Royal Blind is Scotland’s largest visual impairment organisation. We create life changing opportunities for visually impaired children and adults of all ages.

It costs £1,510 every hour to provide the following services:

**The Royal Blind School**
Specialist education for young people aged up to 18 years.

**Forward Vision**
A residential and respite service for young adults aged 18-25.

**Braeside House**
A care home specialising in care for visually impaired older people.

**Scottish Braille Press**
A leading provider of high quality Braille, large print and audio transcription services.

**Kidscene**
An after school and holiday club for children of all abilities.

**Learning Hub**
Training, support and advice for educators of visually impaired pupils.

**Scottish War Blinded**
Our sister charity provides assistance to veterans of the armed forces who have a significant visual impairment.

Making a donation to Royal Blind
Every donation makes a difference.
You can donate:

- Online at [www.royalblind.org/donate](http://www.royalblind.org/donate)
- Telephone: **0131 229 1456**
- Cheque: made payable to Fundraising, Royal Blind, 50 Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4JB.

This magazine is interactive!
This magazine uses interactive technology that enables you to link directly to online content by scanning pages with your mobile phone. Download the Layar app and scan every page that displays the Layar icon with your mobile phone to be led to related content online.

iSite in alternative formats
To receive iSite in large print, Braille or audio CD please contact Colleen Watt on 0131 229 1456 or colleen.watt@royalblind.org
Royal Blind is a registered charity SC017167
Scottish War Blinded is a registered charity SC002652
ESPC selects Royal Blind as Charity of the Year

We were delighted to be selected as ESPC’s Charity of the Year. ESPC sponsors Paralympic athlete and former Royal Blind School pupil Libby Clegg.

Libby Clegg spent time in September with pupils at the Royal Blind School to see where money raised by the property marketing company will be used. ESPC has committed to help raise funds for the “Wheelie Easy” project that aims to provide three new SMART Platforms for the school. These ingenious mobility aids allow an individual’s bespoke wheelchair to be easily loaded via integral ramps, instantly converting it to a powered chair. The devices will help pupils actively participate in their mobility and will encourage self-development.

Kerrigan Bell, Senior Fundraiser at Royal Blind said: “We were delighted to welcome Libby back to the school to meet our current pupils as a representative from our charity partner ESPC. With ESPC’s help, we hope to provide more SMART Platforms for the pupils to help improve their learning experience while at school.

“We look forward to ESPC’s upcoming Winter Ball on 27 November and thank them for selecting us as their chosen charity this year.”

Libby, who attended the school from 2002 to 2008, joined the pupils for a short sports activity class and then took a tour of the classrooms. Commenting on the visit Libby said:

“As a former pupil it’s a pleasure to go back to the school where I had such a great time. On behalf of ESPC we welcome the challenge of raising enough to provide the pupils with a new SMART Platform and look forward to the upcoming fundraising events.”
Royal Blind launches new service for teachers in mainstream schools

Sally Paterson (pictured above right) is a woman with a mission - to make sure all visually impaired children in Scotland get the very best out of mainstream education.

Sally has spent 23 years in teaching, the last decade of which has been with blind and partially sighted young people, most recently as a teacher within a dedicated visual impairment local authority service.

She is now leading the newly launched Royal Blind Learning Hub. Her role is to deliver support, advice and workshops to all those involved in the education of visually impaired children and young people across Scotland.

“I am looking forward to the new projects and challenges that this position will bring,” said Sally.

“This is a time for innovative collaboration to support children and young people with visual impairment.”

Sally’s career with visually impaired pupils began when she took a supply job with North Lanarkshire’s Visual Impairment service. Her artistic side was roused when she noticed that there were very few storybooks for children with visual impairment. Immediately she set about changing this and created tactile pictures to accompany the early years reading scheme. From then on, she was hooked.

After the year’s contract ended, Sally realised how much she had enjoyed the job and was delighted to earn a permanent position. She has constantly fought for their needs to be met by local and central government.

“In all my years of teaching, I had never come across a visually impaired child before I did the supply work,” she said. “I really loved the job from the start. I loved art and one of the first things I did was to look at tactile graphics as I wanted the kids to have more than Braille. I really enjoyed doing this.”

After working for a local authority, Sally saw gaps in the educational provision for young people with visual impairment. She then began her current role with the Royal Blind Learning Hub.

“By helping teachers to gain confidence and expertise in teaching visually impaired children, I can make a positive difference to the lives of the children,” said Sally. “I am excited about the new service and the impact it will have on the education of visually impaired pupils across Scotland.”

If you are interested in finding out more about the Royal Blind Learning Hub or would like to contact Sally, please visit their website at www.royalblind.org.
visual impairment. “Every authority is dealing with squeezed budgets and we need to be creative in how we support young people with visual impairment and work collaboratively,” Sally added. “I would like to see more staff gaining access to specific training about teaching visually impaired children and young people.”

Sally, who started work with Royal Blind in April, holds a number of important posts in education. She is currently Chair of the Scottish Association of Visual Impairment Education (SAVIE) as well as being a committee member for the NHS Scotland Visual Impairment Network for Children and Young People (VINCYP), the Scottish Sensory Centre Advisory Committee and the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment.

After working for so long for a local authority, Sally welcomed the opportunity to join the staff at Royal Blind as its new Learning Hub Manager. Her role combines that of ‘face to face’ outreach worker with the establishment of an online learning service, to provide additional support to teachers and educational professionals who have blind or partially sighted children in their classrooms.

“I was looking for a new challenge and this is a great opportunity to support teaching staff throughout Scotland to deliver the very best to all visually impaired children,” Sally said. “Supporting staff in developing skills such as the use of assistive technology, Braille, mobility, independent living and tactile graphics is crucial if we are going to get it right for every child.”

Advice and support from the Royal Blind Learning Hub will focus on the key skills required by children and young people with visual impairment, in order to access the curriculum. “We need to encourage the development of the expanded curriculum. Children with visual impairment need to be taught additional life skills. This is really important as they can leave school with qualifications, but if they can’t get a bus across town how are they going to be employed or foster social relationships? We need staff who are trained to work with children with visual impairment and understand their needs.”

The Learning Hub’s website www.royalblind.org/learninghub was launched at the Scottish Learning Festival 2015 in Glasgow. The website already has How To videos and training materials which are free to access. The site is in its infancy and the Learning Hub welcomes suggestions about the type of resources and topics that would be useful to create for teachers in mainstream schools.

Do you teach a visually impaired child?
Download our free resources:
www.royalblind.org/learninghub
Email us
learninghub@royalblind.org
New lease of life

If gardens are good for the soul, then residents at Royal Blind’s Braeside House should all have inner peace; thanks to a team of 18 staff from Standard Life who carried out a garden makeover that would make Alan Titchmarsh proud.

The project began when Michael Craig, a Board member at Royal Blind and Head of Product and Technical Consultancy at Standard Life, wanted to do something positive for the residents. Michael said, “Like quite a few people at Standard Life, I’ve a long-standing connection with Royal Blind. We were delighted to help raise funds and tidy up the gardens at Braeside House, so residents and staff could enjoy them.”

The Standard Life team worked hard to fundraise for the new garden. Team member Stephen Campbell organised a sponsored cycle on three stationary bikes loaned from Pure Gym.

Helen King, Senior Product Architect at Standard Life, said, “We wanted to do a team
building exercise and do something for Royal Blind at the same time.

“Altogether 28 of us managed to cycle the distance from Edinburgh to the Eiffel Tower. We also filled empty Smartie tubes with coins and held quizzes. What we raised was matched by Standard Life to give a total of £4,000 donated towards the project.”

A keen gardener herself, Helen said she enjoyed designing the garden to suit the needs of residents, commenting “We are trying to provide a range of plants and grasses to create a sensory garden that will give residents and visitors lovely smells and sounds as they walk past.”

Barrie Simcock, Activities Team Leader at Braeside House, said: “The area was a very overgrown stretch that had been neglected and needed bringing to life. It didn’t live up to the rest of the grounds at all.

“It is lovely to have members of the community working to help us create something so wonderful. We can’t wait to see how the garden develops and how it will look in years to come.”

Our Celebrity Golf Day in August raised £8,000 to support our work - a fantastic amount.

19 teams from companies such as Thomson Gray, nbm Construction, Weslo Housing Association, Nicholson Decorators, Keyline, BDO, Aon and Feralco competed for trophies kindly made by members of our sister charity, Scottish war Blinded. The sun shone and a great day was had by all. Thank you to all who took part or donated prizes for the event. The eighth Celebrity Golf Day will be on the 10 August 2016! To book your place now, get in touch with Kerrigan at kerrigan.bell@royalblind.org
In 2013, two teachers at the Royal Blind School, Aine Murphy and Caren Bryce, decided to investigate whether mindfulness techniques could help the pupils they work with.

Aine and Caren had already introduced their pupils to a series of body awareness and relaxation exercises, but they wanted to create a more structured programme, so they turned to Stan Godek, a mindfulness trainer, for help.

The first step was gaining a better understanding of what mindfulness is. Stan explains, “Essentially, mindfulness is the ability to rest the mind in the moment, by focusing on a specific object, image, task, exercise or movement, to create a sense of relaxation – this generates a sense of alertness while also helping to decrease arousal or distraction.”

When children experience repeated activation of the stress response, their baseline state of arousal can get altered. A child whose responses has developed in this way is at a disadvantage. “Mindfulness with progressive relaxation activities takes the child out of this ‘red zone’,,” says Stan.

This knowledge helped Aine and Caren understand how mindfulness could benefit their pupils. “Stan brought in different thinking, making us re-evaluate our assumptions about mindfulness,” says Aine. “With his help we were able to develop a programme that had a real educational and psychological backbone.”

The programme was devised to address the daily practical and emotional difficulties that children living with visual impairments can face – such as dressing, getting to school, and interacting with peers. Aine and Caren hoped it could reduce the levels of stress the pupils experience and increase their capacity to manage.

An early part of the work was establishing a series of ‘sensory stations’ in the classroom, equipped with fur, feathers, chiffon, peppermint oil and massage balls. Pupils were encouraged to quietly explore these spaces, concentrating on the textures, smells and sounds, and the associated feelings they produced. They chose an area that would engage their senses.

Peace of mind

Once dismissed as a fad, mindfulness is nowadays increasingly part of the mainstream, with a growing awareness of its calming effects on people of all ages and backgrounds. But can it work in schools, and support young people with disabilities?
they felt most comfortable in and created personal stories about their ‘happy place’.

Alasdair*, for example, used soft fur and imagery of a seashore for his happy place. Visualising a safe space was more challenging for others however. Although outwardly confident, one pupil, Liam* gradually revealed that he often suffered from ‘day-mares’ and disturbed sleep. With the help of Aine, Caren and Stan, Liam began to imagine a peaceful environment where he felt soothed and secure.

“He visualised a Japanese Zen garden, with a great sense of stillness and peace, water flowing, and a boulder for strength,” Aine says.

The second stage of the programme involved Tai Chi, with the staff struck by how well the pupils mastered the breathing and movement exercises. One pupil, who suffered a stroke on one side of his body, enjoyed raising and holding his arm up as an expression of his strength and determination.

In combination, the practices had a dramatic effect. “We saw progress over time, and other staff began to notice it too,” Caren says.

“Parents were commenting that their children were more self-regulating and in many cases their breathing patterns improved. That’s a hugely significant change as a result of this work.”

Aine and Caren now want to develop the programme to introduce empathy and compassion, by asking questions of the young people such as, ‘how would you help a friend to feel happier?’. They are delighted the initial scepticism about mindfulness has evaporated; the programme has proved its worth with their pupils now better able to control stress and feel more relaxed.

The next stage, as Aine says, will be to “share this with other schools – showing that mindfulness can become a valuable part of the curriculum in Scotland.”

*Names have been changed.
For this year’s National Braille Week, Royal Blind was invited to the Scottish Parliament by Dennis Robertson MSP to hold a three day exhibition in the Garden lobby and an evening exhibition celebrating the development of Braille.

The exhibition gave MSPs and Parliamentary staff an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the history of Braille and why it continues to be important for visually impaired people today. Many were intrigued to have their first touch of written Braille, and to learn how new technology has made the use of Braille more adaptable to modern life.

The Parliamentary reception, hosted by former Royal Blind School Pupil MSP Dennis Robertson, treated attendees, including Alex Salmond MSP, to a multi-sensory experience of Braille.

We were delighted to welcome Sue Reid Sexton, a trailblazer for accessible format books. The Braille version of Sue’s upcoming book ‘Writing On The Road, Campervan Love and the Joys of Solitude’ will be published in Braille by the Scottish Braille Press at the same time as it is released in text next April. The audience was treated to an excerpt of this book simultaneously read in Braille and text, with Sue accompanied by the Scottish Braille Press’s Jim McCafferty.

Performers included Andrew Pettigrew, a 13-year-old pupil and resident poet at the School, who read his poem inspired by a visit to Louis Braille’s birthplace ‘Who is my Hero’, which greatly moved many in the audience. Musician and former pupil Amy Moar memorably made use of a Perkins Brailler during her performance of original composition ‘Letter to Louis.’

In his welcome address, Dennis Robertson remarked to the audience that the week’s events at the Parliament “gives you a sense of the level of importance that this Parliament has for Royal Blind.” The reception was attended by a cross party group of MSPs, including George Adam, Nanette Milne and Christian Allard.
Royal Blind was particularly pleased that National Braille Week’s reception and exhibition raised awareness amongst MSPs of the services which Royal Blind provides, in the wake of the recent Education Committee report ‘Attainment of pupils with a sensory impairment.’ The report confirmed the continued need to develop the knowledge of teachers working with visually impaired pupils in mainstream schools.

Many MSPs and supporters attending the reception and exhibition were interested to hear how our new service, The Learning Hub, will contribute to improving the attainment of visually impaired children in Scotland.

Next year’s National Braille Week will be held on 10-14 October 2016, coinciding with World Sight Day on 13 October. Royal Blind will be considering how best to celebrate and raise awareness of Braille. If you have ideas for an event, or for comments and further information, contact us at marketing@royalblind.org

www.nationalbrailleweek.org
Where is Braille today?

In the past, the Braille code in English has had variations from one country to another. Unified English Braille (UEB) will integrate these variations into a single unified code for all English speaking countries. UEB is being introduced throughout the UK this year.

Allan Balfour started working at the Scottish Braille Press in 1969. He left for a few years but returned in 1999 to a new, computerised environment. For Allan, Unified English Braille is about making Braille compatible with computer technology. He transcribes the Scottish Braille Press publications the Braille Sporting Record, Home Help, and Spectrum, to name a few.

“Our publications mean a great deal to our readership. We have one client who says that his luxury item on a desert island would be the Braille Sporting Record. The magazine provides up-to-date information on current sporting events including football league tables and fixtures, horse racing, cricket and rugby,” said Allan.

“I love reading Braille because it’s active. You can’t replace picking up a book and reading it. With audio books you have to depend on the narrator’s voice. In the long run, UEB will be really good because of its compatibility. The Scottish Braille Press is switching over in December to UEB so we are in the process of studying it and getting to know it,” added Allan.
Youngsters enjoy an action packed holiday club at Kidscene

It was a busy time for Kidscene at both the Summer and October holiday clubs as children enjoyed an action packed itinerary.

The Children took part in a range of activities including designing comic books, creating sensory art and a week was even devoted to the ever popular Minions!

There were visits from Callum from Cool Creatures, Tattie Bumkin also joined the children for some yoga and Tollcross fire station popped by for a visit with their fire engine.

One parent said, “I booked my child into Kidscene over the summer so she could meet some new friends and get used to the after school club before starting school in August.

“When I collected her that evening she was so happy, she couldn’t wait to show me what she had done throughout the day.”

Another said, “When we asked our kids how their days were we got a range of ‘great’, ‘awesome’ or ‘fantastic’.

“They had great things to say about every play worker, from card tricks with Simon to football with Kyle, to just having fun with Sarah and the rest of the team.

“Poppy wrote in her diary that the day at the yard doing “Tuff Mudder” was the best day ever!”

A thrilling day out for Forward Vision residents

Young people at our Forward Vision service recently took to the slopes at Glasgow’s Braehead Xscape for the Snow Factor event. The group enjoyed an adrenaline packed day out at the indoor skiing arena.

Xscape is Scotland’s first real indoor slope and is the UK’s longest at 200 metres!
In August, a group of Royal Blind School pupils visited the Edinburgh Book Festival.

The pupils included Steven, Namarra, Daniel, Myles and myself, accompanied (or guarded, for a better term) by Ms. Laughlin, June, Carol, Amber and Jim. It was roughly 12.20 pm when we set off and the bus ride took only 15 to 20 minutes. The day had started off with a dull grey sky and an occasional droplet of rain, but now the heavens were blue and the sun was dazzling. A good omen, perhaps.

When we arrived, there were a handful of large tents that individual authors were in. Snaking between these were paths made of wooden decking.

The author we were going to listen to, and hopefully meet, was David Almond, the writer of many children’s and adult’s books.

In my English class, we have read ‘Skellig’, a fantasy novel about a half-owl man who gets discovered by a teenage boy. I have also read The Fire Eater, a similar book about a escapologist who meets a 13 year-old boy in the middle of what is feared to become a third world war.

Before we entered the David Almond marquee, having ten minutes to spare, we decided to visit the bookshop there. Some of us bought our gifts and souvenirs with the £3 off vouchers we had. After that, it was time to enter the David Almond Tent.

The interior of the marquee was very like a modern-day cinema except no popcorn and no big screen. Instead there was a podium for the author and row upon row of comfortable fold-up chairs. June’s estimating here, but we reckon there must have been around 400 chairs in all, most of which were filled.

Soon David Almond appeared on stage. I could not hear much, but by his tone of voice and by what Ms. Laughlin explained on my BrailleNote to me, he had a great passion for literature. It wasn’t just books he was exhilarated about - he adored everything to do with them: the printing process, the imaginative mind behind it all, the curves and shapes of the letters.

He described how Skellig, the book mentioned earlier, had several strong parts based on his life: Mina, one of the main characters, reminds him vividly of himself; he had an actual baby sister who nearly died; sadly, however, he didn’t mention anything of having a half-owl man for a friend.... Now that would have been interesting!

He recalls fantasising with his friends when they played football that they were superstars; he explained his own point of view about the human mind; and he informed us when he first had the impulse to write stories at the age of seven. He also talked about his new book, which features a modern-day Orpheus; of how hard it is to get a book published; and, at the end, answered the audience’s questions. Did you know he’s got a pet rabbit called Alfie? There was a hunted rabbit in his book ... and I sorely hope Alfie didn’t give him any ideas for that.

He was an extraordinarily fascinating person to listen to. Afterwards, I met him and he was very keen to know about my own writing. I think he’s just as thrilled in young writers as he is in novels in general.
It’s back and it’s bigger than ever! Royal Blind Week 22 - 28 FEBRUARY 2016
We are launching lots of new and exciting challenges to truly put the fun in fundraising!
Keep an eye on our re-launched website for news and updates!
www.royalblind.org/royal-blind-week

Doughnut Daft
Your chance to get a slice of the bake sale action without lifting a spoon!
1) Contact the lovely people at Krispy Kreme and enquire about their fundraising scheme.
www.KrispyKreme.com
2) Collect your dozens of doughnuts at a special charity price along with your fundraising pack.
3) Sell the delicious deep-fried dough rings on to friends, family and colleagues and donate the profits made to Royal Blind.
Giving never tasted so good!

Sponsored Fun
All Eye’s On You
Give Alice Cooper and Lady Gaga some serious competition!
We dare you to lay on some sparkly glitter eye shadow, outlandish fluorescent eyelashes and even some ‘guyliner’ and get sponsored to have OUTRAGEOUS eye makeup for one day. Try to turn as many heads as possible as you go about your daily routine and share some memorable selfies to help raise awareness of Royal Blind.

Raise Money, Build Teams, Make a Difference
This year we were delighted to be selected as ESPC’s charity partner and during Royal Blind Week we will be organising a series of interactive challenges for their staff. We would love for your business to work with us and to create fundraising initiatives for you and your colleagues.

Let’s get social!
#RoyalBlindWeek
Whether you’re a Facebooker, Tweeter or Instagrammer, we want you to share your experiences with us!
#Blind4Day
What would you miss if you couldn’t see?
1) Post a photo of what you would miss if you lost your sight – your family, partner or pet.
2) Use #blind4day and share your photo across your social network and tag your friends to do the same.
3) Add your caption + text BLINDE3 to 70660 to donate £3.

Get in touch
Have a fundraising idea you need help with or want to get involved? Email fundraising@royalblind.org and we’ll get back to you soon!
A welcome exchange

Four young Scots from the Royal Blind School have become cultural ambassadors thanks to a German exchange programme with Blista School from Marburg, Germany.

Six German pupils who all have visual impairments, were treated to a proper Scottish welcome and shown the very best of life in the capital.

The idea behind the exchange came from Depute Headteacher Sarah Hughes who worked with the German school at her previous post in England.

"After seeing the exchange visits work so well in my previous post, and knowing how amazing the staff at the school were, I thought we had to develop a similar programme here," said Sarah.

"I had the links with teachers Michaela Baumheckle and Silke Roesler, but it is our Languages Teacher Lauren Eliott Lockhart who has been the real driving force for this."

The exchange began in June when a group of four students and four members of staff from the Royal Blind School visited Blista School and spent a week going to lessons, sightseeing and learning about life in Germany.

"It is an enormous amount of work, but the benefits are massive for the school and our pupils," Lauren told us.

"Our pupils do not learn German, so this was very much a cultural exchange, but they were keen to pick up a few phrases and make the effort. After our return, the pupils kept in touch, particularly through social media."

Sarah added: "It was interesting to look at the use of technology in both schools. Technology is very important for visually impaired children and can play a leading role in education. Children can now connect anywhere in the world and maintain friendships..."
world and maintain friendships through social media.

“They have been very sensible about this and very responsible. I think we struck a good balance and they have developed some social independence as well as physical independence.”

The Scottish students all agreed that the trip was a huge success. Scott, 16, said: “We had lots of things in common with the pupils and the language wasn’t a barrier. They taught us a lot about the language and my German has improved. I felt more engaged with the culture by speaking the language. When I ordered something, they actually brought it!

“The social side of this trip has been great. It’s been the best experience I’ve ever had. I’ve made six new friends and tried new things and liked them.

The German hospitality was amazing. The teachers adapted their lessons for us and were very friendly.”

Last month the six German students and their two teachers came to Edinburgh to visit the Royal Blind School and had an action-packed programme to follow. This included bowling, visits to the Scottish Parliament, Mary King’s Close, Edinburgh Castle, Gullane beach and climbing up Arthur’s Seat. A highlight of the week had to be the Ceilidh on Thursday evening, complete with Scottish dancers and a Scottish buffet (including Haggis and Clotie Dumpling!)

Sebastian, 16, said at the start of the exchange: “This is my first time in Scotland and I am looking forward to everything, going to the outdoor centre and going into Edinburgh.”

The two schools are hoping that the exchanges will take place every two years and that the young people will continue to use social media to build their friendships.
This diverse group of ex-service personnel had travelled from the furthest corners of Scotland. Those who gathered shared experiences and stories of military service and adapting to sight loss.

A delicious dinner on Thursday was followed by a surprise performance by the West of Scotland Military Wives’ choir, who delivered a spirited and often emotional performance.

Many of our older veterans recalled the words to songs once sung in their early youths and found their own voices stirred to join in. The ladies’ voices were evocative, as the words of their chosen songs recalled members’ own commitment to their country, and the sacrifices of friends from the services.

The next morning, following a hearty breakfast, our members were welcomed by our Chief Executive Richard Hellewell and a busy day began.

Of interest to many was a presentation on current Army activity by Captain Lori Smith of the Royal Artillery. This was followed by a very energetic question and answer session, at which the Captain answered all the wide ranging questions which were posed.

Tim Searles, Linburn Centre Officer, gave a talk reflecting on the experiences of members and staff who travelled to Ypres earlier this year, re-tracing the footsteps of fellow soldiers across Flanders Fields and the scenes of World War One.

Scottish War Blinded has a diverse membership including veterans who served in WW2 and lost their sight as they got older, and men who have been wounded while serving in recent conflicts. Regardless of their age or cause of sight loss, our members understand what sight loss means to a veteran. The event emphasised our commitment to growing this sense of comradeship.
Throughout the event, members had the opportunity to chat with representatives from RNIB and Optelec. It was a great opportunity to have a go with the latest equipment, which Scottish War Blinded is able to distribute free of charge to members.

At lunch our longest standing member Matt Howitt, who has been a part of the Scottish War Blinded community since 1955, ceremonially cut into our centenary cake. We did not insist on 100 candles, much to the relief of the venue’s staff.

An afternoon of lively group debates followed, at which members had their say in debating the future developments of our services, with ideas for our new Paisley centre coming in thick and fast.

A recent development in support available to our members and their families is financial aid to fund respite care, with support to find a placement to suit the individual member and their family.

Our new partnership with Crossroads Care enables us to source reliable professional sitting services, where a trained carer comes into a member’s home to enable them or their carer to take a break.

Members and their families are also able to benefit from longer respite care breaks, which are an opportunity for carers to spend some time looking after their own needs, safe in the knowledge that their loved one is receiving the best possible care. Respite care can be a valuable break for our members too - it’s an opportunity to meet new people and try out some new experiences.

If you know of a family caring for a veteran with a visual impairment please do let them know that Scottish War Blinded is here to help - irrespective of when or how they lost their sight.

Call 0800 035 6409 to refer them to us or visit guidethem.org.
Regular donations are crucial to our work. Direct debit donations enable us to plan our work into the future, transforming the lives of blind and partially sighted people of all ages. If you would like to set up a direct debit then please complete this form. Your support is really appreciated.

Please fill in this form and return to:
Royal Blind, 50 Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4JB

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The Direct Debit Guarantee. This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits. If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Royal Blind will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Royal Blind to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request. If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Royal Blind or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Royal Blind asks you to. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

RoyalBlind.org