PM</b>	<b>9AM-1:45PM</b>
<b>TUES 23 DEC</b>	<b>8:30AM-3:30PM</b>	<b>12:15PM-5:15PM</b>	<b>11:45AM-5PM</b>
<b>WED 24-DEC (CHRISTMAS EVE)</b>	<b>8:30AM-1:45PM</b>	<b>8:30AM-1:15PM</b>	<b>8:30AM-12:45PM</b>
<b>THURS 25 DEC (CHRISTMAS DAY)</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>FRI 26 DEC (BOXING DAY)</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>9:45AM-2:30PM</b>	<b>9:30AM-12:45PM</b>
<b>SAT 27 DEC</b>	<b>8:30AM-3:30PM</b>	<b>9:45AM-2:30PM</b>	<b>9AM-2:15PM</b>
<b>SUN 28 DEC</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>9:30AM-2:15PM</b>
<b>MON 29 DEC</b>	<b>8:30AM-3:30PM</b>	<b>9:45AM-2:30PM</b>	<b>9AM-1:45PM</b>
<b>TUES 30 DEC</b>	<b>10:45AM-5:45PM</b>	<b>12:15PM-5:15PM</b>	<b>11:45AM-5PM</b>
<b>WED 31 DEC (HOGMANAY)</b>	<b>8:30AM-1:45PM</b>	<b>8:30AM-1:15PM</b>	<b>8:30AM-12:45PM</b>
<b>THURS 1 JAN (NEW YEAR'S DAY)</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>FRI 2 JAN</b>	<b>8:30AM-1:45PM</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>9:30AM-12:45PM</b>
<b>SAT 3 JAN</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>9:45AM-2:30PM</b>	<b>9AM-2:15PM</b>

- **CONTACT YOUR DONOR CENTRE IN THE USUAL WAY TO BOOK YOUR FESTIVE PLATELET DONATION**