

March 2013

Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



From the Chairman.

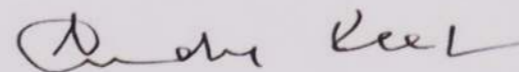
Your message from Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, RM.

We are now into our second year as Blind Veterans UK, and I often get asked, "What difference has changing the name made?" It's an interesting question, because the name change was really just a small part of a whole modernisation of our organisation's vision, values and mission.

With our brand change, we have signalled a new commitment to reach out and support many more blind veterans in the UK. We have shown courage in establishing our new brand and organisational ethos, accepting the need for change and modernisation. And we have shown great resourcefulness and collaboration in developing our organisation's new culture, to ensure more blind veterans can have access to the best possible support available.

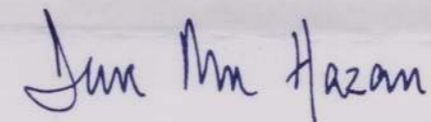
Crucially, the first year of our Blind Veterans UK brand was full of good news and impressive achievements. First and foremost, the number of our new members has increased by 28% - that's more than a quarter. Fundraising was also up by 12% in the first 10 months of our new brand. This is, of course, essential if we are to continue. But what has improved even more is the general public's awareness of and interest in the charity. Thanks to tremendous efforts by our Marketing and Communications team, a much, much greater proportion of the population is now in touch with us (especially via social media - that's Facebook, Twitter, etc for the uninitiated) and wanting to support us. And the range of options for them to give us their support is also much greater, and much more in tune with modern life.

So going back to the question "What difference has changing the name made?" Our new brand has really been a great success for our organisation and its vital work. I also suspect that, looking down on us as he doubtless is, while Sir Arthur Pearson's lip might have been curling just a tad a year or more ago, he is now fully relaxed and that genial smile of his is back on his face.



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

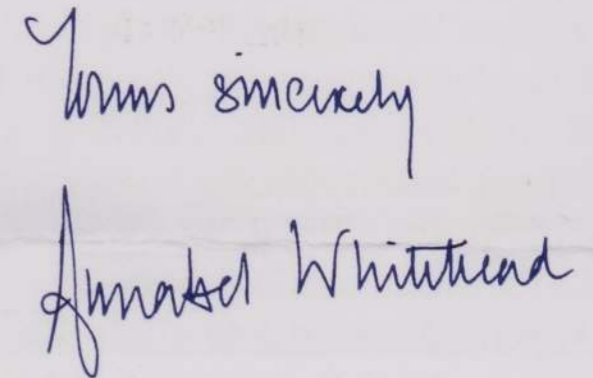
22nd January, 2013



The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your recent letter enclosing a copy of the Blind Veterans UK Review magazine, which has been produced to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

The Queen was very touched to read the articles submitted by your members and to be reminded of so many happy occasions.

Her Majesty sends her best wishes to everyone at Blind Veterans UK and I am to thank you for your continuing loyalty and support and, once again, for writing as you did.



Lady-in-Waiting

Mr R Hazan OBE

On the cover: Blind Veterans UK member Billy Drinkwater is shown training for the Virgin London Marathon 2013. Billy was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Anglian Regiment, Serving in the UK, Iraq and Afghanistan.



Mar 2013 | No 1033

Review

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Blind Veterans UK Calendar

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

Bowling Club (I) 10th - 23rd **B**
Beginners Photography Week 11th - 15th **S**
Amateur Radio Club 1st - 9th March **L**

April

Widows' Week 14th - 20th **B**
Snowdonia Experience 14th - 20th **L**
Sheffield holiday 15th - 19th **S**
Writers' Forum 20th **B**
Golfing 20th - 21st **B**
Ex-PoW Reunion 19th - 22nd **B**
Masonic Weekend 26th - 28th **B**

April continued

Holiday Week 15th - 19th **S**

May

History Week 6th - 11th **L**
Writers' Forum 18th **B**
Golfing 18th - 19th **B**
Archery Club (II) 24th - 3rd June **B**

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

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Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

Stamp Design Competition.

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists in London has asked members of Blind Veterans UK to design a stamp that can be used on the college's internal mail. They want to use the stamp on a printed card that will carry information about the college and its links with Blind Veterans UK.

This is an exciting opportunity to help with the design and we would like to invite you, our members, to enter a competition to come up with a suitable image.

The entries must be approximately A5 in size, that's 148mm x 210mm or 5.8 x 8.3 inches. Please do remember that the final stamp will be the size of a standard Royal Mail postage stamp.

Five images will be submitted to the college for their final selection. The images can be in any medium and can include tactile forms, but remember they will be photographed and reduced. You may like to think about something that relates to sight loss or Service in the Armed Forces.

The college also needs a short description about your design entry, with information on who it was produced by, and the background to the design.

The closing date is 28th March and all entries should be sent by post or email to Leigh Gibbins, marked Stamp Collection. The postal address is, Leigh Gibbins, Art & Craft Instructor, Blind Veterans UK, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 7BS. Please mark it Stamp Collection.

Alternatively you can email your design to:
leigh.gibbins@blindveterans.org.uk Please mark it Stamp Collection.

For further information call Leigh Gibbins on telephone: 01273 391466 or email: leigh.gibbins@blindveterans.org.uk

Enjoy concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall, in the comfort of the RNIB's box.

As a member of Blind Veterans UK, you are entitled to book to attend performances in the comfort of the RNIB's box at the Royal Albert Hall. If you wish to book for one or more of the performances set out below, please contact Michael Barbour of the RNIB Music Advisory Service, as he can advise you on prices and availability. You can contact Michael on Tuesdays and Fridays on telephone: 020 7391 2063 or email: royalalberthall@rnib.org.uk

RPO - Tchaikovsky Gala - Sunday 7th April at 3:30pm.

A tribute to the genius of Tchaikovsky, from the immortal Piano Concerto No 1 and Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture, to his most popular ballet score, The Nutcracker. Two great showpieces complete the programme – the powerful Marche Slave and the explosive 1812 Overture, accompanied by a sensational firework finale.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Freddy Kempf - piano; Barry Wordsworth - conductor.

Alfie Boe - Monday 8th April at 7:30pm.

Alfred Giovanni Roncalli Boe, known professionally as Alfie Boe, is an English tenor. In 2006 his album, Classic FM Presents Alfie Boe, reached number three in the UK classical chart. In 2010 Alfie took on the role of Jean Valjean, in a 25th Anniversary performance of the musical Les Miserables at the O2 Arena in London, and later at the Queen's Theatre, London.

In January 2011 he performed for English National Opera in La Bohème and The Mikado and in May went on to perform at the Classical BRIT Awards ceremony and then headlined the Hampton Court Palace Festival finale.

Mountbatten Festival of Music - Thursday 11th and Friday 12th April at 7:30pm.

The massed bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines play a wide variety of music, encompassing military marches and fanfares, a classical overture and music from stage and screen.

A Gala for St George - Sunday 21st April at 3pm.

Presented by Chris Hollins. Music to Include:

Holst - Jupiter The Planets, Excerpt from St Paul's Suite Walton - Crown Imperial
Adams - The Holy City
Elgar - Nimrod Enigma Variations
Handel - Zadok the Priest, See the Conquering Hero Comes
Suite from Music for the Royal Fireworks
Russell - A Life on the Ocean Wave
Plus readings from the unforgettable poems of Wordsworth and Betjeman

A host of English favourites including:

There'll Always Be an England, the theme music from the film Chariots of Fire, Rule Britannia!, We'll Meet Again and Land of Hope and Glory

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Royal Choral Society; Claire Moore - Soprano;
Anthony Inglis - Conductor.

Chris de Burgh - Wednesday 24th April at 7:30pm.

Chris de Burgh returns to the Royal Albert Hall in support of the release of his third new album in as many years, Footsteps 2.

Themed and club weeks for Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield.

Please contact the bookings office on 01273 391500 for holiday bookings or your Welfare Officer if you require care.

Activities Weeks.

Brighton: Please contact the Sports and Recreation department at Brighton on 01273 391465 or 01273 391467 with your enquiries.

Llandudno: Please contact the Sports and Recreation department at Llandudno via reception on 01492 868700 with your enquiries.

Sheffield: Please book in via the bookings office on 01273 391500.

Appeal to get in touch.

John Thompson, an ex Aircraft's apprentice who Served in the RAF from 1938 to 1966, leaving as a Chief Technician, would like anyone he Served with to contact him. He Served in the UK, Italy, Egypt and North Africa. His telephone number is: 01352 740776.

The Summer Camp at HMS Sultan, by Dave Burrows, Organising Secretary.

This year's summer camp at HMS Sultan will take place from 1400 Friday 2nd August to 1000 on Saturday 10th August. We are once again limited to 25 Blind Veterans UK members due to Service accommodation constraints.

Background

For many years members of Blind Veterans UK have assembled at Lee on the Solent, Hampshire for the annual Summer Camp sponsored by the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. From the late 1940s this was held at HMS Daedalus until the Establishment's closure in 1996, when we transferred to our present location. There has been a long association with members of the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew (FAAFGC) who acted as helpers (known affectionately as 'dogs'). They attended the camp on completion of the competition at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court. The FAAFGC Association continues to support the camp following the demise of the Royal Tournament in 1999.

Applications

We have endeavoured for many years to create a summer camp 'family' and to maintain that ethos and atmosphere we do have members who regularly participate. That said, I am very careful to ensure that some places are offered to new applicants each year. There are no boundaries with regard to age or physical ability but we do check with the Welfare Officers to ensure suitability.

Finance

The Summer Camp is funded through donations, fundraising by the FAAFGC Association and our local community. The campers are charged a nominal fee that goes towards insurance, transportation (visits during camp), catering and licences to use Service facilities. The committee has two Blind Veterans UK member representatives who are encouraged to voice the opinions and wishes of the campers in the planning of the event.

To recap, HMS Sultan Summer Camp in 2013, will take place from 1400 Friday 2nd August to 1000 on Saturday 10th August, applications are to be forwarded to Dave Burrows either by telephone on: 02392 550532, or by email at: dcb119399@aol.com or by post to: 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on the Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9AG.

The application list will close on 1st May and everyone will be informed if they have been successful or not. We look forward to receiving your applications and meeting up in August.

Someone who has been on the annual HMS Sultan Summer Camp for the last four years is Bill Goddon. Bill says why it's so great: "It's a good week away, but importantly it gives our spouses a break, as it's not easy living with someone with a vision impairment. Over a period of time it's draining. As I have problems with light, when I'm indoors I tend to walk around with the curtains and blinds closed. It's nice for one week a year for my wife to live a normal existence with them open and the lights on. It also gives me a break as I meet up with people I only see once or twice a year, at Sultan and at the Cenotaph for Remembrance weekend.

"There's a great bond between the campers and Dave Burrows organises so many great activities. I think gliding is the most exciting thing I've done. It's an incredible feeling when the cable drops away and it's total silence as you move through the air. Summer Camp has helped my confidence 100%. I've attended the Brighton centre since 2005 and that has also made me a more confident person. As my fellow members know all too well, when you can't see properly it knocks your confidence and life becomes very difficult. At the Brighton centre and HMS Sultan Summer Camp you meet people who are similarly placed. We tease one another when people walk into door frames. There's the usual banter that goes on between the Services. I still need to ask for assistance for certain things, but my confidence has grown and I'm a changed man. Thank you Blind Veterans UK and thank you Dave Burrows."



Picture: Bill Goddon prepares to take to the skies in a glider at Sultan.

Never Say Die, Matt Rhodes publishes his autobiography.

Never Say Die is an apt title for Matt's autobiography, as standing beside their son's bedside in a military hospital in Germany in 1995, Matt's parents watched as he was given the last rites. As Matt lay in a coma they said goodbye to their beloved son. What they didn't know was that Matt, who was then only 21, was struggling to wake from the coma, as he had no intention of letting go of the gift of life.

Following a tour of Bosnia in 1995, Matt had returned to his Regiment, the 1st Battalion the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in Paderborn, Germany, where he completed the Physical Training Instructor Grade 3 Course. It is one of Matt's final memories of that time, as shortly afterwards he was seriously injured in a motorbike accident a few days before his 21st birthday. In a coma for two months he awoke paralysed and to a world of darkness, but his fighting spirit shone through as Matt went on to rebuild his life.

Initially through his love of sport he learnt to walk again and although paralysed on one side of his upper body he swam in the Pier to Pier Challenge in Brighton and went on to complete marathons. With a very limited return of sight it was at the Brighton centre that he discovered his talent as an artist and went on to gain a number of high profile commissions. He met his wife Michelle and they live happily with their children in Preston, Lancashire.

Now you can read Matt's incredible autobiography, Never Say Die, which is available at website: www.sbpra.com/MatthewRhodes priced at \$15.95

Disabled Persons Railcard.

If you have a disability that makes travelling by train difficult you might qualify for the Disabled Persons Railcard. It allows you to get a third off most rail fares throughout Great Britain. If you're travelling with an adult companion they also get a third off their rail fare.

The Disabled Persons Railcard costs £20 for one year. If you use your Railcard for a £60 fare you'll save £20 on the journey. You need to give proof that you are eligible for a Railcard – this includes a copy of your Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI). To find out more go to website: www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk or telephone 0845 605 0525 between 7am to 10pm Monday to Sunday. Or minicom on 0845 601 0132.

Harry Beevers's 10 questions on the subject of Kings.

1. Which 20th century British King, the great great grandfather of Prince William and Prince Harry, had one of the world's finest collections of stamps?
2. Which famous operatic tenor was known as The King of the High Cs?
3. Who had a horse named Trigger and was known as The King of the Cowboys?
4. Published in 1998, King of the World was a biography of which American sportsman?
5. In a standard pack of playing cards, which red King carries an axe rather than a sword?
6. Which breed of dog is known as The King of Terriers?
7. The 1956 musical The King and I was a re-make of which less successful black and white film of 10 years earlier?
8. Which American beer has been hailed The King of Beers?
9. Which English cheese has been dubbed, The King of Cheeses?
10. In various dialects, Kings James I, George IV and George VI, along with Billy the Kid, Charlie Chaplin and John McEnroe could be described as Cuddy-wifted, Callywifted, Pallykookit, Gammy, Molly-Dukers or Corrie-flug. What do those expressions mean?

Answers on page 30.

Bush survival the fun way, by South African blind and handless veteran, Don Wessels.

A weekend in the South African bushveld with sounds of cicadas, singing masked weavers nesting in thorn trees and crickets buffeting the ear, is an extraordinary experience – and maybe especially so for a group of war blinded veterans.

During November 2012 my family and I joined a number of other war blinded veterans and board members and staff from the St Dunstan's Association for South African War Blinded Veterans for a weekend stay at the Kwalata Game Lodge, 50 miles north of Pretoria. The beautiful Kwalata Lodge (www.kwalata.co.za) is in the heart of the South African bushveld and the safari style wood and thatch chalets, the magnificent thatch domed dining hall and bars decorated with stuffed antelope heads, skins and wooden animal carvings enhance your truly African experience.

Congregating in the open air lapa we were treated to two stimulating presentations on snakes and birds with live animals to touch, or hear squawk or puff, as was the case with the somewhat animated puff-adder.

Kwalata managing director, Charl Pretorius, entertained us with a lively and witty talk on bush survival. He made it clear that water, rather than food, is vital when it comes to surviving in the bush. He showed us how one can effectively distil water using pieces of cactus in a bowl, covered with a thin sheet of cellophane. As the bowl was passed around, all of us, blind and sighted, were able to touch and taste the water underneath the cellophane and at the bottom of the bowl.

Charl also sent round cut discs from a cactus plant. By touching it with my stumps, I could easily feel the moisture and star shape of the cross-cut section to which Charl drew our attention. Thankfully the thorns were removed in advance! As another demonstration of how to obtain water, Charl distributed a thick, water bearing root – pieces of which the culinary brave amongst us could chew on.

With thirsts quenched, the next survival objective is to find food. In line with Charl's survival doctrine, slow moving food is the most energy efficient to catch. He subsequently presented us with crisply barbequed Mopani worms – salted and all!

As it happened, this African delicacy made the rounds just as I managed to spit out the last fibre remains of my root chewing experience. Thus, in goes a quarter inch of worm. The tangy, salty taste was palatable enough – it's probably more the sight and thought of eating a worm that dampens the appetite!

Well, I was still chewing the last bits of worm shell when my nostrils pick up the appetizing aroma of fried onions and tomatoes. Great was my surprise to learn that there were a number of juicy, fat Mopani worms in the dish to round it off bush style!

With hunger pains now also kept at bay, our survival guru stepped up on the evolutionary ladder and showed us how to make a spear in the style of the Flintstones. The one moment I was still feeling the sharp corners of a rock which was deposited in my lap, when whack, Charles chips off a chunk and slips it into the split end of a bamboo shaft. Next he takes up a stone and hammers the bark of a milk bush branch, peels off the bark and uses the bush rope to secure the spear point to the bamboo shaft — making it ready for the kill.

Charl was in tune enough with the sensory faculties of blind people to make us listen to the occasional popping sounds made by Mopani seeds exploding from their pods in the clump of Mopani trees underneath which we were sitting in the lapa. Also he had us touch and smell the aromatic aroma of a Khaki bush, a plant introduced to the South African bush via British horse feed during the Anglo Boer War.

With us all metaphorically well fed and watered, the last plant to do the rounds was Weeping Wattle leaves – velvet to the touch and therefore the bush substitute for toilet paper. This was followed by a chance to touch the horns, skulls and skins of several animals on display. In the background the red chested cuckoo was calling out its well known summer cry of "piet-my-vrou".

Don Wessels (44) is a blind and handless member of St Dunstan's in South Africa. In 1988 Don, then aged 19 and carrying the rank of Second Lieutenant in an anti-aircraft regiment, investigated a wreck of a booby trapped reconnaissance plane in Angola when he was injured. This unfortunate incident happened under the Apartheid regime, when all young white South African males were by law compelled to join the South African Defence Force for a period of two years.

Thirteen years after his accident, Don married Maatje, a beautiful farm girl from the Karroo. The Wessels family now includes three strapping sons aged 5, 3 and 2 and they live outside Cape Town in a house overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Don is an avid fisherman; he loves boating and has, as a blind person, climbed Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. He is also a keen cricket fan and follows the progress of the Proteas by listening to radio commentary mainly. Don also loves to keep abreast with the prowess of the England team. He follows all England test matches by regularly checking the score on the internet and after each days play he listens to a BBC podcast where Jonathan Agnew and Geoffrey Boycott describe the days play with their usual wit and professional insight.

Don is also a part time motivational speaker (www.donwessels.co.za). Drawing from his life experience, Don inspires his audiences to enjoy life through topics such as 'Keys to abundant life' and 'Living a balanced life'.

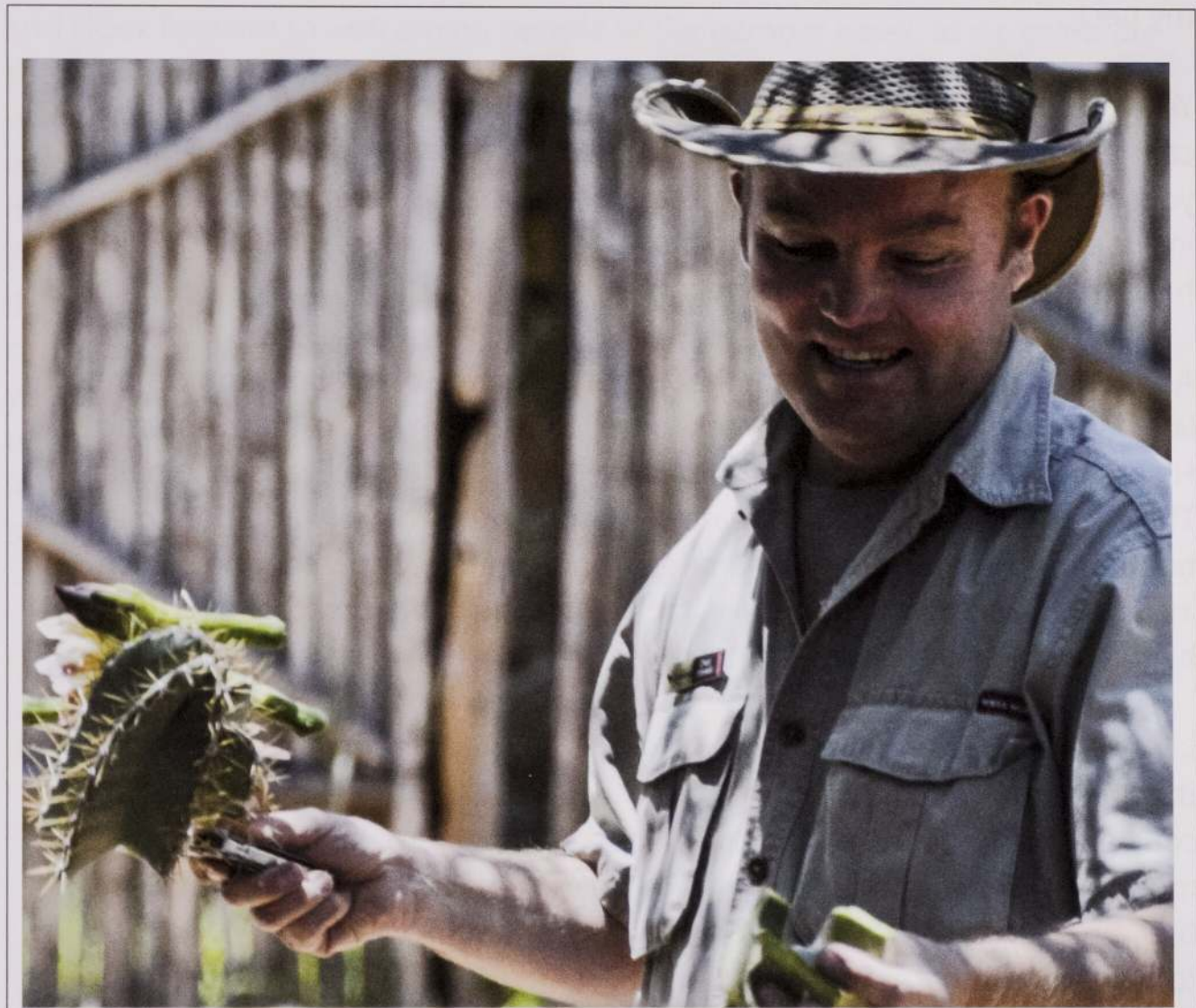
For Don to be able to independently operate his computer, a unique and one-in-the-world keyboard was designed and built for him. Working on this extra large keyboard, Don uses his stumps to hit the inch size keys, while simultaneously using his feet to activate any of five foot pedals. These foot pedals toggle between the multi-functions of the keys, thus bringing down the amount of keys needed on his large keyboard. The computer is also equipped with voice synthesiser software.

Don visited Blind Veterans UK in 1992. The aim was to meet blind and handless WWII veterans and learn firsthand how they overcame the unique challenges of a double disability. In the process he gained valuable practical and psychological insight.

With his visit, Don brought with him from South Africa, as a gift to the Ian Fraser House at the Brighton centre, a newly nurtured rose plant. Visitors to the Brighton centre are encouraged to go and have a look at this beautiful yellow flowering rose in the memorial garden where it has been maturing for two decades. The rose bush, a Johannesburg Sun, is easily identified as it is marked with the engraved caption: "To commemorate the visit of Don Wessels in 1992".

For Don this rose symbolises the sunshine, joy and peace waiting to bud and blossom from the hearts of everyone, no matter what adversity we face.

To quote Ernest Hemingway: "They say the seeds of what we will do are in all of us, but it always seemed to me that in those who make jokes in life the seeds are covered with better soil and with a higher grade of manure."



Picture: Charl Pretorius tells how to use a cactus plant for the distillation of water.

Enjoy some pampering, as you celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Brighton centre, by Catherine Goodier.

It is widely acknowledged that third party endorsement is the best form of praise, so please allow me to publicly endorse the skills of Holistic Therapist, Iain Millard. Those of you who have been to the Brighton centre will know that Iain, who is a member of Blind Veterans UK, runs a clinic there. I heard so many people sing his praises that I felt it necessary to investigate — for official Review business of course. I booked in for reflexology, which was wonderfully relaxing, but an unexpected bonus was that Iain corrected a long standing problem with my neck.

You too can book an appointment with Iain when you are at the Brighton centre. Bookings are made via the lounge desk and you will need to pay for your treatments in advance at the cashier's office. His repertoire of treatments include sports massage, Swedish massage, back massage, reflexology, Indian head massage and hopi ear candling.

And there's more. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Brighton centre, Iain has organised a pamper week to take place from 8th to 15th September. He has invited fellow therapists Veronica Payne and Anna Evans to join him. Their mission is to deliver 75 treatments during the week. In addition to Iain's treatments there will be other limited opportunities for pampering, which include manicures and pedicures, facial massage and aromatherapy. Resident hairdresser Mandy Bussley will be on hand to offer a set and cut and blowdry.

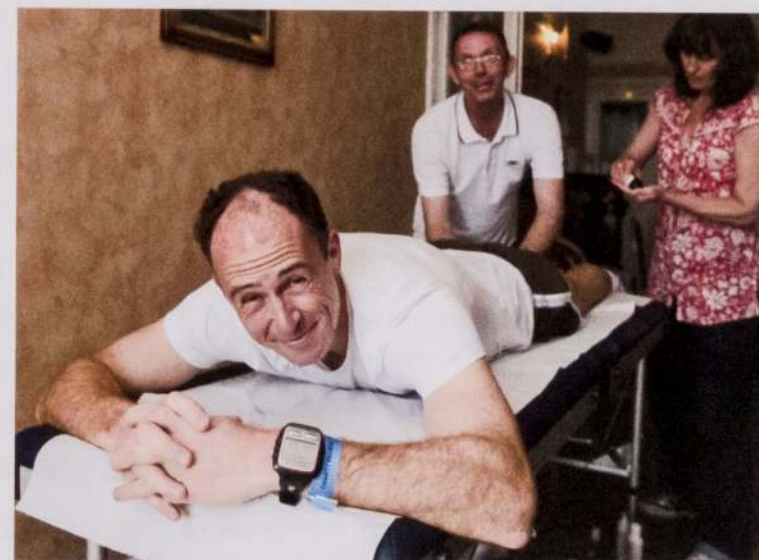
Iain Millard said: "I wanted to do something to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Brighton centre and this seemed the perfect thing - 75 treatments over the course of a pamper week. We all love to be pampered, don't we? And if we do more than 75 treatments that will be a real bonus! The therapists are all giving their time for free and members who book in for the week will pay just £25 on top of their normal accommodation fee, which will go to Blind Veterans UK. I'm also hoping that my fellow members Kerry Reed, Steve Parnell and Chris Francis, who are all holistic therapists, will join me that week."

Any local members or staff who wish to have a treatment during this week can book one for a nominal fee of £5 per treatment.

Iain said: "When my eyesight failed in 1990 and I was forced to leave the RAF after 14 years of Service, I didn't know what to do with myself. After initial training at the Brighton centre and inspired by my fellow members and instructors, I decided to train as a holistic therapist. I initially trained at Brighton City College and graduated with a level three diploma in reflexology. I then went on to gain a diploma in anatomy and physiology and now have a level four diploma in sports massage and diplomas in body massage, Swedish massage, advanced reflexology, Indian head massage and hopi ear candling. Of course I have to regularly attend courses to update my skills.

"The clinic at the Brighton centre has kept me very busy for the last eight years and I look forward to welcoming people to the pamper week, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary. It's quite incredible to think of the number of people whose lives have been transformed within the walls of the centre. I know mine was. Today my philosophy is, 'The only thing standing between you and your dreams is you'."

If you're unsure about the pampering week you can phone Iain for a telephone consultation. Or contact him for a consultation form, which you can fill in before you travel to the centre. If you have any medical problems and are unsure if the treatments are suitable for you, please consult your GP beforehand. To book in for the pamper week please contact the bookings office on telephone: 01273 391500 or email: ovingdeanbookings@blindveterans.org.uk



Picture: Iain Millard and Veronica Payne massage a weary, but smiling runner, after the Brighton marathon.

Our wonderful Virgin London Marathon runners, by Catherine Goodier.

Since joining Blind Veterans UK in 2007, David Cranson has lived by the three As. David's three As are: Attitude, Accept and Achieve. They have served him well, as he changed his attitude to believe that he could achieve and after many years of denial he accepted his loss of vision. The end result — success. In particular, David is proud to have mastered the computer and to take part in sporting events, for, and with, Blind Veterans UK.

It wasn't easy, in fact it took years of dogged determination on David's part, but with training at the Sheffield centre and support from his fellow members, he mastered the computer and now uses it daily.

Sport now plays a large part in David's life thanks to the staff in the Sports and Recreation department at Brighton and on Sunday 21st April he will compete in his first marathon, as he takes part in the Virgin London Marathon.

David has previously competed in the London to Brighton bike ride, the London triathlon, the Great South Run, the Dorking Sportive cycle ride and the 60 mile Hove to Hove circular cycle ride. Quite an achievement for someone, who, until 2008, hadn't ridden a bike since they were 16, run since 1987 or swam for 25 years.

Thankfully I managed to keep David still for long enough to find out more about him.

Sitting in his chair, David said: "I have to be honest and say that it took me a while to adjust when I first came to Blind Veterans UK. I thought my life was over and that I would never again achieve anything. I was in a very dark place, as I hadn't accepted my loss of vision and my life had fallen apart. I was a very different person from the man I am today. Now I'm fulfilled; then I had nothing.

"Things started to change when I did the induction course at the Sheffield centre in 2007, although I was still in a negative mind set when I arrived. I did the IT course, but I had it in my head that I wouldn't be able to use a computer. Gaye Atkins and her team there are first class and they encouraged me to persevere. So I did.

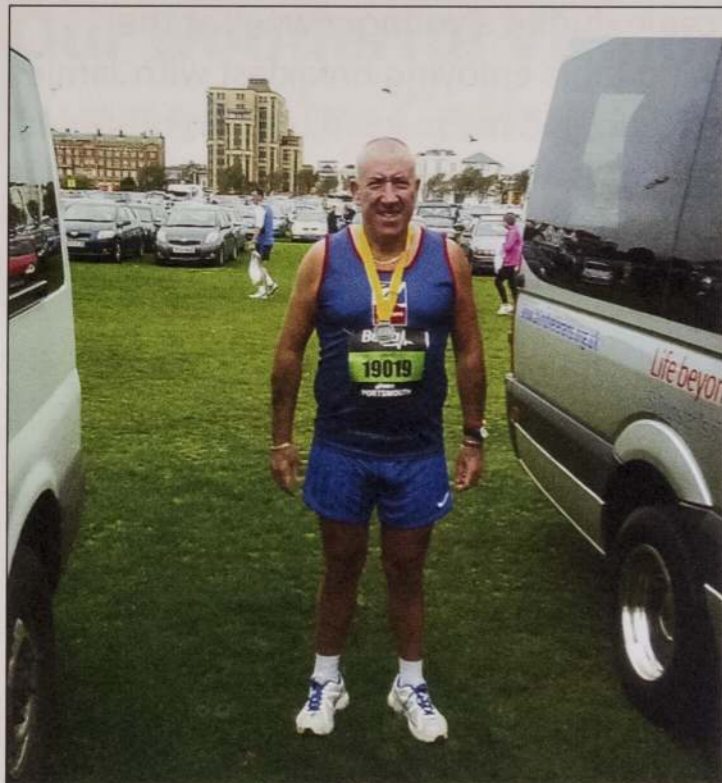
"However, the biggest breakthrough came during a younger week at the Sheffield centre. I was sitting at the dining table enjoying breakfast with Jamie Cuthbertson and others and they all encouraged me to keep up the computer skills training. Jamie took me aside afterwards and told me not to give up. I listened to him and my fellow members and I learnt how to use a computer. Today it's a lifeline as we email one another daily.

"When I went to the Brighton centre for the first time in 2008 my life changed again. It was when I used the tandem bike, gym and pool. I was at that time in my early 50s and I still lacked confidence. The instructors in the Sports & Recreation dept weren't fazed by my reticence and they had me cycling, swimming and running within a few months."

When asked about his training for the marathon, David said: "I live in a small former mining community in County Durham, which is great for training as there's always someone to run with. For outdoor training I run around the local football pitch where I played football in 1987 and it feels great to be back there doing physical activity after years of nothing. I'm determined to complete the marathon in a good time - ideally under five hours. I'm up to 15 miles, which takes 2½ hours and I'll increase the distance to make sure I can run for 27 miles before the marathon.

"It will be tough, but the support of the crowd and fellow runners will spur me on. During past events they see the Blind Veterans UK vest and pat me on the back and yell my name. It happens whether I'm running or on the tandem and each time I have a feeling of elation as they shout 'Keep going David!' and I do! I am incredibly proud to be a member of Blind Veterans UK and I want to thank my fellow members and staff, as they have helped me to rebuild my life. A trainer at a local fitness club recently asked how I kept my focus as I run on the treadmill for hours. I told her I think of Blind Veterans UK and my fellow members. With my children Karen and Wayne and grandchildren Megan, Erin, Finley and Faith they are everything to me."

His pride is reflected on the walls of his house. As you walk in the first thing you see is a photograph of David receiving the 2012 Founders Day Award for Outstanding Achievement, from the then Mayor of Llandudno. Next to it is a photograph of David at the Sheffield centre with David Blunkett, our Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling, Robert Leader, Julie Shales and Terry Heaton. And beside that are his four sporting medals. Soon to be five sporting medals.



Picture: A proud David at the end of the Great South Run in 2012.



Picture: David Cranson, centre in white, at the Sheffield centre with from left to right: Julie Shales Rehab & Training Manager (Sheffield), Robert Leader Chief Executive, David Blunkett, Major General Andrew Keeling Chairman and Terry Heaton Sheffield centre manager.

Iain Millard.

Another runner training hard for this year's Virgin London Marathon is Iain Millard, who is organising the Pamper Week at the Brighton centre in September.

Iain said: "I love the feeling of running, but after completing 13 marathons this is definitely my last one. I said that last year, but I was somehow persuaded by Louise Timms, Sports & Recreation Manager, to take part this year. When I cross the finish line on 21st April I'll definitely hang up my marathon running shoes!"

If you, or someone you know, would like to sponsor Iain his justgiving page is at: www.justgiving.com/Iain-Millard1 Or at the Brighton centre on telephone: 01273 307811.



Picture: Nikki Green of the Sports & Recreation Dept in Llandudno and Iain Millard are shown taking part in the 2012 Virgin London Marathon.

Alan Lock.

Someone who isn't new to the world of marathon running is 33 year old former Royal Navy Lieutenant Alan Lock, as this will be his 14th marathon. That includes the extreme Marathon de Sables, a six day 156 mile ultramarathon, which only the super fit complete. It's the equivalent of six regular marathons.

I think you'll agree, that's all extremely impressive. However, as Alan trains for this year's London Marathon, he's also training to swim the Channel in 2014 with work colleagues, in aid of Blind Veterans UK. To train he swims 8,000 to 10,000 metres a week.

Alan said: "In terms of training for the London Marathon I'm trying to fit it in around work to run for 20 miles a week at this stage. Dealing with the sight issue it's more time spent running on the treadmill rather than outside. My guide and I try to get out on long runs at the weekend and we're doing the Milton Keynes half marathon in early March by way of training."

Since joining Blind Veterans UK in 2005 Alan has climbed Mont Blanc in Italy and Mount Elbrus in Russia. He picked up a Guinness World Record when he rowed across the Atlantic in 2008. With fellow rower Matt Boreham, they rowed across the Atlantic from La Gomera in the Canaries, to finish in Barbados, where they stepped onto dry land after 85 days at sea.

Alan continued: "Rowing the Atlantic we didn't encounter another person after day one and we only had a couple of dicey moments. The first was when our water maker failed half way through, which would have been a show stopper if we hadn't managed to fix it. We had a storm on our last night just as we were trying to get into Barbados, but everything was fine and we made it without any life threatening moments, it was just rather uncomfortable at times. It was a really good experience and tough going back to work after that!"

Another adventure was in the winter of 2011 to the new year of 2012 when Alan was part of a team of four to take part in the South Pole Challenge. For 39 days, as they battled against the elements it presented its own challenge, as they ran the constant risk of frost bite and injury. Although Alan said it was more comfortable than rowing across the Atlantic as they were assured of a dry tent at the end of the day and a good night's sleep.

Billy Drinkwater.

It seems to me that whatever Billy Drinkwater does he excels at. So when he told me that he's two months ahead of his marathon training schedule I wasn't surprised. Although in true Billy style there was no bragging, it was just a statement of fact. The Virgin London Marathon will be Billy's first full marathon, although he's previously completed two half marathons, the last in June 2012, when he raised an impressive £1,800 for Blind Veterans UK.

Billy said: "Training is going well. I'm running with my guide and long time friend Michelle Sheridan who I did the two half marathons with. Last year we made a training schedule and the plan was to have run for 20 miles by March, but we'd smashed that by 10th January when we ran for 20 miles. We haven't set a time to finish in, but we will do our best to complete the marathon in a respectable time. It's important to do this to raise money for Blind Veterans UK, as they have given me so much since I was wounded in the form of training, hope and self belief."

Billy Served in the Royal Anglian Regiment from August 2002. Shortly after training he was sent to Iraq and he later did two tours in Afghanistan. It was during the second tour that he was injured by an IED on 31st January 2010. He was with Ken Facal at the time, who also lost much of his sight in the explosion. An interview with Billy and Ken will feature in a future Review.

To sponsor Billy go to website: www.justgiving.com/Billy-Drinkwater1

Billy's running partner Michelle Sheridan, a Payroll & Billing Service Team Leader at Swift Worldwide Resources, said: "Billy and I have been friends for years as he's a friend of my cousin Mark and we would meet at Mark's house. When we heard that Billy had been injured it was obviously a massive shock and we were very worried about his welfare. When I saw Billy for the first time after Afghanistan I didn't quite know what to expect, but it was obvious that he was the same old Billy, as soon we were laughing and joking about old times. Billy is not self-pitying and is always determined to overcome any obstacle that is thrown at him. It's great running with Billy and this is also my first full marathon and so far training is going well. We are in a good routine and we are sticking to our training plans."

Darren Blanks.

Another daring athlete to attempt the Virgin London Marathon for the first time is 26 year old Darren Blanks from Cumbria. He has already proved his sporting credentials by taking part in the activities week, kayaking week and training in the gym at the Brighton and Llandudno centres. He hopes that his training in the hills of the Lake District will stand him in good stead, as he pounds London's roads for 26.2 miles from Greenwich to finish in the Mall in Westminster on Sunday 21st April.

Darren said: "I've done half marathons and 10 mile runs, but it will be great to get a full marathon under my belt. Training is going well and I've strapped up an old injury with my foot. I hope the roads I'm training on will benefit me, as they're all uphill and downhill, which should mean I'll have an advantage on the London roads. I train four or five times a week, sometimes running up hills that have a gradient of 12%. Obviously I also train on flat ground, but I'm a fan of hill running and it's good to push myself. I've told Kayla Roscoe in the Sports & Rec dept that I hope to complete the marathon in under three hours. All being well I should achieve that as I'm running 9.6 miles an hour at the moment."

Darren Served in the King's Royal Hussars from 2003, joining two months before the invasion of Iraq. He Served until 2008 and completed tours of Iraq when he was 18 and 20 years old.

When asked about the importance of Blind Veterans UK he said: "In the Army I really valued being part of a team and at Blind Veterans UK I feel part of a team again. The main thing for me is to meet other members and listen to their stories, as they help to get you through the hard times. I also value taking part in activities and have so far done the activities week and a kayaking week, Cadet Challenges and Project Gemini.

"I've really benefited from the computer training, as I now use the computer with visual aids. This really helped me when I was invited to take part in a Cadet Challenge in Cumbria by Colin Williamson. I was able to email people who were taking part and also drum up some good PR by contacting the local newspapers and media outlets. To receive that level of training and support from the charity is incredible.

"Without the training I wouldn't have been able to work on the PR for the Cadet Challenge in Cumbria. It will also help when I start job hunting. I also use it to get people to sign up to Blind Veterans UK Facebook site. In fact I want to get as many people as possible to register. I sent out an email to that effect and within minutes 300 people had joined. Once again I couldn't have done that without the computer training."

And here's what Colin Williamson, Cadet Challenge Project Officer, said: "Darren is a much valued member of the Cadet & Youth Challenge team. He was hugely influential in persuading Cumbria Army Cadet Force to get involved in the Cadet & Youth Challenge competition and as a result the county went on to claim the first place trophy! He got so involved with the local cadets that they want him to join up as an adult instructor. Darren has also been involved with Project Gemini and spent a week with our American guests last year where again he proved to be a fine ambassador. Darren is a very valuable asset to Blind Veterans UK and I look forward to working alongside him again in the near future."

If you, or someone you know, would like to sponsor Darren in the Virgin London Marathon please go to: www.justgiving.com/darren-blanks



Picture: Darren, second from the front, kayaking on Lake Ennerdale with Cadets during the Cumbria Cadet Challenge.

Your chance to join the Blind Choir in Salisbury.

Choirs are all the rage and if you want to get involved in the latest thing, do please contact Blind Veterans UK member Lynette Elliott, who has set up the Blind Choir in Salisbury. You don't need to sing like Pavarotti or Maria Callas, as all levels are welcome and they also need musicians.

Songbird Lynette said: "I watched the Paralympics and saw people with the most horrendous injuries compete at a world class level. Then I saw the Para Orchestra, who are sublime and of course the brilliant Gareth Malone inspired me with his wonderful work with the Military Wives. That gave me the idea for the Blind Choir to give people encouragement, confidence, support and companionship. I then spoke with one of the Military Wives, who was so helpful. She told me to absolutely go ahead and set up the Blind Choir, as singing in the Military Wives Choir had changed her life.

"After that initial idea things moved pretty fast, especially after a serendipitous meeting with Tricia Dragonetti, who is now our Musical Director. We met at an event when I told her I had a dream that I thought was attainable; a dream to set up a choir in Salisbury for blind and partially sighted people. She immediately volunteered to get involved. We held our first rehearsal in October 2012 and 10 people came along. We carried on until Christmas when we took a break after much fun learning and performing Christmas songs. Tricia arranged the music in such an extraordinary way that made the songs easy to learn and great fun to sing.

"What we now want is to get the Choir up to a minimum of 18 people and it would be wonderful if my fellow Blind Veterans UK members would join us in Salisbury. If you can't sing a note don't worry, as under Tricia's expert guidance your vocal talents are bound to flourish. We're all still novices! We also want people to join us who can play instruments."

The Blind Choir will meet from 22nd February for five weekly sessions until 22nd March. After the Easter break they will meet on 12th April for five weekly sessions until 10th May. They meet at the British Legion Club in Endless Street, Salisbury from 11am to 12.30pm. Partners and carers are also welcome. The cost is £5. The Blind Choir has been given a Community Area Grant Award from Wiltshire Council.

Lynette continued: "It's recognised that when you lose your sight you also lose your confidence. The easy option for me would be to stay at home, but I don't want to do that. It's easy to become a prisoner in your own home and give up on yourself. That's why the choir is so wonderful, as it provides a focus for all of us. It's a great way to meet people in a similar situation and great fun too. The breathing exercises we do are beneficial and as we can't sight read, Tricia makes it easy for us to learn the songs. I really do hope fellow members will come and join the Blind Choir to sing or play instruments or both."

Some of the quotes that Lynette has received include:

- 'As sight loss only happens to nice people they're great company.'
- 'I enjoy singing and meeting like minded people and having a laugh.'
- 'Great fun, great to get out and do something sociable and I discovered a talent I didn't know I had.'
- 'It offers companionship, it's such fun and very positive.'

If you would like to find out more please contact Lynette on telephone: 01747 861646.



Picture: Lynette, far right with members of the Blind Choir as they are directed by Tricia Dragonetti. Picture courtesy of Salisbury Newspapers.

Speaking of her Service days in the WRNS, Lynette said: "My father was in the Royal Navy and spoke of his Service days and inspired me to join the WRNS. I wanted to travel and in those days women didn't. I always thought there was more to life and the WRNS was the ideal solution. My father was absolutely furious when I told him. He changed his mind however when we went to the recruitment office in Birmingham, where a very pretty Wren told him it wasn't a case of my going into the Navy; it was a case of whether the Navy wanted me in the Wrens. From then on he was absolutely determined I should get into the Wrens. A Wren Officer came to the house and told my parents because of my background I was classed as officer material. It meant I would have to do well in my school certificate to qualify, so I worked hard to make sure I did."

In 1965 Lynette became Wren Grant and after training in communications became a radio operator, stationed with the Fleet Air Arm in Yeovilton, where she was based for a year. Lynette continued: "It was 1966, the time of the Aberfan tragedy and I remember the sailors from Yeovilton were sent there. When they returned we'd sit together in the NAAFI and they were distressed as they had to exhume the bodies of those poor children. It was a dreadful time.

"The other Wrens were wonderful and there was a lot of laughter. In fact, I would get told off for giggling by the Admiral, usually when I took the flags up and down. Once, on a terribly windy day, the flag became caught in a fence at the entrance to the base. A mini car drew up and three great lads jumped out. I was panicking as I was late for sunset, but they just unhooked the flag, laughed and said they knew one day the RAF would have to rescue the Navy!

"In 1967 the decision was made to send WRNS to Singapore to help with the admin backlog after the Malayan Confrontation. I was lucky to be selected and Singapore was an amazing experience. It was the time of Aden and we were put on standby for World War III. The Vietnam war meant that the dockyard had regular visits from the Australian and US fleet for rest and recuperation. I worked for the Commander in Chief Far East Fleet and much to my father's amusement we were stationed at HMS Terror."

After Singapore Leading Wren Lynette returned to the UK and was based firstly at the Communications centre, coding secret signals under Horse Guards Parade and then at Earls Court with the MoD (Navy). It was then, as she went on leave before going for her Commission at Greenwich Naval College that she was dealt a blow and diagnosed with diabetes. It meant the end of her career in the WRNS.

Lynette concluded: "It was a tremendous blow having to leave the WRNS before gaining a Commission. But being a Wren was an honour, which has afforded me the chance to become a member of Blind Veterans UK. Losing your sight, particularly if you are on your own is very frightening, but having the support of Blind Veterans UK opens the door to new and exciting opportunities."



Picture: Wren Grant, Lynette during her Service days in the WRNS.

Answers to 10 questions on the subject of Kings from page 11.

1. George V.
2. Luciano Pavarotti.
3. Roy Rogers.
4. Mohammed Ali.
5. The King of Diamonds.
6. The Airedale Terrier.
7. Anna and the King of Siam.
8. Budweiser.
9. Stilton.
10. Left-handed.

Family News

Congratulations to:

Birthdays:

Albert Dickinson of Leeds, who celebrated his 101st birthday on 23rd February.

Anniversaries:

Platinum (70th):

Philip & Betty Broomhead of Morecambe, Lancashire on 22nd February.

Blue Sapphire (65th):

William & Abigail Sansom of Thurlaston, Leicester on 14th February.

Lewis & Vera Trinder of Aldershot, Hampshire on 14th February.

Norman & Jean Blundell of Lewes, East Sussex on 18th February.

Diamond (60th):

Peter & Audrey Edwick of Manningtree, Essex on 5th February.

Barry & Jean Longbone of Washington, Tyne & Wear on 7th February.

Tom & Jean Egglestone of Winchester, Hampshire on 17th February.

Edward & Elsie Wells of Wimborne, Dorset on 23rd February.

Golden (50th):

Robert & Sandra Astington of East Grinstead, West Sussex on 9th February.

Silver (25th):

Henry & Mary Harrison of Abergele, Clwyd on 20th February.

We regret to announce the death of:

Sophia 'Betty' Atkinson who died on 12th January 2013. She was the wife of Allan Atkinson.

Olive Bloor who died on 1st December 2012. She was the wife of Henry Bloor.

Edith Brough who died on 9th January 2012. She was the widow of the late George Brough.

Thelma Brown who died on 17th January 2013. She was the wife of Frederick Brown.

Hildegard 'Hilda' Carthy who died on 27th January 2013. She was the widow of the late William Carthy.

Susan Clare Church (née Canti) who died on 12th October 2012. During WWII she worked as a VAD at Church Stretton.

Jean Cook who died on 8th December 2012. She was the wife of Leslie Cook.

Christina 'Chris' Cosby who died on 25th January 2013. She was the widow of the late Charles Cosby.

Adele 'Delia' Davey who died on 26th December 2012. She was the widow of the late Reginald Davey.

Pauline Fieldhouse who died on 23rd September 2012. She was the wife of Frederick Fieldhouse.

Joan Howard who died on 20th December 2012. She was the wife of Ronald Howard.

Mary Krawczyk who died on 10th January 2013. She was the wife of Jan Krawczyk.

James 'Jim' Malcolm who died on 22nd January 2013. He was the husband of Joyce Malcolm.

Sara Morgan who died on the 13th January 2013. She was the wife of Robert Morgan.

Rita Partridge who died on 7th October 2012. She was the wife of Peter Partridge.

Alice Ponting who died on 26th December 2012. She was the widow of the late Joseph Ponting.

Blanche Reeves who died on 18th January 2013. She was the wife of Ebenezer Reeves.

Mary Rigby who died on 20th October 2012. She was the wife of Bernard Rigby.

Gwen Smith who died on 10th November 2012. She was the widow of the late Leslie Smith.

Margaret 'Marjorie Marj' Steer who died on 25th November 2012. She was the widow of the late Albert Steer.

Andree Tyson who died on 1st December 2012. She was an overseas affiliate, the widow of the late Frederick Tyson.

Martha 'Ann' Warner who died on 19th July 2012. She was the wife of Reginald Warner.

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

Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

Haydon Austin of Wrexham, Clwyd Served in the Royal Air Force from 1971 to 1977.

Donald Baker of York Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

John Benn of Beverley, North Humberside Served in the General Service Corps, East Yorkshire Regiment (the Duke of York's Own) and the Royal Artillery from 1945 to 1948.

Gordon Bennett of Houghton Le Spring, Tyne & Wear Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1944 to 1948.

Robert Bosanko of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear Served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Gordon Bowland of Sheffield Served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1956 to 1959.

Roy Bridges of Neston, Cheshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

John Bunting of Doncaster, South Yorks Served in the General Service Corps, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the Royal Engineers from 1945 to 1948.

Eric Buxton of Barnsley, South Yorks Served in the General Service Corps, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) from 1944 to 1947.

Michael Callaghan of Kennington, London Served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1955.

Mary Caridia of South Brent, Devon Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1941.

John Carter of Stourport-On-Severn, Worcs Served in the Worcestershire Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

David Cass of Salisbury, Wilts Served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1954.

Leslie Clarke of Wirral, Merseyside Served in the Royal Navy from 1950 to 1952.

Audrey Clayton of Wirral, Merseyside Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

Alan Coburn of Alderley Edge, Cheshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Andrew Cowan of Gloucester Served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Eddie Cummings of South Shields, Tyne & Wear Served in the Royal Artillery (TA) from 1978 to 1983.

Alan Elliott of Faversham, Kent Served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1965.

John Evans of Exeter Served in the Royal Air Force from 1972 to 1978.

John 'Bryan' Farrar of Bognor Regis, West Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1954.

John Finlay of Dalkeith, Midlothian Served in the Royal Navy from 1974 to 1979.

Marguerite 'Rosemary' Ford of Wirral Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Michael Golding of York Served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, the Royal Green Jackets and the Special Air Service Regiment from 1950 to 1956.

Gerald Hancock of Bedworth, Warwickshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Alan Henderson of Keynsham, Bristol Served in the Royal Marines in 1975.

Maurice Heslop of Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland Served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949.

Iris Hutchins of Avon, North Somerset Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

John Horn of Colchester, Essex Served in the Royal Artillery from 1958 to 1961.

Anthony Hotham of Droitwich, Worcs Served in the Worcestershire Regiment from 1952 to 1969.

Richard 'Sam' Jelbert of Milton Keynes Served in the Royal Marines from 1961 to 1970.

Brian Kelly of Sheffield Served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

Patrick Kelly of Durham Served in the Royal Green Jackets from 1962 to 1974.

Vincent Kielty of Morpeth, Northumberland Served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

Jennie Lovatt of North Shields, Tyne and Wear Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Carl Mackenzie of Truro, Cornwall Served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1982.

Trevor Marwood of Swindon, Wilts Served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1970.

Peter Mayhew of Headlington, Oxford Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1946 to 1949.

John McMahon of Cramlington, Northumberland Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1947 to 1949.

Roydon Morgans of Wolverhampton Served in the Welsh Regiment from 1949 to 1962.

Alan Morris of Penarth, South Glamorgan Served in the Welsh Guards from 1947 to 1973.

Joyce Nelson of Crowborough, East Sussex Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1946.

John Norris of Hull Served in the Royal Air Force from 1970 to 1979.

Anthony Parkes of Devizes, Wilts Served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

Ronald Paterson of Loanhead, Midlothian Served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1976 to 1979.

Myrtle Pike of Headlington, Oxford Served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service from 1943 to 1946.

Leonard Pugsley of Potters Bar, Herts Served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1952.

John Robinson of Wigan, Lancs Served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1972.

Dorothy Ryan of Glossop, Derbyshire Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1946.

Abdul Sattar of Shepherd's Bush, West London Served in the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1946.

Sidney Savage of Worthing, West Sussex Served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Colin Seaton of York Served in the Royal Horse Artillery from 1953 to 1958.

Edward Sharp of Newhaven, East Sussex Served in the General Service Corps and the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment from 1947 to 1949.

Marion Sharville of Worthing, West Sussex Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

Frank Smith of Gloucester Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Donald Stonehouse of Gateshead, Tyne & Wear Served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1948.

Thomas Teague of Brookthorpe, Gloucester Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Idris Thomas of Bridgend Served in the South Wales Borderers from 1952 to 1955.

Walter Thornley of Wolverhampton Served in the Wessex Brigade, the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1954.

Egerton Walker of Wells Next The Sea, Norfolk Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Scott Wall of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk Served in the Royal Logistic Corps from 2000 to 2004.

Vivienne Webb of Kingsthorpe, Northants Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1945.

Ian Whyte of Dundee Served in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Royal Signals from 1944 to 1948.

Derek Wilde of Selby, North Yorkshire Served in the Royal Armoured Corps and the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) from 1943 to 1947.

William Wrighton of Aylesbury, Bucks Served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

Ronald Young (Reverend) of Stroud, Gloucestershire Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1945 to 1948.

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.

Anne Ainsworth, Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Anne Ainsworth of Waterlooville, Hampshire died on 9th January 2013, aged 89. She joined the WAAF in 1941; she became a Wireless Operator in West Kingsdon, Kent, a listening station and was involved in breaking the Enigma code. She was discharged in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

Ernest Barkes, Royal Marines

Ernest Barkes of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear died on 5th January 2013, aged 88. He joined the Royal Marines in 1943 and Served in the UK and Far East before discharge in 1946.

Donald Bass, Royal Air Force

Donald Bass of Rushden, Northamptonshire died on 13th January 2012, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1942 and joined the 13 Air Gunners School in Egypt. He was attached to the South African Air Force, Serving as an air gunner in Italy, where on a bombing run, his plane crashed and he ended the war in a German hospital. He was discharged as a Flight Sergeant in 1946.

Arthur Bates, Royal Horse Artillery

Arthur Bates of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire died on 10th January 2013, aged 92. He joined the Royal Horse Artillery in 1940 and Served in Tunisia, Sicily and was involved in the Salerno landings on the Italian mainland. He was discharged in 1946 as a Sergeant.

George Brough, Royal Navy

George Brough of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 13th July 2012, aged 94. He joined the RNVR in 1939. He was subsequently sunk in HMS Lively in the

Mediterranean in May 1942. He then Served in HMS Cattistock in home waters and later HMS Gannet in Northern Ireland. He was discharged in 1945 as a Leading Seaman.

Gavin 'Guy' Brownlie, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Gavin 'Guy' Brownlie of Livingston, West Lothian died on 9th January 2013, aged 81. He joined the REME for National Service in 1952. He Served in Egypt and was discharged as a Corporal in 1955.

Muriel Bryant, Munitions Worker

Muriel Bryant of Plympton, Plymouth died on 24th January 2013, aged 90. An office clerk in a munitions factory, she was blinded on 26th January 1941 when a bomb hit the factory's air raid shelter where Muriel and others sought refuge. She lost both eyes and sustained multiple injuries. Muriel later gained employment as a telephonist until 1960, enjoying a full career. She also won prizes for handicrafts.

Arthur Carter, Royal Navy

Arthur Carter of Bolton, Lancashire died on 13th January 2013, aged 88. He Served in the Royal Navy from 1944 until 1946, leaving as a Petty Officer. During his Service his eyesight was affected and he was later registered blind as a result. He was a Standard Bearer for Blind Veterans UK for many years and a regular at the annual HMS Sultan Summer Camp, which he greatly enjoyed.

Gordon Clarke, Royal Air Force

Gordon Clarke of Builth Wells, Powys died on 18th January 2013, aged 80. He joined the RAF for National Service in 1950, Serving at RAF Swinderby. Having extended Service for a year he was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1953.

Charles Clarkson, Royal Air Force

Charles Clarkson of Keighley, West Yorkshire died on 1st January 2013, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1941 and trained as a Radio Telephone Operator working with the Mobile Operations Room Unit (MORU). He was posted to North Africa and was later involved in the invasion of Sicily and Italy with MORU. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1947.

Ernest Cook, Royal Navy

Ernest Cook of Banstead, Surrey died on 22nd November 2012, aged 91. He joined the medical branch of the Royal Navy in 1940 Serving as a Sick Berth

Attendant on various ships in the Atlantic and Caribbean. He was discharged as a Temporary Sick Berth Petty Officer in 1946.

Gordon Craig, Royal Air Force

Gordon Craig of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear died on 16th November 2012, aged 85. He joined the RAF in 1946, and Served at RAF Ouston in Northumberland before discharge in 1948 as an Aircraftman 2nd Class.

Lorenzo 'Fred' Cridland, Royal Signals, Royal Engineers

Lorenzo 'Fred' Cridland of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 19th October 2012, aged 91. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1937 and Served in India and Germany before his discharge in 1946. He subsequently joined the Royal Engineers (TA) in 1950 and was discharged as a Warrant Officer (First Class) in 1952.

Henry 'Harry' Darby, Royal Air Force

Henry 'Harry' Darby of Purfleet, Essex died on 7th January 2013, aged 92. He joined the RAF in 1938 and was posted to Singapore and the Dutch East Indies. He also Served in Ceylon, India, Burma and Reykjavík, leaving as a Leading Aircraftman in 1949.

Reginald Davey, Royal Marines

Reginald Davey of Dunstable, Bedfordshire died on 26th January 2013, aged 91. He joined the Royal Marines in 1941 and Served in various ships, including an American liberty ship. He transferred to landing craft and landed at Normandy on D-Day. He was discharged in 1946.

Alec Diaper, Royal Armoured Corps

Alec Diaper of Ipswich, Suffolk died on 11th November 2012, aged 92. He joined the 53rd Light Training Regiment Royal Armoured Corps in 1940. He then transferred to the Queen's Bays and was posted to North Africa. He later fought in the Italian campaign and was in Yugoslavia when the war ended. He was discharged in 1946.

Harry Dickinson, Royal Engineers

Harry Dickinson of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 17th November 2012, aged 92. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940. He Served at the Brompton Barracks, Chatham throughout the war in administrative posts and was discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1946.

Dorothy Du Boisson MBE, Women's Royal Naval Service

Dorothy Du Boisson of Brighton, East Sussex died on 1st February 2013, aged 93. She Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945, when she worked at Bletchley Park, operating the Colossus computer. In 1980 she was awarded an MBE for 'Service to the Ministry of Defence'.

William 'Des' Edmonds, Merchant Navy

William 'Des' Edmonds of Welshpool, Powys died on 19th November 2012, aged 88. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1942 and Served until 1947. He was deployed on the Atlantic convoys to North & South America and two Arctic Convoys to Russia through Murmansk, whilst serving on the Thistledale. He also Served on the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and the East, West and South coasts of Africa.

William 'Bill' Emans, Royal Artillery, Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), Buffs Royal East Kent Regiment, Special Boat Service, Gloucestershire Regiment

William 'Bill' Emans of Belvedere, Kent died on 1st May 2012, aged 91. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1938 and transferred to the Middlesex Regiment in 1943 before deploying to Italy. He transferred to the Buffs in 1944 and Served in Gibraltar. In Italy he was attached to the SBS. He was recalled to the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1950 and discharged in 1954 as a Sergeant. In 1960 he joined the Royal Army Service Corps (TA) and left in 1963.

Griffith 'Griff' Evans, Royal Air Force

Griffith 'Griff' Evans of Luton, Bedfordshire died on 8th January 2013, aged 91. He Served in the RAF from 1941 to 1946. He was deployed to France on D+30 and followed the advance through Holland, Belgium and then Germany. He was present at the liberation of Belsen.

Bertie Findlay, Royal Air Force

Bertie Findlay of Guildford, Surrey died on 21st January 2013, aged 91. He joined the RAF in 1940, training as an Armourer. He was posted to the Far East and captured by the Japanese in Java, becoming a PoW. He was in captivity with the late Billy Griffiths. He was released in 1945. He later found work as a gardener on Lord Onslow's estate. Lord Onslow empathised with him, as his own father had been a PoW in WWI. Mr Findlay worked there until he was 83.

John Gidley, Royal Fusiliers, Royal Armoured Corps

John Gidley of Folkestone, Kent died on 6th January 2013, aged 93. Already in

the TA, he joined the Royal Fusiliers in 1939. He transferred to the Armoured Corps and Served in North Africa within the 1st Army and then joined the King's Dragoon Guards and went through Italy, into Greece and on to Palestine. He left the Army in 1946 as a Corporal.

Gordon Gladwin, General Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps

Gordon Gladwin of Rotherham, South Yorkshire died on 22nd December 2012, aged 86. In 1944 he joined the Durham Light Infantry before joining the RASC. He was posted to France, moving through Belgium and Holland to Germany. He was discharged in 1949 as a driver.

Walter Glynn, Royal Engineers, British Expeditionary Force

Walter Glynn of Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear died on 20th January 2013, aged 93. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and was sent to France with the BEF when he was evacuated through Cherbourg. He later Served in Gibraltar, but was medically discharged as a Sapper in 1944.

Patrick Goggins, Royal Signals

Patrick Goggins of Bury, Lancashire died on 1st November 2012, aged 81. He Served in the Royal Signals from 1953 and was posted to the 6th Armoured Division in the Bundi area in Germany. He was discharged in 1955.

James Graham, Royal Military Police, Royal Artillery, Somerset Light Infantry, Durham Light Infantry

James Graham of Seaham, County Durham died on 6th June 2012, aged 79. He Served in the Royal Artillery and the Royal Military Police from 1951 to 1953 when he signed on for an extra year and transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry and briefly the Durham Light Infantry. He Served in the UK and Malaya.

Ronald Green, Army Air Corps, Border Regiment

Ronald Green of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire died on 11th January 2013, aged 91. He joined the Border Regiment in 1943, later transferring to the Army Air Corps. He landed at Normandy on D-Day where he suffered injury to both arms. He fought through Ardennes and Germany and was then posted to Palestine. He was discharged in 1947 as a Sergeant.

Ronald Greenwood, Royal Marines

Ronald Greenwood of Portsmouth, Hampshire died on 6th November 2012, aged 99. He joined the Royal Marines in 1927 as a Band Boy. After training he

was deployed to China on HMS Hermes for three years. He Served in the UK and Mediterranean waters on a number of ships. He was discharged as a Band Corporal in 1945.

Raymond Gunston, Royal Air Force

Raymond Gunston of Brighton, East Sussex died on 28th November 2012, aged 97. He joined the RAF in 1940 and specialised in communications and gunnery. He moved to RAF Llanduragh as an Instructor and set up the training school there before moving to RAF Driffild where he remained until the end of the war. He was discharged in 1946 as a Flight Lieutenant.

William Guttridge, Royal Air Force

William Guttridge of Hartlepool, Co Durham died on 8th January 2013, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and Served in the UK, Ireland and the Middle East before discharge as a Leading Aircraftman in 1945.

Douglas Hackney, Royal Navy

Douglas Hackney of Gosport, Hampshire died on 16th November 2012, aged 83. He joined the Royal Navy in 1945 as a Junior Seaman. He Served in the cruiser HMS Ceylon in Korea for a two year commission and later on the Leander class frigates and qualified as a torpedo anti-submarine instructor. He left the Royal Navy in 1973 to join the Merchant Navy as a Navigator.

Robert 'Ellis' Herdman, General Service Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Robert 'Ellis' Herdman of Downham Market, Norfolk died on 22nd January 2013, aged 86. From 1946 he Served in the General Service Corps and the RAOC in the UK and Germany. He was discharged in 1948.

Violet Hogbin, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Violet Hogbin of Stanley, Co. Durham died on 8th September 2012, aged 89. She Served in the ATS from 1943 to 1945 and trained at Wrexham in Wales followed by advanced training at Shelford, Bedfordshire.

Edward 'Ted' Holmes, Royal Sussex Regiment, Royal Pioneer Corps

Edward 'Ted' Holmes of Hailsham, East Sussex died on 18th January 2013, aged 81. He joined the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1950 and Served at Shorecliffe, attached to the Royal Sussex Regiment. He was discharged in 1952. He remained in the TA.

Francis 'Frank' Horn, Royal Air Force

Francis 'Frank' Horn of Nettleham Fields, Lincoln died on 24th January 2013, aged 91. He Served in the RAF from 1941 to 1946 with Bomber Command as a fitter/armourer on Lancaster bombers. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

George Hudspeth, Royal Scots Regiment

George Hudspeth of Daventy, Northants died on 1st December 2012, aged 78. He joined the Royal Scots Regiment in 1951 and Served in Hong Kong, Aden, BAOR and the UK. He was discharged as a Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant.

James Humphreys, General Service Corps, Lancashire Fusiliers, South Staffordshire Regiment

James Humphreys of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire died on 21st November 2012, aged 86. Briefly in the General Service Corps from 1945, he joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and then the South Staffordshire Regiment. He Served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Egypt and was discharged in 1954.

Arthur Jackson, Royal Army Service Corps

Arthur Jackson of West Molesey, Surrey died on 19th October 2012, aged 99. He joined the RASC in 1940 and Served in France, West Africa and the Middle East. He was discharged in 1946 as a Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant.

Donald Jones, Royal Engineers

Donald Jones of Winchester, Hampshire died on 31st October 2012, aged 87. He joined the Army in 1944. He was then commissioned into the Royal Engineers and was posted to India with the Bombay Sappers and Miners and later to Iraq. He also Served in Egypt, Aden, Cyprus and the UK as a Field Sapper. He was discharged in 1969 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Cissie Jordan, Women's Royal Air Force

Cissie Jordan of Rotherham, South Yorkshire died on 10th January 2013, aged 92. She joined the WRAF in 1941. She trained at Gloucester and completed her specialist training in cookery and butchery at Melksham, Wiltshire. She Served in the UK and was discharged in 1945 as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

Douglas Kell, Royal Navy

Douglas Kell of Worthing, West Sussex died on 28th January 2013, aged 90. He joined the Admiralty in London before joining the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in 1942. He worked in Special Branch in Australia during the war at the

shore base HMAS Penguin. He was discharged as a Lieutenant Commander (RNVR) in 1945.

David Lloyd, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

David Lloyd of Welshpool, Powys died on 2nd January 2013, aged 92. He joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1939. He Served in a carrier platoon in Northern Ireland and moved to Northern Europe after the Normandy Landings through France, Holland and Germany into Berlin. He was discharged in 1946.

Kenneth Makin, Royal Navy

Kenneth Makin of Barnston, Merseyside died on 15th November 2012, aged 87. He Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947 leaving as an Able Seaman. He Served at home and the Mediterranean and Middle East on minesweeping duties in deep sea fishing boats converted into minesweepers.

Joseph Mason, Royal Artillery

Joseph Mason of Preston, Lancashire died on 9th December 2012, aged 94. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939, and Served around the UK with an Ack-Ack unit. He was later posted to India where he Served on the Burma border before being discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

John Maxwell, Royal Artillery

John Maxwell of Preston, Lancashire died on 13th January 2013, aged 84. He Served in the Royal Artillery for National Service from 1947 to 1949 in the UK and Germany.

William Menzies, Royal Artillery

William Menzies of Horsham, West Sussex died on 19th November 2012, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 and after time in coastal artillery in Scotland, he was posted to North Africa. His battery fought though Italy and later in Austria and Yugoslavia. He was discharged in 1946.

Thomas Miller, Gordon Highlanders, British Expeditionary Force

Thomas Miller of Pevensey, East Sussex died on 13th November 2012, aged 93. He joined the Gordon Highlanders in 1939. Deployed to Belgium as part of the BEF he was taken PoW and placed in Stalag Luft 8B and other camps in Poland and Czechoslovakia. He was eventually repatriated by the British Forces and discharged in 1946.

Thomas Millington, Royal Navy

Thomas Millington of Emsworth, Hampshire died on 28th January 2013, aged

95. He Served in the Royal Navy from 1944 in HMS Eland, a shore base in Sierra Leone. He was then based at Faversham Camp and guarded POWs until he was discharged in 1946 as an Acting Shipwright.

Ronald 'Ronnie' Mills, Royal Air Force

Ronald 'Ronnie' Mills of Chichester, West Sussex died on 5th November 2012, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1941 and trained as a pilot in the UK and Canada. He later went to 234 Squadron flying Spitfire 5s and subsequently to Darwin, Australia. He was made an instructor and was discharged as a Flight Lieutenant in 1946.

David McAvoy, Lowland Brigade, Queen's Own Highlanders, Scottish Division

David McAvoy of Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham died on 17th December 2012, aged 67. He joined the Lowland Brigade in 1967 and transferred to the Queen's Own Highlanders, which became the Scottish Division. He Served in Germany and was seconded to the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces, patrolling the mountains during the confrontation with Yemen. He was medically discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1971 as the sun had affected his eyesight.

Ronald Oldham, Royal Artillery

Ronald Oldham of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 6th November 2012, aged 91. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942 and Served with 28 Field Regiment RA in Africa and Burma before discharge as a Gunner in 1946.

Gerard 'Gerry' Parle, Royal Engineers, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps

Gerard 'Gerry' Parle of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 12th January 2013, aged 95. He joined the Merchant Navy and Served on the South American Route from Liverpool. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and later transferred to the Pioneer Corps. He Served in the UK and France before medical discharge in 1942. He returned to the Merchant Navy where he remained until 1946.

Eileen Parr, Royal Air Force

Eileen Parr of Kensington, London died on 18th November 2012, aged 89. She joined the RAF in 1941 and after training moved to the RAF hospital in Ely where she remained until she was discharged as a Leading Aircraftwoman in 1946.

Leslie Pentecost, Devonshire Regiment, Lancashire Fusiliers

Leslie Pentecost of Crediton, Devon died on 11th November 2012, aged 92. He

joined the Devonshire Regiment in 1940, transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers two years later and fought in Burma. He has vivid memories of that time and was awarded the Burma Star. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

Arthur Porter, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Arthur Porter of Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on 31st January 2013, aged 95. He Served in the REME from 1941 to 1946 in North Africa and Europe. He was demobilised as a Craftsman.

Brian Powis, Royal Air Force

Brian Powis of Hunstanton, Norfolk died on 16th January 2013, aged 86. He joined the RAF in 1944. He flew a variety of aircraft including Lancasters, Lincolns and later Vulcan bombers with the nuclear deterrent. Posted to the Middle East he finished his flying career with an experimental unit at Farnborough. He was retired from active Service in 1982.

Edward 'Eddie' Purvis, Royal Army Medical Corps

Edward 'Eddie' Purvis of Ayr, Ayrshire died on 21st January 2013, aged 77. He Served in the TA prior to enlisting in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a regular in 1954. He Served in the UK and in Japan before discharge in 1956.

David Robinson, General Service Corps, Parachute Regiment, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Corps of Transport

David Robinson of Peterlee, Co. Durham died on 6th January 2013, aged 74. He joined the General Service Corps in 1954, transferring to the Parachute Regiment, then to the RASC. He then transferred to the Royal Corps of Transport and Served in the Middle East and Germany before discharge in 1968 as a driver.

Robert Sawyer, Fleet Air Arm

Robert Sawyer of Swansea, West Glamorgan died on 28th December 2012, aged 97. He joined the Royal Navy in 1939. He Served in HMS Whippingham, and later worked on radar equipment on naval aircraft. He Served mainly in the UK with the Fleet Air Arm and was discharged in 1952 as a Petty Officer.

Marjorie Scott, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Marjorie Scott of Ovingdean, East Sussex died on 13th February 2013, aged 85. She Served in the ATS from 1945 to 1948 at home.

John Series, Royal Air Force

John Series of Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire died on 1st January 2013, aged 89. He joined the RAF in 1942. Originally trained as aircrew he went to France after D-Day, but was grounded due to poor hearing and worked on transport. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1947.

Walter Skinner, Royal Air Force

Walter Skinner of Boston, Lincs died on 19th January 2013, aged 84. He Served in the RAF from 1946, training at Padgate. He specialised as a telephonist and Served around the UK. He was demobbed in 1949 as a Leading Aircraftman.

Ronald Spathaky, Royal Army Educational Corps

Ronald Spathaky of Burwell, Cambs died on 13th January 2013, aged 98. From 1941 he Served in the Royal Army Educational Corps in Italy, Palestine, France, Belgium and North Africa. He was discharged in 1945 as a Lieutenant.

Evelyn Stancliffe, Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Evelyn Stancliffe West Kensington, London died on 13th December 2012, aged 89. She joined the WAAF in 1941 and Served in Palestine and North Africa and was discharged as a Corporal in 1946. She went on to become a successful businesswoman with her shop Eve's Lace on London's Kings Road.

Jane Taylor, Auxiliary Territorial Service

Jane Taylor of Colchester, Essex died on 12th January 2013, aged 87. She joined the ATS in 1943, training in Edinburgh and Birmingham. She became a driver and was based in Bristol with 616 Ack Ack followed by Knightsbridge. She was discharged in 1945.

Willie Warren, Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)

Willie Warren of Truro, Cornwall died on 1st February 2012, aged 89. From 1942 to 1954 he Served in the Middlesex Regiment in Africa, Europe and the UK.

Alan Warrington, Royal Navy

Alan Warrington of Stockport, Cheshire died on 15th November 2012, aged 86. He Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947. His specialisation was radar gunnery and his first seagoing draft was onboard HMS Pathfinder, a Destroyer in the Far East. He was demobbed as an Able Seaman.

Arthur West, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Hussars, Royal Military Police

Arthur West of Hilderstone, Staffordshire died on 1st December 2012, aged 84. He joined the RAC 62 Training Regiment in 1946 and transferred to the 8th

Hussars in 1947. He then transferred to the Royal Military Police in 1955 and was discharged as a Major in 1971.

Roy White, Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's)

Roy White of Yeovil, Somerset died on 30th December 2012, aged 75. For National Service he Served in the Somerset Light Infantry in the Signal Platoon from 1958 to 1960.

William 'Bill' Wilcock, Royal Air Force

William 'Bill' Wilcock of Blackburn, Lancashire died on 10th February 2013, aged 77. He Served in the RAF from 1953 to 1957, leaving as a Leading Aircraftman.

John Williams, Royal Navy

John Williams of Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan died on 11th November 2012, aged 83. He joined the Royal Navy for National Service in 1947 and Served in the Fleet Air Arm as an Able Airman Aircraft Handler. He Served on HMS Theseus, a light fleet carrier and sailed the world's oceans before discharge in 1949.

Mary Wilson, Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Mary Wilson of Ripon, North Yorkshire died on 11th January 2013, aged 90. She joined the WAAF in 1943 and Served at RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire. She was discharged in 1946 as an Aircraftwomen 1st Class.

Ronald 'Ron' Wilson, Royal Air Force

Ronald 'Ron' Wilson of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on 13th November 2012, aged 89. He Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. During his Service in the Far East in 1944, when he was posted to the Island base of Diego Garcia, he wrote an excellent magazine entitled The Panic.

Richard Wray, General Service Corps

Richard Wray of Lincoln, Lincolnshire died on 17th November 2012, aged 84. He joined the General Service Corps in 1946, trained at Lincoln, Catterick, Aldershot and York and was medically discharged in 1947.

Maurice Wright, Royal Air Force

Maurice Wright of Chard, Somerset died on 11th January 2013, aged 91. He Served in the RAF from 1941 in the UK and the Far East with South East Asia Command. He was discharged in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftman.