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News from the Royal Blind.
Summer/Autumn 2019 | RoyalBlind.org
Dear Supporter,

Welcome to the latest edition of iSite with all the latest Royal Blind news. It has been an action packed few months at Royal Blind. We are very proud of our pupils at the school who designed a vision impaired ‘Oor Wullie’ statue that has been on display in the Edinburgh Storytelling Museum.

The statue got the Royal seal of approval when Princess Beatrice visited Edinburgh and met with two of our pupils Bo Cox and Aiden Murray to find out more about the design. You can read all about this very special day on pages 4 and 5.

Much of the work we do at Royal Blind would not be possible without your support and donations. This helps us to ensure that blind and partially sighted people including those who have other disabilities are fully included and lead fulfilling lives – thank you.

I hope you are enjoying reading iSite and hearing about our work. Please get in touch if there is anything you would really like to see featured in the magazine, we would love to hear from you.

If you are reading iSite for the first time and would like to receive iSite for free, three times a year, please contact us on 0131 229 1456.

Visit www.royalblind.org to find out more.

Best wishes
Davina Shiell
Associate Director of Marketing and Communications

P.S. Did you know – Royal Blind supports people of all ages – from babies and toddlers at our pre-school playgroup, children at our school and after school club, young adults in our supported accommodation and respite care, and older people in our care homes. We also run the Scottish Braille Press, a leading UK provider of accessible media.

In the news...

Royal Blind pupil Bo Cox was featured in the Sunday Post newspaper when he charmed Princess Beatrice at a visit to the Storytelling Museum in Edinburgh.

The Princess met children who had made statues of the famous cartoon character Oor Wullie. Pupils from the Royal Blind School made a vision impaired Oor Wullie which stole the show.

You can read the full story on pages 2 and 3.
Royal Blind pupils meet Princess Beatrice in Edinburgh
Two pupils’ from the Royal Blind School got a chance to meet Princess Beatrice at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh.

Bo Cox, 8 and Aiden Murray, 13, were invited to meet the Princess to celebrate the sculpture of a vision impaired ‘Oor Wullie’ they and fellow pupils at the school made as part of the Oor Wullie Big Bucket Trail.

Bo was very keen to meet the Princess and to his delight was the first child to be introduced to her.

It’s fair to say that Bo charmed Princess Beatrice and they had a very good chat! Bo started off by asking the Princess if she was wearing anything on her head:

“Are you wearing a crown, your Majesty?”

To which the Princess replied:

“No, I’m not would you like to feel my head to see?”

Bo was able to feel the Princess’s head to check she wasn’t wearing a crown and he also told her that her hair was very soft and she must have a good shampoo!

Bo and Aiden showed the Princess their sculpture of Oor Wullie. The pupils created the visually impaired Oor Wullie to help make others aware of young people like them with sight loss.

Bo was able to explain that the statue has textures on the clothes that can be touched as well as a braille poem.

He also told the Princess about why the statue was holding a white cane.

“At the school we learn how to use a white cane,” he said.

“The cane helps us decide where to go and it stops us from bumping into things. We also have special railings that help us get around,” Bo said.

The Sunday Post newspaper was so impressed with the pupils work they wrote a story in the newspaper about how the children came up with the design.

Bo said that he will always remember his meeting with the Princess:

“I didn’t think I would ever meet a Princess, but she was really nice,” he said.

Jilly Martin, Art teacher at the Royal Blind School said:

“We were really pleased to be asked to create a sculpture. I had a brainstorming session with the pupils and one of the first things they said was that they wanted him to have a walking cane. They wanted him to have a vision impairment like them.”

“It was probably the most important thing to the pupils that Oor Wullie should have a white cane.”

Bo Cox, 8, and Aiden Murray, 13, were invited to meet the Princess Beatrice in Edinburgh.

Christina, 18, one of the pupils who created the sculpture said:

“We wanted him to be like us and to have the cane. We wanted to make people more aware of young people like us who are vision impaired.”

Namara, 17 said:

“It was really good fun because we went out to a charity shop and bought him some jeans that we cut up to make his clothes. We also bought him some dark glasses.”

Aiden, 13 said:

“I decided to have a switch on Oor Wullie so that we could hear a message, the message says, ‘Jings, crivens, help ma boab!’”

The bucket is covered in Scots language words that the pupils wrote in braille. There is also an extract from a poem written by pupil Andrew Pettigrew. It says:

“Beaming bright as sunshine, gildin’, Sea O’ dreams.”

Princess Beatrice told iSite magazine that she had thoroughly enjoyed meeting Bo and Aiden at the event and she was very interested to hear about why making a vision impaired Oor Wullie had been so important to the pupils from the Royal Blind School.
Pioneering treatment for sight loss in the U.S.

The patients had some sight restored via an implant that transmits video images directly to the brain. The participant’s eyes were bypassed by a video camera attached to glasses which sent footage to electrodes implanted in the visual cortex of the brain.

Professor Dhillon said: “Clinical research drives the development of new technologies to reduce sight loss and restore vision. Recent reports of new types of implants might have been science fiction a few years ago but are now becoming science fact.

Clinical trials will need to be carefully constructed to ensure any new treatments are both safe and effective before being used. But the first steps are being taken into this new world of discovery.

The Royal Blind in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh actively support ophthalmology research in Scotland into inherited blinding eye diseases. We are also targeting age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of sight loss and registrable blindness affecting older individuals in Scotland.”

The pioneering surgery in America is a significant development by specialists from Baylor Medical College in Texas and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Previously all attempts to create a bionic eye focused on implanting into the eye itself. It required the patient to have a working eye and a working optic nerve.

But surgeons discovered that by bypassing the eye completely they could open up the potential to many more people.

Surgeons involved in the trials believe this could be a message of hope for treating people with blindness in the future.

The technology has not been proven on people who are born blind, but has had some success with people who had sight and then lost it.

The U.S. team behind the study asked participants, each of whom had been completely blind for years, to look at a blacked-out computer screen and identify a white square appearing randomly at different locations on the monitor.

The majority of the time, they were able to find the square.

Paul Philip, who has been blind for almost a decade, says that when he wears the glasses to go on his evening walks with his wife, he can tell where the pavement and grass meet. He also can tell where his white sofa is located.

“It really is amazing to be able to see something even if it is just points of light for now,” Philip said.

Study leader and neurosurgeon Daniel Yoshor said his team is “still a long way from what we hope to achieve”.

“This is an exciting time in neuroscience and neurotechnology, and I feel that within my lifetime we can restore functional sight to the blind,” Dr Yoshor said.

“I just wanted to say thank you for the excellent food.” Said James, 86.

“I only moved to Jenny’s U’Well in January and it’s been a big adjustment for me after living on my own, but one of the things that has made it easier is the quality of the food.”

James went blind when he was 19 after suffering an injury playing in a rugby match. He was kicked in the head in the scrum and suffered two detached retinas. The shock of total and sudden blindness meant he wasn’t able to pursue a career as a lawyer despite having studied law at university.

James, who grew up in Govan, Glasgow went on to become a social worker and then a Sheriff. He married and had two children.

“I’ve been blind for 66 years now, and my overwhelming sadness is that I never got to see the face of my wife while she was alive, and I will die without ever having seen the faces of my two children who are now grown up.

“My one wish would be to be able to see their faces.”

Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Royal Blind Trustee, Baljean Dhillon has welcomed news of ground breaking surgery which has restored partial sight to six blind people in America.

Many blind or partially sighted people don’t learn braille if they lose their sight later in life but James learnt it straight after his accident at the age of 19.

“I knew I had to learn it, I could have gone into a depression after the accident, but I just had to keep going. I never told the man who caused the accident what had happened. I didn’t want him to go through my life knowing that he had caused me to lose my eyesight.”

James said: “Since I lost my sight, I have always taken great pleasure in food. My wife was a good cook and she would make the most delicious soups.

“The chef here, Margaret makes an amazing Banoffee Pie. We can have three courses for lunch and dinner and a continental breakfast with filled rolls.”

James has yet to ask Margaret to make his favourite food, steak or venison, but he is hoping she will take the hint after reading this!

“I used to love eating out,” James said, “One of my favourite restaurants is the Ubiquitous Chip on Byers Road in Glasgow. I used to eat there with my wife. I would love to eat there again.”

And if Jenny’s U’Well chef Margaret McFlynn’s cooking is on a par with the Ubiquitous Chip which is a Glasgow institution, that is praise indeed!

Margaret said: “It’s so lovely to receive this note from James. It is particularly special that it is written in braille. I’m going to put it on the wall in the kitchen. It is good to know that I and the team in the kitchen are getting it right.”
Royal Blind pupils invited to First Minister’s Reading Challenge

Pupils from Royal Blind School were invited to Glasgow to take part in the First Minister’s Reading Challenge.

Andrew Pettigrew and Bo Cox travelled to the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel for the awards which were founded to encourage children to read for pleasure, and to develop a love of books.

The Royal Blind school were invited as an acknowledgment of the way the library at the school have developed and adapted reading programmes for children with a vision impairment. The awards recognise the efforts of schools and pupils to support reading for enjoyment.

Both Andrew and Bo enjoyed meeting the special guest at the awards; author Ross Mackenzie who wrote the Elsewhere Emporium. Also on hand was the Minister for Mental Health, Clare Haughey who looked at the Royal Blind display of braille materials and studied the reading journeys of Royal Blind pupils.

Children from schools across Scotland came to look at the Royal Blind School’s display stand and were fascinated to look at special braille cards that unlock the braille code.

The Scottish Book Trust interviewed Bo about his love of reading and when asked what he loves about books he said:

“I love the way you can just kind of disappear into them.”

Everyone agreed that this was by far the best quote of the day!

Barge trip for Braeside

Residents from Braeside House in Edinburgh are pictured enjoying a trip along the canal to Ratho this summer.

Staff organise six barge trips a year and they are always a great success. After getting their sea legs, residents enjoyed a picnic prepared by kitchen staff.
The project is being taken forward by staff at Jenny’s Well in Paisley because of their expertise in caring for older people with sight loss. Around 12,500 people in Scotland have dementia and sight loss, and the project will raise awareness of how care can meet the needs of people living with both conditions.

Before the Minister toured Jenny’s Well, Royal Blind Chief Executive, Mark O’Donnell and Head of Care for Older People, Morag Francis talked about the importance of holistic care, which emphasises social and emotional support as well as physical.

The Minister met with residents and watched activities including tasting reminiscence, singing and some golf putting.

Royal Blind has been awarded £20,000 by the Life Changes Trust with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for the project.

Through the project, Royal Blind will research what activities in care homes people with sight loss and dementia find most rewarding, and how activities can be tailored to their needs. For the bowling activity, a ringing bell indicates the position of the jack.

The charity have also developed a tasting activity for residents with sight loss where they can take part in reminiscence through sampling traditional local foods.

Clare Haughey MSP, Minister for Mental Health said: “I’ve really enjoyed my visit to Jenny’s Well, we know that many people living into old age who develop a visual impairment will also have dementia, and we know that there has been an increase in the number of care home residents with dementia.

“Both dementia and sight loss require tailored approaches so that we can give people the exact support they need.”

Mark O’Donnell, Chief Executive of Royal Blind and Scottish War Blinded said: “Around eighty percent of residents at Jenny’s Well live with both dementia and sight loss. Over the coming years an increasing number of people in Scotland with dementia will also have sight loss. Both dementia and sight loss require tailored approaches so that we can give people the exact support they need.”

The Scottish Government’s See Hear strategy sets out areas for action to better meet the needs of people with a sensory impairment. This year we are also increasing our package of investment in social care and integration to exceed £700 million, underlining our commitment to support older disabled people.”

Minister visits pioneering dementia and sight loss project at Jenny’s Well

Minister for Mental Health, Clare Haughey MSP visited Royal Blind care home Jenny’s Well to find out about a project being led by the charity about care for people with dementia and sight loss.
It takes two to tandem

Pupils from the Royal Blind School got a chance to try tandem cycling in Saughton Park, Edinburgh.

Royal Blind School staff worked together with VIE Velo, a tandem cycling project based in Edinburgh and run by Cycling UK to help pupils get pedalling with the use of a tandem bike.

PE Teacher at the Royal Blind School, David Palencia said: “Cycling is a really good experience that involves both movement and physical activity. The pupils feel the excitement and freedom on a real bike, this would never be the same on an exercise bike. It is a really good opportunity for our blind and vision impaired pupils to develop relationships with others and to work together with their pilots.”

Royal Blind School pupil Andrew Pettigrew said: “It was a really great feeling being on the tandem. There was a great sense of freedom and independence, I loved it!”

David Glover, Cycling UK’s Senior Development Officer said: “It was a great pleasure to get the pupils cycling, at VIE Velo we want people with sight loss to discover the joys of tandem cycling, whether they are experienced cyclists or have never ridden before. We would encourage anyone to give it a go!”

All the pupils really enjoyed the freedom of cycling with a guide and are looking forward to getting back in the saddle soon.

Author visit for Royal Blind School

Pupils at the Royal Blind school enjoyed a visit from children’s author, Lari Don.

Lari who is an award winning author and storyteller was brought up in the North of Scotland and now lives in Edinburgh. Lari’s books are inspired by her love of myths and legends and she loves to visit schools and share her storytelling.

Lari visited the school and read an exciting story based on myth and magic. There was then a great discussion about what inspires Lari to write with many of the pupils talking about their own creative ideas.

All the pupils said the story was gripping!
Putting the Fun in Fundraising

We are delighted at Royal Blind to have held our first ever comedy night at the Stand Comedy Club in Edinburgh.

We had a great turn out on the night with over 100 people coming out to support the charity through laughter! Nearly £1,000 was raised.

Huge thanks also to our comics, Christopher KC, Keir McAllister, Amy Matthews and host Vladimir Mctavish.

On top of the world fundraising for Royal Blind

A family with a special connection to Royal Blind through family member little Lorenzo have scaled the peak of Ben Nevis in 3 hours 45 minutes to raise money for the charity.

Moray, Grant, Luke and Sara took on the challenge to raise funds for the Royal Blind School. Lorenzo suffered brain damage shortly after he was born due to hypoglycaemia, which has caused blindness. The family want to raise money for the Royal Blind so that they can contribute to his future care at the school.

Sara said: “He is the joy in all our lives and loves to impress us every day with his affection. We want to raise as much money as possible so we can contribute to his future care.”

Lorenzo currently attends the Royal Blind’s Playgroup where he enjoys sensory play and learning with other babies and toddlers just like him.

The family have already raised nearly £600 and more money is still due to come in. Thank you so much to everyone who has made a donation.

We will keep you posted on Lorenzo’s progress and if you would like to take on a challenge of your own email Fundraising@royalblind.org to find out more.

Volunteer, Laura Michie, took on new heights in an excellent effort to fundraise for Royal Blind. Laura bravely abseiled off the Forth Rail Bridge.

Laura said: “It was an incredible experience. I am not a fan of heights but the atmosphere and sense of achievement afterwards was simply fantastic!”

Thank you Laura!

Coming up...

Now it’s your turn – why not take part in one of our events. How about the:

- Edinburgh Kiltwalk 15th September
- Pub Quiz 6D Degrees North 10th October
- Scottish Half Marathon 22nd September

Find out more about our Christmas cards going on sale in November!

Just email our team at fundraising@royalblind.org to sign up for an event or to put forward your own challenge and find out how we can support you to reach your fundraising goals!

Our very own Mike from the HR department and three of his friends spent a full 24 hours running in a relay race around Arthur’s Seat in Edinburgh.

They completed 41 laps which is 131 miles! Thank you Mike, Calum, Iain and Dave for this fantastic effort.

“We is the joy in all our lives and loves to impress us every day with his affection”
Reach out and touch

New interactive touch table arrives at Braeside House.

The screen can be used vertically like a television screen or laid flat like a table.

The courtyard gardens at the Royal Blind School have been given a brand new look with £100,000 being raised for the project.

A new kitchen courtyard with raised beds has been completed.
Pupils are having fun planting it up with flowers and vegetables and a scented herb garden.
The custom built planters are all wheelchair accessible. Benches are wheelchair height and planting areas have gaps to enable wheelchairs to wheel in and under, allowing pupils who use wheelchairs to easily plant and maintain the garden.

Activities Co-ordinator Tony Daley said: “I think this will be great for the residents, there is so much we can do with it, and I’m really looking forward to using it. I love the idea of being able to take residents all over the world on Google Earth to revisit places from their past.”

Colin Hilditch, Education Business Manager at the school said:

“The transformation of the courtyard garden from an underused space into the vibrant colourful courtyard you see today has been amazing.

This area provides an educational setting where pupils can grow fruit and vegetables from ‘seed to plate’ with all produce being used in the Kitchen and Home Economics class. It includes wheelchair accessible planters and an area for rest and relaxation surrounded by plants and sensory foliage.

I am so pleased that thanks to the money raised we have this fantastic space which will benefit all our pupils.”

The project was funded thanks to a variety of trusts including the National Lottery Community Fund and the Morrisons Foundation and generous donations from families and individuals. Thank you to all of you.

An outdoor sink has also been installed to make the kitchen courtyard a self-contained space.

At the front of the school, a new basket swing has been put in and is already in use by pupils. This area has been brightened up by a mural, which was painted by local secondary school pupils as a volunteering project.

Our Active Courtyard has also been completed with the installation of the Butterfly and Roundabout, and plans for the sensory courtyard are nearly complete.

Staff at Braeside House had an exclusive preview of a state of the art touch table, which has been bought for Braeside after the fundraising team managed to secure a donation from the Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust and money raised from the Summer Fete day at Braeside House.

The table can take people on a trip down memory lane by visiting places using a giant sized google earth. It can also be used to talk to relatives who are far away.
Games can be played on it and newspapers can be blown up into large print to make them easier to read.

There are also art functions to enable a person who may struggle with holding a brush to be able to make a picture using their fingers, which can be saved and printed off.

Activities Co-ordinator Tony Daley said: “I think this will be great for the residents, there is so much we can do with it, and I’m really looking forward to using it. I love the idea of being able to take residents all over the world on Google Earth to revisit places from their past.”
Both Braeside House and Jenny’s Well held their summer fairs. These events are always a great way for residents, family, friends and staff to get together.

Both events were jam packed with live entertainment, home baking, face painting and much more. The fairs raised over £3,000 for Royal Blind and we would like to say a huge thank you to all Royal Blind staff for organising them and to everyone from families to local businesses who made such generous donations. We hope you will enjoy these photos from both Jenny’s Well and Braeside House.
There are many ways you can help. From having a friendly cup of tea with our care home residents, to helping our teachers and play workers, or working with young adults.

Daichi, 28, came all the way from Japan to volunteer for Royal Blind at Allermuir House in Edinburgh. Allemuir is part of Royal Blind Adult Services and provides a home for life for four disabled adults that need 24-hour care and support.

The young adults living at Allemuir all have a vision impairment as well as other disabilities including neurological conditions. Daichi said: "I had done some work in a school in Japan with disabled young people and I knew that I had an interest in working with people with disabilities."

I wanted to volunteer somewhere for a year. I actually arranged the placement from Japan through a company called Volunteering Matters.

When I arrived at Edinburgh Airport, it was September and I thought it was freezing! I did not speak much English when I got here but I have got better over the last year!

When I first came to Allemuir, I knew the adults had complex needs. I was nervous but the staff were so kind and helpful to me and I learnt quickly.

I helped to prepare breakfast and help the residents to eat their food. We often go out walking and take part in shopping trips or a social activity.

Could you be a volunteer for Royal Blind?

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do.

If you are interested in helping people then being a volunteer is amazing.

I think I am a different person to who I was when I arrived in Scotland a year ago. It has made me determined to work with people with disabilities. At first it was just something I was interested in but now it is something I feel passionate about.

So, what are you waiting for?

Volunteering for Royal Blind is a fantastic way to make a difference to someone with sight loss.

For more information and to apply online, please visit royalblind.org/volunteer

Tel: 0131 446 3154
Email: volunteering@royalblind.org
Web: royalblind.org/Volunteer

What is the Royal Blind Learning Hub?

The Royal Blind Learning Hub provides teacher training, educational resources, advice and workshops to teachers and other education professionals working with vision impaired children. Our aim is to support teachers and support staff in all areas of their work with vision impaired pupils in both mainstream and independent schools.

We offer support through:

• One to one contact – We can visit schools directly and provide outreach support

• Teacher training – Please come along to one of our forthcoming seminars.

• Online learning – Browse our website at www.learninghub.royalblind.org for free resources.

Seminar Programme for 2019/20

2019

Thursday 5 September – Vision Impairment: Maths and Science: Adaptation of Exam Questions

Thursday 19 September – Mindfulness

Wednesday 2 October – Art for Children with Vision Impairment and Complex Needs

Tuesday 3 October – Vision Impairment Awareness Training – Glasgow

Wednesday 30 October – Vision Impairment Awareness Training – Inverness

Thursday 7 November – Music for Pupils with Vision Impairment in Mainstream Schools

Thursday 21 November – An Introduction to Pre-Braille Skills

2020

Thursday 6 February – Teaching Braille and Braille Technology

Thursday 20 February – Tactile Graphics and Tactile Book Making

Tuesday 25 February – Communication in Practice with Learners at an Early Stage of Development with Vision Impairment and Complex Needs

Thursday 27 February – Using Drama Techniques and Sensory Stories to Explore Real Situations and Provide Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Learning

Thursday 12 March – Independent Living Skills for Pupils with Vision Impairment

Thursday 19 March – Music for Pupils with Vision Impairment & Complex Needs

Thursday 26 March – Mindfulness

Tuesday 19 May – Canaan Barrie Signing Workshop

For more information and to apply online, please visit royalblind.org/volunteer

Volunteer Daichi with James Whyte, Royal Blind Volunteer Development Manager.
Family and Friends gather for special day at Royal Blind School

Pupils past, present and future gathered for Family and Friends day at the Royal Blind School.

Family and Friends day gives people the chance to see the work of the school and is a great way to bring this community together.

The day started with the red carpet treatment for visitors as a photographer recorded the arrivals of all the guests.

Depute Head, Dominic Everett started proceedings with a welcome speech and revealed the school has been rated excellent for teaching and learning in the last inspection report by Education Scotland.

Dominic talked about the highlights of the year including pupils meeting David Walliams at the Book Festival and taking part in the First Minister’s Reading Challenge.

Ex-pupils came back to get together and swap stories of their time at the school and what they are doing now.

The day is also an opportunity for parents whose children will be joining the school to come and see what the Royal Blind School has to offer.

Guests then explored the new kitchen courtyard garden and ex-pupil and Olympic silver medallist, Harrison Lovett cut the ribbon to officially declare the garden open.

There was singing in the main hall with piano played by music teacher Louisa Maddison.

After lunch where friends and family had a chance to catch up there was a storytelling session.

Pupil Joe was presented with an award for winning the school’s Ready Steady Cook competition for his delicious strawberry tart.

Everyone had a great time and we hope you will enjoy this selection of photos from a very special day.
**Forward Vision summer BBQ**

Young adults who live in Royal Blind’s Forward Vision services got together with family, friends and staff for their annual BBQ.

This year staff and residents went back to the 80’s and we saw some great outfits on the day! The sun came along too, which was an added bonus.

Residents helped prepare for the BBQ by helping with shopping and baking, as well as decorating the garden.

Forward Vision is a service for young adults where Royal Blind provide 24-hour care support for young people with vision impairment and additional needs including cognitive and communication issues.

As well as residential care, we offer short breaks to young adults with sight loss and additional disabilities. Forward Vision has 14 bedrooms providing much needed care for people between the ages of 17 and 25.

By living in a homely setting we are able to support our residents with their daily living tasks such as menu planning, gardening, cooking meals and baking, budgeting, shopping for household items and clothing and banking and financial support – and the art of the BBQ!

Here are some great pictures from the day.

As well as residential care, we offer short breaks to young adults with sight loss and additional disabilities.

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**Royal Blind pupils out on work experience**

Pupils from the school have been getting a taste of what the world of work might hold in their recent work experience placements.

Namarr went to the Tone Garden recording studio at Summerhall in Edinburgh.

She recorded 5 songs that she has written during her music lessons with Ms Maddison at the school. Namarr said: “I really enjoyed wearing the headphones and feeling like a pop star for the day.” We are looking forward to listening to the finished CD.

Meanwhile, Connor has been busy doing some work experience at the RNIB where he was packing and posting the latest issue of their magazine for young people and learning some office skills.

Andrew Pettigrew went to work at the Scottish Poetry Library, whilst Joe Carberry joined Teens Plus in Liberton. Joe helped to teach some students German and staff at Teens Plus said he approached every task with gusto and enthusiasm.

Christina Tytler went to work at our own Scottish Braille Press.

“I really enjoyed wearing the headphones and feeling like a pop star for the day.”
Fiesta!

The sun shone as pupils and teachers at the Royal Blind School celebrated Fiesta day, this year with an African theme.

Pupils chose Africa because of the links they have formed with a school for children with a vision impairment in Tanzania.

The day, which is like a sports day combined with music and craft, was organised by PE teacher David Palencia.

Both staff and children dressed with an African twist and the day kicked off with some relay races outside.

Pupils also took part in some singing with music teacher Louisa Maddison with a heartfelt rendition of ‘The Lion Sleeps Tonight.’

Children then made African drums and shakers in the art room with art teacher, Jilly Martin.

After a lunch of chicken stew and plantain pupils went outside to enjoy the sun and the staff served ice creams and organised games of skittles.

There was a special performance in the afternoon from the band Akroua with drumming, and an African dance display which inspired both pupils and staff to take to the dance floor!

To round off the day pupil Rebeka Ritchie was awarded a prize for the best outfit.

As the sun was still shining the pupils managed to go back outside to fit in one more ice cream at the end of the day – well, they did need using up!
I would like to help support Royal Blind

Please complete and return this form or donate online at royalblind.org/donate

Title: ___________________ Forename: ___________________ Surname: ___________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________ Postcode: ____________

E-mail address: ___________________ Phone number: ___________________ By giving us your email address you consent to receiving email updates from Royal Blind

1. My special gift:

I enclose a cheque or voucher made payable to Royal Blind □ Individual gift amount ....................

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*The last three digits on the signature strip (four for American Express)

2. My monthly gift to support Royal Blind

There’s no need to fill in this section if you just want to give a one-off gift to support Royal Blind.

Please complete and return this form or set up a direct debit at royalblind.org/donate

I would like to make a monthly gift of £3 □ £5 □ £10 □ My own choice of £ ................

Starting on the 1st □ 15th □ of month ___________ year ___________

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Account no. ___________ ___________ ___________ Sort code ___________ / ___________ / ___________ Date ___________ / ___________ / ___________

3. My Gift Aid

Make your donation worth 25% more with Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer, we can reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate - just tick the box below.

□ Yes, I am a UK tax payer and I would like Royal Blind to reclaim tax on all donations I have made in the past 4 years or will make in the future until I notify you otherwise. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and / or capital gains.

4. Communication Preferences

If you would prefer not to hear from us or would like to change the way we communicate with you please contact us on 0131 229 1456 or privacy@royalblind.org

I would like to help support Royal Blind

Please complete and return this form or donate online at royalblind.org/donate

Title: ___________________ Forename: ___________________ Surname: ___________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________ Postcode: ____________

E-mail address: ___________________ Phone number: ___________________ By giving us your email address you consent to receiving email updates from Royal Blind

1. My special gift:

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Please debit my Mastercard □ Visa □ American Express □ CAF Card □

Card no. ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ Expiry date ___________ / ___________ Security code* ___________

Name on card ...............................................................................   Signature(s) ...............................................................................

*The last three digits on the signature strip (four for American Express)

2. My monthly gift to support Royal Blind

There’s no need to fill in this section if you just want to give a one-off gift to support Royal Blind.

Please complete and return this form or set up a direct debit at royalblind.org/donate

I would like to make a monthly gift of £3 □ £5 □ £10 □ My own choice of £ ................

Starting on the 1st □ 15th □ of month ___________ year ___________

To: The Manager ..............................................   Bank / Building society ................................................

Address ................................................................................................................................................................................   Postcode..........................

Name(s) of account holder(s) ...............................................................................   Signature(s) ...............................................................................

Account no. ___________ ___________ ___________ Sort code ___________ / ___________ / ___________ Date ___________ / ___________ / ___________

3. My Gift Aid

Make your donation worth 25% more with Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer, we can reclaim 25p for every £1 you donate - just tick the box below.

□ Yes, I am a UK tax payer and I would like Royal Blind to reclaim tax on all donations I have made in the past 4 years or will make in the future until I notify you otherwise. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and / or capital gains.

4. Communication Preferences

If you would prefer not to hear from us or would like to change the way we communicate with you please contact us on 0131 229 1456 or privacy@royalblind.org