



# 1950

"Back across the white line" the airport sergeant told three boys in Royal High School blazers at Turnhouse, Edinburgh, yesterday as the afternoon plane from London taxied in. Then someone whispered in his ear. "Oh that's different," said the sergeant. "Come right forward boys." And Leslie aged eight, Alan 11, and Keith Henderson, 14 dashed forward to greet their father. It wasn't an ordinary airport reunion, for ex-Corporal George Henderson hasn't walked since he was lifted out of his tank in Germany in 1945 with spinal injuries.

A black and white photograph showing three men in suits standing in front of a large wall display of documents. The man on the left is looking at the documents, the man in the center is looking towards the right, and the man on the right is looking back towards the center. The documents on the wall appear to be historical records or maps. A small red circle with the number '1' is in the bottom left corner.

Designs were received from various parts of the British Isles and from India, Canada and South Africa. One came from Baghdad. It was from Warrant Officer Christopher Pearce and Warrant Officer Robert Skater, R.E. (Engineering branch), H.Q. Paiforce. This design was specially commended. In sending it, the two warrant officers said they regretted it was a bit untidy because it had been planned under very difficult circumstances, the men mentioning that they were writing in the light of a hurricane lamp and in a high temperature.

# 1950

The BBC reporter noted how Susan Mottram, who was only seven at the time, performed a “perfect curtsy” and was “wreathed in smiles”

With the support of Miss Farquhar, her full time nurse at Thistle, Elizabeth was able to live the life she wanted. In the article she describes how she would “beetle around” Edinburgh in the car with Miss Farquhar and take monthly trips to Perth.

As well as being a touching memorial, the Chapel contains many important pieces of art, including the stained glass windows by Sadie McLellan and beautiful woodwork by Thomas Goode.


# 1960



Over a hundred families lived within the village setting. Thistle began to open its doors more widely to include all disabled men and women and the estate became more of a mixed community.

A black and white photograph of a man in a wheelchair shooting a basketball. He is wearing a dark polo shirt and shorts. The basketball hoop is mounted on a stand next to him. A person's hand is visible reaching up towards the basket. A small green circle with the number '9' is in the bottom left corner.

Thistle was very much involved in the early days of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville, where it frequently sent athletes to participate. Basketball, bowls and swimming played an important role in creating a sense of community at Thistle.



From the beginning Thistle recognised the importance of "interesting and remunerative work" so along with physiotherapy, nursing and occupational therapy services Thistlecraft was set up to provide paid work for some of the residents.

13

# 1971

# 1984

The growth of the disability movement saw a sea change in the hopes and aspirations of disabled people like Jim Dalgety, who did not want to live in a residential care home and instead wanted his own house and to employ his own staff.

Jim eventually persuaded Thistle to give him a home in 1989. Jim and others living in Thistle became pioneers in the emerging national movement for change.



1989

Thistle also began to change its focus to develop services more in demand and relevant to disabled people's changing requirements.

# 1994

You could own this picture  
And see what I've seen  
If you stop all pollution  
And keep my world green

# 1994

# 2001

A young man with dark hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers, is seated in a wheelchair on a train platform. He is holding a book in his hands and looking towards the camera. To his left is a red train car. The background shows a train track and some buildings. A small green square with the number '18' is in the bottom left corner.

# HN

"Whatever you do, it does help... and it will help... and you'll be a Thistle Friend for life." Louise Page, founder of Thistle Friends.

# 2013

# Today

→ The people we support are at the heart of everything we do.

➔ We focus on the person, rather than the disability or health condition.

➔ We work side by side with people.

→ We are Thistle.