



SCOTTISH
VETERANS
RESIDENCES

Annual Report
2024/25

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From our Chairman

It is my privilege as Chair of Scottish Veterans' Residences (SVR) to present our Annual Report. The past year has once again demonstrated the resilience, commitment and compassion that define our organisation.

Occupancy levels in the 3 Residences increased in 2024 from the previous year, indicating the continued and growing need for our services. Homelessness appears to remain as significant, and a seemingly intractable issue since SVR's foundation in 1910. With our services remaining in demand, we have continued to invest in them. We have

employed a second Activities Officer to increase the range and capacity of activities in which our residents can participate. It was also the first full year for our in-house Occupational Therapist, who has made a significant contribution across all 3 Residences by improving the mobility, health and wellbeing of a large number of residents.

We know our services are good; residents' testimonials and Care Inspectorate reports provide the evidence for this. It is however, the dedication of our staff, volunteers and supporters who work tirelessly to provide a safe, supportive and dignified environment to meet the need of our veterans, that as Chair continually inspires me.

I also recognise the contribution made by those Members of the Governing Body who retired during 2024; Lieutenant Andrew Smart RN; Flight Lieutenant Ross McElhinney RAF; our former Chair, George Lowder; Troy Johnson; and Clive Masson. All contributed in the shaping and governance of SVR, they helped to strengthen our values and worked for the good of the Charity and the wellbeing of those we support.

In my previous report, I inferred that SVR needed to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of beneficiaries

and society. We are in the preparatory phase of recasting our strategy, which we expect to publish at the end of 2025. Once published, this will confirm the range of services we will provide and from where, and how we will provide them. I expect that the programme to deliver the strategy will be the most significant since our foundation. We will keep you informed of progress.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of SVR. This report reflects not only our fiscal performance and operational achievements, but also the powerful stories of the individuals we serve. I extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Trustees, our partners, leadership team and all those who contribute to our work. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of those who have served our country in its hour of need.

Jonathan Tweedie
Chairman

Our sincere thanks again to the Trustees of Crathie Opportunity Holidays for generously hosting SVR's autumn residential trip. Veterans from all 3 residences again headed north to Royal Deeside for an action-packed week of activities and gained much from the experience. Crathie have very kindly extended the invite to us again in 2025.

To learn more about Crathie Opportunity Holidays, their cottages and charitable work, visit: www.crathieholidays.org.uk



From our Chief Executive

The facts and figures revealed in the Infographic presented in this Report (Pages 12-13) demonstrate that our services remain very much in demand.

I am especially pleased we were able to provide financial and broader support that enabled 26 Residents to find employment, and 62 Residents to move on from SVR and live independently in their own tenancies.

In terms of the services and support we provide, 2024 was a notable year. It was the first full year in which we have been able to provide

therapeutic counselling in all three Residences. We now have two Veteran Royal Marines Activity Officers, who have been exceptional in encouraging our Residents to undertake activities that many thought beyond themselves. And we and our Residents benefitted from a full year of Occupational Therapy support provided by our in-house therapist and students on placement

from Queen Margaret and Glasgow Caledonian Universities. All this complements the truly excellent support provided by our core Support Workers.

A growing theme throughout 2024 was partnership and consortia working. Already members of Veterans Scotland, and the Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance, we have now joined the Unforgotten Forces Consortium. The benefits of this approach are easily recognisable. Working co-operatively and in coordination with partners brings mutual support, the sharing of risk, knowledge and experience, and enhanced support to beneficiaries. Within this approach we also recognise the invaluable contribution of grant making charities and commercial donors.

During 2024, SVR benefitted from donations and grants from the Scottish Veterans Fund, the Addison Smith/Ewart Charitable Trust, the Northwood Charitable Trust, the Regimental Support Service, the Scott (Eredine) Charitable

Trust, the Netherdale Trust, the Royal Caledonian Trust, the Yellow Rose Healing Sanctuary, the Scottish Military Ball, and Raytheon. On behalf of all at SVR I pass on my warmest thanks to them all for their generous support.

And yet whilst it would be easy to rest on our laurels and become comfortable with the successful support of Residents; to remain relevant and effective, we need to critically analyse the services we provide.

Informed by the Scottish Government's Supported Housing Task and Finish Group Report and listening to our Residents and Charity Sector partners, we began a project to understand the needs and requirements of homeless Veterans and how and where those should be delivered. We expect that project work will be completed this year, which will provide us with a refreshed strategy, and a delivery plan.

Martin Nadin OBE
Chief Executive
Scottish Veterans Residences

New video illuminates our work

We released a powerful new mini-documentary in 2024, giving an insight into the impact of SVR's work supporting homeless ex-Servicemen and women. You can watch the video on our website Home Page or on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/OjYo6RgTH8A>



Bellrock turns 10

SVR celebrated a significant milestone in its history with the 10th birthday of the charity's Glasgow residence, Bellrock Close.

On 15 October 2014, SVR's patron-in-chief HRH The Duke of Gloucester officially opened the purpose-built facility, comprising 30 supported one-bedroom flats for Veterans, with a further 21 two-bedroom flats for tenants. Exactly 10 years on, the Scottish Veterans Commissioner Susie Hamilton led tributes as Bellrock Close celebrated its first decade.

Susie could not be better qualified to reflect on the importance of Bellrock, having been a leading figure in the creation of the facility in her previous role as Head of External Relations with SVR. Another driving force behind realising the project, SVR's Deputy Chief Executive and Property Services Manager George Corbett, was also present along with current staff, residents, partners, friends and supporters.



Susie said: “The 10th anniversary is a tribute to the vision of the Board members at the time, and staff members, some of who are still with SVR today, including George Corbett – who as Property Manager – played such an important part in building this magnificent facility.

“It’s also really important to note the crucial part the residents play in Bellrock Close, because without Veterans there would be no Bellrock Close or SVR. Those men and women who have served our country and made sacrifices, putting their bodies and minds on the line, bring values and skills they have learnt during service. They provide such support to each other, working together, being

able to live together, and taking an active role in the life of Bellrock Close.”

Videos were played from residents who have successfully moved on to independent living following periods of supported housing at Bellrock Close. And we also showed video messages from TV legends Lorraine Kelly and Carol Smillie, both who were ambassadors for the project as it geared up to opening in 2014.

The celebration coincided with the official opening of the newly refurbished gym at Bellrock Close, made possible due to grant funding from the Addison Smith/Ewart and Dr and Mrs JD Olav Kerr Charitable Trusts, and a number of community



fundraising efforts, including a bake sale organised by pupils from The Glasgow Academy. Susie kindly unveiled a plaque and cut a ribbon to open the gym, built and installed by Clydebuilt Fitness.

One of the guests of honour was young SVR supporter Andrew Scott Crosbie, who was accompanied by his mum Sharon. Andrew has formed friendships with many of the residents and team at Bellrock thanks to his kindness, saving his pocket money to buy Christmas presents for Veterans. He got his usual warm welcome and enjoyed meeting the Army personnel present.

Thank you to all who played a part in a memorable day for SVR and special thanks to all the staff (including Bellrock Close manager Ken Nisbet and deputy manager Suzanne Duffy), residents, funders, partners and supporters who have contributed to the success and spirit of Bellrock in its first 10 years. Here's to the next 10!



Farewell to Danny and Duncan

Sadly, we said a final goodbye to a number of special residents and former residents in 2024, including Danny Sutherland and Duncan Hamilton.

Danny Sutherland, a former Colour Sergeant with The Royal Scots, was a resident with Scottish Veterans Residences (SVR) at Whitefoord House until 2023, before he returned to Inverness to be closer to his family.

Danny – a very popular and respected figure at Whitefoord – passed away on 9 March, aged 87. He is survived by his son Danny and daughter Catherine, and was a grandfather (Pappa) to 3, and a great grandfather to 4. He will be missed by his family and many friends.



We also bade farewell to our friend and former resident Duncan Hamilton at a service of thanksgiving for his life on 13 September, 2024, following his death in July at the age of 66.

Duncan, who served for 18 years in the RAF, was a very popular figure at Whitefoord, and he took centre stage in January when he showed his prowess on the pipes and gave a rousing address to the haggis at our Burns Night celebrations.

Tribute to Robin Salvesen, Pages 10-11



Debra's story

I am a proud Veteran, having served in the Wrens for four years between 1976 and 1980. Supported by Scottish Veterans Residences, I moved into Whitefoord House in Edinburgh in August 2024.

I get a lot of support and help whenever I need it. My support worker helped to get me registered with a GP and dentist and also helped me with Housing Benefit for my rent, as well as other relevant benefits that I am entitled to.

I first heard about Whitefoord House through a work colleague, who knew someone who had stayed at the Veterans Residence and had enjoyed a very positive experience. For me, it's been the same and I am grateful to have found SVR.

There is always a member of staff available if I have a problem, or I need help. The room is equipped with a pull cord if I need assistance. We are supplied with three meals a day, the food is lovely, and the catering team are friendly and helpful. There is also a laundry service, which I use weekly, and there is an Activities Officer on-site, who helps organise a wide range of things to do for the residents here.

I am so grateful and happy to have found Whitefoord House. Thank you.

Tribute: Robin Salvesen

Robin Salvesen, a hugely influential and respected figure who shaped the direction and impact of Scottish Veterans Residences for more than 30 years, passed away on 10 March 2025, aged 89.

Mr Salvesen gave 33 years dedicated service to the charity, serving on the Governing Body as a Trustee and Vice Chairman until he stepped down during the centenary year of the charity in 2010. He was one of the founding Trustees of Scottish Veterans Housing Association in 1978, and during his tenure he helped oversee many positive changes, including transforming accommodation for residents to single rooms from shared dormitory-style arrangements.

Robin Somervell Salvesen, born on 4 May 1935, was educated at Cargilfield and Fettes and then studied Engineering at University College Oxford, before embarking on a long and distinguished career as a shipping industrialist. In 1962 he joined the family firm of Christian Salvesen & Co in Leith and held a variety of positions, becoming director of the shipping division and later a non-executive director until his retirement in 2002.



After completing his studies at Oxford, he joined the Merchant Navy as an engineering officer. In his memoir *Ship's Husband*, published in 2003, Robin shared many tales of his time in the navy; he also reflected upon how his army discipline and public school upbringing helped him endure the discomfort and hardship of a self-sufficient existence in a small cabin.

He joined 5th Battalion Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment in 1955 and then the 52 Lowland Volunteers where he served as a Territorial Army Major until 1969.

In addition to his service on the Governing Body of Scottish Veterans Residences (Scottish Veterans Housing Association), Mr Salvesen also served on the Council of King George's Fund for Sailors (Seafarers UK) from 1982-2007 and chaired the Association for Protection of Rural Scotland 1994-2000.

He was Vice Lord Lieutenant of East Lothian, a former chairman of Leith Nautical College and elder of St Mary's Church, Haddington. Scouting was another passion for this dedicated man, and in 2008 he became president of South East Scotland Region Scouts, having been president of Edinburgh Area Scouts since 1991. His service to the movement was recognised with the Scouting Silver Acorn. He was the honorary Danish Consul for East Scotland 1972-1989 and was a member and prize-winning bowman with the Royal Company of Archers, the monarch's bodyguard in Scotland.

He married Sari in 1960, and they had four daughters, three sons, and 19 grandchildren.

Mr Salvesen was at the top table for SVR's centenary celebration at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in 2010, and paying tribute to his contribution to the charity, then Chair – the

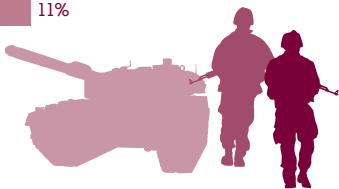
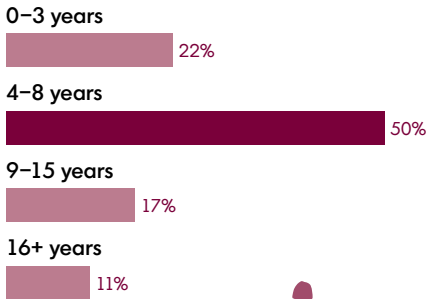
late Major General Mark Strudwick, commented: "His outstanding commitment to the organisation and his wise counsel will be sorely missed."

Reflecting on his peaceful and satisfying final years at the family home in Eaglescainie, near Haddington, Mr Salvesen's obituary in *The Scotsman* noted: "Salvesen loved to be outside, whether in the market garden, at archery matches, shooting, walking the dog, fishing, family croquet, tennis, golf or playing with the children. In his final years, he enjoyed sitting in the sun watching the cows in the field, birds passing and trees swaying in the breeze."

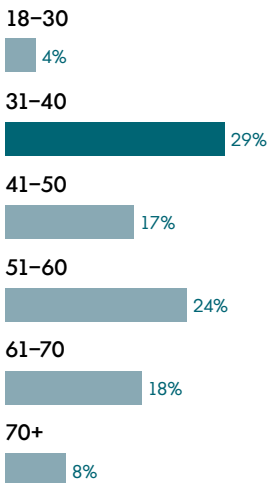


About Our Residents: 2024

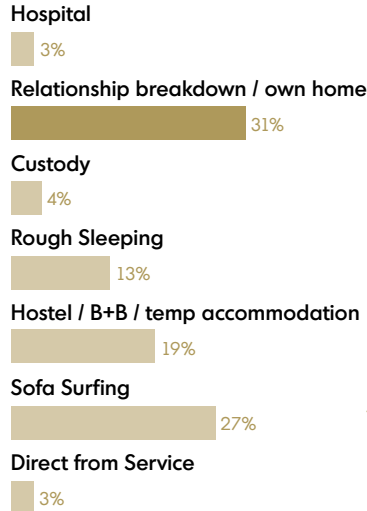
YEARS SERVICE



AGE RANGE



PREVIOUS HOUSING SITUATION



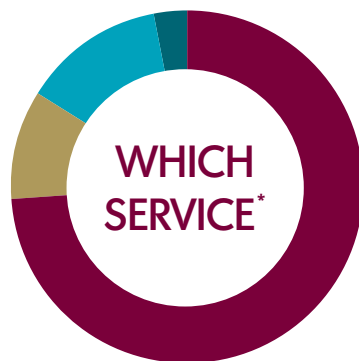
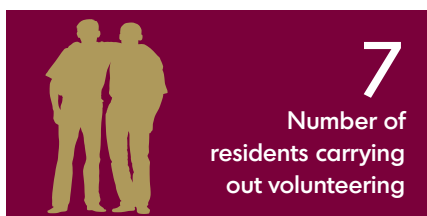
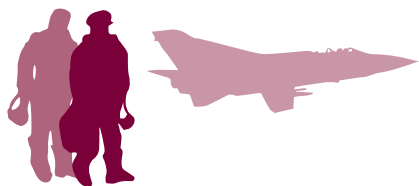
95.5%
MALE

4.5%
FEMALE

£53,233

SVR contributed
to support Residents
into employment





* Excludes civilians, which numbered 15 across our services in 2023, or 6% of overall total.

A Year in Pictures



January: A group of Veterans took advantage of the perfect snowy weather conditions to head on a couple of skiing adventures to Glenshee, accompanied by SVR Activities Officer Darren Morgan.



February: Minister for Veterans Affairs Johnny Mercer visited Whitefoord House. He was briefed on housing, health and other key Veterans' issues in Scotland, then chatted with residents and received a tour of the site.

March: We attended Ruchazie & Garthamlock Volunteer Fair at Greater Easterhouse Supporting Hands. We also got the opportunity to talk about our work with Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar.



April: Bellrock Close residents, staff and supporters put their best foot forward (thousands of times over!) for SVR at the Glasgow Kiltwalk to raise money for our new gym at the residence.



May: Dundee residents enjoyed a fantastic day out to Ledyatt trout fishery with free coaching from Greg Hughes, who also kindly provided equipment for us to use. This was one of many successful fishing trips across the country in 2024.



June: On the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Veterans Whiteford House gathered to pay tribute to the brave Allied personnel who sacrificed and risked their lives for freedom and peace in the Normandy Landings.

July: Residents from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee gathered at Edzell near Brechin for a golf day, organised by the On Course Foundation, a charity supporting Veterans through golf events.



August: The Black Cherries parked up at Rosendael to make a donation to SVR, have a spot of lunch, and to show Veterans – including long-standing resident Bill – their prized Harley Davidsons.

September: The Army Outreach Team (based at Leuchars), led by SSgt Billy Henderson, visited all 3 SVR sites as part of their 'Summer Challenge' – an annual event to allow Recruiting Group staff to help and support the local community.



October: Residents, led by our Activities duo Darren Morgan and James Moncur, completed a poignant walk up Ben Nevis. RMA-The Royal Marines Charity carried 137 crosses to the top of Ben Nevis, to represent the number of Royal Marines killed on D-Day. They also toasted the Corps on the 360th birthday.

November: We welcomed James Caddick from The Regiment Support Service, who kindly presented SVR with a generous donation of £5,000 raised from the not-for-profit social enterprise that supports the Army through the production and sale of official regimental notebooks.



December: Whitefoord House residents were joined by SVR trustee John Cooper and his partner Phillipa on Christmas Day. The couple helped our Chef Conor Martin and the catering team serve Christmas dinner and enjoyed a festive chat with Veterans.

Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day was observed across all three of our residences, and we also attended a number of events in the community.



A group of residents and former residents laid wreaths at the SVR memorial in Eastern Cemetery, Edinburgh, which will be restored in 2025 as part of Project Heritage.

We also commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June, 2024, followed in 2025 by the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May, with events planned to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ day on 15 August.

These dates have given the nation the opportunity to come together to honour and pay tribute to the Second World War generation from across the UK and Commonwealth, and remember all those who made sacrifices for our freedom. 2025 has also seen us mark the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings by Anzac troops.

#WeWillRememberThem





Three cheers for our Volunteers!

Volunteering underpins the Third Sector throughout the UK, and we are grateful that people are willing to give their time, goodwill and energy to support Scottish Veterans Residences.

2024 was a busy year for us in terms of the Volunteer groups we welcomed in to our Residences. Teams from BlackRock, JP Morgan, Tesco Bank, Succession Wealth and the Ministry of Defence Career Transition Partnership were among those to give us a helping hand with gardening, painting, tidying, and other on-site tasks. Meanwhile, volunteers from TSB paid a couple of visits to Whiteford

for 'Tea and Tech' sessions to help residents with any digital questions and issues.

We thank everyone who has supported us through Volunteering, whether individually or as a group.

If you are interested in Volunteering at SVR, please contact:

colin@svronline.org



Uplifting support

As always, we are hugely grateful to the numerous funders, supporters and donors who underpin our work with generous grants, awards and contributions to our expenditure.

This added income allows SVR to enhance the quality of the services and facilities we offer Veterans, and equip residents with good opportunities and comfortable living conditions. So a big thank you to all who supported SVR in this past year.

To highlight one example, a £30,000 grant award from the Army Benevolent Fund allowed us to replace two

lifts within our Whiteford House residence in Edinburgh.

Karl served for 5 years with the Royal Scots, and after experiencing homelessness, has been a resident SVR for two years. He experiences some physical and mental health challenges, and works 1-to-1 with a support worker, Occupational Therapist and psychotherapeutic



counsellor, towards a number of goals to improve his health and wellbeing.

Karl currently has mobility issues and uses a stick to help him walk. His allocated room is on the top floor and a working lift is of great assistance to him. Karl enjoys interacting with other residents in the main communal lounge: watching TV, playing board games and cards, chatting about music, and attending group activities, so an accessible lift helps him maintain his levels of social interaction. "I am absolutely delighted with the new lifts, particularly the one in Whitefoord House, which takes me directly to my room," said Karl. "I am pleased SVR have been able to renew the lifts, and it is a big help to me. As a former soldier myself, it is especially pleasing that a charity like the Army Benevolent Trust have been able to play a part in helping the Veterans at SVR."

Army Benevolent Fund

We were also delighted to be chosen in 2024 as the beneficiary charity of the Scottish Military Ball, first held in 1956. The Trustees and attendees at the 66th annual ball helped raised more than £2,000 for SVR and Liz Palmer and Kim Wardner (pictured on P20) popped in to Whitefoord House to present a cheque to Colin Leslie, Head of External Relations at SVR.

Special mention also to all the people who kindly donate to SVR over the Festive period, particularly Social Bite and The Knights Templar Goodwill Charity of Scotland, who visited all three of our sites with care packages and presents for our residents.

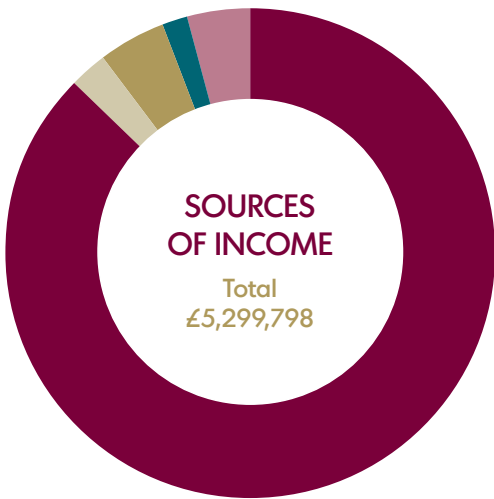


Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2024

	2024 £,000	2023 £,000
Investments	9,549	9,092
Housing Properties – Cost	17,675	17,448
Less Depreciation	(5,202)	(4,940)
	12,473	12,508
Other Fixed Assets – Net Book Value	335	400
Total Tangible Fixed Assets	12,808	12,908
Current Assets	841	1,407
Current Liabilities	(512)	(690)
Net Current Assets	329	717
Creditors > 1 Year	(4,366)	(4,452)
	18,320	18,265
Accumulated Reserves	18,320	18,265
Total Capital and Reserves	18,320	18,265

Financial Information



Board and Lodgings	£4,635,706
Supporting People Income	£131,288
Other Income	£231,926
Grants released from deferred income	£85,607
Other Revenue grants	£948
Investment Income	£214,323



Homes – Remuneration	£2,748,394
Homes – Services	£1,276,909
Administration	£656,876
Repairs & maintenance	£217,607
Cyclical Maintenance	£471,571
Depreciation	£287,016

Surplus/(Deficit) (£455,395)

Our Patrons and Governing Body

Patron-In-Chief

- His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO, GCStJ

Patrons

- Brigadier Andrew Muddiman
ADC RM
Naval Regional Commander,
Scotland and Northern Ireland
- Brigadier J P Davies MBE
Commander 51 Infantry Brigade
and HQ Scotland
- Air Commodore M J Northover
MBE

Scottish Veterans Residences Governing Body

- Mr Jonathan Tweedie FSI BA (Hons)
(Chairman)
- Lieutenant Andrew Smart RN
(Resigned 25 November 24)
- Brigadier (Retired) George Lowder
MBE (Retired 13 September 24)
- Colonel (Retired) Rakesh Bhabutta
OBE (Appointed 13 September 24)

- Major Surya Rai
- Group Captain (Retired)
Teresa Griffiths CBE ARRC
- Squadron Leader Alastair Park RAF
(Appointed 23 October 24)
- Flight Lieutenant Ross McElhinney
(Resigned 23 October 24)
- Captain Andrew Cassels MNWB
- Ms Sue Bomphray
- Mr John Cooper
(Appointed 13 September 24)
- Mr Richard Edlmann
- Mr Troy Johnson
(Retired 24 May 24)
- Mr Tony Jones KC
- Mr Clive Masson
(Retired 24 May 24)
- Mr Sandy Telfer
- Mr Rab Wallace



The Chief Executive

53 Canongate,
Edinburgh EH8 8BS
Tel: 0131 556 0091

Whitefoord House

53 Canongate,
Edinburgh EH8 8BS
Tel: 0131 556 6827

Rosendael

3 Victoria Road,
Broughty Ferry,
Dundee DD5 1BE
Tel: 01382 477078

Bellrock Close

Cranhill
Glasgow
G33 3HU
Tel: 0141 766 2580



Scottish Veterans Residences Registered Charity Number SC012739
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Benefit Societies Act 2014 Number 1937 RS

Website

www.svronline.org

Email

info@svronline.org

24-hour enquiry line
0300 131 6755