

Review

The journal of
Blind Veterans UK

May 2023



Remembering Ray

A sad farewell to our much-loved former President

Inside:

Billy's Repair Shop experience
Margaret's WWII memoirs
Mark's lasting legacy



Rebuilding
lives after
sight loss



Armed Forces Day

Saturday, 24 June 2023

Rally the troops and celebrate while raising funds for Blind Veterans UK.

Looking for ideas? From Brew Ups to Swot Ups, visit our website to find a host of events and activities designed to bring family, friends and community together, complete with downloadable resources.

For more information

- 0300 111 2233
- fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk
- blindveterans.org.uk/armedforces

Registered charity No. 216227 (England and Wales) and SC039411 (Scotland)



Rebuilding
lives after
sight loss

Contents

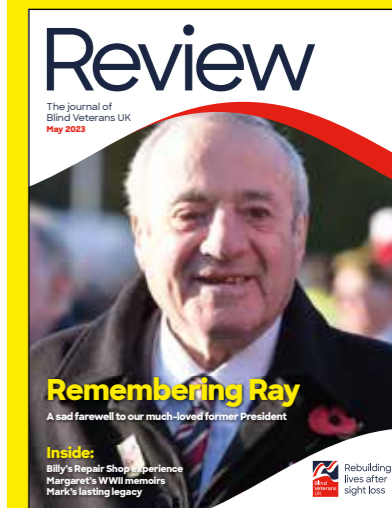
- 04 Chairman's welcome
- 06 A tribute to Ray Hazan OBE
- 10 News
- 14 'Grandad' gets a Repair Shop makeover
- 18 Gallery
- 20 Danny tees off in South Africa
- 22 Mark's lasting legacy
- 24 Honouring our heritage
- 27 Member voice
- 29 The making of Margaret's memoirs
- 33 What is safeguarding?
- 35 Carers Review
- 37 National Creative Wellbeing Programme
- 40 Quiz time
- 41 Family news
- 42 In memory
- 47 Contact details

Quiz answers from page 40

- 1. Blue 2. (c) 3. Knob 4. British Broadcasting Corporation
- 5. (b) 6. David Cameron 7. Horses 8. A circus performer
- 9. Yr Wyddfa/Snowdon 10. Abbess

On the cover

Our former President, Ray Hazan OBE who sadly passed away last month. Turn to page 6 for our tribute.



Strength in humility

Your message from your Chairman, **Barry Coupe**

I've no doubt that many of you will be saddened to hear about the passing of our former President, Ray Hazan OBE.

Ray joined the charity more than 40 years ago after being badly injured by an IRA parcel bomb. He lost his sight, most of his hearing and one of his



Caption: Barry Coupe

hands. And yet, despite this, he went on to become one of the most admired and respected figures this charity has ever seen.

I only met Ray once, at our Brighton Centre in 2014, but as he gave me a tour of the building he loved so much, I couldn't help but be impressed by his humility. He was a quiet man, but had such passion for and appreciation of our charity. He was also very brave and managed to build a full life for himself.

It was Ray's wish that, in his final days, he would be cared for by our team at the Centre. So, it's very heartening that, when he was nearing the end, our staff were able to make this happen, virtually moving mountains to do so.

Our President Colin Williamson, a good friend of Ray's, as well as his successor, will attend the funeral on behalf of us all. I'm sure that Colin will represent



Caption: Ray Hazan OBE

us well and pass on our sincere condolences to Ray's family.

It's often said that loss can serve to remind us of what's truly important in life. I find in my role that it's all too easy to get bogged down in the administrative tasks – the paperwork and meetings – but, as necessary as all this is, it's the human connections that really make my life sparkle.

On this note, you may remember back in February I wrote about a visit I made to Member Graham Forshaw, former County Councillor for West Sussex. Graham had invited me to his house to present me with a beautiful pair of silver scissors, given to him as part of his councillor role. They will be used to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of our Rustington Centre.

I was delighted to be able to visit Graham again last month and see that, although his health is worsening, his enthusiasm for the charity remains as strong as ever. This time I was the one presenting the gift – a medal bearing the name of a First World War veteran, symbolising the courage and strength of all our Members.

Graham's wife, Pat, later told me how grateful he is for all the charity has done for him, so much so that when he was well enough to venture out, he would never leave without first donning his Blind Veterans UK cap.

How fortunate we are to be part of such a proud organisation. I've no doubt Graham's spirit would have made our former President very happy indeed. 🇬🇧



Caption: Barry and Graham



Caption: Ray at the Cenotaph in London for Remembrance in 2016



Caption: In his uniform in 1965



Caption: The Soldiering On Awards

A remarkable life

The flags at our Centres flew at half-mast on 2 April to mark the sad passing of our much-loved former President, **Ray Hazan OBE**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our former President, Ray Hazan, on April 2, aged 78. Ray died peacefully with his sons and his sister by his side.

Over his 49 years as a Member, Ray

made an extraordinary contribution to the charity and is widely regarded as one of the great blind veterans from our history.

The flags at both our centres flew at half-mast to mark his passing.

Ray joined the charity after an IRA parcel bomb exploded in his hands in 1973 during his second tour of duty in Northern Ireland with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. He was left totally blind and with severe hearing loss, and he also lost his right hand. A fellow Officer was killed in the blast.

Soon after becoming a Member, Ray was inspired by a meeting with Lord Fraser, who at that time had been our Chair for more than 50 years. This and a subsequent stay at our former Centre, Pearson House in Brighton,

was enough to show him that, despite his disabilities, he could go on to live a full life.

After his first son, Jonathan, was born, Ray completed an intense period of training with us and turned his mind to his career. Having grown up in France, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become an interpreter. He secured a place at the International School of Interpreting in Mons, Belgium.

After some years working as an interpreter, in 1977, as well as



welcoming his second son Giles, he started working for our charity. His first role was as our Assistant Public Relations Officer, working under his long-time friend David Castleton, during which he introduced our Talking Review. He went on to set up computer, walking and skiing clubs for Members.

Ray met his second wife, Robbie, through the charity and they married in 1990. Robbie was by his side in the years that followed in his service to Blind Veterans UK. She passed away two years ago.

In 2004, he was appointed as President of our charity. He later said: "I still remember I would always say to myself 'You're President of St Dunstan's' as it



Caption: A young Ray in service

“Ray was awarded with an OBE in 2012 for his services to Blind Veterans UK and the blind community”

was such a thrill and an honour. I was immensely proud. Why? Because I owed everything to, and I still do owe everything, to Blind Veterans UK.”

Ray was awarded with an OBE in 2012 for his services to Blind Veterans UK and the blind community. Then, in 2016, he received the prestigious Trustees Award at the Soldiering On Awards, in recognition of his contribution to the UK's Armed Forces community.

Standing down as our President in 2017, he spent his final years as a resident of our Brighton Centre.

From all at Blind Veterans UK, we wish to say, 'Thank you, Ray'. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. 🍷

- **We will be holding a special memorial service for Ray on 23 June at our Brighton Centre. Anyone who would like to attend should get in touch with our Reception team at Brighton on 01273 391400.**

A sad farewell to my predecessor and friend

By Blind Veterans UK President, Colin Williamson



Caption: Colin and Ray

The writer and philosopher, John Ruskin, once said, "The first test of a truly great man is his humility." I believe he had Raymond Lazare Hazan in mind when he penned these immortal words.

Ray, as he was affectionately known by his many friends around the world, epitomised the spirit of Blind Veterans UK and his influence will be felt for decades to come.

With his unique ability to both command respect and inspire people, Ray was a fantastic orator – intelligent, articulate, thoughtful and charismatic – who presided over this charity for over 13 years. He will always be remembered for his engaging smile and his warm and friendly personality.

My first memory of him was listening to his unsuccessful attempt at telling a joke. He'd start laughing before he got to the punchline and when asked why he laughed at his own jokes, he would simply reply, "because I've heard it before and it's so funny!"

I feel eternally grateful for having been Ray's successor as well as his friend. When I took over from him in 2017, I said, "If I can be half as good a President then that will be my greatest achievement." I still stand by these words.

As Shakespeare says in Twelfth Night, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." I'll leave it to you to consider which of these was true of Ray.

- **If you'd like to share a memory of Ray, please email it by 19 May to revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk and we'll do our best to print it in the July issue.**

News

Rustington Centre to 'stand up' in September

We are delighted to share the date of our move into our Rustington Centre.

We will be handed the keys on 17 August and our permanent residents will move in soon after this date.

In September, we will 'stand up' our new Centre, and then spend a period of time testing it out, which some of you may be called on to help with.

Our programme of activities and holidays at Rustington is set to kick off in October 2023, so please contact our bookings team on **01273 391 500** to be one of the very first guests.

We'll provide details about the formal opening ceremony later in the year.



Caption: Our Rustington Centre

... as Brighton 'stands down' on 3 August

As we get ready for our move along the coast, we invite you to join us for a special day as we stand down our iconic Brighton Centre.

The day will be a fantastic celebration of activities and ceremony. If you wish to come along, please contact our Brighton bookings team on **01273 391 500** to RSVP, so we have an idea of numbers. The team will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Unfortunately, due to capacity, we are unable to provide accommodation at the Centre for this event, but you can apply for a grant to help fund your travel and accommodation costs if need be. Please get in touch with your community team to find out more.



Caption: Brighton Centre will close

Our Patron becomes Duchess of Edinburgh

Congratulations to our Royal Patron, the new HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh!

The Duchess of Edinburgh has graced us with her presence at a number of our events, including the Blind Veterans UK Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in 2015, following which she became our Patron.

Some of you who attended noted how she took her time to speak with as many of you and your families as possible. The Duchess of Edinburgh also opened our Leader Buildings at our Llandudno Centre in 2017, and unveiled our 'Victory Over Blindness' statue outside Manchester Piccadilly station in October 2018.

We look forward to welcoming her at our future events in her new role.

Charity marks the King's Coronation

As the historic Coronation takes place this month, the past weeks have seen our staff feverishly preparing for a celebration to remember.

All those attending the 'Kings and



Caption: Coronation crown mosaic

Coronations' week at our Llandudno and Brighton Centres will undoubtedly see the fruits of their labour. With garden parties, picnics and tea dances galore, we have a whole host of right royal activities on offer.

Meanwhile, in Essex, members of our Vision in Song Blind Veterans UK Choir have been warming up for a special performance at their very own Coronation tea party. In addition to this, our National Creative Wellbeing Project team has been busy posting out packs of their regal craft project, the Coronation Crown Mosaic.

■ **It's not too late to order yours - just call 01273 391447.** →

Nuclear Test Programme veterans to claim medals

Nuclear test programme veterans, civilian staff and their descendants have been invited to claim commemorative medals in recognition of their critical role and significant contribution.

Around 22,000 military personnel and civilian staff from the UK and Commonwealth nations are thought to be eligible. This includes posthumous awards to next of kin.

The medal will be awarded free of charge to individuals who participated in the UK Nuclear Test Programme, including the preparatory and clear-up phases, from 1952 to 1967.

- **To find out more and to apply for this medal, please visit gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-medals**

Colourful greeting cards hit the shelves

Introducing the latest addition to our online shop... Collaboration in Colour greeting cards.



Caption: Our new greeting cards

The cards feature some of the amazing artwork created by Members, staff and volunteers as part of our National Wellbeing Creative Programme. Each pack of ten cards are a collection of designs featuring the full artwork and seasonal versions. With blank inner pages, they're perfect for any occasion.

- **To purchase, simply visit blindveterans.org.uk/shop or contact Supporter Services on 0300 111 22 33.**

Sponsored wreaths available for Remembrance

Last year, we launched a 'Sponsor a Wreath' campaign to give community groups, businesses and other organisations the opportunity to honour the fallen and the sacrifices



Caption: Member, Jim, with his wreath in Rustington last year

made by all Servicemen and women during their time in service.

Over 40 sponsored wreaths were laid by Members at local Remembrance services across the country. Long standing supporter, Thea Pharmaceuticals, sponsored three of these wreaths, including one laid at the Rustington War Memorial by Member, Jim Dunn.

Jim says: "I was incredibly proud to lay a wreath on behalf of my fellow blind veterans and the charity which has done so much for me."

Meanwhile, our Vice President, Billy Baxter, laid a wreath at the Llandudno War Memorial. Sponsor, Kelly, of Tom Owen and Sons, accompanied him and said, "It was such a fantastic day and one I am so proud and humbled to have been a part of. It was truly inspiring."

For this coming Remembrance, we will have 100 wreaths available. If you'd like to lay one of these wreaths, please get in touch with your Community Support Worker no later than Friday, 9 June. The wreaths will be given out to Members nearer the time on a first come, first served basis.

Our Community Partnerships team has started reaching out to potential sponsors. Some of these sponsors may wish to attend the service at which you are laying your wreath, but there's no obligation to meet with them unless you wish to do so. 🇬🇧

- **If you know of any organisations in your local area you think may be interested in sponsoring a wreath, please let us know at fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk or on 0300 111 2233.**



Caption: Billy and Kelly on their way to the Remembrance Parade

'Granddad' gets a TV makeover

Our Vice President and Member Engagement Officer, **Billy Baxter**, shares the tale of how his battered old bugle ended up on popular BBC TV show, 'The Repair Shop'

Some of you may remember that, back in 2011, I managed to get hold of a bugle to welcome you to our Llandudno Centre and round you all up for dinner.

I found that it brought back so many memories for you from your time in service. Many of you even had a go at playing it yourselves.

Fast forward a few years, and soon after our Director of Operations, Nicky Shaw, joined the charity, she told me she had an old bugle in her attic. It came from her granddad, passed on by her great grandfather. She had no idea of its history and didn't even know if it still played at all.

I was desperate to see it, so before long she turned up again with a plastic bag and pulled out this filthy, battered old bugle. As soon as I felt it I knew it

was an instrument of quality, just by the weight and patina, but the dents were such that it felt like it had been used as a hammer.

I decided to see if it worked, so I put it to my lips and blew. There was a mighty cloud of dust followed by a strangled painful screech. Then, as if by magic, a note found its way out as clear as a bell and so loud that everyone stopped what they were doing and looked over.

I thought, "This is a very special instrument."

Nicky very kindly gave me full custody of the bugle, and it came to be known between us as 'Granddad'. I took him away and gave him a gentle bath and, once clean, we could see a symbol on him depicting the White Star Line, the shipping line famous for the →



Caption: Our very own Billy and Nicky at The Repair Shop with their bugle

Titanic and other great ocean liners of the day. This conjured up all sorts of possibilities of his former life.

After a bit of research, we found that the White Star Line did in fact use bugles on their liners to signal announcements for passengers.

Over the next few years, I'd proudly play this battered old bugle at the Centre and some of you would ask, "What on earth are you doing with that old thing?" I'd say, "Don't be put off by its looks. Listen to the sound."

Then, one day, a member of staff suggested that we could send the story of Grandad to the BBC 'The Repair Shop' to see if they'd give him a makeover.

The show takes place in a living, working craft village near the south coast and features experts working their magic on beloved items of great meaning which have seen better days. Whether it be paintings, clocks, electronics, shoes, clothing, old dolls... these people can fix it.

Our bugle was the perfect fit, so we sent them the story and they asked us to bring it in.

The big day came last July, so I got dressed in full uniform and set off with Nicky and Grandad in tow. The producers welcomed us with open arms, fitted us up with microphones and then filmed us as we walked the path to the barn to meet the presenter.



Caption: Bily and Nicky with Repair Shop experts, Will and Pete

Funnily enough, this was the bit that Nicky had been dreading most because she was nervous about guiding me correctly on national TV. She didn't need to worry, though. She did a great job.

Once we arrived at the barn, we walked up to the bench to meet the expert, Will, and musical instrument expert, Pete, and showed them Grandad. I then told the story of how I came to be involved with Blind Veterans UK after losing my sight while serving in the Balkans.

Very cheekily, I then asked Will if he could make a wooden stand for our bugle and a cord so I could carry it on my shoulder. As I'm sure many of you agree, when you're blind it's better to have hands free – one for the cane and the other for whatever comes up. They very generously agreed to these requests, so we wished them luck and left them to it.

In August, we were called back for the 'big reveal' to see what they'd done with our precious Grandad. We set off to the south coast once again, me in full uniform. Once we arrived, we walked in to find the experts there to greet us and the bugle on its new stand, hidden under a cloth. The whole place went quiet and Nicky removed the cloth. I heard her gasp.

She told me that not only did Grandad look all shiny and new, but these amazing people had also made him a beautiful cord in red, yellow and blue – the colours of my regimental tie from the Royal Artillery.

Then it was my turn to see. I produced a pair of white gloves from my pocket, put them on and took the bugle off its stand. I couldn't believe it was the same instrument! I put the cord over my shoulder and found that the tassels sat right on my hip as they should, in the perfect spot.

Then the most nerve-wracking moment came. They asked me to play it. All the cameras were clicking and whirring, and I felt a bead of sweat roll down my face. Thank goodness it worked!

The whole experience was truly unforgettable and I'm so happy that we now have this beautiful bugle to keep for future generations to see. Grandad now takes pride of place on his stand in a lovely display case in the reception area, alongside a summary of his story so everyone can learn about it.

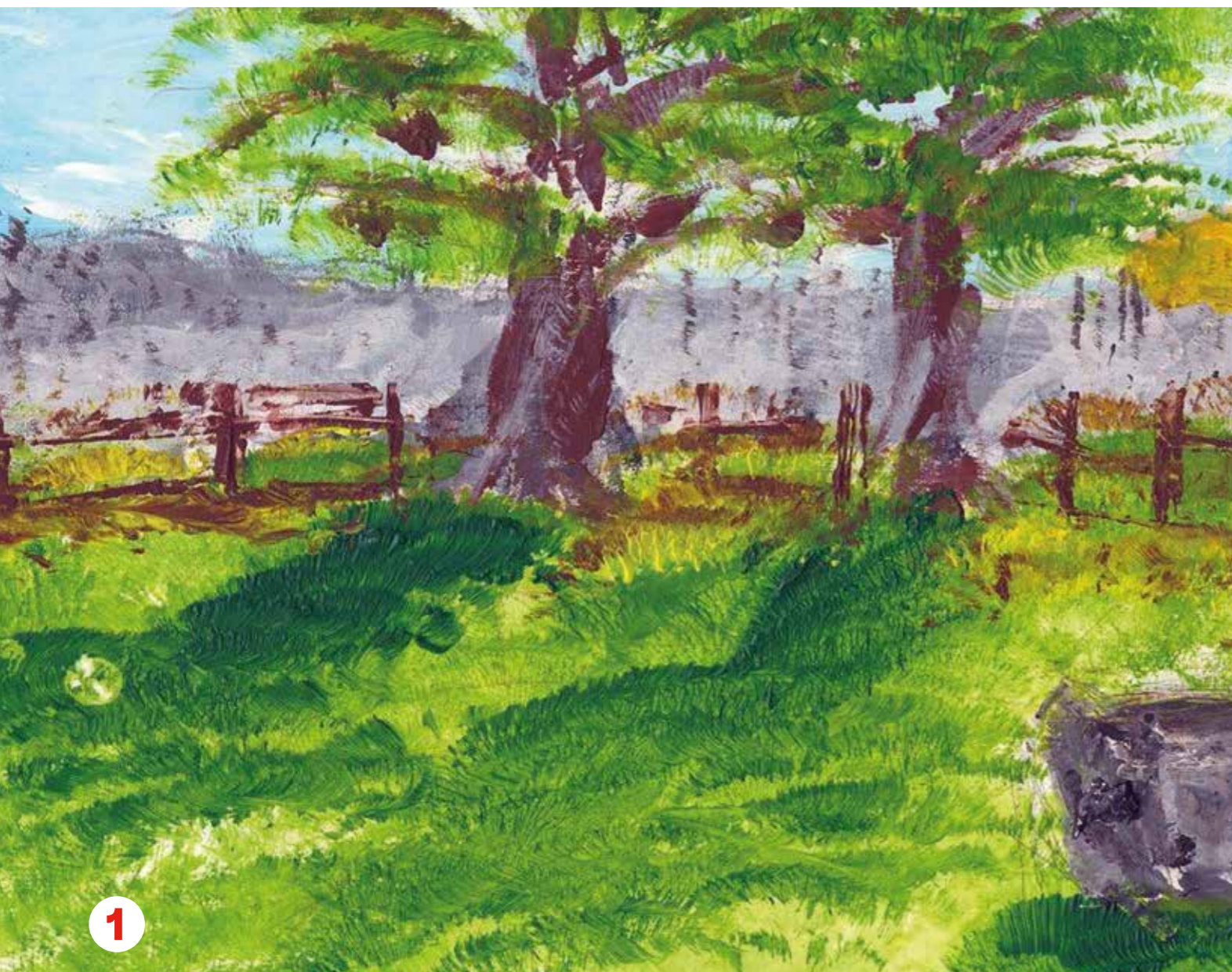
I hope you all come to love him as much as I do. 🇬🇧

■ **You can still watch Billy and Nicky in 'The Repair Shop' on BBC iPlayer, series 12, episode 2.**

Artistic flair

We are pleased to present more artwork by our Members for the National Creative Project

Captions: **1. Michael Godley - Spring Landscape** **2. Carol Sharpe - Abstract Landscape** **3. Rita Scarratt - Owl** **4. Robina Pollock - View from my Room** **5. Shaun Gregory - Mount Fuji** **6. Marjorie Paton - Untitled**



Danny tees off in South Africa

Member **Danny Daniels**, from Norfolk, recently competed in the World Blind Golf Championships in South Africa, writes Hazel Wills...



Caption: Danny takes a swing with his wife and guide, Diana

At the end of March, Member Danny Daniels, 85, represented England and Wales at the six-day World Blind Golf Championships in South Africa.

Amazingly, Danny came 24th out of 38 competitors, which was a dream come true, particularly as he was by far the oldest player there!

Danny says: "I love sport and I've always been determined - as a ten-year-old I wanted to play football for England. I've had a lot of success in golf lately. Last year, I won the order of merit for the over 65s, and came second in the overall order of merit for England and Wales Blind Golf."

Called up for National Service in 1955, Danny signed up for a full career with the Royal Air Force and served for 22 years. His career took him around the world from the beautiful weather

of Hong Kong and Gibraltar to the freezing extremes of the Arctic Circle.

He says: "One of my most memorable moments with the RAF was being sent to Goose Bay in the very north of Canada, inside the Arctic Circle. I was working as an aircraft servicing chief at the time and went to coordinate the servicing of the Hercules fleet. The blizzards were intense and if you didn't obey the rules, you could have been lost permanently."

After leaving at 40, he joined civilian life at an engineering company where he worked for 24 years until his retirement. In 2009, he noticed his eyesight was failing and discovered he had the age-related degenerative eye disease, macular degeneration.

He says: "My sight went downhill quickly and by 2011 my macular had done its worst and I was registered as blind. I'm now completely blind in my left eye and I have around 5% vision remaining in the right eye.

"I was devastated when I found out and felt depressed for a long while. I'd lost my independence and felt that my life was going to be miserable as I now had to be totally reliant on others. I stopped playing golf, which I'd taken up as a hobby seven years earlier, and couldn't even do the gardening. I felt really

isolated during that time. It was only when I joined the charity and visited the Brighton Centre that I realised my life wasn't over at all.

"After my week in Brighton, I came away with a new mentality, which was: 'You can do it if you want to.' I was determined to put my life back together again and excited to get back on the golf course. This 'can do' attitude Blind Veterans UK has instilled in me led me to where I am now and I couldn't be more grateful.

"Hearing other Members talk about their achievements really spurred me on. It may sound silly but I was given a chopping board to help me cook safely and now whenever I look at that chopping board, I say to myself, 'You can do it if you want to'.

"Blind golfers have challenges to overcome. When I look down at the ball, I can't see the shape. It's as if I'm looking at a ball of fluffy cotton wool. Because of this, we have three rule changes - we can ground our clubs in all hazards including sand, a club can be placed on the ground so we know we're hitting the right way and a guide is allowed to stand directly behind us.

"Other than that, we play by the same rules and with the same equipment as Tiger Woods." 🏌️

A lasting legacy

Member **Mark Pile**, 56, shares his plans to take on a skydive this month, despite being terminally ill

This month, Member Mark Pile is set to complete a tandem skydive to raise funds for Blind Veterans UK, despite suffering with terminal cancer.

Mark, 56, who served in the Light Infantry for nine years, was sadly diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer last year. He is now determined to tick the parachute jump off his bucket list while he's still able.

Mark says, "I've been a Member for 12 years. The charity gave me back my life when I was ready to throw in the towel and continues to support me right to the end to do things that I never thought I'd be able to do.

"I credit this charity with saving my life. If it wasn't for the fantastic support I've received I wouldn't be here today. I can't thank you all enough."

Mark first noticed a problem with his sight more than 20 years ago. He was working as a driver at the time and realised he couldn't see the road ahead properly.

He says: "I realised I couldn't tell where the side of the road was. I went to the opticians and discovered I had amblyopia, an hereditary eye condition that causes a break down in how the brain and the eye work together.



Caption: Mark with his guide dog

"From then my eyesight gradually deteriorated and, in 2011, I was registered blind. I now have about 15% sight remaining in one eye and nothing in the other.

"I took the news badly and wouldn't even leave the house. I couldn't see the point in living and was in a really dark place. When I joined Blind Veterans UK in 2012 it was the first time I reached out and accepted support.

"The charity helped me to realise there is life after sight loss. I began to accept blindness. The support I received from my peers and the staff was a huge thing for me and still is. You are never alone, which is particularly important to me right now.

Mark went on to develop a passion in photography, supported by the charity, and eventually went on to hold his own exhibition. He later helped set up a successful Member photography group which is still going strong.

He has had a life-long ambition to complete a skydive and approached us to see if we could help make it happen. He has been given the green light and the big day is booked for 28 May.

Mark says: "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to do this skydive. It's wonderful that the charity is so

"I hope to raise money so that the charity can continue to support many other blind veterans like me"

committed to helping me at this stage in my life. I'm really excited about it.

"I won't be able to judge the distance or see where I'm going, but I'll still get the rush from the wind zooming past me.

"Giving back is important to me; helping with the photography weeks and events used to be my way of paying back to the charity that has helped me so much. I'm not able to do that anymore, so this parachute jump is my way of saying thank you.

"I hope it will raise money so that the charity can continue to support many other blind veterans like me."

Mark had originally hoped to raise £1,000 but he's been so overwhelmed by the support already shown that he's now aiming for £2,000. His goal is to raise as much as he possibly can. 🇬🇧

■ **If you'd like to sponsor Mark, call our Supporter Services team on 0300 111 22 33 or visit [justgiving.com/page/markskydive](https://www.justgiving.com/page/markskydive)**



WIKIPEDIA / POA(PHOTO) IAN ARTHUR

Caption: Royal Marines Band Service members beside HMS Duncan in 2010

Honouring our heritage

Meet our new Member Engagement and Military Lead, **Tim Eckersley**, who joins Blind Veterans UK straight from the Navy

I would like to begin by saying what a real privilege it is to be your Member Engagement and Military Lead. A veteran myself, I served 22 years in the Royal Navy, joining in 2001 as a Physical Training Instructor and

reaching the rank of Chief Petty Officer. I've been fortunate to work tri-service on multiple occasions over the course of my career, giving me unique insight into each service. Having been stationed around the UK and



Caption: Tim Eckersley

Europe, serving aboard HMS Sheffield, HMS Campbeltown, and HMS Northumberland, I feel rightly placed to ensure that, together, we continue to honour our military heritage and identity, and remember tradition. I'm very much looking forward to hearing your stories.

I would like to start embracing our military heritage right now by introducing you to a couple of new features in Review – firstly, 'Forces Fact', which celebrates our military connection by learning about historical events and understanding military slang. I hope this feature provides some humour, a talking point and another way we can all learn more →

Forces Fact

Historical events and military slang to share with each other. Have a laugh about it, talk, reflect, and let us know what you want next in Forces Fact.

This month in history

7 May 1945 – Germany surrendered to the Allies in Rheims and the war in Europe was over. Victory in Europe (VE-Day) is celebrated across Europe and North America the following day on Tuesday, 8 May 1945, thus marking its official end.

Military slang

Hoofing – a common term used by Royal Marines and sailors alike to define various situations. While it can be used as sarcasm, it generally means brilliant, great, good, amazing.

■ **If you would like to share a Forces Fact, please get in touch via email: ForcesFact@blindveterans.org.uk or contact your community support worker who will be able to submit on your behalf.**

Trooping the Colour BIG Prize Giveaway

We have FREE tickets to give away for Trooping The Colour Reviewed by Major General CJ Ghika on 3 June 2023.

Members can bid for a maximum of two tickets each by **Sunday, 14 May 2023**. We have a limited number of seated and wheelchair tickets available. Successful entrants will be chosen at random and notified via email on 15 May. This draw is for tickets only, entrants will be expected to travel and source accommodation independently.

■ To enter the draw, please email MET@blindveterans.org.uk



LAZYLAMA / ADOBE STOCK

“I hope this feature provides some humour, a talking point and another way we can all learn more about each other”

about each other, regardless of our backgrounds.

Your opinions, thoughts and feelings are the very foundations of this charity and will undoubtedly shape its future. Over the coming months, we'll introduce new opportunities for you to have your say and engage with the charity, providing valuable feedback. To do just that, I welcome you to another new feature in Review, 'Member voice', answering the questions you ask and ensuring you are part of the conversation.

This year is set to be historic. As the charity prepares to close its doors at the Brighton Centre and start a new chapter at Rustington, we also mark 60 years since the end of National Service, the welcomed face-to-face return of the Founder's Awards, and the coronation of His Majesty the King.

Indeed, there's a lot to celebrate and to be remembered. Please ensure you speak to your community teams and read the Review so you don't miss anything this year has to offer. 🇬🇧

Member voice

This month, Volunteer Support Lead, **Jess Wood**, summarises a recent discussion she held with Member Engagement Panels about volunteering

I recently approached our Member Engagement Panels to ask Members about their involvement in volunteering. This is so that we can make sure our volunteering opportunities are as accessible and comprehensive as possible.

My first question to the panels was this: **Other than your participation on the panel, do you currently**



Caption: Jess Wood

volunteer for this or any other charity?

What our panels said:

Many of you said that you support the charity in a number of different ways, such as fundraising or connecting with and supporting your fellow Members, although this may not be as a formally registered 'volunteer'. Some of you added that for Members who do offer to volunteer, the charity needs to ensure to respond to these generous offers of support. It was also highlighted that some Members aren't sure how to find out about their local volunteering opportunities at Blind Veterans UK.

What we'll do about it:

Our volunteering opportunities can be found on the Blind Veterans UK website. If you need support to access this information, please contact your community team. They can put you in contact with their local volunteer coordinator →

who can help you access and partake in any volunteering role. In the meantime, we'll also look at how we can further publicise local volunteering opportunities so you know what's available.

My second question to the panels was this: **Are there any other volunteering roles you would like to do that aren't currently available?**

What our panels said:

It was felt that our current volunteer offer is comprehensive. However, it was noted that it can be a challenge to help raise funds for the charity, which may put some Members off doing this.

What we'll do about it:

In response to these discussions we will be working on a project with the Member Engagement and Fundraising teams to explore how we can make all of our volunteering more accessible for you.

Thank you to all those on the panels who provided all this valuable insight and feedback. I'm really looking forward to exploring how we can make our volunteering offer more accessible, attractive and inclusive for everyone. 🍷

Jess Wood
Volunteer Support Lead



Caption: Brian, right, a Member and volunteer, with Member Les



LAUREN ROE PHOTOGRAPHY

Caption: Margaret with Simon, who helped write her book

The making of Margaret's memoirs

Bletchley Park veteran, **Margaret Wilson**, recently published her war memoirs, thanks to fellow Member, **Simon Mahoney**

Long-standing Member, Margaret Wilson, couldn't be happier. The 100-year-old Women's Auxiliary Air Force veteran has just achieved the incredible feat of publishing her memoirs from the Second World War.

Margaret's book, entitled 'A WAAF at War', tells the story of her huge contribution to the war effort, which included handling barrage balloons during the Blitz and intercepting enemy messages at Bletchley Park. →



“It makes me happy to know that my stories can be shared with my family and friends”

up interviewing her and used special software provided by us to type up her book.

Margaret says, “During the Covid lockdowns, I was lucky enough to be connected with Simon via telephone to support me through that challenging time. I’ve loved our regular calls. We’ve spent many an hour putting the world to rights and sharing our life stories.

“When he said that he wanted to write a book about me I never thought it would actually happen, but he’s truly amazing at making things like this come to life!”

Meanwhile, Simon, a former Royal Marines Officer who lost his sight due to glaucoma, says: “Having listened to and been in awe of Margaret’s amazing stories for over four years, I jokingly suggested that she should write a book. She simply said, ‘I leave that sort of thing to you.’ And in that moment a mad idea was born.”

Margaret’s war years are full of fascinating tales. She joined the

Women’s Auxiliary Air Force in 1941, after some resistance from her mother, initially serving in Balloon Command and then as a wireless operator, before going on to work as a Morse slip reader at Bletchley Park.

Margaret says, “My mother didn’t think the military was a suitable career path for me, but my father disagreed. He was a military man and signed my papers to get in.

“The work was hard. We got bombed left, right and centre. I don’t know how I’m still here. I remember watching a plane come down at RAF Syerston and having to send a message in Morse code to another airfield down south, saying, ‘It is with regret we have to inform you that your son was killed.’ It stays with you. You can’t forget things like that.”

After signing the Official Secrets Act at Bletchley Park, she keenly remembers being sworn in by a Justice of the Peace. She says, “He told me to never ever talk to anyone about the work we were doing there and that I must take to the end of my days.”

Later in life, in 2016, Margaret became a Member, having lost her sight due to age-related macular degeneration, which has left her unable to see well enough to read or write.

She says: “You try and get by as long as you can when you’re told you’re losing your sight, but when it started to get very bad I did feel really miserable.

“Joining this charity is the best thing that’s ever happened to me. The biggest benefit is being around others who are getting on with life, even though they have much worse sight than me. Everyone helps one another. →



Caption: Simon at the launch of his own book, A Descent Into Darkness

Caption: Margaret holding a photo of herself taken during her service

Margaret says: “I feel honoured. I can’t believe that I’ve had a book written about me and it makes me happy to know that my stories can be shared with my family and friends.”

Amazingly, Margaret’s book came about because of her long-standing friendship with fellow Member, Simon Mahoney. Simon, a published author himself, became Margaret’s telephone befriender during Covid and the pair struck up a wonderful friendship.

Simon was so taken by Margaret’s stories from the war that he ended

PHOTO: RICHARD CANNON



Caption: Margaret at Horse Guards Parade for Remembrance last year

“I can’t thank Simon enough for his kind words and support. He’s become such a dear friend and I still look forward to our calls.”

opportunity to meet and celebrate some truly exceptional people. Simon and Margaret are certainly up there with the best.” 🍷

The foreword for the book was written by Elizabeth Fothergill CBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire, who also attended the book launch. Elizabeth said, “A WAAF at War’ is a feast of glorious detail into the world of war through a woman’s eyes, brought to life through Margaret’s tremendous memories and Simon’s creative skills.

“One of the great pleasures of being His Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant for the county of Derbyshire is the

■ **Margaret’s book, A WAAF at War, is available on Amazon, or you can order a paper or audio version from Simon for just £6 including p&p by emailing simonmahoney3@hotmail.co.uk.**

What is safeguarding?

Introducing our new Designated Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Lead, **Jo Cook**, who shares some useful information about safeguarding

Hello everyone, my name is Jo and I’m delighted to join the charity as the new Designated Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Lead, which is a new post at Blind Veterans UK.

As a qualified social worker, I have lots of experience of working with adults of all ages and needs in local government. I’ve already had the pleasure of meeting a number of you, as well as many volunteers.



Caption: Jo Cook

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting an individual’s health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. As a charity, we have a duty to take reasonable steps to protect our beneficiaries, staff and volunteers from harm.

Of course, it’s important for all our staff to be aware of safeguarding, but it’s just as important that you understand and recognise it too. There are many different types of abuse which require further investigation and a formal →

response, such as:

- **Physical abuse** - This is where someone hits or injures an adult at risk, usually on purpose.
- **Emotional abuse** - This is where someone is unkind, controls, or bullies others.
- **Sexual abuse** - This is when someone is forced into sexual activity that they don't or can't consent to.
- **Financial abuse** - This is when someone takes money or belongings without asking.
- **Neglect** - This is when someone who is there to help does not look after the person or people they are supposed to be helping properly.
- **Discrimination** - This is when someone treats others badly or unfairly because they are seen as different.
- **Institutional abuse** - This is when paid staff in a hospital or care home do not care for them properly or respect their rights.
- **Domestic abuse** - This is threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are, or have been, in a relationship, or between family members.
- **Self-neglect** - This is when someone doesn't look after themselves to the extent they are at risk of harm.
- **Modern slavery** - This is when someone is forced to work or are

bought/sold as if they were a piece of property.

If you or someone you know is concerned about their safety, please contact your Community Support Worker who can support you with the next steps.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months and working together to make sure everyone is treated with the respect they deserve. 🍷



Caption: Safeguarding is key

ANDREY POPOV / ADOBE STOCK



Caption: Carers and staff enjoy a get-together at our Brighton centre

Carers Review

Member Experience Coordinator, **Stacey Barham**, introduces activities for our Members' carers

Brighton Carers Break

When you're caring for someone, putting their needs before your own can become the norm. However, the benefits of taking care of yourself and giving yourself a well-earned break really can't be underestimated.

It's essential to take the time to recharge your batteries. As the poet and activist, Maya Angelou once said,

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

When you're a carer, though, you can often find yourself in a situation where 'both hands' have been caring for others!

For this reason, we're offering a complimentary six-night break at our Brighton Centre this summer for anyone who cares for a Blind Veterans UK Member.

The break will give you the chance to relax and spend time with other carers to share valuable tips and experiences with those in the same boat as you. →

During the week, you can expect a full programme of refreshing activities, including local trips out, craft sessions, a pamper day, a celebratory dinner and much, more more!

The break will be held on 4-10 July, so you get to enjoy the best of a British summer by the seaside. And, as the Centre is soon to close once we move to our new Rustington Centre in August, this will be a last chance to bid a fond farewell to our beloved Brighton.

The charity's first carers break took place in January 2018 and, since then, we've run six in-person breaks and

five remote programmes (due to the pandemic). So far, they've proved very popular so we plan to continue running them after we move to Rustington.

■ **If you'd like to register your interest, or simply find out more about the week or ask questions about the support for your cared-for person, please don't hesitate to call me on 01273 391483 or send me a message at stacey.barham@blindveterans.org.uk. You can also find our more via your Community Support Worker.**

I look forward to welcoming you! 🍷

Carers and families engagement panel

Are you a carer to a Blind Veterans UK Member? Then why not get involved in shaping the support you receive from the charity by joining our carers and families engagement panel?

The panel meets once a month to discuss the needs and experiences of our carers, and suggest ideas for social activities and how we can best share valuable information with one another.

Anyone who is a family member, partner or friend caring for one of our Members, assisting them with day-to-day activities is welcome to join. Just get in contact with me via the details below.

■ **What would you like to see on our carers page? Call Stacey Barham on 01273 391483 or email her at stacey.barham@blindveterans.org.uk to share your ideas.**

National Creative Wellbeing Programme

This month's creative activities you can take part in - all from the comfort of your own home



Caption: Radishes

To sign up to or find out more about the following creative activities or hobby circles, simply call 01273 391447. All our projects come with VI and reader-friendly instructions, as well as the option of audio on a USB stick if requested.

GARDENING

Radishes

With their attractive leaves and

beautiful, tasty fruits, this radish pot will not only brighten up your windowsill but also your dinner plate. We'll send you some recipe ideas to try as you harvest your crop.

Let us know if you would like the opportunity to join our monthly gardening hobby circle to chat with other Members and receive support with this project.

CRAFT

Bird Box

- an easy woodwork project

Build a simple bird box for your garden, balcony or outside space. This one is tried and tested by the National Trust. We'll send you the pre-drilled VI friendly marked up wooden kit and fittings - you will need a hammer and Phillips screwdriver to put the project together. We'll also send you a bird stencil and paint to decorate your finished bird box. Complete it over the summer and pop it up ready for nesting season in Spring 2024. →



Caption: Build a bird box

Let us know if you would like the opportunity to join our monthly Woodwork Hobby Circle to chat with other Members and receive support with this project.

Coronation crown mosaic

Celebrate the coronation of King Charles III with our Coronation Crown project, designed especially for Blind Veterans UK. We'll send you everything you need to make a tactile and eye catching souvenir of this historic event. This is a flat mosaic on a wooden base measuring roughly 7 inches x 8 inches (or 18cm x 20cm)



Caption: Sketchbook fun

and there's no need for any tile cutting as all pieces are ready to use. This project is a bit more challenging than our Jubilee Crown Mosaic, so follow the VI friendly instructions step by step or create your own unique version with the materials provided.

ART

Sketchbook for beginners and improvers – May, June, July

For both aspiring and established artists, this is an exciting project for the summer to start you off on your drawing journey or enliven your practice. The sketchbook is the

foundation of an artist's work and we've put together a selection of themes and challenges to inspire you. With carefully chosen high contrast drawing materials, you can give them all a try and find your favourites.

You're welcome to sign up for our painting and drawing hobby circle if you would like to discuss your art with other participants and our specialists.

Please call us on 01273 391447 to request more information or an activity pack for the activities above.

CREATIVE HOBBY CIRCLES

Please call **01273 391447** if you are interested in joining one of our monthly groups by telephone or Teams video call on any of the following themes, and we'll call you back to discuss. Facilitated by the NCWP team and our volunteers, Members with a shared interest meet monthly for a chat and to share tips and ideas.

Gardening

Very popular with those who've signed up for our gardening projects, this is a chat group to share the seasons and offer support with VI- friendly gardening indoors and out.

Knitting, crochet or weaving

A group for those of you who'd like to chat about your projects with wool.

Painting and drawing

If you enjoy art - whether just starting out or a seasoned artist - this is the space to chat with other VI artists and exchange ideas, tips and support.

Woodwork

For those interested in woodwork, woodturning, wooden model making, this is a group for peer support, tips and encouragement with your wooden model projects.

For our **photographers** we have a Facebook page (Blind Veterans UK Photography) and a fortnightly Photography chat group. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome to join. It's a chance for a chat about photography and features regular guest speakers.

We hope you enjoy our summer programme. We'd love to see photos of you with your finished projects and hear about your creative experience.

You'll notice we're sending a survey in every pack posted during the summer, so you can help improve the programme by sharing your thoughts and feedback on each project you take part in. 🌍

The National Creative Wellbeing Programme team
ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk

Quiz time

Our quizmaster **Ron Russell** tests your general knowledge

1. In Formula 1 what colour flag is used to warn a driver he's about to be lapped?

2. Which football team was the first to install an artificial pitch?
 - a) Arsenal
 - b) Chelsea
 - c) Queens Park Rangers

3. What part of a door shares its name with a lump of butter?

4. What does the BBC stand for?

5. Which of following is known as the 'gentle giant' of the ocean?
 - a) Orca
 - b) Whale shark
 - c) Tiger shark

6. Who was the British Prime Minister before Theresa May?

7. Which animal in Australia kills more people than any other?

8. What did former Prime Minister John Major's father work as?
 - a) Singer
 - b) Circus performer
 - c) Dancer

9. What is the highest part of Britain outside of Scotland?

10. What is a female abbott called?

Answers on page 3

NEOLEO / ADOBE STOCK



Family news

Anne Chetwynd-Stapylton who celebrates her 100th birthday on 4 May 2023.

Joan Harrison who celebrates her 100th birthday on 5 May 2023.

Edward Tann who celebrates his 100th birthday on 11 May 2023.

Haydn Evans who celebrates his 101st birthday on 12 May 2023.

Joseph Weaver who celebrates his 101st birthday on 16 May 2023.

Henry Hogg who celebrates his 104th birthday on 17 May 2023.

Phyllis Davies who celebrates her 101st birthday on 26 May 2023.

Leslie Hutt who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 28 May 2023.

Victor Brown who celebrates his 100th birthday on 29 May 2023.

All birthday information was correct at the time of going to press

Condolences

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following, and we offer our heartfelt condolences.

Jacklyn Cannell who died on 1 March 2023. She was the wife of William Cannell.

Jean McClure who died on 1 March 2023. She was the wife of Joseph McClure.

Gwendoline Muriel Jones who died on 1 March 2023. She was the wife of Bob Jones.

Yvonne Mawson who died on 1 February 2023. She was the wife of Kenneth Mawson.

Vicky Rimmer who died on 19 March 2023. She was the wife of Eric Rimmer.

In memory

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following Members and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, widowers, families and friends

Elizabeth Mary Allan of Gillingham, Dorset died on 28 February 2023 aged 101. She served as a 3rd Officer in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Raymond William Texas Ashworth of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire died on 1 January 2023 aged 87. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery.

Robert George William Avery of Birmingham died on 7 February 2023 aged 84. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force.

Jeffrey Baines of Oswestry, Shropshire died on 9 March 2023 aged 93. He served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers.

Martin Baxter of Southampton died on 16 March 2023 aged 78. He served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers.

Malcolm Kenneth Bird of Clevedon, Avon died on 17 January 2023 aged 88. He served in the Royal Engineers.

Johnathan Bradbury of Cardiff died on 1 February 2023 aged 84. He served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers.

Herbert John Brown of Newquay, Cornwall died on 19 March 2023 aged 87. He served as a Stoker Mechanic in the Royal Navy.

David Burt of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 22 March 2023 aged 95. He served as an Artificer in the Royal Navy.

Arthur Barrymore Burton of Leicester died on 16 December 2022 aged 89. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Engineers.

Alfred Edward Cackett of Crowborough, East Sussex died on 1 March 2023 aged 88. He served as a Private in the Royal Artillery.

Betty Mary Chester of Kettering, Northamptonshire died on 20 March 2023 aged 99. She served as an L.A.C.W. in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Harold Cobb of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire died on 4 March 2023 aged 97. He served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy.

Sidney Dansie of Fleet, Hampshire died on 1 March 2023 aged 92. He served as an A.C. 2 in the Royal Air Force.

Kenneth Davies of Shrewsbury died on 4 March 2023 aged 86. He served as a Private in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

Norah Day of Lowestoft, Suffolk died on 8 March 2023 aged 100. She served as a Chief Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Ronald Drewery of Ely, Cambridgeshire died on 1 March 2023 aged 91. He served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy.

Gerald Finningley of Lincoln died on 27 March 2023 aged 92. He served as an A.C. 1 in the Royal Air Force.

Robert Fotheringham of Bedworth, Warwickshire died on 22 March 2023 aged 87. He served as a Naval Airman in the Royal Navy.

George Gourlay of Grangemouth, Stirlingshire died on 10 March 2023 aged 85. He served as a Private in the Army Catering Corps.

George Henry Hands of Birmingham died on 8 March 2023 aged 94. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery.

Kenneth Bennett Harrison of Carnforth, Lancashire died on 8 February 2023 aged 89. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Engineers.

Andrew William Hart of Darlington, County Durham died on 1 March 2023 aged 73. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Logistic Corps.

Raymond Lazare Hazan of Brighton, East Sussex died on 2 April 2023 aged 78. He served as a Captain in the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Brian Alfred Heather of Torpoint, Cornwall died on 7 March 2023 aged 86. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps.



Ralph Hedge of Maidenhead, Berkshire died on 29 November 2022 aged 97. He served as an A.C. 1 in the Royal Air Force.

Donovan John Heley of Luton died on 20 March 2023 aged 95. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Army Service Corps.

Ian David Hill of Bristol died on 29 March 2023 aged 65. He served as a Signalman in the Royal Signals.

Joan Hilton of Huntingdon, Cambridge died on 12 March 2023 aged 101. She served as an A.C.W. 1 in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Downey Howard of Morecambe, Lancashire died on 1 March 2023 aged 90. He served as a Private in the East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke Of York's Own).

Harold Jones of St. Helens, Merseyside died on 1 March 2023 aged 84. He served as a Fusilier in the Fusilier Brigade.

June Valerie Kingsbury of Weston-Super-Mare, Avon died on 7 March 2023 aged 92. She served as an A.C.W. 1 in the Women's Royal Air Force.

Alan Sydney Kirk of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire died on 5 March 2023 aged 83. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Air Force.

James Albert Kirkup of Consett, County Durham died on 1 March 2023 aged 89. He served as a Mechanic 1st Class in the Royal Navy.

Alan Geoffrey Kite of Banbury, Oxfordshire died on 28 March 2023 aged 94. He served as a Corporal in the Coldstream Guards.

Edmund Lauder of Iver, Buckinghamshire died on 26 March 2023 aged 92. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Signals.

Dennis William Lee of Brighton, East Sussex died on 4 March 2023 aged 95. He served as a Cook in the Royal Navy.

Robert Edward Little of Crowborough, East Sussex died on 30 March 2023 aged 90. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Army Service Corps.

James Joseph Marsland of Hailsham, East Sussex died on 14 March 2023 aged 98. He served as a Driver in the Royal Corps of Transport.

Ronald Milburn of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear died on 18 March 2023 aged 93. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Air Force.

Gilbert James Morgan of Shrewsbury died on 1 March 2023 aged 96. He served as a Warrant Officer in the South Wales Borderers.

Robert Herbert Oxenham of Neath, West Glamorgan died on 18 March 2023 aged 94. He served as a Private in the Royal Signals.

William Ewart Palin of Chester died on 10 March 2023 aged 102. He served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery.

Peggy Pawson of Worthing, West Sussex died on 9 March 2023 aged 98. She served as a Leading Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Michael Peakman of Gillingham, Kent died on 1 March 2023 aged 89. He served in the Royal Navy.

Robert Pert of Skegness, Lincolnshire died on 26 March 2023 aged 86. He served as a Private in the Royal Pioneer Corps.

Malcolm Philip Pickworth of Ilkeston, Derbyshire died on 5 March 2023 aged 79. He served as a Lance Corporal in the 9/12 Royal Lancers.

William Pinkerton of Aberdeen died on 1 March 2023 aged 89. He served as a Craftsman in the Royal Air Force.

William Porter of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham died on 22 March 2023 aged 93. He served as a Stores Assistant in the Royal Navy.

Vitruvius Cyril Rayment of Lincoln died on 30 March 2023 aged 91. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Air Force.

Peter Rex Redgrave of Sheringham, Norfolk died on 17 March 2023 aged 88. He served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy.

William Arthur Rintoul of Worthing, West Sussex died on 7 March 2023 aged 99. He served as a Senior Technician in the Royal Air Force.

Stanley Roberts of Bolton died on 20 February 2023 aged 91. He served as a Private in the East Lancashire Regiment.

Margaret Robinson of Bristol died on 1 March 2023 aged 96. She served as a Corporal in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Clifford Sandle of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 1 October 2022 aged 95. He served as a Gunner in the General Service Corps.

Graham Rodney Sands of Bolton died on 1 June 2022 aged 98. He served as a Lance Corporal in the East Lancashire Regiment. →

Iris Scotson of Stockport, Cheshire died on 4 June 2022 aged 98. She served as a Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Frank Mervyn Sherman of Eye, Suffolk died on 14 March 2023 aged 93. He served as an A.C. 2 in the Royal Air Force.

Jim Sigston of Fordingbridge, Hampshire died on 16 March 2023 aged 87. He served in the Royal Navy.

Thomas Strong of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire died on 13 March 2023 aged 95. He served as a Private in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Brian Swales of Carlisle died on 20 March 2023 aged 89. He served as a Nursing Orderly in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Colin Tam of Basildon, Essex died on 7 March 2023 aged 90. He served as a Private in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Harry Townsend of Mitcham, Surrey died on 15 March 2023 aged 86. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in the Royal Air Force.

Enid Tring of Brighton, East Sussex died on 26 January 2023 aged 96. She served as an Aircraftwoman in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Margaret Doreen Truelove of Stockport, Cheshire died on 1 March 2023 aged 96. She served as an Acting Sergeant in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Stanley Vickers of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died on 20 March 2023 aged 101. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery.

Thomas Albert Walter of Hailsham, East Sussex died on 16 March 2023 aged 93. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Air Force.

Thomas Welsh of North Shields, Tyne and Wear died on 23 February 2023 aged 90. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Artillery.

John Arthur Williams of Buckley, Flintshire died on 22 March 2023 aged 91. He served as a Private in the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

William Oscar Williams of Porthmadog, Gwynedd died on 8 March 2023 aged 90. He served as a Lance Bombardier in the Royal Artillery.

Kenneth Melvin Winfield of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 21 March 2023 aged 69. He served as a Private in the Yorkshire Regiment.

AGENTURFOTOGRAFIN / ADOBE STOCK



Contact details

Contact address Blind Veterans UK,
126 Fairlie Road, Slough. SL1 4PY,
0300 111 22 33

Member Support Hub (MeSH):
01273 391 447

New Members: Anyone who may be eligible to join Blind Veterans UK, can phone our Membership Department on freephone **0800 389 7979**.

A different format?

If you would like your copy of Review in a different format, then please contact your Community Support Worker or ROVI for more information.

The Brighton Centre 01273 307 811

The Llandudno Centre 01492 868 700

Review Editor: 0300 111 22 33 or
revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk

Feedback: To give us feedback on any of our services, please email us at supporter.services@blindveterans.org.uk or call **0300 111 22 33**.

Donations: To make a donation, simply call **0300 111 22 33** or visit blindveterans.org.uk/donate.

To listen to *Review* on Alexa, the command is: **“Alexa, ask TuneIn to play Blind Veterans UK Review.”** If you have any problems getting it to work, please contact the MeSH helpline on **01273 391 447**.



£1
per play



£15,000

WIN IN OUR SPRING RAFFLE!

Could your £1 raffle ticket grow into a £15,000 prize this spring?

From £100, £500 or even £15,000... every £1 ticket you buy today could grow into a BIG cash prize for you this spring, and goes towards rebuilding lives after sight loss. Draw opens 29 March 2023 and closes 23 June 2023. The draw will take place 30 June 2023.

**Get your tickets by calling 0300 111 2233
or online at raffle.blindveterans.org.uk**



No under 18 allowed to enter. No prizes will be paid to anyone under 18 years of age. Full terms and conditions apply, please visit raffle.blindveterans.org.uk/rules/ for more details. BeGambleAware.org Helpline: 0808 8020 133. Person responsible for the raffle and lottery: Richard Neate, Blind Veterans UK, 3 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AR. Blind Veterans UK is a registered charity no. 216227 (England & Wales) and SC039411 (Scotland). Licensed by the Gambling Commission under the 2005 Gambling Act. Registered license number 008297