“My husband feels useful again, he likes to do things for himself”
Chairman Douglas Osler

Scottish War Blinded has had another fantastic year, expanding our reach to attract new members to our day centre at Linburn as well as our outreach service across Scotland. As one of the key veterans’ charities in Scotland, Scottish War Blinded supports former members of the armed forces who have a visual impairment providing them with activities and independent living skills. We not only support veterans that lost their sight in a war, but also those who have lost their sight subsequently.

The Linburn Centre continues to thrive and attendance figures are constantly rising. Members have had experiences that they would never have dreamed of having with their visual impairment, such as archery, abseiling, 4x4 driving, golf and acoustic shooting. A new art teacher has also brought additional creativity to the centre, and members have been enjoying painting water colours, moulding clay, making tapestries and sculptures. The workshop trains members to make items out of wood and members can also make use of gym, IT and outdoor facilities. Several members have found the experience at Linburn life changing, as they learn to use specialist equipment in the kitchen to help them cook at home, as well as making new friends.

As a result of the successful pilot project we ran last year, we have now launched an outreach service across Scotland. We now have seven Outreach Workers based in local societies for the visually impaired who are able to support members who live further afield, as well as those who are not able to attend the Linburn Centre due to work and family commitments. The support is face to face and on the phone, and varies according to the needs of the member – it can include advising on benefits, helping with shopping and accessing specialist equipment, as well as encouraging participation in activities and making stronger ties within the local community.

We could not have achieved any of this without the hard work and enthusiasm of our staff. I would like to thank all of them for their work which ensures that Scottish War Blinded can provide these excellent services to our members.

Douglas Osler
Chairman
Linburn Centre

The Linburn Centre accommodates up to 35 members attending each day for a range of activities including arts, crafts, daily living skills, use of computers, gym and relaxation as well as activities outwith the building such as gardening, swimming, archery and acoustic shooting. It functions as a day centre for members resident within travelling distance and is also a resource for occasional or short-course use for people from further afield. We offer our members access to many services and activities that are not available in a traditional day care service.

The Linburn Centre has now been open for two years, and attendance figures continue to grow. From 31 March 2012 to 31 March 2013 the growth was 40%, and on most days if those scheduled to come in attend, we are almost at 80% of our full capacity.

A Care Inspectorate visit in January 2013 resulted in a 5 (very good) rating for quality of care and 6 (excellent) for quality of environment. In April 2013 the Centre was awarded the NHS Health Scotland Healthy Living Award.

Our art teacher joined us in November 2012 and has transformed the art room with activities such as watercolour painting, kinetic sculptures, clay work and a Linburn tapestry. The workshop has continued to flourish with members making a large wooden table for the art room, small rocking horses and bat boxes for Leith waterways.

Outings and activities have included archery, abseiling, 4x4 driving and golf. Acoustic shooting will be available from the end of June. We have had trips to Holyrood Palace, the Falkirk Wheel, Blair Drummond Safari Park and the National Museum of Flight in East Fortune.

A qualified fitness instructor is now employed at the Centre and additional equipment purchased has increased the usage of the gym.
Scottish War Blinded members’ lives have been changed by the Linburn Centre:

A member who became lonely and isolated following the death of his wife attended the Linburn Centre and joined IT classes so that he could contact his children who were living in various parts of the world. He enjoyed the experience so much he decided to get a computer at home, but wanted to make a desk for it. In collaboration with our workshop instructor and other members a fabulous pine desk was built and now has pride of place in his home with his computer.

A member thought his climbing and driving days were over until he attended Linburn. He has taken part in abseiling and 4x4 driving and is looking forward to climbing at Ratho soon. He feels he has a new lease of life and loves coming along to the Centre.

A son reports that his mother’s life has been transformed and that she has newfound enthusiasm and confidence, something to look forward to and a sense of achievement. His mother says she is the happiest she has been since she has lost her sight. She was previously an artist who stopped painting when she lost her sight. With the help of David, the art teacher, and the facilities at Linburn she is creative again.

“The outstanding feature of the Linburn Centre that came across most powerfully is the friendly and helpful nature of the staff who are clearly dedicated to making the member at home, welcome and respected. They have fully exploited the excellent facilities in this carefully planned purpose built facility to good effect”
Our Outreach Service commenced in two areas in late 2010 as a pilot, and was expanded in autumn 2012 to cover the whole of Scotland. Outreach workers provide a one-stop contact point for dealing with statutory and voluntary agencies, assistance with benefits and daily living skills. Our research indicated that there are many, particularly older, people who withdraw into isolation because they need more support to come to terms with their loss of sight. It is our aim to fill these gaps, enabling members to live more fulfilling lives and rely less on those who have to care for them day by day.

Our services complement, and co-operate with, local authority services and charities for visually impaired people and for service veterans.

When a new member is identified a review is made of his or her circumstances, and advice is given to link them to services that are available from the wide networks of visual impairment organisations and veterans’ support agencies that exist. Members are contacted regularly by telephone and helped whenever they face difficulty.

We now have seven Outreach Workers based in local societies for visually impaired people throughout Scotland. They have settled well into the agencies and are making contact with all of our members.

From January to March 2013, Outreach Workers visited a total of 225 of our members with 270 home visits being made in all.
The support given is practical, and is as varied as taking a member to an appointment to helping clear up after a flooded washing machine. We are now ready to launch our scheme to provide equipment to members to assist with their visual impairment.

Examples of support our Outreach Workers have given include:

The Outreach Worker in Lothian worked in conjunction with Linburn Centre staff to assist one of our members who was terminally ill. Staff contacted his local councillor to increase his priority within the waiting list and arranged for respite care. This allowed our member to spend his last days in comfort and dignity. Staff members visited him regularly to keep his contact with the community and attended his funeral.

A member in Midlothian lives alone and uses a wheelchair. In conjunction with SSAFA, Poppy Scotland, Royal Naval Benevolent Trust and the local authority we funded extensive work in his house. It has been redecorated, a wet floor shower has been installed and an external ramp has been fitted to ease his access to the house. He is delighted with the results, which have greatly improved his quality of life and allowed his granddaughter to visit in a comfortable setting.

In Aberdeenshire, we have funded the cost of a woodburning stove for one of our members who lives in a rural location. This allows him to heat his home at a reasonable cost, as wood is plentiful in the area. He has asked the Outreach Worker to visit so that he can demonstrate how warm his house is now.

In the Perth and Kinross area, the Outreach Worker has been working with a Captain with London Scottish (TR regiment). He has been isolated since he was widowed and is now 97 years old. He had refused support from the local society but allowed the Outreach Worker to visit. Although he initially stated he did not need any support or services, the Worker has now formed a sense of achievement in completing projects makes him feel very proud. He looks forward to his days at the Centre.”
a relationship with him. He phones every Monday to give him the football scores and is taking him to his solicitors to save him £70 in taxi fares. As a result of this, he is now allowing the local society staff to visit and assist him. In future the worker hopes to encourage him to join in society activities and, when the weather improves, to visit local beauty spots he used to love.

The Outreach Worker in Edinburgh has helped one of our members to have adaptations carried out in his home. This has been complex and involved supporting the member and his family and liaising with the local authority and other veterans charities to organise and share costs. He now has a paved garden, ramp to his front door, stair-lift and shower fitted to his house. This has allowed him greater independence in his home environment and to transfer his work to take place at home. This has increased his confidence and self esteem at a time when he feels that his health is deteriorating and out of his control.

The Glasgow Outreach Worker has been visiting one of our members who lives alone and feels very isolated. Although she has been offered support from the local authority she feels very strongly that she should not have to pay for services and has refused this. The Outreach Worker has assisted her in organising shopping and services when she was discharged from hospital. She has also helped organise her paperwork and developed a filing system that allows the member to look after her business affairs independently.

“A new lease of life”
Of the 17 houses in Linburn Park, as at 31 March 2013, one is furnished and available to members for short lets and, eight were let to members or widows of members on longer term lets. The remainder were let to tenants on short assured tenancies to provide an income.

Reunions are held at various locations throughout Scotland. This enables our more scattered members to meet the trustees, senior staff and fellow members living in their home area.

The giving of grants to other organisations from 2007 to 2011 had a very significant positive impact in the veterans’ community. The grants were administered through an annual programme of approvals. The grant programme is not now operating, since our new services are under way and expanding. The scale and nature of the projects we committed to fund means that some of the grant monies have yet to be paid over and are still recognised in the balance sheet as creditors.

“He likes doing things that he used to do and didn’t think he would do again”
Plans for the Future

As the Linburn Centre approaches full capacity and the needs and wishes of our members continue to be added to the mix, we will continue to evaluate and fine tune the service and consider whether there is a need for similar services in other parts of Scotland. We are planning improvements to the estate to provide a burn-side garden destination a short walk from the centre.

We are now actively providing our Outreach across the whole of Scotland, and seeking ways to innovate and expand this service. In 2013/14 we plan to provide specialist equipment for helping with visual impairment to our members.

“My husband thoroughly enjoys his time at the Centre and it gives me time off when I can meet friends knowing that he is safe and cared for. Thank you all very much, I do appreciate everything that you do”
### Summarised Statement of Financial Activities

#### Incoming Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2012/13 £000</th>
<th>2011/12 £000</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Income</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>1,599</td>
<td>(18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let Property</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>149%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Activities</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td>2,572</td>
<td>2,269</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Resources Expended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2012/13 £000</th>
<th>2011/12 £000</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linburn Centre</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and Member Services</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let Property</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Support to Members</td>
<td>1,188</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>(0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Other Charitable Bodies</td>
<td>(42)</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>(107%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance Costs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Resources Expended</strong></td>
<td>2,378</td>
<td>2,832</td>
<td>(16%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources from Operations

- **Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources from Operations**: 194 (563) (134%)

#### Investment Gains

- **Investment Gains**: 3,392 (872) 748%

#### Actuarial Gains/(Losses) on Pension Scheme

- **Actuarial Gains/(Losses) on Pension Scheme**: 7 (33) 221%

#### Total Recognised Gains

- **Total Recognised Gains**: 7,593 (276) 2651%
### Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>21/03/13</th>
<th>31/03/12</th>
<th>Increase / Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible Fixed Assets</td>
<td>4,556</td>
<td>4,519</td>
<td>£000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>57,431</td>
<td>50,310</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61,987</td>
<td>54,829</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>1,698</td>
<td>(65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less - Current Liabilities</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>1,794</td>
<td>(65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Current (Liabilities)</td>
<td>(25)</td>
<td>(96)</td>
<td>(74%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors due after more than one year</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>(80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>61,870</td>
<td>54,277</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Represented by Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>(1,330)</td>
<td>(1,290)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Including Pension Liability</td>
<td>53,042</td>
<td>48,717</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Scottish War Blinded

Scottish War Blinded is the operating name of the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded, Scottish Charity Number SC 002662.

### President

His Grace The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, R.B.E.

### Vice Presidents

The Reverend J.M. Shields MBE, LTh

### Trustees (The Board of Royal Blind)

- Douglas A Odey (Chairman)
- David C Dunn (Vice-Chairman)
- Iain C Lumden (Vice-Chairman)
- Margaret M Broun
- Deon Burrows
- Dr Brian Fleck
- Cllr Paul Godzik
- Lorraine Grady
- David Johnston
- Guenn McCreath
- Robert Mooney
- Kenneth D Reid
- Alex Scott
- Margaret M Sibbald
- Peter Stephenon
- Janis Sugden
- Glen Waddell

### Chairman of the Council


### Other Members of the Council

- Commander SI (Scottish) Brigade, the Army
- Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England
- Air Officer Scotland, the Royal Air Force
- Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, Army
- Lieutenant Colonel Ian Ballantyne FCM
- Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL

### Chief Executive and Secretary

Richard G Hellewell, BSc Econ FCA

### Head Office

P.O. Box No. 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

### Auditor

BDO LLP, Registered Auditor, 65 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh

### Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 26 Home Street, Edinburgh

### Solicitors

Pagan Osborne, 55-56 Queen Street, Edinburgh, and others

### Investment Managers

Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited, 10 Queen’s Terrace, Aberdeen
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Tel: 0131 229 1456
Email: enquiries.warblinded@royalblind.org

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