

ISSUE 1

December 2006

ROYAL BLIND



i site



ROYAL  
BLIND

Royal Blind School

ROYAL  
BLIND

Braeside House

ROYAL  
BLIND

Scottish Braille Press

## Meet Libby

The Royal Blind  
School's very own  
shining star



Home Wins Two  
National Awards

Enter our great  
Envelope Raffle  
and win great prizes!



See page 8

Fundraising  
Ventures

Christmas Cards and  
Calendars On Sale





Main Cover Pic and other images by **Renzo Mazzolini**

ROYAL BLIND

### Royal Blind School



The Royal Blind School offers the highest quality of education and care to meet the needs of young people with a visual impairment. Our two campuses include pre-school, primary and secondary facilities supporting pupils across the full ability range.

ROYAL BLIND

### Braeside House



Braeside House is our home that provides first class services and facilities for older people who are blind or visually impaired, offering both residential and nursing care in purpose built premises.

ROYAL BLIND

### Scottish Braille Press



The Scottish Braille Press is a leading provider of high quality alternative formats. The press has many years of experience that is backed up with continuing investment in technology and skills to ensure we can supply the best that is available for our customer needs.



## Editor's note

Welcome to this first edition of *i-site*, our new charity magazine. I hope you enjoy reading our feature story about Libby that is truly inspirational. We have been lucky to have various fundraising activities going on during the past couple of months and if you have any ideas for new ones or would like to volunteer to fundraise for Royal Blind then please do get in touch. If you have any events taking place please remember to let us know and we will try to include them in future editions of *i-site*.

*Happy reading*  
The Editor



**ROYAL BLIND**  
Services for the blind

# A great big Thank You

We've £100k in the pot

With just over £100k in the pot, fundraising is going extremely well for our Sensory Garden, which will be based in the grounds of the Canaan Lane Campus of the Royal Blind School. A very big thank you to all our supporters who have helped raise this fantastic amount of money for the garden and a special thank you must go to: The R S Macdonald Charitable Trust for their donation of £30,000; The Friends of Royal Blind, for their donation of £35,000; and HSBC for their donation of £30,000.

At Canaan the emphasis is on the education and care of pupils who are combating multiple disabilities in addition to their visual impairment. The sensory garden will complement the existing work of the school, create a safe and secure space for families and pupils and act as a focus for community involvement.

Themes such as movement, water, play, contemplation and activity are really important and some key features that this exciting development will incorporate include:-

- **A secure and nurturing space for pupils;**
- **A place to allow natural integration between Royal Blind School pupils and their friends at the adjacent primary school and a local secondary school with whom they already have established links;**
- **A place for parents of residential pupils to spend time in a relaxed and personal space with their child;**
- **A fun place for brothers and sisters of pupils;**
- **A place for families of pupils to get together and socialise; for instance the early years families after using the hydrotherapy pool at weekends.**

Designed to encourage the children's abilities to explore and learn, the sensory garden will include many features that touch the senses such as:

- **Raised flowerbeds with distinctive differences to stimulate the senses of smell and touch.**
- **Various walkway surfaces for children to explore.**
- **Wind chimes and musical instruments to stimulate the sense of hearing.**
- **Areas such as steps and gradients to moderately challenge the children.**

At the moment we have contacted the Beechgrove Garden, who we hope will come onboard and further assist us with the development of the Sensory Garden (fingers crossed!). We will know more by the next edition, so look out for the update.



## OUR PICTURES ABOVE

**Left:** A special thanks to our 'Friends of the Royal Blind' committee, led by Mrs Angela Russell (front, centre), who visited the school earlier this year to present their fantastic donation of £35,000 which was received by radio and television presenter Mary Marquis (front left). Also pictured are pupils from Cargilfield School who assisted the committee with a fashion event in their school.

**Right:** HSBC Bank plc gave generous support to our sensory garden appeal, with a donation of £30,000. Pictured with children at Canaan Campus are (left to right) Steve Nelson, area director; Kyle Boag, Commercial Banking Manager; and Margaret Spence, Marketing Co-ordinator of HSBC Bank plc. The bank has also very kindly offered volunteer time to support our school and home.

## £2.5m residential refurbishment nearing completion

Work is nearing completion on the refurbishment of our residential homes based at the Canaan Lane Campus of the Royal Blind School. This exciting £2.5m project will provide residential accommodation for up to 30 young people who are multiply disabled and visually impaired, on a 52 week basis. Due for final completion early in 2007, the six fully adapted homes will provide a combination of respite and residential provision.

The customised design of the residential homes is the product of a high degree of collaboration amongst parents, staff, associated agencies and the architects. The latest equipment and furniture have been installed during the refurbishment to provide a homely, safe and



stimulating environment for our children.

Lesley Stocks, head of services at the residential homes said: "We have to meet the education, care and health needs of a range of children and young people. We attempt to prepare young people as far as possible for independent living and to ensure that they feel at home within the residences. The purpose built facilities are quite stunning."

**The official launch of the residential homes will take place next year, on completion of the refurbishment. The children are planning a big party so watch out for pictures which we'll print in a future edition of our magazine.**



## Edinburgh care home wins 2 national awards just before 7th birthday celebration

Staff at Braeside House, Edinburgh, were delighted with the news that they had won two prestigious care awards: Carer of the Year and Specialist Services Provider, at the recent Scottish Care Awards ceremony hosted on 17th November. The care home was also runner up in the Single Care Home Operator category. Agnes Vass, a carer who has been with Royal Blind for 36 years, was voted Carer of the Year and was one of 1000 nominations. Well done Agnes!



Braeside House, which celebrated its 7th birthday on 22nd November 2006 is a purpose built care home for older people who are blind or visually impaired. The awards, 13 in total, were announced and presented at the second National Scottish Care Awards Gala that was compered by Sally Magnusson.

Marilyn McCann, Matron of Braeside House accepted the awards on behalf of the home. Marilyn said: 'To be nominated for these awards was a real endorsement of the high standards of service that we provide at our nursing home. To actually win two awards and be runner up in a third was absolutely fantastic. Our staff work hard to provide an excellent service and our birthday celebrations with our residents this year had just a little extra sparkle, thanks to these awards.'

The awards follow hot on the heels of a letter of endorsement for Braeside that was recently sent to the Care Commission by Susan Craig, whose mother received care at the home before she passed away. Susan was so impressed with the home that she wanted to write to the Care Commission to let them know about the service but was disappointed when she viewed their website.

'I found a section where I could give feedback, but this only applied to complaints and not praise,' said Susan. 'I suppose that this reflects attitudes today, in that all too often only the negative is stated and heard. I was so impressed with the care my mother received while in Braeside that I felt the staff should be commended for their excellent practice and given positive feedback.'

To make sure this was achieved Susan put pen to paper and wrote to the Care Commission – the story is featured below.

## There's time to praise, rather than complain

Susan Craig wanted to write to the Care Commission about the care her mother received from a care home before she died so she went to the Care Commission website to look for an address.

'I found a section where I could give feedback, but this only applied to complaints not praise,' Susan explained. 'I suppose that this reflects attitudes today, in that all too often only the negative is stated and heard. I was so impressed with the care my mother received while in Braeside Nursing home that I feel the staff are to be commended for their excellent practice and given positive feedback.'

Susan's mother Isobel Hill was a resident of Braeside Home in Edinburgh. She suffered from dementia and was blind. She also had diabetes and needed regular insulin injections.

Susan said: 'My mother was admitted to hospital in December 2004. My brother and I saw what

she went through while she was in hospital – she found the experience distressing – so we asked the home if she could stay there while she was dying, rather than being admitted back into hospital.

'I think the staff really excelled themselves as they nursed my mum through her final illness to her death in September 2005. Their care and concern was remarkable.

'The final stages of my mother's life demanded a complicated range of medical and nursing interventions. Staff worked to ease my mother's pain, making her as comfortable as possible while also managing her diabetes and dementia.

'I was most impressed by the teamwork demonstrated by the staff. My mum's treatment had to be closely monitored and changed, sometimes by the hour.

Communication across the staff team was excellent and my mum's care was well co-ordinated and consistent.'

Susan and her family were able to go in and see her mother at any time of the day or night. Her daughter, who works shifts, was often visiting her grandmother late at night. The family noticed that there was always a member of staff with her mother.

Susan continued: 'My mother did become violent towards the end of her life so for the staff to have responded to her in the way that they did is even more commendable.

'In other contexts, I have seen some bad examples of the way dementia patients are treated. The district nurses tended to ignore her or speak over her so I feel strongly about anything that reinforces and supports good practice.'

*This article first appeared in the autumn edition of CareNews, printed by the Care Commission. Many thanks Susan for your praise. The staff at Braeside Home were really delighted to receive such positive feedback.*

# Meet Libby Clegg

## Our shining silver medalist

It's been a fantastic year for Libby Clegg (16) who is registered blind and attends The Royal Blind School. Whilst studying for her exams, Libby has also been training hard at her favourite hobby – athletics.

Following an excellent performance this year at the IPC World Championships in Assen, Holland, Libby stepped up to Podium. At the age of 16, she is currently the youngest athlete to be funded by the World Class Podium Plan from either able-bodied or disability athletics, and the support is timely recognition following her silver medal over the T12 200m. In this her first major international Libby appeared to have repeated the feat over 100 metres but sadly her guide was judged to have crossed the line before her. As Libby is registered blind, she runs with a guide runner called Lincoln and they run with a tie that keeps them together, at 5cm apart.

Now Libby has been nominated for the Young Sports Personality of the Year. The decision will be announced on 10th December and in November we caught up with Libby at school to find out a little more about this shining star.



### Libby, tell us a little bit about yourself?

'Hi. Well I live with my mum and dad and have two brothers and a sister: James, Stephen and Felicity, who are all really excited about my achievements this year. It is difficult fitting school work around training and training around school work because I don't really have a lot of time to myself. Therefore I have to try and manage my time really well. I'm still not very good at that and my homework is normally in late! Wednesday and Friday are my free nights, and I love to go Salsa dancing on a Friday night, so really it's only Wednesday. I've also got a boyfriend, close friends, and I would like to be a Criminologist when I leave school, so juggling everything is really, really difficult.'

### What has been your career highlight so far?

'It has to be the World Championships. I came second in the 200m and broke my personal bests in the heats, semi-final and final. So I was really, really pleased with that and surprised a lot of people. In the 100m I would have come second but my guide runner's chest went in front of me so I was disqualified.'

### What are you looking forward to?

'I've actually been nominated for a couple of awards so I am looking forward to these announcements and I'm training hard to qualify for the Beijing Paralympic Games, which will be held



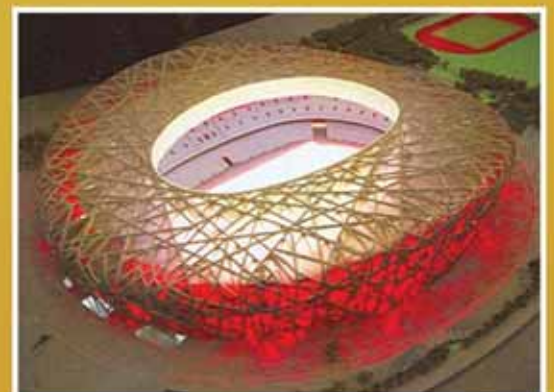
**Libby running with Lincoln**

*Photo courtesy of UK Athletics*

in 2008. I will hopefully qualify next year and stand a good chance of getting through based on my performance this year. I love running - it's a great way to relieve stress and tension and makes me feel better about myself. It's been a fantastic year so far and I hope my success and achievements will give inspiration to others to believe in their dreams and follow their ambitions.'



**The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, will be held from 6th-17th September 2008 at the Beijing National Stadium, which is also become known as the bird's nest. This impressive stadium will be the main track and field stadium as well as hosting the Opening and Closing ceremonies. We wish you the very best of luck in qualifying for the games, Libby and we'll keep track of Libby's progress in future editions of our magazine.**



## Splat for cash raises £1637

Well done to all those who raised a great £1637 at the 'Splat for Cash' Charity Paintball Competition that was held in November at Skirmish's Dalmahoy site. The competition was open to everyone 12 years and over and teams of 7 were required. To raise funds for the charity, each player was asked to raise a minimum sponsorship of £30 for Royal Blind and a special thanks goes to:

- *The Pavilion Bar who sponsored two teams ie £350.*
- *John Allison and everyone at the Jewel & Esk College who raised £417.01*
- *Simon, who works at the Pavilion who raised £85*
- *Budget Rent a Car who kindly donated a mini bus for the day.*

'As a charity, we really rely on fundraising events like the Charity Paintball Competition to raise much needed funds,' said Helen Forrest, Fundraising Manager for Royal Blind. 'Over the past two hundred years we have only been able to continue to deliver better and more modern facilities for our pupils thanks to the generosity and support of the public, trusts and companies. So a big thank you to everyone who took the time to get Splat for Cash.'



## Wits dinner heralded a success

A 'Wits' Dinner held by the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus, a Christian and Charitable Order of Chivalry, helped to raise over £3500 for our charity. The money was raised towards the construction of the Sensory Garden and the dinner took place at the Carlton Highland Hotel, North Bridge, Edinburgh. Ian Macpherson and Rod McGowan, two exceptionally talented speakers, provided interesting and amusing entertainment for the evening, which was heralded a great success by all those who attended.

## Scenic 2007 calendars now available

Our 2007 Calendars, which are produced in conjunction with The Scotsman, are now available for purchase. They cost £7.00 each which includes P & P.



To place on order please telephone Sheila Dick on 0131 229 1456.

## Crimean war raises charity funds

A theatrical performance by Cleo Sylvestre, centred around the unsung heroine of the Crimean War, Mary Seacole, helped the Borders Fundraising Committee raised over £1000. Her fascinating story was told in dramatic form by Cleo Sylvestre, who has worked with Sir Lawrence Olivier at the National Theatre and performed in Coronation Street and The Bill, among other productions. This production had also been given by Cleo at the Florence Nightingale Museum, the House of Lords, and the National Portrait Gallery.

'We found the performance fascinating,' said Beryl Phelps, committee member. 'Cleo is very talented and discovering the Crimean War from the diaries of Mary Seacole was superb. Florence Nightingale was a great administrator but I think Mary was perhaps a bit more 'hands on'. It was a super night and in aid of charity, so I must thank all those who attended. We know the funds are warmly welcomed at Royal Blind.'

A plant sale, held in September, was the second event that helped towards raising over £1000, donated to the charity in November. All your hard work is greatly appreciated ladies

## Christmas shop and drop for charity

An invitation to all was extended by Dobbies Garden Centre, Lasswade, to come along and shop at their sparkling Christmas Preview night in November, and then drop any spare change for our charity. To make the whole experience even more enjoyable, Harmony 21 serenaded shoppers with a winter wonderland of songs.

'Harmony 21 regularly raises funds for the Royal Blind School,' said Maureen Blake, Harmony 21 singer. 'The school provides an excellent service for children who are visually impaired or those with multiple disabilities and we really enjoyed singing at the event. We know that all funds raised for the charity is put to very good use.'

Spurred on by the success of Dobbies, Harmony 21 were again in fine voice in December when they harmonized at the Gyle Shopping Centre to raise even more funds. Well done.



## Christmas Donations

Thank you to all our supporters who have sent us Christmas donations. These funds are greatly appreciated and help the charity continue to provide excellent services for those who are visually impaired or who have multiple disabilities. Without your support we wouldn't be able to sustain our services, so thank you and may we wish you all a very happy New Year.



## Royal Blind School children design charity Christmas cards

Our pupils at the Royal Blind School, have designed their own Christmas Cards in order to raise funds for the school. The children all took part in a competition, with the designs placed on display at the school reception. Staff and visitors then voted for the best designs, which have been produced with the message 'Seasons Greetings' both in print and in Braille.

'The children really enjoy designing these cards which are printed to a very high standard,' said Elizabeth McCann, Depute Head Teacher, Royal Blind School, Edinburgh. 'They raise funds for the school and I'm sure you will agree that the designs are fabulous, a true reflection of the talent that we have at the Royal Blind School.'

Cards are available for sale online at [www.royalblind.org](http://www.royalblind.org) at £3.00 for a mixed selection of 10 cards including postage and packing. Additional packs of 10 cards can be bought for £2.50 each when ordered at the same time. Purchases can also be made by contacting Carol Selkirk on 0131 662 4445. Payment may be made by credit card, debit card or by cheque in advance.

*The images shown are typical examples and individual pack contents may differ.*



# Christmas Carol Concert Rehearsals in full swing

Preparations are well underway at the Royal Blind School for the traditional Christmas Concert and from the pictures the children are really enjoying the practice. The concert is being held on Thursday 14th December, commencing at 7pm and on Friday 15 December, commencing at 12.30pm and this year pupils in S3-S6 will be performing 'The Snow Queen'.



## Win a super prize in our Envelope Raffle

In this, our first edition of iSite, we thought we'd try something new - an Envelope Raffle.

With super prizes on offer, this is a great way for you to donate to a worthy cause and at the same time you have the chance of winning a really nice prize.

All you need to do to enter is write your name and address on an envelope, enclose your raffle donation - it could be a bank note or a cheque - and then seal it. Fold your entry into another envelope and then post it to:

iSite Envelope Raffle, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

**Any donation, no matter how big or small, is most welcome!**

Alternatively, if you would like to enter the raffle using your credit card (all major cards accepted) please contact our Appeals Department on **0131 229 1456**.

Winners will be the first entries drawn after the closing date of 19th January, 2007, so we can get the prizes to you in time for a Burns Night toast.



## St Andrews Day Celebrations



Lola, a Russian soprano, dropped in at Canaan Lane to celebrate St Andrews Day with the children. Lola was introduced to the school by Live Music Now, a charity that helps people access the joy of live music in venues such as schools for children with special needs, centres for adults with physical and learning disabilities and homes for older people. Classic FM joined Lola on the day to cover the event. As you can see everyone really enjoyed singing and dancing with our Russian star.



## Royal Blind School appoints new Principal



**Elizabeth Horne** has taken up the post of Principal of the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh. The announcement was made recently by Chairman of the Board of Directors, Jim Finlay.

In making the announcement Jim Finlay said: 'Elizabeth is both a strategic thinker and an accomplished leader, with all the qualities we have been looking for. She has an outstanding record in the education sector, especially in the areas of support and learning, and has strong links at local authority level and with other appropriate agencies and services related to children. I warmly welcome Elizabeth to the Royal Blind School and am certain she will make a very positive and significant difference to our future.'

The Royal Blind School, Edinburgh offers the highest quality of education and care to meet the needs of young people with a visual impairment or those with very complex, multiple disabilities. Recognised for its quality of provision both nationally and internationally, the school offers pre-school, primary and secondary facilities that support pupils across the full ability range. With over 20 years experience within the Scottish education sector, Elizabeth is well aware of the various issues facing the Royal Blind School. She said: 'I am absolutely thrilled and delighted to have been appointed to the post, which I believe is both a privilege and a challenge.'

'To be given the opportunity to lead a long-established and nationally recognised service for children with additional support needs in the area of visual impairment, is a great privilege. However, at a time when this provision is dramatically changing in response to legislation and a more inclusive environment, there are definite challenges ahead. I strongly believe that the Royal Blind School has an ongoing and major role to play in the provision of support for pupils with additional support needs and look forward to working with partners and stakeholders to maintain and develop our services.'

*"a strategic thinker and an accomplished leader"*

# Everyone has the right to read...

To support **Right to Read Week** in November 2006 the Scottish Braille Press launched two new Braille books in the new Thistle series: *I'm Not Scared* by Niccolo Ammaniti and *Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch. The first title, *I'm Not Scared* is available in three volumes price £6.99. The second title, *Highest Tide* is available in four volumes price £7.99.

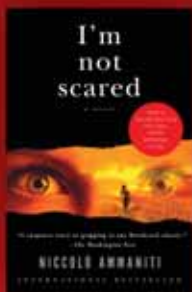
According to the Right to Read Campaign, over three million people in the UK are denied the right to read just because they have a sight problem or print reading disability. Even more concerning is the fact that a shocking 96% of books are not available in large print, audio or Braille. At the Scottish Braille Press a publication can be tailored to suit an individual and the Press fully supports the move of the Right to Read Alliance to ensure that everyone is able to read the same book, at

the same time and at the same price. Right to Read Week aims to raise awareness that people are being denied the right to read just because they have a sight problem or print reading disability. For example in the UK there are approximately 20,000 children between the ages of 5 and 16 with a visual impairment severe enough to require specialist educational support (figures taken from Campaign report 'Where's my Book?' based on research by Loughborough University's Library). The Right to Read Alliance believe that blind and partially sighted pupils are still not receiving educational materials in the format they require when they need them. The current system of providing accessible textbooks is simply not working. It lacks any national coherence or co-ordination, and is far from cost-

effective. In an age of digital technology dedicated staff are often reduced to cutting, pasting and photocopying textbooks page by page to get them to their pupils in time.

'I'm proud to work for one of the UK's leading providers of information that is produced in alternative formats,' said John Donaldson of the Scottish Braille Press, 'but from the figures recently printed by the Right to Read Alliance there is still a lot to be done to ensure the rights of individuals to choose what they want to read and how they want to read it. Our children are especially important and unfortunately one size does not fit all, so I will work closely with partners to hopefully ensure a better future for the blind and visually impaired.'

ROYAL BLIND Scottish Braille Press



**I'M NOT SCARED** – *Niccolo Ammaniti*  
3 Vols – £6.99. The hottest summer of the twentieth century. A tiny community of five houses enclosed by wheat fields. While the adults shelter indoors, six children venture out on their bikes across the scorched, deserted countryside. Whilst exploring a dilapidated and uninhabited farmhouse, nine-year-old Michele Amtrano discovers a secret so momentous, so terrible, that he dare not tell anyone about it. To come to terms with what he has found, Michele has to draw strength from his own sense of humanity.



**HIGHEST TIDE** – *Jim Lynch* – 4 Vols - £7.99. One unforgettable night, thirteen-year-old Miles goes to the flats near his home in search of shellfish, only to discover something startling and remarkable: a giant squid. Instantly, he becomes a local celebrity and is pursued by TV crews urging him to explain the phenomenon. His psychic friend Florence predicts that even more astonishing discoveries are to come, indicators of the highest tide in fifty years. Yet, Miles worries more about matters closer to home: will his passion for his ex-babysitter Angie go unrequited? Will his arguing parents divorce? Is everything, even the bay, shifting from him?

To find out how to purchase either of these publications visit [www.royalblind.org](http://www.royalblind.org)

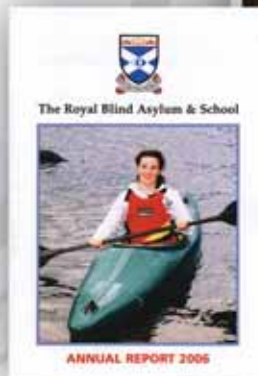
## Our annual report

Dedicated services for the blind and those with very complex, multiple disabilities provided by our charity continue to be in high demand according to our latest 213th Annual Report.

Key achievements for the year include:

- **Braeside House in full demand**
- **Strengthened international links**
- **Individualised programmes of education and care successfully offered to children with visual impairment or those with very complex, multiple disabilities by Royal Blind School**
- **Research development**

'I'm very proud of our achievements over the past year,' said Jim Finlay, chairman, Royal Blind. 'We have been in existence for over 200 years so it is very important for us to change and adapt to meet the needs and demands of our customers, whilst maintaining our core purpose. Our annual report shows that we are continuing to be successful with this objective, with both Braeside House and the Scottish Braille Press really going from strength to strength. On the other hand our school continues to rely on funds raised by the charity and I would to thank all those who have gifted money for this prestigious service – it's just not possible for us to maintain this valued service without this continued support. The forecast is positive for 2007.'



### ROYAL BLIND Royal Blind School

International links were strengthened by the Royal Blind School as it joined with schools from Sweden, Germany, North and South Ireland and Lithuania to challenge perceptions of visual impairment. In November the school, which caters for children from 3-19 from all over the UK, played a major role in leading a dissemination and training conference in Italy for teachers and other specialised staff of children with multiple disabilities and visual impairment. Success for the school was also achieved in national athletics and swimming championships, including the British Games in London in June this year.

### ROYAL BLIND Braeside House

Excellent standards of care were reported for Braeside House, with nurse education a priority. Links with Caledonian University were maintained and the home has been asked to participate in a further nurse research project aimed at helping to improve the care for the elderly. To share expertise and information, a study session on how to handle residents with visual impairment was piloted and following positive feedback, these sessions will now be offered on a wider scale.

### ROYAL BLIND Scottish Braille Press

By investing in new technology the Scottish Braille Press has successfully expanded their customer base, winning a number of new contracts whilst renewing existing ones. The Press is a leading provider of high quality alternative formats such as Braille, Large Print and Audio and the report highlights that publications such as Braille magazines and the 'Thistle' series of novels continue to be popular with customers.

To find out more about Royal Blind please visit [www.royalblind.org](http://www.royalblind.org)



**ROYAL BLIND**  
Services for the blind

**Royal Blind Asylum and School,**  
Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ  
Tel: 0131 229 1456 Fax: 0131 229 4060

Scottish Charity No SC017167

## Can you help?

I enclose £  as a donation.

Please debit my credit/debit card £

Start date:  End date:  Signature:

I would like to think about making regular donations to Royal Blind.

Please send me, without obligation, forms for:  Direct Debit  Standing Order

Payroll Giving  Information on Making a Gift in my Will

### Personal Information

Title:  Name:

Address:

Postcode:  email:

If you use gift aid you can make your donation worth more. For every pound you give to us, we get an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue. Please tick here  I am a UK taxpayer and I want the charity to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signature:

Date:

## Where there's a will, there's a way...

Making a will is, for some, a daunting prospect and something that is often left for another day.

One way you can help Royal Blind is through a gift in your will and we are always grateful to hear from people who wish to leave us a gift that can help transform lives. With your help we can make a real and lasting difference to improving the quality of life for those who are visually impaired or those with multiple disabilities. Our new magazine, **isite**, shows some of the work we carry out in our school, home for the elderly and the Scottish Braille Press. We have over 200 years of history and heritage but our services continue to rely on funds raised by the charity. Leaving a gift to Royal Blind will ensure our work continues. If you would like to find out how to leave a gift in your will, or would like us to know that you have already done so, then please write to

**Helen Forrest,**  
**Royal Blind Asylum and School,**  
**Gillespie Crescent,**  
**Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**  
**or telephone: 0131 229 1456.**



**You can now give online...**

*If you want to find out a little more about Royal Blind and the services we provide to the community; or some of latest news; or information about donating you can do it all online with a click of a mouse.*

Visit **www.royalblind.org** and click on the relevant sections to find out more about us.

## Can you spare some time?

Royal Blind is fortunate to have many volunteers who give up their valuable time to help us with various fundraising activities throughout Scotland. Our Organisation relies on the generous donations from the general public worldwide and on the work of its many supporters to provide essential services for the education, care, training and employment of children and adults in the UK who are visually impaired. If you have some time to spare then we would love to hear from you. Whether it is helping to sell raffle tickets, door to door collections, organising a fundraising activity or starting a local committee, your help is really appreciated.

Please contact Helen Forrest, Marketing and Fundraising Manager on 0131 229 1456 if you would like to help.

