“It’s the best thing that has happened to me. After my husband died I was lonely and Scottish War Blinded provided the opportunity to come along to the Linburn Centre. I’ve done things I never thought I’d do, such as gliding and power boating. My artwork has come on leaps and bounds and I have had opportunities to display my work at exhibitions. The staff are fantastic.”
Scottish War Blinded is one of the key veterans’ charities in Scotland. We provide free support to former members of the armed forces who have significant visual impairment, enabling them to live independent and fulfilling lives. This includes rehabilitation, training, employment, maintenance and after-care for ex-service personnel and their widows. Our services complement, and cooperate with, local authority services and charities for visually impaired people and for service veterans.

The Linburn Centre has been running for three years now and is at full capacity. The Centre is a hub of activity where members can make new friends and learn life skills using specialist equipment in our kitchen and IT suite. It is far from an ordinary day centre. Our ethos is that sight loss, or old age, should not prevent our members from doing fun and interesting activities, including some that they didn’t dare to do when they had their sight! Our members have been gliding, 4x4 driving, abseiling and acoustic shooting. They are also keen artists and wood workers and many of them didn’t discover their talents in these areas until they started attending Linburn.

The Linburn Centre continues to improve its facilities, with a new sensory garden and summer house constructed this year. Over the next year we have further plans to expand the facilities both inside and outside of the Linburn Centre. We are also aiming to set up another centre in the West of Scotland.

Our Outreach Service, established fully last year, has enabled us to reach members across Scotland. We now have eight Outreach Workers, based in local societies for visually impaired people. They provide a life line of support to members who are isolated and struggling to come to terms with their visual impairment. We have expanded the amount of equipment we are able to offer our members, which can make a huge difference to their independence. Our reunions and lunches are expanding...
and provide an excellent opportunity for members to meet each other, especially in areas too far away to be able to benefit from the Linburn Centre.

Our Outreach Workers support a Younger Members’ Group who in the past year have enjoyed cycling, fishing and climbing.

I would like to thank all our staff who have made such a huge difference to the lives of our members.

As of 31 March 2014 we had 660 members.

Douglas Osler
Chairman
Linburn Centre

The Linburn Centre is based in Wilkieston, outside of Edinburgh. It is a day centre for Scottish War Blinded members resident within travelling distance, as well as a resource for occasional or short-course use for people from further afield. Up to 35 members a day can enjoy a range of activities including arts, crafts, daily living skills, IT, gym and relaxation. In addition we offer activities outwith the building such as gardening, swimming, archery and acoustic shooting.

The Linburn Centre opened three years ago and continues to grow in popularity. By 31 March 2014 daily attendance was at over 90% of our full capacity. Our staff numbers and fleet of vehicles have grown to meet the demands of a growing service.

A Care Inspectorate visit in January 2014 resulted in a 5 (very good) for quality of Care, a 5 for Quality of Environment, 5 for Quality of Staffing and 4 (good) for Quality of Management and Leadership.

Our members continue to enjoy a range of activities both within and outwith the Linburn Centre. The art and woodwork rooms are flourishing and the gym and IT suites are proving to be very popular. Acoustic shooting is now available daily and archery sessions are held on a monthly basis at Archers Hall in Edinburgh.

Work was completed on our sensory garden and summer house in a peaceful secluded part of the grounds.

Two of our members were awarded the Arctic Star medal during a very moving presentation at the Linburn Centre. The medals were awarded to seamen taking part in the Arctic Convoys 1939 – 1945.

The Bomber Command medal was awarded to one of our members. This award has been given to aircrew of Bomber Command who served at least 60 days during the period from 1939 – 1945.
Expanding Horizons at the Linburn Centre

Before losing his sight John had been a very active and independent person. When he lost his sight his wife became very concerned, as he lost his confidence and was unable to go out without support. Following some intensive work with our Rehabilitation Officer, planning routes and managing timetables, he now takes the train independently to the Linburn Centre twice a week. John really enjoys coming into the Centre and meeting new people.

Arthur was lonely and isolated, spending his days watching daytime TV following the death of his wife. He began attending the Linburn Centre and has made many new friends. He greatly enjoys spending time in the workshop making wooden items. He feels his life is worth living again and doesn’t know how he coped without the support of everyone at the Linburn Centre.

“Names have been changed to protect anonymity.

“I’ve been a member for eight years and have had so many wonderful experiences participating in activities and meeting lots of lovely people. It’s a pleasure to be here.”
“The Linburn Centre is fantastic and the staff and activities offered are amazing. I look forward to coming along every week.”
Our Outreach Service covers the whole of Scotland. Outreach workers provide a one-stop contact point for dealing with statutory and voluntary agencies as well as 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. Our service fills these gaps, enabling members to live more fulfilling lives and rely less on those who have to care for them day by day.

The Outreach Service has matured and further established itself in the lives of our members and in their local communities. We have eight Outreach Workers located across Scotland.

Outreach Workers visit all members at home and as part of their assessment offer specific equipment for their visual needs. This includes a liquid level indicator and large print diary. We fund talking book services to allow our members to access books in audio form. Feedback from members has been extremely positive.

From April 2013 to March 2014, Outreach Workers made a total of 1306 visits to our members. The support given was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emotional</th>
<th>Financial</th>
<th>Practical</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Referral to other agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Central Scotland Outreach Worker has been working with Harry, who is currently at college. He is doing well with his studies but was restricted by the equipment he could access, even with support from the college and his local authority. Our Outreach Worker completed an assessment and identified equipment to meet Harry’s needs, which was provided free of charge by Scottish War Blinded. Harry is delighted that we have improved his communication and independence and is looking forward to the start of a new term.

We have several members who live in nursing homes. In Fife, our Outreach Worker was advised by staff at a care home that Tom did not talk and could not communicate. Through visits to the care home, our Outreach Worker spent time communicating with Tom and felt that he seemed to understand what was being said. He eventually managed to speak and even sang a little song as he reminisced. As this happened, a member of staff walked by and was amazed. He said “I didn’t know he could speak”. The Outreach Worker was able to connect with Tom to allow him to communicate and made staff at the care home aware of the situation.

In Dalkeith we supported one of our younger members, Joe, who is looking for employment. Joe felt that he wanted to seek employment in the oil industry but was concerned that he would be refused as he has no sight in one eye. Our Outreach Worker found a doctor who carries out medicals for companies sending workers offshore. He was able to advise that loss of sight in one eye does not automatically preclude working offshore. This support has kept Joe motivated to keep looking for work and has increased his confidence.

Alex is struggling with an alcohol addiction. Although he has contact with several veterans’ agencies, he refused to engage with them to look at his situation and was distrustful of statutory agencies. As a result he was not managing and his living conditions had become unhygienic and a danger to his health. His Outreach Worker was able to work with him and encourage him to accept assistance. This led to him
receiving medical assistance in hospital and a deep clean was arranged for his house. The local authority offered him a respite placement while this was happening, but this was to be in a care home for people with learning disabilities. We funded a much more appropriate two week stay at William Simpson’s, a specialist unit for men from the armed forces with alcohol dependence.

Jim’s wife was admitted to hospital as the result of a fall. He was desperate to visit her as they are used to spending all of their time together but it was costing him £60 per day in taxis. The Outreach Worker has been assisting him in getting to and from the hospital. This has been intensive and time consuming but has been greatly appreciated by Jim and his wife. The travel time in the car has enabled Jim to talk about his wife and his feelings about their situation.

Names have been changed to protect anonymity.
Other Activities

We have 17 houses in Linburn Park. As at 31 March 2014, eight were let to members or widows of members and one was vacant. The remainder were let to tenants on short assured tenancies to provide an income.

Reunions are held at various locations throughout Scotland, which enables our more scattered members to meet fellow members living in their home area as well as trustees and senior staff. Our members asked for an increase in the number of reunions, which are now being held in locations across Scotland annually. We are looking forward to seeing all our new members for the first time, and our existing members more often.

Lunch groups have been held in Aberdeen, Borders, Dundee, Glasgow and Ayr. Members have enjoyed the opportunity to meet others in a small informal setting. A larger group has been set up in Broughty Ferry, meeting monthly for a chat and lunch.

Our more active members are part of a Young Members’ Group. They think nothing of scrambling up a climbing wall, fishing for their tea or cycling round Millport – on a bicycle built for eight.

We have been involved in commemorating the centenary of World War One and are planning events for this and for our own forthcoming centenary. The Young Members’ Group have marched round the pitch at Ibrox 100 times and will be marching round other football pitches as the year progresses. We are planning an exhibition of our 100 year history which will be displayed in Edinburgh and travel round the country at our reunions.
“I really enjoy the Linburn Centre and the staff are great, they really look after you very well. I’ve tried many things here from acoustic shooting to baking and IT. As a result of learning the basics in IT I can now send messages to my grandson who lives in Perth, Australia which I’m really pleased about.”
We have applied for planning permission to construct a new recreation hall and four small residential houses next to the Linburn Centre.

We are in negotiation to purchase land for the construction of a second centre in the West of Scotland intended to provide similar services to the Linburn Centre.
Total incoming resources, at £2.5 million, decreased by 4% from the previous financial year. The decrease is due to a fall in voluntary income. Most of our voluntary income is from legacies, and in the previous year we had received £350,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Jeannie Davidson.

Investment income, which made up two thirds of our total income, increased by 25%. Income from let property fell, because in the previous year the proceeds from the sale of a property were included.

The profile of our expenditure continues to change as a result of the continuing growth of activities at the Linburn Centre and our having expanded the Outreach Service in the latter part of the previous year to cover all Scotland. The cost of our financial support to members was 7% less than in the previous year.

The previous year was a period of strong growth in the world’s stock markets, so we had large gains as values continued to recover from their low point in 2009. This year’s gain is much more modest, as markets have fluctuated through the year.

The balance sheet shows a similar position to the previous year. Current liabilities and creditors due after more than one year still include some items representing grant commitments made in 2007 and 2008 which do not yet fall to be paid over, but these are ever fewer and we have positive net current assets.

It is the Trustees’ intention to develop services so as to put the organisation’s very strong reserves to positive use over the long term. Our short term priority is to build up our services gradually, and, as we do so, learn about the needs that exist, and the services that are the best for the benefit of our members. We expect to further expand our services in the near future, now that we have the experience of a successful Linburn Centre and an effective outreach service.
# Summarised Statement of Financial Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013/14 £000</th>
<th>2012/13 £000</th>
<th>Increase / (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Resources:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Income</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>(29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
<td>1,645</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let Property</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>(63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Activities</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td>2,476</td>
<td>2,572</td>
<td>(4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources Expended:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linburn Centre</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and Member Services</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let Property</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Support to Members</td>
<td>1,101</td>
<td>1,188</td>
<td>(7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Other Charitable Bodies</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(42)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance Costs</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Resources Expended</strong></td>
<td>2,793</td>
<td>2,378</td>
<td>(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources from Operations</td>
<td>(317)</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Gains</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>7,392</td>
<td>(94%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial Gains/(Losses) on Pension Scheme</td>
<td>(207)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Recognised Gains</strong></td>
<td>(45)</td>
<td>7,593</td>
<td>(101%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I enjoy my time here, you make strong bonds with staff and fellow members. I’ve had so many opportunities to try new things such as art, woodwork and visit places like the Museum of Flight at East Fortune. My thanks to everyone at Scottish War Blinded.”
Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31/03/14 £000</th>
<th>31/03/13 £000</th>
<th>Increase / (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tangible Fixed Assets</td>
<td>4,562</td>
<td>4,556</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>57,157</td>
<td>57,431</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61,719</td>
<td>61,987</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less - Current Liabilities</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Current (Liabilities)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>(25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors due after more than one year</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>(41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>61,825</td>
<td>61,870</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Represented by Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>61,825</td>
<td>61,870</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Having done art previously, I was glad to see an art instructor arrive at the Linburn Centre. David is brilliant in terms of providing a wide range of art projects and very encouraging. I also like to try something different; a couple of weeks ago, I tried acoustic shooting which I really enjoyed. I also enjoy walking around gardens.”
Patron
His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, K.G, G.C.V.O.

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

Vice Presidents
The Reverend J.M. Shields MBE, LTh

Trustees (The Board of Royal Blind)
Douglas A Osler (Chair) Patsy Gillies
Gwenn McCreath (Vice-Chair) Cllr Paul Godzik
Peter Stephenson (Vice-Chair) Lorraine Grady
Margery M Browning David Johnston
Dawn Burrows James Law
Michael Craig Robert Mooney
Pamela Deponio Kenneth D Reid
Dr Brian Fleck Glen Waddell

Chairman of the Council
The Reverend J.M. Shields, M.B.E., L.Th
Other Members of the Council

Commander 51 (Scottish) Brigade, the Army
Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland, Royal Navy
Air Officer Scotland, the Royal Air Force

Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, Army HQ, 51 (Scottish) Brigade
Group Captain (rtd.) Philip Cox
Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL

Chief Executive and Secretary

Richard G Hellewell, BA 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, Clarendon House, 116 George Street, Edinburgh

Investment Managers

Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited, 10 Queen’s Terrace, Aberdeen
Scottish War Blinded is the operating name of the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded, Scottish Charity Number SC 002652.

Head Office and Enquiries
P.O. Box No. 500, Gillespie Crescent
Edinburgh EH10 4HZ
Tel: 0131 229 1456
Email: enquiries.warblinded@royalblind.org

The Linburn Centre
Louis Braille Avenue, Wilkieston
By Kirknewton EH27 8EJ
Tel: 0131 333 1369
Email: enquiries.warblinded@royalblind.org

ScottishWarBlinded.org