SCOTTISH WAR BLINDED
A CENTURY OF EXPANDING HORIZONS

Annual Report 2015
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It has been a privilege to become Chair of Scottish War Blinded for its Centenary year and it gives me enormous pleasure to introduce this, my first annual report. Our special recognition this year of all the excellent work that has gone before and all the lives that have been rebuilt in that time is not just dry history, but part of a continuing story that is developing with renewed energy.

100 years ago our charity was formed as a result of soldiers being blinded by poisonous gas attacks in the First World War. Today Scottish War Blinded provides free support to veterans of the armed forces who have a serious visual impairment, no matter when or how sight loss has occurred, promoting positive well-being and independence. Veterans anywhere in Scotland can become part of our welcoming and active community and receive practical support of many kinds, at times when they need it. In this report you will find a wealth of quotes, stories and pictures that paint a moving record of lives changed by our work.

We are now entering our next phase of development. We have plans to construct a new centre in Paisley, which will build on the success of the Linburn Centre, offering an opportunity for members in the West to benefit from more of our services. At the Linburn Centre we are currently constructing a multi-purpose hall and four new bungalows for members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the generous Scottish public whose donations and legacies have enabled us to do this work, and all our staff who are making such a profound difference to the lives of Scottish War Blinded members.

Gwenn McCreath
Chair
On 31 March 2015 we had 694 members. 132 members joined in the year.
The Linburn Centre in Wilkieston, outside Edinburgh, is a free 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. Members can attend the centre for up to five days per week. There is a regular daily programme of activities including painting, pottery, woodwork, IT and gardening. Members have the opportunity to participate in adventurous pursuits such as gliding, off road driving, tank driving and white water rafting.

In the last year the number of members accessing the service has increased to 102 per week. In a survey of members attending the Linburn Centre over 90% of the members rated it as good to excellent.

A Care Inspectorate visit in January 2014 resulted in a 5 (very good) for quality of care, environment and staffing and 4 (good) for quality of management and leadership.

Members’ participation in decision making at the centre has been enhanced with the development of a members’ committee, which meets monthly to discuss issues related to centre activities, management and new developments.

Our Rehabilitation Officer works with members to assess low vision and mobility needs. Following the assessment, members are provided with advice and access to free equipment.

We have 17 houses in Linburn Park. As at 31 March 2015, seven 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.
“Linburn offers all you would ever want. It gives you a reason to get up in the morning.”

“I have enjoyed being at the Linburn Centre immensely and it has been a boost to my self-esteem.”

“The Linburn Centre gives me companionship and the staff are wonderful.”
“One of my hobbies was four wheel off-road driving. When I started to lose my sight I thought that was the end of that. When I started at the Linburn Centre I was re-introduced to four wheel off-road driving, along with a number of other activities. It has been great.”
Outreach Service

Our Outreach Service covers the whole of Scotland and offers a free one-stop contact point for dealing with statutory and voluntary agencies, assistance with benefits and daily living. Our services complement, and cooperate with, local authority services and charities for visually impaired people and for service veterans. We provide social opportunities with the chance to meet fellow veterans and members of the local community.

Our Outreach Workers carried out a total of 2,342 home visits to members, offering a range of support from listening over a cup of tea to supporting members going through traumatic change. There are now nine Outreach Workers in post, in locations across Scotland.

Reunions are held annually at various locations throughout Scotland and nine were held this year. Reunions enable our more scattered members to meet fellow members living in their home area, as well as our staff and trustees.

Our inaugural member conference took place in 2014, and was a great success. 50 members and their guests met to discuss the development of our services and contribute their ideas for the future. Members enjoyed the opportunity to give their input and to socialise in a relaxed setting. This will become an annual event known as The Gathering.

We continued to develop our scheme of providing specialist equipment and the uptake has increased dramatically. Equipment to a value of £45,000 was issued in the year to assist members with their sight loss. We began providing electronic magnifiers for members which are greatly increasing their quality of life.

A total of £11,000 was spent in grants to assist members who asked for financial assistance. This covered house repair, decoration or adaptation. Some members were fully funded but most made a financial contribution to the overall cost.
We funded respite care for three members on a total of six occasions to provide them with a change of scene, fresh experiences and to allow their carers to have a break.

Training by the Macular Society in their Skills for Seeing programme has enabled Outreach Workers to assist members in using their residual vision, particularly in reading.

“My life changed completely when I came to Scottish War Blinded – you’ve given me things to look forward to.”

“Everything you do is fantastic. I can’t fault you.”
“My Outreach Worker has been very helpful and I appreciate very much all she has done for me.”
Stories from our Outreach Service

David* was struggling to find suitable work as he found it difficult to accept being managed. He had always found great solace in animals and had spent some time helping a friend with their dog walking service. When his friend decided to emigrate and sell his business, David thought that this would be an ideal opportunity for him to take over and start up on his own. Scottish War Blinded provided interest free credit to enable David to buy the business, which he is now successfully running.

The Outreach Worker in Perth and Kinross has been working with James*, who has been diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum. He spent most of his life with no diagnosis and has always had difficulty fitting in and organising aspects of his daily living. Through patience, our Outreach Worker gained his trust and as a result has been able to organise a deep clean and clearance of his home. As we expected, James found the change difficult and we supported him through it. He is pleased with the improvement and we continue to work with him at his own pace.

Eddie* lives with his wife in central Scotland and has carers supporting him at particular times each day. The local authority was not able to fund respite care and his wife was exhausted. Scottish War Blinded arranged respite care with Erskine in Bishopton and provided wheelchair accessible transport. Eddie had some anxieties about going to a care home but once he was there, he relaxed and enjoyed the whole experience. His wife was very appreciative of the rest she was given.

Steven* was supported as he underwent treatment for cancer. Jointly with Blind Veterans UK we funded the alteration of the garage at his daughter’s house into a spare room and supplied an adjustable bed with a remote control to allow him to find a comfortable sleeping and resting position. Now that his treatment is complete he is preparing to move to one of our houses at the Linburn Centre.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity.
Do you know a visually impaired veteran? Guide them to us.

guidethem.org | 0800 035 6409
Our marketing and PR focus is on raising awareness so that we can reach out to new potential members to benefit from our services. We employ a marketing team through our sister charity Royal Blind to do this. The team also supports communication with existing members, producing newsletters in appropriate formats and organising the annual Members’ Gathering.

We launched a member recruitment campaign called Guide Them, targeting family members, friends, health professionals and veterans’ organisations who may know or come into contact with a visually impaired veteran, asking them to refer people to us. The campaign consisted of outdoor advertising in Glasgow, adverts in specialist press, digital marketing, media coverage and promotional leaflets distributed to a wide range of relevant professionals across Scotland.

In preparation for our Centenary, we created an exhibition about World War One and our founding, which was displayed in Edinburgh Central Library and then a number of other libraries across Scotland.

At the start of 2015, we launched our Centenary with a special logo and web pages about our history.
Our Centenary celebrations will continue through the remainder of 2015. A particular highlight will be a visit by 30 members and a number of staff to the Great War battlefields and memorials. Of special poignancy is Ypres, where the first use of poisonous gas was the cause of so much sight loss, leading to the need for the organisation’s foundation 100 years ago. The year will culminate in a special event at the Linburn Centre to celebrate the Centenary with the opening of our new recreation hall and four houses. The Centenary Hall will open up further opportunities for members by introducing new activities, some of which will extend the present operating hours of the centre.

We have agreed the contract for the purchase of a former garden centre site in Hawkhead Road, Paisley, on which to construct a new centre which will make available to our members in the West of Scotland the kind of activities and support that we provide in the Linburn Centre for those in the East. The design process is well under way, having had the advantage of significant input from both staff and members at Linburn. The centre will be similar to the Linburn Centre in terms of its size and range of facilities, including the new hall. The application for planning permission was submitted in April 2015. Ownership will transfer to Scottish War Blinded upon receipt of planning approval for both this scheme and for a new 54 bedded care home which Royal Blind is planning to build concurrently on another part of the site, purchased in the same transaction.
Financial Review

Total incoming resources, at £2.2 million, decreased by 13% from the previous financial year. The decrease is due to a fall in voluntary income. Most of our voluntary income is from legacies, which can fluctuate from year to year but this was a year in which income from this source was unusually low. Investment income, which made up four fifths of our total income, increased by 4%.

The profile of our expenditure continues to change as a result of the continuing growth of activities. The Linburn Centre remained at the same level while the expansion of our Outreach Service to cover all of Scotland for the full year saw an increase in expenditure of 36%. The cost of our financial support to members was 6% less than in the previous year.

This year saw a return to gains in the stock markets, giving us holding gains on our investment portfolio of £3.1 million in the year. In the previous year gains had been much more modest, as markets fluctuated through the year.

The balance sheet shows a similar position to the previous year. Growth in tangible fixed assets arises from the new activity hall currently under construction at Linburn. We have positive net current assets.

It is the Trustees’ intention to develop services 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 continue to expand our services in the near future with the next significant step being the centre in Paisley which we expect will require the same level of recurring expenditure as the Linburn Centre. A sum of just under £7 million has been set aside as a designated fund for the development of a new centre in Paisley.
## Summarised Statement of Financial Activities

### Financial Review

#### Incoming Resources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014/15 £000</th>
<th>2013/14 £000</th>
<th>Increase / Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Income</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>(51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>1,645</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let Property</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Activities</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>300%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,163</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,476</strong></td>
<td><strong>(13%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Resources Expended:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014/15 £000</th>
<th>2013/14 £000</th>
<th>Increase / Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linburn Centre</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>(2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and Member Services</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let Property</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>(42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Support to Members</td>
<td>1,033</td>
<td>1,101</td>
<td>(6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Other Charitable Bodies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance Costs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Resources Expended</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,785</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,793</strong></td>
<td><strong>(0%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014/15 £000</th>
<th>2013/14 £000</th>
<th>Increase / Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources from Operations</td>
<td>(622)</td>
<td>(317)</td>
<td>537%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Gains</td>
<td>3,052</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial Gains/(Losses) on Pension Scheme</td>
<td>(264)</td>
<td>(207)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Recognised Gains</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,166</strong></td>
<td><strong>(45)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(4913%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31/03/15 £000</th>
<th>31/03/14 £000</th>
<th>Increase / (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tangible Fixed Assets</td>
<td>5,733</td>
<td>4,562</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>58,035</td>
<td>57,157</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>63,768</td>
<td>61,719</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less - Current Liabilities</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Current (Liabilities)</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>159</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors due after more than one year</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>(41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>63,991</td>
<td>61,824</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represented by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31/03/15 £000</th>
<th>31/03/14 £000</th>
<th>Increase / (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>57,031</td>
<td>61,824</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Funds</td>
<td>6,960</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds</td>
<td>63,991</td>
<td>61,824</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Incoming Resources 14/15

- Voluntary Income
- Net Investment Income
- Let Property
- Other Activities

## Resources Expended 14/15

- Linburn Centre
- Outreach and Member Services
- Let Property
- Financial Support to Members
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)

Gwenn McCreath (Chair)  J Grant Macrae
Kate Cherry (Vice-Chair)  Michelle McWilliams
David Johnston (Vice-Chair)  James Milhench
Dawn Burrows  Robert Mooney
Michael Craig  Kenneth D Reid
Patsy Gillies  Cllr Cameron Rose
Lorraine Grady  Glen Waddell
James Law  Sandra Warburton

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, Chief Executive, Scottish Veterans Residences
Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL, Chairman, Veterans Scotland

Chief Executive and Secretary

Richard G Hellewell, BA Econ FCA

Head Office

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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 and others

Investment Managers

Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited, 10 Queen’s Terrace, Aberdeen
Head Office and Enquiries
50 Gillespie Crescent
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Tel: 0131 229 1456
Email: enquiries.warblinded@royalblind.org

The Linburn Centre
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By Kirknewton EH27 8EJ
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Email: enquiries.warblinded@royalblind.org

ScottishWarBlinded.org

Scottish War Blinded is the operating name of the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded, Scottish Charity Number SC002652.