“I can do nothing but praise this place. I can understand why people come more than once a week, its brilliant!”

Andrew Muir
Words from the Chair

I am delighted to present this report, which highlights the wide range of initiatives and activities that Scottish War Blinded has undertaken in the last year.

Scottish War Blinded is now supporting more people than ever before as our membership reached record levels during the past year. We anticipate that opening the Hawkhead Centre later this year in Paisley will further grow our numbers as we are able to provide more opportunities for rehabilitation, independent living skills and social opportunities to members from across the West of Scotland. We are greatly looking forward to opening the centre and to welcoming to it existing and new members as well as over 30 staff that will be recruited to work there.

This year we bid a fond farewell to Richard Hellewell, our outgoing Chief Executive, who is retiring after 10 years at the helm. Richard was instrumental in leading Scottish War Blinded through some significant changes in the last decade, with the closure of the workshops on the Linburn estate and the development of firstly the Linburn Centre, then the outreach service and now the Hawkhead Centre. We now look forward to the next phase of Scottish War Blinded’s development under our new Chief Executive, Mark O’Donnell.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff, supporters and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to improving the lives of visually impaired veterans. None of the work outlined in this report would have been possible without you.

Gwenn McCreath
Chair

On 31 March 2017 we had 912 members. 216 members joined in the year.
About Scottish War Blinded

Scottish War Blinded supports service veterans with visual impairments to maintain and increase their independence and improve their quality of life. Our vision is to see a community in which blind and partially sighted people, including those who have other disabilities, are fully included and lead fulfilling lives. Our mission is to:

• Develop people’s skills and resources for independent living
• Provide support and care to meet needs
• Support people to fulfil their aspirations
• Involve blind and partially sighted people as leaders, employees and supporters and in shaping and improving the services they receive
• Be innovative and add to the diversity of available services.

Scottish War Blinded aims to:

• Support our service veterans with visual impairments to maintain and increase their independence
• Improve the quality of life of members through social activity in an environment of dignity and respect
• Provide welcoming, safe environments
• Allow members choice and influence in developing and selecting services and activities
• Give all our members an active voice in the running of the services we provide.

The needs Scottish War Blinded aims to meet are visual impairment related issues generally, social isolation, restricted mobility, cognitive impairment and issues of service veteran resettlement and integration, old age, financial hardship, employment and housing need.

We support our members and ensure they receive the physical, emotional and financial support they require to lead a full life. This may mean providing services ourselves, identifying external providers or advocating on our members’ behalf.

“I recommend the Linburn Centre without a doubt. It’s the best thing you could ever do and I can’t fault the service in any way. You get to come in and do what you want and it’s all for nothing. The staff are amazing and I’ve made some great friends too!”

Bob Watt
Outreach Service

We have Outreach Workers across the whole of Scotland who are the initial point of contact for our members and their families. Our individually tailored practical, emotional and financial support equips veterans with the tools to be as independent as possible. Our focus is on supporting people to achieve what’s right for them, rather than expecting everyone’s solutions to look the same. Support can include rehabilitation, daily living skills, supplying specialist equipment, advice, funding and social activities.

The nine outreach workers carried out a total of 1,868 home visits to members this year. These range from social calls to check on a member’s welfare, to helping members deal with a wide variety of personal problems.

Equipment to a value of £165,000 was provided to members. Some pieces of equipment were small items that have a big impact on a member’s independence such as liquid level indicators, daylight bulbs, and big button phones. Others were more specialised items provided after assessment by one of our rehabilitation officers, who ensured that each piece of equipment was the best possible solution and provided training. These included CCTVs, text to speech devices, video magnifiers and electronic magnifiers.

Over the year we provided funding for respite for two members, and a regular sitting service for 13 members.

£15,000 was given to fund home adaptations, including wet room/shower adaptations, a stair lift, cookers and an auto bed. Special financial assistance was given to one member in the form of help with council tax arrears.

There are 12 lunch groups across Scotland meeting at a variety of intervals providing social opportunities for members and their partners and guests in their home area. In addition, we hold annual reunion lunches across the country and ‘The Gathering,’ which is an opportunity for members to meet each other, give feedback and feed into our strategy.
The Linburn Centre

The Linburn Centre in Wilkieston, West Lothian, is open to Scottish War Blinded members resident within travelling distance, as well as being a resource for occasional or short course use for members from further afield. A variety of activities are offered at the centre, ranging from arts, crafts and woodwork to daily living skills, IT and sports. Community based activities include swimming, gliding, sailing and visits to places of interests.

113 members attend the Linburn Centre on a weekly basis. The newly constructed Centenary Hall offers acoustic shooting, archery and indoor bowls, which are proving popular with members. The large and well-lit space provided by the hall was an ideal location for the Christmas party with the three course meal served by personnel from 3rd Battalion The Rifles, who have taken us on as their charity.

The members’ liaison group continues to meet on a monthly basis to provide member feedback to management on all aspects of the service and suggestions for new activities and outings.

A show garden for Gardening Scotland 2016 was put together by Linburn Centre staff and members, with the support of local businesses. Considerable publicity was generated in the press and the garden was awarded a silver gilt medal and the best newcomer award.

A semi-derelict walled garden on the estate is being brought back to life through a unique partnership with the Cyrenians and volunteers from J P Morgan. It will provide a productive space to support the Cyrenians’ work and leisure space for our members.

In February 2017 the Care Inspectorate’s latest routine inspection awarded the Linburn Centre with a 5 for both Quality of Care and Support and Quality of Management.
“I believe that if I hadn’t come, I wouldn’t have survived.”

Bob Watt
Member Stories

Fife Society for the Blind referred James* to us after assessing him for a CCTV and arranging for a supplier to send one to him on loan for a two week trial period. However, James could not afford to buy it. Our local outreach worker contacted the supplier to advise that James was in the process of becoming a member of Scottish War Blinded and the supplier agreed to leave the machine with him until his membership was confirmed.

James was so delighted that he cried, saying that the machine had transformed his life, and he could not stand the thought of being without it. He has since been accepted as a member and we have paid for him to keep the CCTV.

David* had been a keen artist but had stopped eight years ago when his sight deteriorated. His outreach worker suggested an assessment for a magnifier to enable him to paint and draw again. He declined this, having previously been disappointed. The outreach worker continued to work with him, and waited until she felt that he was more receptive and then persuaded him to allow the rehabilitation officer to visit and assess. Following assessment, we provided an electronic magnifier. A week later, he emailed us a photo of the first drawing he had done in eight years.

Michael,* who recently joined Scottish War Blinded, is disabled and needs a high level of physical support. He has limited communication since having a stroke. He previously attended other day services unsuccesssfully. Michael now attends the Linburn Centre and is able to participate in woodwork as well as rebuilding his communication skills through his interaction with the other members. His partner has noticed a significant improvement in his mood and communication, as he talks with enjoyment about his day at Linburn when he returns home.

He commented: “I am treated as an individual with respect and not as a patient as often happens with some other social services. Until now I would never have expected to participate and enjoy such activities with the sight loss I have.”

* Names changed to protect identity
Marketing and External Relations

The marketing and PR department focuses on improving stakeholders’ and the general public’s awareness of what Scottish War Blinded does in order to extend our help to as many people as possible.

We have been proactive in developing relations with local stakeholders in the West of Scotland, to build interest in the Hawkhead Centre. We launched a new advertising campaign ‘We Don’t Care How’ to challenge perceptions of who is eligible for our support, and to raise awareness that we give support to all veterans, no matter the cause of sight loss. This campaign has run across radio, taxis, and professionals in health and social care. We exhibited at a wide range of events, including Armed Forces Days and events relating to sight loss and older people.

We continue to provide internal communications to the membership, with the addition this year of a monthly newsletter to Linburn Centre attendees.
"I find 4x4 driving very exciting having never driven before! I will definitely go back next year."

Peggy Dunlop
Plans for the Future

We have purchased a former garden centre site in Hawkhead Road, Paisley, on which we are building the Hawkhead Centre to make available to our members in the West of Scotland the kind of activities and support that we provide at the Linburn Centre for those in the East. The design process has had the advantage of significant input from both staff and members at Linburn. The centre will be similar in the size and range of its facilities to the existing Linburn Centre, including the Centenary Hall. Completion is expected in September 2017.

Following feedback from members that many would like to come and stay locally to use the facilities at the Linburn Centre, an unused bungalow on the estate is being refurbished to provide short stay accommodation and rehabilitation.
Financial Review

Total income, at £3.1 million, increased by 2% from the previous financial year, with a decrease in investment income being balanced by the gain on the sale of a house. We were especially grateful to receive a legacy of £800,000 from the late Miss Kathleen Elliot.

The profile of our expenditure is similar to the previous year, with a 22% increase in outreach and member services as our membership and our services have continued to grow. The cost of our financial support to members was 4% less than in the previous year.

Our net result before investment and pension gains and losses was, at a deficit of only £155,000, or 5% of expenditure, close to a break-even position. Our aim is to put our very large reserves to use gradually by operating at a deficit, and once we have the Hawkhead centre in Paisley operating we will be on target to do so.

This year saw a surge in world stock markets, giving us holding gains on our investment portfolio of £8.9 million in the year, more than reversing the loss of £4.9 million we suffered in the previous year.

The balance sheet shows growth in tangible fixed assets from the construction of the Hawkhead Centre, and an increase in our investments, because of the gains referred to above, despite our having disposed of investments to fund our building project. A sum of £2.7 million remains set aside as a designated fund for the completion of the Hawkhead Centre, and we retain a very strong reserve to fund our future activities.
## Summarised Statement of Financial Activities

### Income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016/17 £000</th>
<th>2015/16 £000</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations and legacies</td>
<td>1,428</td>
<td>1,376</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net investment income</td>
<td>1,374</td>
<td>1,597</td>
<td>(14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let property</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>247%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>289%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,108</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,060</strong></td>
<td><strong>2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016/17 £000</th>
<th>2015/16 £000</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linburn Centre</td>
<td>1,259</td>
<td>1,263</td>
<td>(0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and member services</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let property</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support to members</td>
<td>906</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>(4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to other charities</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>(8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>135</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,263</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,166</strong></td>
<td><strong>3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net expenditure before investment gains**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016/17 £000</th>
<th>2015/16 £000</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments gains/(losses)</td>
<td><strong>8,882</strong></td>
<td>(4,911)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain/(loss) on pension scheme</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>(9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net movement in funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,785</strong></td>
<td><strong>(5,026)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 Mar 2017</th>
<th>31 Mar 2016</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>£000</td>
<td>(Decrease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible fixed assets</td>
<td>13,874</td>
<td>9,254</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>53,057</td>
<td>49,927</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>66,931</td>
<td>59,181</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>166%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less - Current Liabilities</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Current assets</td>
<td>1,061</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>340%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets excluding pension liability</td>
<td>67,992</td>
<td>59,428</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension liability</td>
<td>(24)</td>
<td>(245)</td>
<td>(90%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>67,968</td>
<td>59,183</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represented by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 Mar 2017</th>
<th>31 Mar 2016</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>65,281</td>
<td>53,183</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Funds</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>(55%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds</td>
<td>67,968</td>
<td>59,183</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The designated fund is for our new centre in Paisley.
Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded, operating as Scottish War Blinded, was a charity registered in Scotland (Scottish Charity No SC002652). Its constitution as a charitable trust was in the form of a scheme for the variation of trust purposes, approved by means of a deed of the Court of Session on 19 July 2006. On 1 April 2017 the engagements, assets and liabilities of the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded were transferred to Scottish War Blinded, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity number SC 047192) with the same Trustees. This Report reports the old Trust and the new SCIO as being a continuation of the same charity, which for all outward purposes is the case.

Peter Conaghan

“I’ve noticed since starting the class I’ve been able to raise my right arm above my head again. I haven’t been able to do this since I had my stroke last summer.”

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## Trustees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice-Chair</th>
<th>Other Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guenn McCreath *</td>
<td>Patsy Gillies *</td>
<td>Group Captain (rtd.) Philip Cox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Cherry (Vice-Chair)</td>
<td>James Law</td>
<td>Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Johnston (Vice-Chair) *</td>
<td>J Grant Macrae</td>
<td>Derek McDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Burrows *</td>
<td>Michael Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Craig</td>
<td>Michelle McWilliams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Cuthbertson * (Appointed 05/10/2016)</td>
<td>James Milhench</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Members of the War Blinded Committee

## Other members of the War Blinded Committee

- Group Captain (rtd.) Philip Cox
- Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL
- Derek McDonald

## Auditor

- BDO LLP, Citypoint, 65 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD

## Bankers

- Royal Bank of Scotland, 142-144 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4EQ

## Solicitors

- Pagan Osborne, Clarendon House, 116 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH (and others)

## Investment Advisers

- Barnett Waddingham LLP, 163 West George Street, Glasgow G2 2JJ

## Principal Office

- 50 Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4JB

## Chief Executive and Secretary

- Richard G Hellewell, BA Econ FCA (retired June 2017)
- Mark O'Donnell (Appointed June 2017)
Scottish War Blinded is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number SC047192.

Head Office and Enquiries
50 Gillespie Crescent
Edinburgh EH10 4JB
Tel: 0131 229 1456
Email: enquiries@scottishwarblinded.org

The Linburn Centre
Louis Braille Avenue
Wilkieston EH27 8EJ
Tel: 0131 333 1369
Email: enquiries@scottishwarblinded.org

ScottishWarBlinded.org

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