





# CHAIR'S STATEMENT

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As a charity, it is great to hear from our stakeholders and the following comment is only one of many I read this year.

*'Thank you very much for your warm hospitality today. I was really impressed with what I saw and the growth and optimism you have there in the buildings and facilities you are creating - but more so by what I felt. Thanks for making me laugh so much! Everyone said hello, everyone smiled and there was so much connection and kindness. I have been to thousands of organisations over the years and it is rare to go to a place where it seemed that everyone is pleased to be there. I was also touched and impressed by the people we met and the children who allowed us to be part of their learning. What incredible characters they were and so good to see them flourishing in what is clearly a loving and risk taking environment.'*

It has been a good year for CBI. Our Village continues to grow. The nursery is open and will bring vibrancy and new children to our site. A community café will follow soon and we see that as a real opportunity to welcome new friends and partners to be part of our journey. We are extremely grateful to the Bradbury Foundation and others for financial support to develop our Professional Development Centre that will make a positive contribution to the education and development of teachers of the VI. We are looking forward to working more closely with colleagues from Liverpool John Moores University.

Christopher Grange continues to offer excellent support to our residents and their families, not least as a result of the care and compassion shown by our staff. Mike Bailey continues to look for innovative ways to support adults with sight loss and he has received accolades both in the press and the charity Visionary. We were thrilled with St Vincent's receiving the Freedom of the City of Liverpool.

In terms of Governance, we have strengthened our Board and welcomed new trustees who bring additional expertise in health and finance and this year we will develop that further. Robust governance is crucial for any well run charity. We have developed a new Strategic Plan. Our plan reflects our modern ambitions but does not lose sight of our heritage and those who have supported us since our inception. Income generation is an important element of that plan as is being an excellent provider of services across Merseyside and beyond.

Thank you to my fellow trustees for their hard work and optimism, to all of our staff members and everyone else who supports the work we do. Please do think about how you can continue to support us whether as a volunteer, a donor or helping us with fundraising.

**Anne Reading Chair**



# GENERAL SECRETARY & TREASURER

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The accounts of any charity cannot be read in isolation, as they have nothing to say about the work of the charity or of the benefit or contribution to society that arises from that work. They also give little insight into any investments made for the future. Nevertheless, our full financial statements show that we provide employment to 190 people and we spend around £5 million pounds a year on providing services to those whom we serve. In the short term, the ultimate test is whether or not our residents at the Grange are happy and content in the place they have made their home, we are able to enhance the lives of these who come to us because they are suffering sight impairment and our children receive an education that prepares them for the challenges of life that lie ahead of them. We try also to ensure that our employees are content in their work. The success of our charity depends very much on their dedication and enthusiasm for the task, for which we thank them.

The charity's financial statements show a surplus for the year of nearly £190,000, despite that we spent nearly £40,000 more in providing charitable activities than we received in income. A large part of this 'surplus' arises from some significant improvement in the funding situation, as defined by the triennial actuarial valuation, of the charity's defined benefit pension scheme. Such matters can distort the overall picture, as can unrecognised gains and losses on our investment portfolio. As a charity, of course, we do not seek to make a financial profit. All the income that we generate is 'invested' in one way or another in the services we offer.

Behind the scenes, the work of producing these statements, of monitoring our finances, controlling our costs, ensuring we receive money due to us and checking that the books 'balance' and, so, safeguarding the continuation of the work that was begun by this charity 175 years ago is due to a significant number of people who work for and with our charity. They are too many to name but they know who they are we are very grateful to them.

Please continue to assist our work in any way you can. Any contribution, whether spiritual, financial or by way of your time is gratefully received.  
May God bless us all!

**Paul Robbins**  
**General Secretary**  
**and Honorary Treasurer**



# ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

It has been an eventful year for the school and its vision marked by significant recognition from external bodies. This includes our 'Freedom of the City', three environmental and sustainable school awards and becoming a licensed Duke of Edinburgh organisation. Furthermore, we have been shortlisted for two Educate Awards to be revealed at the Cathedral later this month and have maintained 'Outstanding' in a residential Ofsted inspection. In short, these awards recognise the OUTCOMES we are delivering for our pupils.

The year was topped by our choir singing for Her Majesty the Queen at the Town Hall and singing at the Charlie Landsborough concert at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. Furthermore, Her Majesty sent school a wonderful letter in response to receiving the ceramic poppy that we sent her.



School has opened its doors to the community for several whole school events, not least of which have been the Christmas production—a moving interpretation of the nativity story seen through the eyes of a soldier in the trenches—, the Enterprise Day in July which showcases the pupils entrepreneurial

skills, creativity and enthusiasm and the Programming Dojo and Comic writing workshops in September.

Our pupils continue to represent the school at a number of sporting events, and the curriculum is enriched through its links and working with a number of external agencies.

Our big push for next year is the 'SIGHTBOX' which is generating national and international interest in school.....not least of which comes from Sir Ken Robinson. Dr Patterson spoke on this project at the Rotary District 1180 Conference over half term.

Two further milestones mark the growing success of the 'education and enterprise village' the opening of a nursery and the securing from the DfE our ability to deliver teacher training for teachers of the visually impaired with LJMU. We were praised for:

- The role and ambition of St Vincent's in participating in a school led collaboration
- Identifying a niche in the market with national scope
- 3 Clear long term developmental conditions for partnership
- Good practice of outreach and community partnership demonstrated.

School was invited to present on its vision to the Catholic Independent Special schools (CISC) . Dr Patterson has since been invited to share our vision at the National Conference. Its seems appropriate to present to you the article written and published on the CISC website.

<http://www.cisc.uk.net/index.php/home/news/229-little-stories-and-big-pictures-from-st-vincent-s-liverpool>

Our admission to the Freedom Roll of Association and Institutions of the City of Liverpool on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 was a wonderful honour. This is a recognition our founders, the Daughters of Charity as well as the staff, and pupils, past present and future can be proud of. As a school it offers us a wonderful platform to thank those who support us and to highlight where, as a community of learners, we need more help. The school vision is to challenge unemployment through the promotion of project based creative learning opportunities for our pupils attached to their individual strengths.



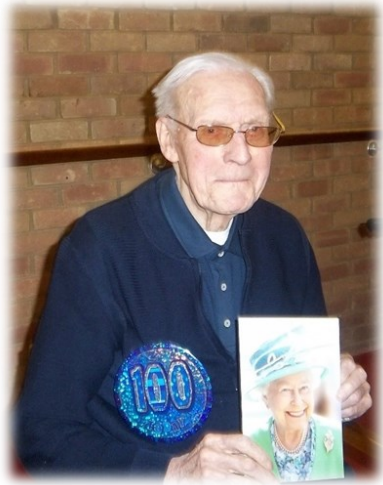




# CHRISTOPHER GRANGE

Throughout the past year Residents have continued to enjoy activities and events both within and outside Christopher Grange. Weather permitting Residents have enjoyed days out which have included Otterspool, New Brighton and Court Hey Wild Flower Centre.

We have continued celebrating Residents birthdays and this year two of our Residents celebrated reaching their 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Along with the rest of the country, this year we celebrated the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Market Place was decorated for the event and our tables were dressed using table clothes that had been specially hand printed by our Residents during an earlier craft activity.



In June we had a very special day, when one of our Residents Jim was presented with an 'Ordre National de la Legion D'Honor' in honour of his bravery on D Day during the Second World War. Jim's family, Residents and special guests including the Lord Mayor, High Sheriff of Merseyside, French Honorary Consul for Merseyside and members of Jim's regiment (young and old) gathered in the Market Place for the presentation and the celebrations that followed. Sadly, Jim passed away earlier this year.



Also this year, three of our staff members, Pat, Liz and Joanne celebrated 25 years' service with Christopher Grange. Residents and staff gathered in the Market Place to celebrate this achievement and to show our appreciation for the commitment they have shown Christopher Grange.



Finally, we would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supports us in our work including the volunteers at the RVS Coffee Shop and the Community of Sisters who continue to provide invaluable support to our Residents, their family and our staff.





# VISUAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

**Making a difference to the lives of our service users** and their families is at the heart of everything we do at the Centre. We enable our service users, rather than disable them and make them feel good about themselves and their future. For all those attending our centre we offer the opportunity for positive change through peer support and encouragement, in an environment which celebrates shared learning, social and skill development, confidence building, empowerment and enjoyment.

**“When you met me I was on the floor, after 4 weeks you managed to get me on a chair..... I have every feeling that I will be standing straight with my head held high”...** said SM, a service user attending our centre.

We continue to assist local authorities and help the people of Merseyside who are visually impaired, to achieve our person centred programmes that are achievable. Our lessons include Mobility, Living Skills, Kitchen Skills, IT and Braille and are carried out at the individuals own pace. We have recently added invaluable experience to our centre from within CBI with the secondment of Paula and Karen to our team from St Vincent’s School to assist and improve the service we provide, as well as help us to develop our staff professionally within our organisation.

What a year 2016 has been! Our Centre has been nominated as a finalist in 2 National awards with RNIB and Vision 2020, for our continued development with Visual Impairment Awareness Training (VIAT) both face to face and Distance Learning. We were also instrumental in helping Delta Taxis achieve Macular Society’s “Public Transport Provider of the Year Award 2016”







## Working in partnership

We continue to work in partnership with the agencies across our sector and have enabled Creative Vision to “paint a better picture” with an exciting business model that will secure many future Art Classes as well as launching Merseyside’s 1<sup>st</sup> Angling Club for the Visually Impaired. Discussions have begun to have an annual “Fish Off” with visually impaired members from Blind Veterans UK.

***Friends ask me “Why I like fishing?” said Jean aged 90, I tell them it gets me out, I’m socialising, not stuck in a room, I’m in fresh air, meeting new people. It doesn’t matter if I catch a fish, I’m with nature and I love it!***

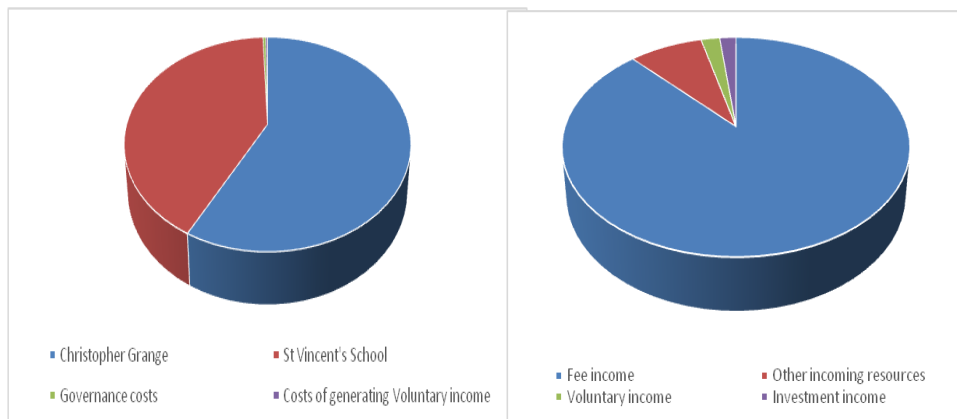
***Since coming to the Art Class at Christopher Grange I have realised it is about relaxing and enjoying what is available. I am enjoying learning art which has opened my eyes to how to paint and draw in different ways with an open mind. The art teacher makes me believe in what I am doing in a friendly way. All this makes me believe in myself and has opened my mind to learn about other classes. It has made me a new woman who now believes in myself.***



84 years difference between Dennis and Leah both benefitting from our work within our organisation.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT



## Finance Report

### Annual Report 2015-2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
Fee income	4,451,694	4,438,749
Other incoming resources	413,187	384,598
Voluntary income	105,225	94,513
Investment income	91,692	87,339
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>5,061,798</b>	<b>5,005,199</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
Christopher Grange	2,952,274	2,862,310
St Vincent's School	2,117,607	2,273,536
Governance costs	19,821	39,519
Costs of generating Voluntary income	11,918	10,924
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>5,101,620</b>	<b>5,186,289</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(39,822)</b>	<b>(181,090)</b>
Other Gains	229,727	198,831
<b>NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS</b>	<b>189,905</b>	<b>17,741</b>



# CATHOLIC BLIND INSTITUTE

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## Catholic Blind Institute

St Vincent's School  
Yew Tree Lane  
West Derby  
Liverpool  
L12 9HN

Chief Executive: Martin Sandeman  
Telephone: 0151 230 5097

## St Vincent's School

Yew Tree Lane  
West Derby  
Liverpool  
L12 9HN

Principal: Dr J A Patterson  
Telephone: 0151 228 9968

## Christopher Grange

Youens Ways  
Liverpool  
L14 2EW

Director of Services: Mrs Lesley Colby  
Telephone: 0151 220 2525

Registered Charity number: 1102657

Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England number: 5010874  
[www.catholicblindinstitute.org](http://www.catholicblindinstitute.org)

## Trustees

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Mr Stephen Winstanley

**50:50 CLUB**

Membership forms are available now



## Would you like to help us.

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☐

Gift Aid (please tick this box)

I want the charity to treat the enclosed general donation as a Gift Aid donation and to reclaim the tax accordingly.

(You must be a UK taxpayer and pay tax in the appropriate year of an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax reclaimed by the institute on this donation.)

