

February 2013

# Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915





# From the Chairman

Your message from Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, RM.

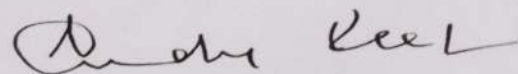
First off, congratulations to the Editor for the one-off January issue which was, I thought, a charming and most appropriate tribute to our Royal Patron. I hope you all enjoyed it. Special thanks go to those who contributed.

And on the subject of tributes I want to offer my very sincere congratulations to Bert Bleach, a West Sussex member, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours for long and faithful service to his village community. Bert joined us a couple of years ago at the tender age of 90, and within a few weeks he and his wife Helen will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary. Bert Served in the Royal Sussex Regiment throughout the War, including Dunkirk, the Battle of Alamein, and a long stint in the Middle East.

Last year was a remarkable year as not only did we launch the Blind Veterans UK brand, but as a nation, we all celebrated and much enjoyed the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and the Paralympics.

This year at Blind Veterans UK we will celebrate the first anniversary of our new name on 21st February, the official opening of the Llandudno centre on 2nd May, by the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir David Richards GCB CBE DSO ADC Gen, and on 10th October the 75th Anniversary of the Brighton centre.

If you would like to get involved in the Brighton anniversary celebrations do please contact Mandy Markwick at the centre on 01273 391445 or on email [mandy.markwick@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:mandy.markwick@blindveterans.org.uk) If you have any suggestions as to how we can mark this anniversary please contact Mandy. I know she would particularly like to hear from those who were there during the Second World War when it was occupied by the Admiralty. Or perhaps you were based in the area, or know people who were? Anyway, do get in touch with Mandy and let's make it an anniversary to remember!



## Blind Veterans UK Calendar 2013

Key: **B** for Brighton centre - **L** for Llandudno centre - **S** for Sheffield centre

### February

Archery Club (I) 15th - 22nd **B**  
Computer Club 19th - 22nd **B**

### April

Widows' Week 14th - 20th **B**  
Snowdonia Experience 14th - 20th **L**  
Sheffield holiday 15th - 19th **S**  
Writers' Forum 20th **B**  
Ex-PoW Reunion 19th - 22nd **B**  
Masonic Weekend 26th - 28th **B**

### June

Gardening Week 9th - 15th **B**  
Canoe River Trip and Wild Camping  
2nd - 8th **L**  
Writers' Forum 15th **B**  
Advanced Fishing Week 16th - 22nd **L**  
Church Stretton 50 year badge  
holders reunion 26th - 29th **B**

### August

Amateur Radio Week 2nd - 10th **B**  
Race Week 4th - 10th **B**  
Recreation Taster Week 11th - 17th **L**  
Writers' Forum 17th **B**  
Archery Club (III) 23rd - 31st **B**

### March

Bowling Club (I) 10th - 23rd **B**  
Beginners Photography Week  
11th - 15th **S**

### May

History Week 6th - 11th **L**  
Writers' Forum 18th **B**  
Archery Club (II) 24th - 3rd June **B**

### July

Writers' Forum 4th - 6th **B**  
Music Week 7th - 13th **L**  
Royal Marines Band Concert 10th **B**  
Fishing Taster Week 14th - 20th **L**  
Ladies' Week 21st - 27th **B**  
Advanced Photography Week  
22nd - 26th **S**

### September

Cycling Week 15th - 21st **L**  
Writers' Forum 21st **B**  
History Week 22nd - 28th **B**  
Walking Week 30th - 5th October **L**



## Blind Veterans UK Calendar 2013

Key: **B** for Brighton centre - **L** for Llandudno centre - **S** for Sheffield centre

### October

Music Week 6th - 12th **B**  
Writers' Forum 19th **B**  
Dance Week 17th - 23rd **B**  
Bowling Week 20th - 27th **B**

### November

Military Week 4th - 11th **L**  
Cenotaph 8th - 10th **B**  
Writers' Forum 16th **B**

### December

Writers' Forum 8th - 10th **B**  
Christmas theme week 15th - 21st **B**

**On the cover:** Blind Veterans UK member and artist, Constance Halford-Thompson. Her cooking tips are featured on page 17.



Feb 2013 | No 1032

# Review

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### Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

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# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## Photography holidays at the Sheffield centre.

After the great success of the photography holidays in Sheffield, we will run another two this year, one for beginners and one for advanced photography. These are holidays, rather than training, but the week is structured, with morning and afternoon sessions, trips and exercises. There is a cost of £128 for five days up to 31st March, and from the 1st April the cost will rise to £132. Book now as the places are being snapped up!

Beginners photography - Monday 11th March to Friday 15th March 2013.

Advanced photography - Monday 22nd July to Friday 26th July 2013.

Photography could be seen as impossible for a blind or vision impaired person; this is absolutely not the case! With the assistance of the specially tailored holiday course, members with a passion for photography will discover that they can capture beautiful images.

The challenges are unique to each person. These challenges depend on the photographer's goals, ability and equipment. For most, the primary challenge centres on getting what they want to capture onto the camera. Another common challenge is reviewing their own work, and of course mobility – getting to where or what you want to shoot. On the photography holiday at the Sheffield centre, we will look at ways around these challenges, using modified tools, techniques and approaches.

Blind photographers do face substantial hurdles in becoming photographers. However, having the passion and desire to take pictures and capturing moments, means that picking up a camera and overcoming the challenges are worth it. Passion is the key.



## Talking books for the Brighton centre.

Steve Murphy, Assistant Rehabilitation Officer for the Vision Impaired (ROVI), at the Brighton centre, would be grateful for any talking books on CD that you no longer listen to. Steve will add them to the library in the Green Room at the Brighton centre for members to listen to. They will also be distributed between the Llandudno and Sheffield centres. If you have any talking books on CD you no longer need, please do send them to Steve. As the use of tapes by our members has decreased he only needs CDs. Should you have any questions Steve can be contacted on telephone: 01273 391474. The address to post the CDs to is: Steve Murphy, Assistant ROVI, Blind Veterans UK, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 7BS.

## Silverstone Track Day - 13th March 2013.

Graham Raphael of Motorsport Endeavour is giving 10 members a chance to take part in a driving day at Silverstone race track. To register please contact Steve Mills, Sports & Recreation Instructor, on telephone: 01273 391481 or email: [steve.mills@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:steve.mills@blindveterans.org.uk)

## CCTV for sale.

Pamela Symonds is selling a one year old Optelec ClearViewPlus CCTV reading machine, with colour 22 inch TFT video magnifier, plus basic F/Pack and three year warranty, with two years remaining. She is asking for £1,000 and can be contacted on telephone: 01483 282571.

## Sign up for discounts with a Defence privilege card.

A brand new discount card, exclusively for members of the Armed Forces, their families and veterans, was rolled out in December 2012. Over 50 high street companies and businesses have pledged generous discounts to show their support for the Armed Forces Community through the Defence Discount Service. The new Defence privilege card, which is available to sign up for online, will ensure the Armed Forces Community get exclusive discounts from participating stores across the country. This new card will provide money off items ranging from children's toys and winter knitwear to mobile phones and even food shopping. To sign up for free go to: website: [www.defencediscountservice.co.uk](http://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk)

## 2013 Former Prisoners of War Reunion.

The Ex-PoW Reunion will take place at the Brighton centre from 19th – 22nd April. Any former Prisoners of War who are members of Blind Veterans UK are welcome to attend. We would advise you to book a place as soon as possible. If you require nursing or residential care, please book through your Welfare Officer.

For those with non nursing or residential care requirements, please book with Claire Green at the Brighton centre by telephone: 01273 391422 or email: [claire.green@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:claire.green@blindveterans.org.uk)



**Picture:** Featured at the 2012 Former Prisoners of War Reunion from left to right. Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Robert Leader DL, Syd Tavender, a former Far East Prisoner of War who worked on the Burma to Siam Railway and Stefan Ciesla, who in 1941 was captured by the Russian forces and sent to a labour camp. He was later released into the Polish Army in Kazakhstan.



## Holiday Week in Sheffield.

Last year the Sheffield centre ran a number of successful themed holidays that included the history and photography week. As a result of their resounding success and demand for more weeks, we are running a holiday from Monday 15th to Friday 19th April 2013.

The itinerary will include trips to local historical sites of special interest, museums and light entertainment, all of which require the ability to stand and walk for short distances. The week will cost £132 per person and partners and carers are welcome. This cost covers accommodation and food. There will be additional charges for the entry into some attractions.

If you would like to take part, please contact Claire Green on telephone: 01273 391500 to book a place.

## Congratulations to Kevin and Barry Storey.

Kevin and Barry Storey, who are related to Blind Veterans UK member Chris Jordan, a resident at the Brighton centre, completed the Kielder Marathon in Northumberland on 7th October 2012. They raised £383 for Blind Veterans UK and they hope to continue their fundraising efforts.

They were inspired to support Blind Veterans UK after meeting member and ex Trainee Support Worker Martin Shail at the Brighton centre. Congratulations Kevin and Barry.



**Picture:** Kevin and Barry Storey.

# Letters to the Editor.

As we welcome your letters please do send them in to us. They could be in response to an article in the Review, or something you feel to be of interest to your fellow members. You can send letters by post to Blind Veterans UK Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Please mark them Letter to the Editor. Or if you prefer please send an email to the Review at email: [revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk)

Dear Editor

I feel I have to put pen to paper regarding my stay at the Brighton centre over Christmas from 20th to 28th December. Please convey to all staff who worked over the Christmas period my sincere thanks. They made my trip worthwhile.

While I am writing I must mention my previous three training visits for IT and Art. With regard to my art training, Philip Rawson got me painting again after a period of six years. He taught me that there was life after partial sight loss. And I found his knowledge that he shared with me was very useful. With regard to the IT Training I received at the Brighton centre, I must record my sincere thanks to both Amandine Noel and Terri Micklam.

Having recently become a widower after 58 years of married bliss, I felt that life was over, but Blind Veterans UK has shown me otherwise.

To any members who are lucky enough to go to the Brighton centre for Art or IT training, I must say that both Amandine Noel and Philip Rawson will seem to be slave drivers, but they are exceptional at their jobs. So listen and learn and you will realise how lucky you have been to have had them as tutors.

Yours faithfully  
Lynton Powell

Dear Mr Powell

Thank you for your letter and sharing your experiences from the Brighton centre and life at Blind Veterans UK. I agree that we are indeed lucky to have such wonderful instructors, as we do at all our centres, be it Brighton, Llandudno or Sheffield. I wish you every continued success.

With all good wishes Ed.



# Accommodation charges update 2013.

We remain committed to providing the best quality and range of services to our members. Our three centres are an integral part of service provision and in order to ensure we can continue to provide an excellent level of service, we employ an annual pricing review for our accommodation charges.

As with previous years, part of our dedication of responding to and meeting our members' needs, calls for the review of our accommodation charges at our centres. This review ensures we are still achieving viable operating costs for the organisation whilst allowing us to continually strive to provide and develop innovative services. Below are the new charges for our three centres in Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield. These will be effective from 1st April 2013 and as you will see, the increases have been again kept to the absolute minimum.

In 2013 Sheffield will provide an additional six holiday/themed weeks and charges for these will be at the local Sheffield holiday rate.

Clubs using the centres will still be eligible for an accommodation discount in 2013, subject to certain terms and conditions. Clubs will receive further information regarding these.

Members staying at either Port Hall or Beacon Hill will be charged at the rates set out on the following pages.

## Charges for non war blind members

### Permanent care Brighton only

	2012	2013
Nursing	£553 (£79 per day)	£567 weekly (£81 per day)
Residential	£455 (£65 per day)	£469 weekly (£67 per day)

### Respite care Brighton and Llandudno

Nursing	£497 (£71 per day)	£511 weekly (£73 per day)
Residential	£364 (£52 per day)	£371 weekly (£53 per day)

## Holidays Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield

	2012	2013
<b>Low season</b> 1st October - 31st March	£224 (£32 per day)	£231 weekly (£33 per day)
<b>Sheffield</b> Standard rate No low or high season	£128	£128 weekly
<b>Clubs</b> Special group rates		
Low season	£206.50 (£29.50 pd)	£210 weekly (£30 per day)
High season	£262.50 (£37.50 pd)	£269.50 weekly (£38.50 pd)

## Theme week surcharge - Brighton and Llandudno only

All year	£26	£26.50
Port Hall/Beacon Hill Normal rate	£164.50 (£23.50 per day)	£168.00 weekly (£24 per day)
Port Hall/Beacon Hill Clubs discount	£157.50 (£22.50 per day)	£161 weekly (£23 per day)

## Introductory week

Members	Free	Free
Spouses at Brighton and Llandudno	£101	£104
Spouses at Sheffield	£70	£72

## Training

Members	Free	Free
Spouses at Brighton and Llandudno	As per accommodation booked	As per accommodation booked
Spouses at Sheffield	£95	£97



## Charges for war blind members

### Permanent care Brighton only

	2012	2013
Nursing	£294 (£42 per day)	£301 weekly (£43 per day)
Residential	£231 (£33 per day)	£238 weekly (£34 per day)

### Respite care Brighton and Llandudno

Nursing	£294 (£42 per day)	£301 weekly (£43 per day)
Residential	£231 (£33 per day)	£238 weekly (£34 per day)

### Holidays Brighton and Llandudno

<b>Low season</b> 1st October - 31st March	£185.50 (£26.50 per day)	£189 weekly (£27 per day)
<b>High season</b> 1st April - 30th September	£203 (£29 per day)	£210 weekly (£30 per day)
<b>Clubs</b> Special group rates	£182 (£26 per day)	£185.50 weekly (£26.50 per day)
<b>Low season</b> 1st October - 31st March		
<b>High season</b> 1st April - 30th September	£192.50 (£27.50 per day)	£196 weekly (£28 per day)

To arrange your stay please contact the Bookings Coordinator on telephone: 01273 391422 or email: [ovingdeanbookings@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:ovingdeanbookings@blindveterans.org.uk)

## Harry Beevers's 10 questions on the subject of... Sculpture.

1. What is the title of the 65 foot tall statue by Antony Gormley which stands by the A1 near Gateshead?
2. Using his wife as a model for the head and torso, the sculptor Edvard Eriksen designed which statue to be seen in a European capital city depicting a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale character?
3. A statue of which famous gelding is on display at Kempton racecourse where he won the King George VI Chase on four occasions?
4. In the spring of 2009, statues of which comedy duo, one English the other American, were erected in Ulveston in Cumbria?
5. Who was the Commander of the so-called 'Forgotten Army' in Burma in World War II, whose statue was erected in Whitehall in London in April 1990?
6. Which capital city has statues of Molly Malone and Charles Stewart Parnell and once had one of Horatio Nelson?
7. In 1982, which pop star was the sculptor of a statue of Eleanor Rigby, that was erected in Liverpool as a tribute to the Beatles?
8. Which film star contributed money for the raising of a statue in memory of the American singer Al Jolson in the city of Los Angeles?
9. A nine foot statue of Sherlock Holmes stands outside which London Tube station?
10. Where in the British Isles could you encounter bronze figures of Norman Wisdom sitting on a bench outside a Town Hall and George Formby leaning on a nearby lamp post?

Answers on page 28



## Themed weeks at the Llandudno centre throughout 2013.

The aim of the themed activity weeks organised at the Llandudno Centre, during 2013 and 2014, is to offer a programme of events which is varied, accommodating and inclusive for all.

**14th – 20th April: Snowdonia Experience** – Limited to 10 spaces.  
Experience an energetic week in the mountains, lakes, rivers and coastline of Snowdonia.

**6th – 11th May: History Week** – Normal holiday week booking.  
Based on Welsh culture and the annual Victorian Extravaganza held locally in Llandudno.

**2nd – 8th June: Canoe River Trip and Wild Camping** – Limited to six spaces.  
Open boat river trip combined with skills training and overnight camping.

**16th – 22nd June: Advanced Fishing Week** – Limited to 10 spaces.  
Different fishing activities all week which include pier, boat, trout and beach casting, organised for the more advanced and experienced fisherman.

**7th – 13th July: Music Week** – Normal holiday week booking.  
Experience Welsh culture at the National Eisteddfod, which takes place in Denbighshire, Wales.

**14th – 20th July: Fishing Taster Week** – Limited to 10 spaces.  
This week is for those new to the sport or who would like to start back up again.

**11th – 17th August: Recreation Taster Week** – Limited to 15 spaces.  
Any ability welcome for a social taster into activities such as clay pigeon shooting, golf, crown green bowls and walks along the beach, maybe flying a kite.

**15th – 21st September: Cycling Week** – Limited to six spaces.  
Various cycle rides around the beautiful Isle of Anglesey and the surrounding

countryside accommodating any ability. The week will culminate with a day's activity at the National Indoor Velodrome Manchester.

**30th September – 5th October: Walking Week** – Normal holiday booking.  
A variety of walks in and around the castles and mountains, lakes and coastline of Snowdonia. For the less active there will be walks along the proms, piers and viewpoints of North Wales.

**4th – 11th November: Military Week** – Normal holiday week booking  
Day trips to local Military Units, which include RAF Valley on Anglesey, The Royal Welsh Regiment at Dale Barracks and the North Wales Naval Association. The week will culminate with the Armistice Day Service and Parade in Llandudno.

### Further Details

If you would like further details about any of these trips or activities, please contact the Sports and Recreation Department at the Llandudno centre, on 01492 868728.

### Booking

We aspire to encourage as many different people to attend the Themed Weeks at Llandudno as possible. In order to achieve this please note the following:

Due to the space limitations on several of the weeks please identify your first choice and we will endeavour to accommodate this option as a priority. Further reservation requests are welcome, however they are likely to be placed on a reserve list and you will be contacted if a place becomes available. The programme of activity within each of these weeks will remain flexible to accommodate all levels of ability and individual aspirations.

Your help assisting the Llandudno team develop the Themed Weeks at our centre is crucial. If you feel there is something that could be added to our programme, which may further enhance it we would welcome your feedback and comments – thank you.



## **Vision impaired archery and the Paralympics, by David Poyner, Chair of our Archery Club.**

Prior to the London 2012 Paralympic games, I was asked by BBC Radio 4's In Touch programme what I thought of the inclusion of vision impaired (VI) archery in the Paralympics.

I replied that it wasn't.

That was the start of an amazing journey towards the possible inclusion of VI archery into the Paralympics.

I was invited to take part in a discussion on In Touch with Tom Dielen, General Secretary of World Archery, about how to get VI archery into the Paralympics.

The result of this positive discussion was that in August 2012, I met with Tom and others at Woolwich Barracks in South East London, the venue for Paralympic archery, to put my suggestions forward.

The meeting went very well and the assembled group liked my idea for the two categories to make VI archery a workable event for the games.

The plan is to get a group of archers and interested people to a seminar at Archery GB, Lilleshall, Shropshire in June/July 2013. The next step would be to hold a competition at the world championships in Beijing in November 2013.

If we have sufficient interest from around the world then who knows? Maybe and fingers crossed, the inclusion of VI archery in the Paralympics may happen in 2020.

## **Cooking with Constance Halford-Thompson.**

Artist and Blind Veterans UK member, Constance Halford-Thompson, brings Review readers two simple to follow recipes. The first is for roast chicken with vegetables and the second is a safe way to roast potatoes.

"Firstly, buy some roasting bags as they are a wonderfully simple way to cook flavoursome food simply. Next take one roasting bag and put your pieces of chicken in. I use mostly rolled boned chicken thighs, but you can use any pieces. Pop them into the roasting bag and slice your vegetables, you could use leeks, carrots, onion — anything you feel like or have got in. Then add a little flour, some oil and lemon juice. Do up the bag tightly, but don't overfill it, leave a gap so there's plenty of air inside and make a small hole in the bag. Put it in a preheated oven at 180°, that's fan assisted, or gas mark 4, for about 25 to 30 minutes — and there you are.

"It's really tasty and there are quite a lot of juices in there. Sometimes I've added some cream or yoghurt, it's not essential, but both those ingredients can help. There's no washing up and it's delicious.

"I also have a simple recipe for potatoes, which are prepared with ease. Put some oil in an oven proof dish, use a flattish dish and make sure the oil covers the bottom. Cut some unpeeled potatoes into strips or knobs and dry them on a towel. You can also sprinkle a small amount of flour over them. Put them in the cold oil and turn them over so they are well coated and put them in a good hot oven for 30 minutes. It's far better than putting them into hot oil, as they are far less likely to splash hot oil at you."

Constance is a very talented artist, who honed her skills as an artist over four very successful decades. Her paintings are collected worldwide and she exhibited her work at the Osborne and Anna Mei Chadwick Gallery for 20 years. She has also published a book: Pastels, an unusual technique, which is available online from American Amazon, priced at \$15.

During WWII Constance served in the Women's Auxiliary Service of Burma (WASBs), when she took a mobile canteen to troops fighting in Burma. General Slim, who later became 1st Viscount Slim, Commander of the 14th Army, known as the 'Forgotten Army,' said of the WASBs: "They showed the highest standard of devotion and courage."



## Reunion dates in 2013.

Date	Reunion	Venue address
12th March	Derby	The Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby, Derbyshire DE1 2SQ.
20th March	Brighton	Blind Veterans UK, Brighton centre, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS
28th March	Middlesbrough	Thistle Hotel, Fry Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1HJ.
10th April	Cambridge	The Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW.
17th April	Northern Ireland	The Ramada Hotel, 117 Milltown Road, Shaws Bridge, Belfast BT8 7XP.
18th April	Central London	RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY.
23rd April	Barrow	The Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Road, Barrow in Furness LA13 0PA.
1st May	Bradford upon Avon	Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Cumberwell Park, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2PQ.
2nd May	Leeds	Thorpe Park Hotel, 1150 Century Way, Leeds LS15 8ZB.
8th May	Cardiff	Copthorne Hotel, Copthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6DH.
9th May	Eastbourne 1	Hydro Hotel, Mount Road, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.
13th May	Edinburgh	Marriott Hotel, 111 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh EH12 8NF.
20th May	Hook	Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9AZ.
23rd May	Beaulieu	Beaulieu Hotel, Beaulieu Road, Beaulieu SO42 7YQ.
29th May	Surrey	Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5PZ.
5th June	West Sussex	Bognor Golf Club, Downview Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 8JD.
12th June	Exeter	Mercure Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1QF.

Date	Reunion	Venue address
13th June	Eastbourne 2	Hydro Hotel, Mount Road, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.
19th June	Liverpool	Marriott Hotel, 1 Queen's Square, Liverpool L1 1RH.
20th June	Llandudno	Imperial Hotel, The Promenade, Llandudno LL30 1AP.
10th July	Portsmouth	Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 2NT.
16th July	Eastbourne 3	Hydro Hotel, Mount Road, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.
7th August	Inverness	The Kingmills Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness IV2 3LP.
20th August	Newcastle	The Assembly Rooms, Fenkle Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5XU.
21st August	Durham	Ramside Hall Hotel, Carrville, Durham DH1 1TD.
3rd September	Blackpool	De Vere Herons' Reach, East Park Drive, Blackpool FY3 8LL.
4th September	Chorley	The Pines Hotel, Preston Road, Clayton le Woods, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 7ED.
5th September	Kent	Chart Hill Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8JX.
11th September	Norwich	Barnham Broom Hotel, Honingham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 4DD.
19th September	Watford	The Park Inn, 30-40 St Albans Road, Watford WD17 1RN.
24th September	Birmingham	Ramada Hotel, Penns Lane, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield B76 1LH.
1st October	Worcester	The Whitehouse Hotel, Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1EA.
2nd October	Cornwall & Plymouth	Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5AQ.
8th October	Sheffield	Kenwood Hall Hotel, Kenwood Road, Sheffield S7 1NQ.



## Friends Reunited - members reunions in the early years by Rob Baker, Collections and Archives.

Under the management of the Reunion team last year, Blind Veterans UK saw another busy programme of reunion events across the UK, including Northern Ireland, with 34 reunions scheduled to take place in 2013. These meetings have in fact taken place since soon after we were founded in 1915. Members may be interested to know of some of the activities that took place at them.

The first was at Bristol in 1920, and the number of meetings soon grew and spread throughout the country. For example in the first few months of 1927 there were meetings in Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Hastings, Canterbury, Bedford and Reading. Further afield, the first meeting in Northern Ireland had taken place in Belfast in April 1925, with the first in the then Irish Free State taking place in Dublin in July of the same year.

It is striking to see how well-attended many of the meetings were. Every member in Northern Ireland came to the first Belfast reunion, and generally attendances of over 100 were not uncommon. They also show how important music was to the early members. The meetings often featured guest singers who would entertain with popular songs. A reunion at Preston in January 1925 is typical, featuring Mr Till of Lancaster who sang songs including 'The Crown of the Year' and 'The Border Ballad'. A meeting in Cardiff the following year had a harp soloist, and the one in Nottingham included a jazz band and dancing. The Review reported that 'it is surprising how many men find they can still dance in spite of not having had any practice since leaving St Dunstan's'. The dances in our headquarters in Regent's Park were very popular events, so it seems rather sad to think that members had not usually danced after they had left there.

Meetings often had other guest speakers too. Sometimes members of our Council were able to attend, and occasionally there were celebrities. The meeting at Exeter in 1925 was entertained by Albert J. Coles, who as 'Jan Stewer' was then a well-known writer, famous for his 'Devon dialect' stories. Competitions and games such as skittles were also popular, although it is now not always clear what was involved; for example, one meeting featured what is intriguingly described as a bun and needle race.

Of course, members would often be meeting up with others they had spent much time with in training and rehabilitation at our early centres. Occasionally these would be men whose involvement dated right back to our very beginnings. The meeting at Canterbury in 1927 was attended by Joseph Selby, who was one of the very first members at what was described at the meeting as 'the little red house in the Bayswater Road'. This was the original hostel which we occupied for a few weeks before moving to St Dunstan's Lodge in Regent's Park. Also present was Alfred Bennett, who had a link to our earliest days. He was reported as saying that when St Dunstan's first opened in the Bayswater Road he was the postman who delivered letters there twice daily, and little did he think that he would eventually become a St Dunstaner!

Reunions were not exclusively local in nature. There were regular reunions of officers, and later of deaf-blind members. There were also meetings of members engaged in particular occupations. A telephonists' reunion in December 1926 was attended by nearly 80, including Chairman Ian Fraser. He was able to boost morale by reporting on success for those engaged in this line of work; of 115 men who had been trained for this employment, only seven were then not in employment.

Other particular groups followed in later years. Women's reunions began in 1963, following on from the first major influx of women members from the Second World War. However the culmination of reunion activities in our early years undoubtedly came in 1935, when special reunions also celebrated the Silver Jubilee of King George V. Meetings were held all over the United Kingdom and in the Irish Free State. The largest was the Home Counties reunion, which was held in the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Prince of Wales. Over 500 members and their escorts attended.

The opportunities the meetings afforded to Blind Veterans UK members were clearly very much valued by members, as we know they are today. This could not better be summed up than by our former postman: Bennett also emphasised the importance of the meetings, pointing out what pleasure they gave to the men and their families and stating that it was the explicit desire of their late Chief – Sir Arthur Pearson – that they should meet together once a year and discuss how they were getting on, and he considered these meetings were a very big asset and bond of union.





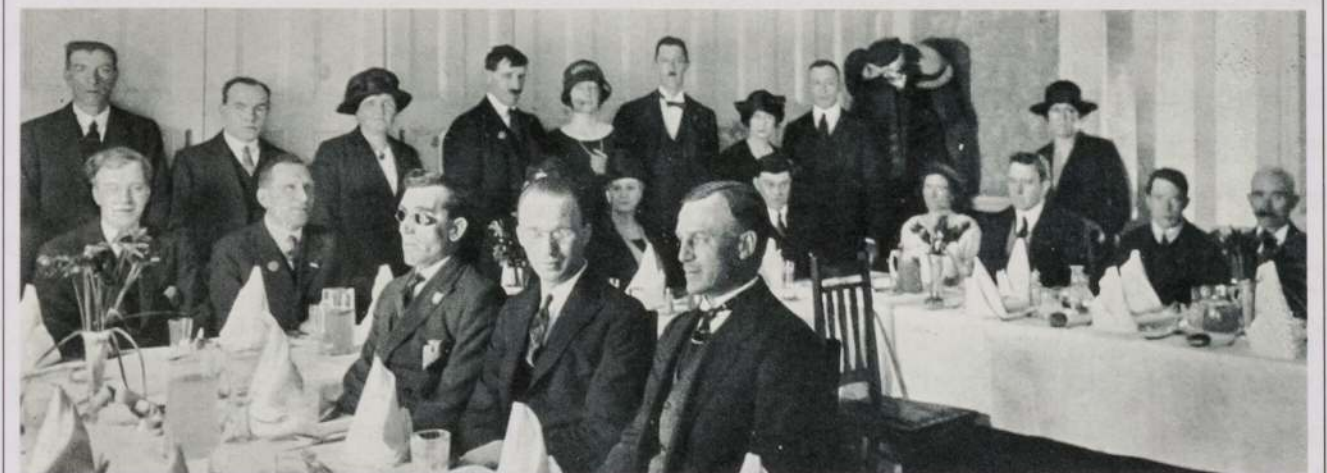
**Picture:** A Reunion in Exeter on 11th December 1925.



**Picture:** A Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1935.



**Picture:** A reunion in Bournemouth on 30th April 1925.



**Picture:** A Reunion in Belfast on 2nd April 1925.



## Blind Veterans UK welcomes four new Trustees.

At the Trustees meeting in December 2012, Trustees Air Vice Marshal Richard Kyle CB MBE and Dave Stuttard MBE stood down at the end of their term of office. We would like to thank them very publicly for their many years of outstanding service to Blind Veterans UK. We also bring the sad news of the death of Trustee David Knowles CBE in 2012. David gave 15 years of loyal support to Blind Veterans UK and he is missed by his fellow Trustees and members and staff who knew him.

Tim Bacon stepped down as Vice Chairman at the end of his term of office, but will remain a Trustee. Tim Davis was appointed Vice Chairman. New Trustees welcomed to the Board are: Kerry Levins and Paul Palmer, who are both members of Blind Veterans UK. They are joined by Air Vice Marshal Paul Luker CB OBE AFC DL and Rear Admiral Stephen Meyer. To introduce you to them we include short profiles.

### **Kerry Levins**

Kerry Levins is a former Army Officer who Served in the Royal Corps of Signals for 10 years, leaving the Service in 1999 as a Captain. He served in Hong Kong, Brunei, Europe, Great Britain and the United States of America.

On Leaving the Army, Kerry has worked in the IT sector, initially for Redstone Communications plc, a small Telecommunications provider. In 2006 Kerry was registered blind as a result of Ischaemic Retinal Vasculitis, a degenerative condition of the blood vessels in the eye, which has subsequently been attributed to his Army Service. In 2007 Kerry was sought out and offered employment by BP plc, where he continues to work within IT, specialising in IT Infrastructure Library.

On becoming a member of Blind Veterans UK and a guide dog owner in 2010, Kerry has involved himself, whenever possible, in fundraising activities for the two organisations, which have in his own words "changed my life". He hopes by becoming a Trustee he will be able to actively help improve the lives of other former Service personnel affected by sight loss; he intends to focus specifically on the areas of rehabilitation and employment. Kerry lives in Aldershot with his wife, who is a Personal Trainer, their young daughter, Kerry's guide dog Pedro and the recent addition of two cats.

### **Paul Palmer**

Paul Palmer has been a member of Blind Veterans UK for two years.

He was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1972 into the Royal Corps of Transport before it reformed into the Royal Logistic Corps.

Most of his career was spent in the movement of personnel, equipment and ammunition around the world by road, rail, sea and air. He also spent time working in Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces, Ministry of Defence Main Building and RAF High Wycombe in staff appointments. He spent two tours of duty in Northern Ireland in 1973 and 1975 and Served in the Gulf during the first Gulf War. On leaving the Army in 2002 as a Major he spent the next seven years working in the Middle East in a variety of appointments before retiring in 2009. He was diagnosed as blind in March 2010.

Outside Blind Veterans UK he is a keen follower of his local rugby team, Chippenham and England, enjoys walking his Jack Russell, being with his family and grandchildren, listening to books and chatting and enjoying a drink with friends. He lives in North Colerne, North Wiltshire, with his wife Pauline who is a retired teacher. They have three grown up children and three grandchildren.

During his time with Blind Veterans UK he has completed several computer courses, a chair caning course, a willow weaving course and he has taken up blind archery.

### **Air Vice-Marshal Paul Luker CB OBE AFC DL**

Paul joined the RAF in 1968 aged 17, Serving until 2006. He trained as a support helicopter pilot and subsequently his flying duties ranged across a wide number of RAF and Army helicopters. His operational service included time in Northern Ireland, the Gulf, the Balkans and Belize; his final tour, following three years in command of the Joint Helicopter Command, was as Deputy Commander of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan. Since 2006 he has been chief executive of the Council of Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Associations (RFCA). The RFCAs provide regional support to the Reserves of all three Services and to their Cadet movements, as well as maintaining a vital linkage between the Armed Forces and civilian communities.



Away from work Paul is a DL for Hampshire and is increasingly immersed in county based activities, not least as President of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Cadets. What time is left is taken up with an interest in military history, walking, food, wine and other sedentary pursuits; to call his golf 'mediocre' is a criminal overstatement.

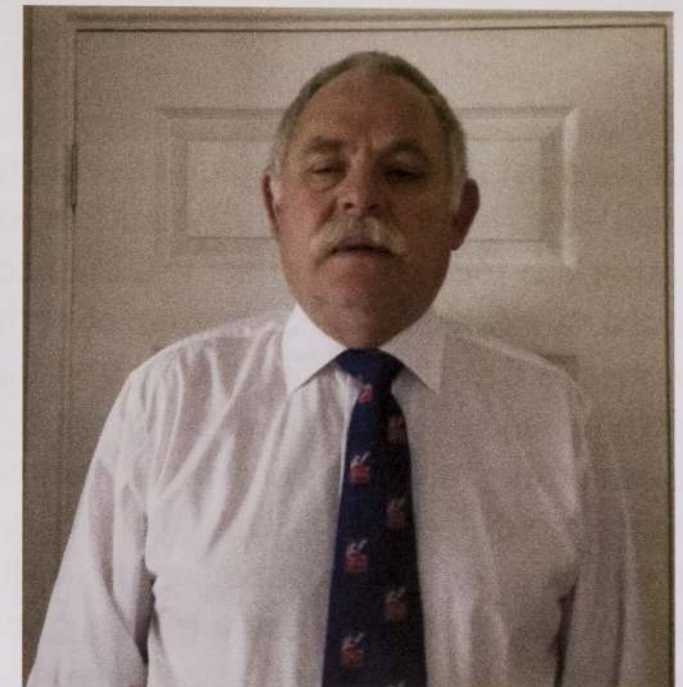
### Rear Admiral Stephen Meyer

Stephen Meyer Served in the Royal Navy for 34 years, when he specialised as a navigator, Serving in several ships in that role, including during the Falklands conflict in 1982. He commanded six warships, ranging from the Omani fast patrol boat SNV Al Mansur during the Dhofar campaign, to the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious. Stephen's shore appointments included the running of professional training of junior officers, the Director of Maritime Intelligence, and the Director of Naval Plans. As a Rear Admiral, Stephen Served as the Military Adviser to the High Representative in Bosnia Herzegovina; he was the Commander UK Maritime Forces (the Navy's seagoing Admiral); and in his final job in the Navy, Stephen oversaw the deployment of all UK forces overseas, including those in Bosnia, Kosovo, FYROM (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Sierra Leone, the Gulf region and, post 9/11, Afghanistan.

From 2002 to 2010, Stephen was the UK's Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents. As the head of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB), he was responsible for investigating accidents and incidents to or onboard UK vessels anywhere in the world, and vessels of any nationality within UK waters. The purpose of MAIB investigations is solely to enhance future safety, and the investigations do not attribute blame or apportion liability; although the MAIB is funded by the UK Government, Stephen was statutorily independent of Government and all other vested interests.

Since retiring from the MAIB, Stephen has been involved in voluntary work with a number of charities. He also serves as one of the four members of an international 'Panel of Experts', established to advise the cruise line industry in the wake of the loss of the Costa Concordia.

Stephen lives with his wife in West Sussex and they have two daughters and two granddaughters.



**Picture:** Left: Kerry Levins with Pedro. Right: Paul Palmer.



**Picture:** Left: Air Vice-Marshal Paul Luker CB OBE AFC DL. Right: Rear Admiral Stephen Meyer.



## Colin Williamson's Beer of the Month

### Wadworth Swordfish.

This is a most unusual and unique beer as it contains Pussers Rum from the British Virgin Islands. The British Navy's association with rum goes all the way back to 1665 and this beer was brewed to commemorate 100 years of naval aviation, as the beer is named after the WWII Fairey Swordfish torpedo bomber, as depicted on the label. It pours a nice bronze colour with a decent off white head and the nose is of rum, sweet malts and toffee. There is a pleasant fruity raisin flavour, which I assume is from the rum, and it has a nice smooth mouthfeel to it. There is a hint of bitter hoppiness in the finish but not powerful enough to outweigh the malts. Overall, I found this a pleasant beer and very drinkable, coming in at a modest 5% ABV. The Fairey Swordfish operated primarily as a fleet attack aircraft and one of its claims to fame is that it was involved in the crippling of the German battleship the Bismarck during a battle in the Atlantic Ocean two days after the Bismarck had sunk the British Battlecruiser HMS Hood.

### Limerick - from an unnamed source

On the chest of a barmaid from Sale, were tattooed the prices of ale.

And on her behind, for the sake of the blind, was the same information in Braille.

## Answers to 10 questions on... the subject of ... Sculpture from page 13.

1. The Angel of the North.
2. The Little Mermaid, in Copenhagen.
3. Desert Orchid.
4. Laurel and Hardy.
5. Field Marshal William Slim.
6. Dublin - Nelson's Pillar was blown up in 1966.
7. Tommy Steel.
8. Al Jolson.
9. Baker Street.
10. The Isle of Man, in the town of Douglas.

## Family News

### Congratulations to:

#### Births:

**Audrey Brooks** on the birth of her great great granddaughter Lily Samantha Ives, who was born on 10th November 2012.

**Clifford Fisher** on the birth of his great grandson Noah James, who was born on 3rd December 2012. He was born to Cliff's grandson Ian Brownlee and his wife Ruth.

**Ken and Joan Humphries** who celebrated the birth of Zachary, their 17th great grandchild on 22nd December 2012. Zachary was born to their granddaughter Natalie and her husband Barry Smith. Nine days earlier they had celebrated the arrival of great grandchild number 16, Olly Burgess, who was born on 13th December to their grandson Mark and his wife Lindsey Burgess. Their great grandchildren now range in age from 17 years old to just a few weeks.

**Chris and Claire Nowell** on the birth of their son Rhys Simon Nowell, on 1st January 2013, who was also welcomed by his two older brothers Luke and Adam.

#### Birthdays:

**Margery Williams** who celebrated her 100th birthday on 7th December.

**Joseph Munroe** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 12th December.

**Jordan Silver** who celebrated his 101st birthday on 7th January.

**Jim 'Jimbo' Booth** who celebrated his 101st birthday on 23rd January.

#### Anniversaries:

##### Diamond and Gold (75th):

**Ronald & Kathleen Spathaky** of Burwell, Cambs on 21st December.



**Platinum (70th):**

**Kenneth & Renee Spillman** of Brentwood, Essex on 1st December.  
**William & Hazel Whatling** of Halesworth, Essex on 30th December.  
**Cyril & Doreen Cornbill** of Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex on 30th December.  
**Hilary & Joyce Jackson** of Darlington, County Durham on 20th January.

**Blue Sapphire (65th):**

**John & Kit Milton** of Beckton, East London on 25th December.  
**William & Dorli Pullin** of Helston, Cornwall on 2nd January.  
**Vernon & Joy Cocks** of Carnforth, Lancashire on 31st January.

**Diamond (60th):**

**Angus & Pearl Ferguson** of Skipton, North Yorkshire on 15th December.  
**John & Gladys Johnson** of Liverpool on 18th December.  
**Jack & Janet Pulfer** of North Walsham, Norfolk on 27th December.  
**Ronald & Irene Skidmore** of Doncaster, South Yorkshire on 27th December.  
**Joe & Rita Cruickshank** of Earswick, York on 3rd January.

**Golden (50th):**

**Bob & Margaret Waller** of Preston, Lancashire on 1st December.

**Ruby (40th):**

**Raymond & Dell Beer** of Crawley, West Sussex on 30th December.  
**David & Anne Bell** of Nelson, Lancashire on 27th January.

**Pearl (30th):**

**Mark & Diane Pilbeam** of Nuneaton, Warwickshire on 4th December.  
**John & Pamela Baker** of Gosport, Hampshire on 10th December.

**We regret to announce the death of:**

**Lawrence Ashe** who died on 2nd November 2012. He was an overseas affiliate.

**Mary Barnes** who died on 4th June 2012. She was the wife of William Barnes.

**Gladys Betteridge** who died on 2nd December 2012. She was the widow of the late George Betteridge.

**Ena Fettel** who died on 30th December 2012. She was the widow of the late

Constantine Fettel.

**Elizabeth Hingston** who died on 10th December 2012. She was the widow of the late Walter Hingston.

**Betty Hopkins** who died on 21st December 2012. She was the widow of the late Bryan Hopkins.

**Richard Jackson** who died on 31st December 2012. He was the husband of Nancy Jackson.

**Anne Jacobs MBE** who died on 1st December 2009. She was the wife of Sydney Jacobs.

**Eunice Johnson** who died on 1st January 2013. She was the widow of the late Ernest Johnson.

**Hilda Kerfoot** who died on 1st October 2012. She was the wife of Henry Kerfoot.

**Ann Lynch** who died on 29th November 2012. She was an overseas affiliate.

**Audrey Maxwell** who died on 29th December. She was the wife of John Maxwell.

**Diana Palmer** who died on 5th December 2012. She was the wife of Alec Palmer.

**Gladys Powell** who died on 23rd December 2012. She was the wife of George Powell.

**Peggy Ripley** who died on 11th December 2012. She was the widow of the late Frederick Ripley.

**Ellen 'Helen' Sandiford** who died on 17th December 2012. She was the wife of Alfred Sandiford.

**Evelyn 'Jo' Smith** who died on 24th November 2012. She was the wife of Ronald Smith.



**Emily 'Emma' Stevens** who died on 27th December 2012. She was the wife of Sydney Stevens.

**Joyce 'Di' Stewart** who died on 16th July 2012. She was the wife of Robert Stewart.

**Hope Turner** who died on 25th December 2012. She was the widow of the late Ivor Turner.

**Mavis Ward** who died on 6th January 2013. She was the wife of Herbert Ward.

**We offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, widowers, family and friends.**

# Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

**Roy Almond** of Bradford, West Yorkshire Served in the Royal Artillery and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) from 1942 to 1946.

**Timothy Alwen** of Dartford, Kent Served in the Royal Army Medical Corp from 1953 to 1955.

**Harold Baker** of High Wycombe, Bucks Served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

**Beatrice Banks** of Burnley, Lancashire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

**Ewart Barratt** of Bampton, Oxfordshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**Derek Batt** of Hemel Hempstead, Herts Served in the Army Catering Corps from 1977 to 1983.

**Robert Beck** of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1958 to 1961.

**Peggy Bennett** of Winchester, Hampshire Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1958.

**Raymond Bentley** of Cambridge Served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956.

**Margaret Blaber** of Lewes, East Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Geoffrey Bray** of Royston, Hertfordshire Served in the Home Guard from 1940 to 1945.

**Joan Braybrooke** of Alderley Edge, Cheshire Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1955 to 1958.

**Bryce Campbell** of Edinburgh Served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1951 to 1952.

**Beryl Carroll** of Oxted, Surrey Served in the Voluntary Aid Detachment from 1943 to 1946.

**Thelma Charlton** of Pinner, Middlesex Served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

**Donald Clark** of Filey, North Yorkshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Brian Clements** of Exeter Served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1968.

**Herbert Cole** of Abingdon, Oxfordshire Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1945 to 1948.

**Gilbert Connolly** of Liverpool Served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1970 to 1998.

**David Cox** of Sevenoaks, Kent Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1955 to 1957.



**George Coxon** of Hassocks, West Sussex Served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1946.

**Leslie Day** of Basildon, Essex Served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1953.

**Peter Dixey** of Greenford Served in the Army Catering Corps from 1950 to 1956.

**Joseph 'Joe' Dickson** of Alva, Clackmannanshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

**Leslie Eastwood** of Ilford, Essex Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Norman Edwards** of Pontypool, Gwent Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945.

**Lynette 'Lindy' Elliott** of Warminster, Wiltshire Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1965 to 1969.

**Reginald Ellison** of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands Served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1946.

**John English** of Bristol Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1946 to 1957.

**Glyndwr 'Glyn' Evans** of Wellington, Somerset Served in the Royal Tank Regiment (Royal Armoured Corps) from 1940 to 1946.

**Margaret Forrest** of Alnwick, Northumberland Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1948.

**Douglas Francis** of Newhaven, East Sussex Served in the Queen's Regiment, the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) and the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1955.

**Eric Freeman** of Lancing, West Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Reginald Fry** of Edenbridge, Kent Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Douglas Goodyear** of Felixstowe, Suffolk Served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

**Donald Grice** of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd Served in the Royal Marines from 1942 to 1946.

**Michael Griffith** of Birmingham Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1945 to 1948.

**George Guest** of Leigh on Sea, Essex Served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

**John Harrison** of Redcar, Cleveland Served in the Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) from 1952 to 1958.

**Kenneth Hawley** of Birmingham Served in the Royal Artillery from 1966 to 1976.

**Herbert Hill** of Accrington, Lancashire Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1946 to 1947.

**Kenneth Hill** of Dudley, West Midlands Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

**James Hood** of Edinburgh Served in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders from 1954 to 1957.

**Edward Howell** of Heathfield, East Sussex Served in the Royal Artillery from 1938 to 1939.

**Edith 'Molly' King** of Hove, East Sussex Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**William Kitts** of Falmouth, Cornwall Served in the Royal Engineers, the Light Infantry and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1960 to 1985.



**Godfrey Jones** of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1950.

**Leonard Jury** of Tavistock, Devon Served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1936 to 1940.

**James Kirkup** of Consett, County Durham Served in the Royal Navy from 1954 to 1956.

**Audrey Leckenby** of Ipswich Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

**Alfred Llewellyn** of Bexleyheath, Kent Served in the Royal Engineers from 1946 to 1948.

**George Lumley** of Stockton on Tees Served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Spencer 'Allen' Meakin** of Chesterfield, Derbyshire Served in the Royal Army Dental Corps from 1957 to 1963.

**Raymond Melough** of Brighton, East Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Leonard Misselbrook** of Hornchurch, Essex Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**Wilfred Morgan** of Kidlington, Oxfordshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Dervish Niazi** of Enfield, Middlesex Served in the Cyprus Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

**Elizabeth 'Elaine' Orchard** of Exeter Served in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps from 1941 to 1946.

**Alan Page** of Rotherham, South Yorkshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

**Thomas Parke** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1945.

**Karl Parkinson** of Cwmbran, Gwent Served in the King's Regiment and the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1995 to 2002.

**Alan Parr** of Ormskirk, Lancashire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1960 to 1962.

**Betty Peach** of Glasgow Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

**Arnold Pinder** of Sheffield Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1944 to 1948.

**William Prime** of Chichester, West Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

**Kenneth Quine** of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1969.

**Paul Ruffy** of Lowestoft, Suffolk Served in the Royal Navy from 1983 to 1990.

**Richard St Clair** of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex Served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1946.

**Frederick Saul** of Manningtree, Essex Served in the East Surrey Regiment, the Royal Army Service Corps and the Corps of Royal Military Police from 1948 to 1950.

**Michael Scanlan** of Beverley, Humberside Served in the Coldstream Guards from 1974 to 1993.

**Gordon Sherwen** of Hyde, Cheshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

**Ronald Skinner** of Beccles, Suffolk Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Irene Smith** of Bexhill on Sea Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1947 to 1948.



**Charles Spencer** of Sevenoaks, Kent Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Brian Stockdale** of Hull Served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1952 to 1955.

**Harold Swift** of Leeds, West Yorkshire Served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards from 1942 to 1947.

**Francis 'Frank' Timlett** of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Joan Tucker** of Hornsea, North Humberside Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Arthur Walker** of Abergele Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1947.

**Peter Warlow** of Taverham, Norwich Served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1948.

**Edward Widginton** of High Wycombe, Bucks Served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1946.

**Nigel Winchester** of Liverpool Served in the Royal Signals from 1959 to 1965.

**Alice 'May' Wood** of Oswestry, Shropshire Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1946.

**Peter Woolls** of Stutton, Ipswich Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**John Wright** of Ivybridge, Devon Served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1955 to 1960.

**Vernon Wrigley** of Kendal, Cumbria Served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1952 to 1958.

**George Young** of Leeds Served in the Royal Marines from 1942 to 1946.

# 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, family and friends.**

## **William 'Bill' Anderson, Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment**

William 'Bill' Anderson of Romford, Essex died on 27th December 2012, aged 92. He joined the Black Watch in 1941. He Served in Tunisia and Italy, following a gunshot wound in his arm at Monte Cassino he was medically discharged in 1945.

## **Richard 'Gordon' Aston, Royal Air Force**

Richard 'Gordon' Aston of Buckingham, Bucks died on 5th December 2012, aged 89. From 1943 to 1947 he Served in the RAF in the UK and France as an Air Gunner, flying in Wellington, Anson and Mitchell Bombers. He was discharged as a Warrant Officer.

## **Arthur 'Ralph' Atkinson, Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Arthur 'Ralph' Atkinson died on 29th November 2012, aged 92. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and was commissioned in the REME on its creation in October 1942. He Served in North Africa and Italy before discharge as a Captain in 1946.

## **Raymond Bedford, Coldstream Guards**

Raymond Bedford of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 16th November 2012, aged 83. He joined the Coldstream Guards in 1947, Serving in Libya, Egypt, Palestine, Cyprus and Malta. He completed his full time Service in 1953 and Colours Service in 1959.

## **Jack Blane, Royal Army Medical Corps, British Expeditionary Force**

Jack Blane of Bedford, Beds died on 8th December 2012, aged 94. Joining the RAMC in 1939 he went to France and Belgium with the BEF and was evacuated from Dunkirk in June 1940. He was later posted to Beirut and Egypt. He fought in North Africa with the 8th Army, pausing in Malta before the Sicily and Italy invasions. He returned to England and landed at Normandy two days after D-Day. He was discharged in 1946 as a Lance Corporal.



**Robert Booth, General Service Corps, Green Howards, North Staffordshire Regiment (the Prince of Wales's), South Staffordshire Regiment, Sherwood Foresters**

Robert Booth of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 30th November 2012, aged 87. He joined the General Service Corps in 1944, transferring to the Green Howards. He later joined the Sherwood Foresters and was posted to India, visiting Bombay, Agra, Ranchi and Calcutta. He transferred to the North Staffs in 1946 and the South Staffs in 1947. He was demobilised in 1947.

**Victor Bratt, Royal Artillery, British Expeditionary Force**

Victor Bratt of Ulverston, Cumbria died on 8th January 2013, aged 93. He Served with the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946 and with the 56 A/T Regiment attached to the 51st Highland Division he went to France with the BEF. He was evacuated from Dunkirk. He was subsequently posted to India and Burma for four years and reached Rangoon. He was discharged as a Sergeant.

**Oswald Brown, Royal Engineers**

Oswald Brown of Exeter died on 15th December 2012, aged 82. From 1948 to 1950 he Served in the Royal Engineers as a General Field Engineer. He was discharged as a Sapper in 1950.

**Thomas 'Tom' Christie, Royal Army Medical Corps, Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-Shire Buffs the Duke of Albany), Corps of Military Police**

Thomas 'Tom' Christie of Leeds, West Yorks died on 3rd December 2012, aged 102. He joined the RAMC in 1935 and transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders after seven months. A year later, he transferred to the Corps of Military Police. He Served in the UK and the Middle East, in particular in Palestine, Algeria and Libya, leaving as a Lance Corporal in 1946.

**Joseph 'Joe' Davies, Royal Artillery, British Expeditionary Force**

Joseph 'Joe' Davies of Blackpool, Lancs died on 11th December 2012, aged 100. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1931. Deployed to France with the BEF, he was injured by gunshot in Belgium. In a French hospital he was treated for injuries to his right wrist, shoulder and back. His left leg was amputated below the knee. He was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1941.

**Audrey Denney, Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Audrey Denney of Kendal, Cumbria died on 31st July 2012, aged 88. She joined

the ATS and trained at Lancaster. She served in Western Command at 17 different camps, finishing at Welwyn Garden City. She was discharged in 1944.

**Robert Dixey, Fleet Air Arm**

Robert Dixey of Didcot, Oxfordshire died on 10th December 2012, aged 81. He joined the Royal Navy in 1949, specialising in Air Gunnery and Ordnance and Served in the aircraft carriers HMS Illustrious, HMS Daedalus, HMS Heron, HMS Triumph and HMS Bulwark. He served in Malta and the UK before discharge in 1959.

**Frederick 'Fred' Enstone, Royal Army Service Corps**

Frederick 'Fred' Enstone of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on 11th December 2012, aged 97. From 1941 he Served in the RASC, specialising as a training instructor. He was discharged in 1946 as a Warrant Officer Class II.

**Valerie Franklin, Women's Royal Air Force**

Valerie Franklin of Horley, Surrey died on 18th November 2012, aged 88. She joined the WRAF in 1943, specialising as a heavy truck driver in the south of England and Scotland. She was discharged as a Leading Aircraftwoman in 1946.

**Patricia 'Pat' Frost, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service**

Patricia 'Pat' Frost of Teignmouth, Devon died on 29th November 2012, aged 57. From 1973 to 1979 she Served as a nurse in the QARNNS in Royal Naval Hospitals in Plymouth, Malta and Chatham.

**Ronald Girling, Royal Air Force**

Ronald Girling of Cheltenham, Glos died on 10th December 2012, aged 88. He joined the RAF in 1942, qualifying as a navigator in Canada. On return to England he joined the Advanced Flying Unit and qualified as a night fighter navigator on Mosquitoes. He was posted to India and Ceylon before discharge in 1947 as a Flight Sergeant.

**Leslie Hammond, Royal Signals**

Leslie Hammond of Solihull, West Midlands died on 22nd November 2012, aged 82. From 1948 to 1950 he Served in the Royal Signals for National Service. He worked indirectly for MI5 as a Morse code operator. His unit was stationed in Austria at a listening post close to the Soviet border.



**John Hembury, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

John Hembury of Rowley Regis, West Midlands died on 29th November 2012, aged 80. He joined the REME for National Service in 1953 and Served in the UK as a Craftsman until discharge in 1955.

**Sheila Hennessey, Royal Air Force**

Sheila Hennessey of Blackpool, Lancs died on 5th November 2012, aged 88. She joined the RAF in 1942 and served at RAF Cardington before being posted to a balloon site in London. She later qualified as a Flight Mechanic. She was then posted to Berlin for three years before discharge in 1950.

**Eric Horrocks, General Service Corps and Royal Artillery**

Eric Horrocks of Poulton Le Fylde, Lancs died on 20th December 2012, aged 88. He transferred into the Royal Artillery in 1943 and initially Served in the UK. He landed on D-Day and went through France, Belgium and Holland, finishing in Hamburg, Germany. He was discharged as a Gunner in 1947.

**Arthur Howes, Royal Air Force**

Arthur Howes of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex died on 14th November 2012, aged 89. From 1942 he Served in the UK and India before discharge in 1945 as an Aircraftman 1st Class.

**Herbert 'Bert' Jenkins, Royal Ulster Rifles, King's African Rifles**

Herbert 'Bert' Jenkins of Newhaven, East Sussex died on 10th December 2012, aged 95. He joined the London Irish Rifles (TA) in 1938, becoming a regular in 1939. He spoke Swahili and Served in Africa with the Kings African Rifles in Kenya & Malawi. He also Served in Burma, India and Ceylon before discharge in 1959.

**Cecil 'Jim' Johnson, Royal Air Force**

Cecil 'Jim' Johnson of Brigg, South Humberside died on 25th November 2012, aged 88. He joined the RAF in 1942 and was an Air Gunner in Lancaster, Halifax and Sterling Bombers. Based at RAF Grimsby he successfully completed 31 operations. He later moved to India in the stores department and was based in Lahore. He was demobilised as a Sergeant in 1947.

**Henry Kerfoot, Royal Artillery and Royal Army Service Corps**

Henry Kerfoot of Chorley, Lancs died on 5th January 2013, aged 93. He initially

Served in the UK before joining the RASC. He took part in the D-Day Landings, moving through France to Holland. He was discharged in 1947 as a Lance Corporal.

**Wesley Kilpin, Royal Air Force**

Wesley Kilpin of Southampton, Hants died on 23rd December 2012, aged 89. He Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

**Helen Lake, Women's Auxiliary Air Force**

Helen Lake of Arundel, West Sussex died on 4th December 2012, aged 90. From 1942 until 1944 she Served in the WAAF. Specialising as a staff car driver with 4MT Company, she drove for the Air Ministry in London and combined operations personnel.

**Alan 'Ned' Larkin, General Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps**

Alan 'Ned' Larkin of Horsham, West Sussex died on 1st December 2012, aged 83. He joined the General Service Corps in 1947 for National Service and was transferred to the RASC a month later. He contracted river blindness whilst Serving in the Korean War. He was discharged in 1952 as a driver.

**Thomas Latham MM, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Thomas Latham MM of Billingham, Cleveland died on 15th December 2012, aged 92. He joined the RAOC in 1940 and joined the 1st/7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, a machine gun battalion. Seconded to the Black Watch he Served in the Western Desert. He took part in the invasion of Sicily and Italy. Later deployed on D+2, landing at Sword Beach, he was wounded on 8th August. He was awarded the Military Medal at Chateau Breville before discharge as a Private in 1945.

**David Lester-George, Coldstream Guards**

David Lester-George of Wymondham, Norfolk died on 30th November 2012, aged 71. He Served in the Coldstream Guards from 1960 to 1966, in the UK, East Africa, South America, Germany and the Middle East, leaving as a Guardsman in 1966.

**Olive 'Medora' Heseltine, Women's Royal Naval Service**

Olive 'Medora' Heseltine of Romsey, Hants died on 17th November 2012, aged 97. From 1941 to 1945 she Served in the Wrens, as a Duty Commander's writer,



based in the UK, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar and Bombay. She was discharged as a Third Officer.

**Albert 'Bert' Ottewill, Royal Army Service Corps**

Albert 'Bert' Ottewill of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 19th December 2012, aged 97. He joined the Army in 1940 and was posted to Northern Ireland for a brief period as an Artificer Class 1. He later posted to Sri Lanka and subsequently Sierra Leone with the West African Frontier Force. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

**Margaret Peacock, Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Margaret Peacock of Attleborough, Norfolk died on 12th December 2012, aged 88. From 1946 to 1948 she served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a NAAFI manager in Palestine and Egypt at an Army Transit Camp.

**Stanley Reed, Royal Air Force**

Stanley Reed of Newcastle upon Tyne died on 13th December 2012, aged 87. He joined the RAF in 1943. He was posted to Johannesburg in 1944, returned to the UK and was discharged in 1947.

**Polivios 'Paul' Shioleftou, Royal Navy**

Polivios 'Paul' Shioleftou of Sutton, Surrey died on 15th December 2012, aged 86. From 1942 to 1945 he served in the Royal Navy as a Steward, serving in Cyprus and Haifa, Egypt and Ismailia.

**Walter Routledge, General Service Corps and Royal Engineers**

Walter Routledge of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 13th December 2012, aged 89. He served in the Royal Engineers, initially in Algiers and later took part in D-Day, landing at Juno beach. A crane driver, he served in France and Holland, working on the allied docks. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1947.

**George Rushmore, Royal Army Service Corps**

George Rushmore of Reigate, Surrey died on 16th December 2012, aged 100. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and was commissioned in 1942, joining the Royal Army Service Corps. He served in the Middle East, Tripoli, and Egypt before discharge as a Major in March 1946.

**Timothy Ryan, Royal Artillery**

Timothy Ryan of Liverpool died on 2nd December 2012, aged 94. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and was attached to an anti aircraft battery. He was deployed to Egypt and then to Tobruk, wounded and made a prisoner of war. He was transferred to a hospital in Italy and was later sent to Germany. He was medically discharged in 1945.

**Keith Seaward, Royal Air Force**

Keith Seaward of Seaton, Devon died on 22nd December 2012, aged 91. He joined the RAF in 1940 and served as a pilot until 1945. He trained on Tiger Moths and served in Canada, where he flew a Stinson. In America he flew a Kingfisher and a Catalina. On return to the UK he became second pilot on a Sunderland Flying Boat and was involved with North Atlantic Convoy Escort. He transferred to Nigeria and was based in Lagos protecting convoys from South Africa.

**Frank Sewell, Royal Navy**

Frank Sewell of Gillingham, Kent died on 26th August 2012, aged 93. From 1934 he served across the globe in the Royal Navy, notably in the Pacific and Mediterranean. He briefly served on HMS Hood and possibly on every vessel type from MTB to battleships before discharge as a Chief Electrician in 1959.

**Allen Shorter, Royal Air Force**

Allen Shorter of Brighton, East Sussex died on 24th December 2012, aged 87. He joined the RAF in 1943, specialising as a radar technician. He served in the UK and India in Bombay, Poona, Karachi, Calcutta and Bengal before discharge as a Leading Aircraftman in 1947.

**Roy Smith, General Service Corps, Royal Armoured Corps, Reconnaissance Corps**

Roy Smith of Woodthorpe, Nottingham died on 9th November 2012, aged 88. In 1942 following a month's training with the General Service Corps he joined the RAC. Later transferring to the Reconnaissance Corps. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1947.

**Gordon Slater, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, Royal Military Police**

Gordon Slater of Luton, Beds died on 5th December 2012, aged 91. From 1945



to 1948 he Served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment as a Lance Corporal. He was posted to India where he transferred to the Royal Military Police, before being posted to Palestine.

**Frank Staton General Service Corps, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Corps of Military Police**

Frank Staton of Bridlington, North Humberside died on 6th October 2012, aged 87. He joined the General Service Corps in 1943 and after two months transferred to the Cameronians. He was deployed to France just after D-Day and moved through to the Kiel Canal area in Germany. He then Served with the Corps of Military Police from 1945 to 1947, until discharged as a Lance Corporal.

**Stanley Stone, Royal Navy**

Stanley Stone of Potters Bar, Herts died on 6th January 2013, aged 91. A Royal Navy Volunteer he was mobilised in August 1939. He served on HMS Achates and HMS Warspite, earning the Pacific Star, Italy Star, Atlantic Star and Africa Star. He also Served in the Arctic Convoys and received the Malta Medal.

**William 'Tony' Stone, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Artillery**

William 'Tony' Stone of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 20th December 2012, aged 78. He completed his National Service in the RAMC from 1952 to 1954. He enjoyed the Army so transferred to the Royal Artillery (TA) and was attached to the Parachute Regiment in Germany. He completed his TA Service in 1958.

**Benjamin Temple, Royal Signals**

Benjamin Temple of Peterhead, Aberdeenshire died on 27th December 2012, aged 91. He Served in the Royal Signals with the 21st Army Group Signals from 1941 to 1945. He was wounded in action in Germany in a mine explosion on 16th March 1945. He was transferred to our ward at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and later to Church Stretton. He trained as a Physiotherapist.

**David Thomas, Merchant Navy**

David Thomas of Pontardawe, Swansea died on 27th December 2012, aged 88. From 1941 he Served in the Merchant Navy as a radio operator. He served in the Atlantic and Pacific theatres in various ships including the Lucellum, Bury and Beresford. He received a letter of commendation from the Director of Marconi International in 1945, prompted by a letter from Admiral Sir Max Horton, Commander in Chief for the Western Approaches for the excellent

work done by Merchant Navy radio operators during the battle of the Atlantic. He was discharged in 1945.

**Frederick Thomas, Royal Artillery and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

Frederick Thomas of Swindon, Wiltshire died on 5th December 2012, aged 96. He Served in the Royal Artillery from 1932 as part of the 220 Battery and 112 Field Regiment in the 43rd Wessex Division. He landed in France on D+6 and moved through France to Belgium, Holland and Germany. In 1946 he transferred to the REME, Serving until 1956, leaving as a Company Sergeant Major.

**George Thompson, Royal Navy**

George Thompson of Buxton, Derbyshire died on 27th December 2012, aged 94. From 1940 he Served in the Royal Navy in 1940 and became a Signaller. He Served onboard Clan Fraser, bound for Malta where he remained for a few years. He then joined the minesweeper HMS Eddy and having been blown up he joined a new Motor Launch base. He was later involved in the invasion of Sicily, Salerno and Normandy on HMS Hillary, a Headquarters landing ship. He later joined the frigate HMS Loch Tarbet on anti-submarine duty before spending time in Ceylon, Malaysia and Java. He was discharged in 1946 as a Yeoman of Signals.

**William 'Bill' Tomson, Royal Hampshire Regiment**

William 'Bill' Tomson of Crawley, West Sussex died on 17th December 2012, aged 95. He joined the Hampshire Regiment in 1936. He went to Palestine, where he was deafened in an incident, then to India in 1937. In 1938 he went to Sudan and was abroad throughout the war. He joined Lt/Col Young's Army and fought at Maleme, Crete, where he was captured. He was sent to a German PoW camp and escaped. He was subsequently recaptured and went on to study agriculture in another camp. He was discharged in 1946 as a Lance Sergeant.

**Morgan Truscott, Royal Air Force**

Morgan Truscott of Lingfield Crescent, South East London died on 9th December 2012, aged 91. From 1941 he Served in the RAF as an aircraft electrician. He was posted to 209 Squadron, a Catalina Flying Boat Unit and subsequently to Mombasa, East Africa. He was sent on a variety of



detachments to cover the submarine threat in the Indian Ocean. He completed his Service in 1946, leaving as a Leading Aircraftman.

**Arthur Vardy, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

Arthur Vardy of Barnsley, South Yorks died on 25th November 2012, aged 86. He joined the RAOC, completing his basic training with the Green Howards. He Served in the UK and Germany. Injured in Germany he was medically discharged in 1947.

**Thomas 'Tom' Weaver, Royal Navy, Fleet Air Arm**

Thomas 'Tom' Weaver of Brentwood, Essex died on 23rd November 2012, aged 90. From 1942 he Served in the Royal Navy, Serving in various ships as a Supply Assistant. He transferred to the Fleet Air Arm Serving in Europe and the Far East. He was discharged in 1946.

**John Whitney, Fleet Air Arm**

John Whitney of Huntingdon, Cambs died on 2nd January 2013, aged 88. From 1942 he Served in the Fleet Air Arm. He Served on HMS Stalker in the Far East, Mediterranean and Indian Ocean. He was discharged in 1946 as an Aircraft Mechanic First Class.

**George Wilson, General Service Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**

George Wilson of Stoke on Trent, Staffs died on 7th December 2012, aged 86. He Served in the General Service Corps for a month, transferring to the REME and qualifying in tanks. He fought in Italy and Austria until the war ended and was discharged as a Sergeant in 1948.

**Kenneth 'Ken' Wilton, Royal Air Force**

Kenneth 'Ken' Wilton of Preston, Lancs died on 14th September 2012, aged 90. From 1941 to 1946 he Served in the RAF. Trained as a Fitter he was initially sent to Iceland for a year. He later took part in the Burma campaign with 113 (Spitfire) Squadron before discharge as a Leading Aircraftman.

**Stella Wynn, Auxiliary Territorial Service**

Stella Wynn of Shrewsbury died on 26th November 2012, aged 92. From 1943 she Served in the ATS as a driver in Lancaster, Cardiff and Wrexham. She was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1945.