



**On the cover:** Tom Clough, a veteran of the Korean War, is shown on his return to Korea to mark the 60th Anniversary. An interview with Tom is included on pages 8 to 15.

# Review



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## Blind Veterans UK Calendar

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

### September

South Downs Way walk 6th to 10th **B**

75th Anniversary Pamper Week 9th - 14th **B** - Cycling Week 15th - 21st **L**

Writers' Forum 21st **B** - History Week 22nd - 28th **B**

Walking Week 30th - 5th October **L**

### October

Devon activity weekend 4th - 6th **B** - Music Week 6th - 12th **B**

Culture Week 7th - 11th **S** - Writers' Forum 19th **B**

Bowling Week 20th - 2nd Nov **B** - Great South Run - 27th **B**

### November

Military Week 4th - 11th **L** - Cenotaph 8th - 10th

Writers' Forum 16th **B** - Dance Week 17th - 23rd **B**

### Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

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# From the Chairman.

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

I'm sure that many of you shared the anticipation and then the pleasure and excitement of the safe arrival on July 22nd of HRH Prince George, son of their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The event must have been a sobering experience for those who think that our Royal Family is in some way irrelevant to modern life, for the birth was the number one news story around the world, and was certainly attended by massive levels of enthusiastic interest in this country. It is good to know that the succession to the throne by direct descendents of our present Queen is now even more assured. Although it has by no means always been the case, it seems that the Royal Family as a whole now enjoys a huge amount of respect and affection from the British people.

Well, no complaints about the weather this summer – not yet anyway – although it has to be said that we got off to rather a slow start.



**Picture:** The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge leave St Mary's hospital with their son HRH Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge. **Photo** PA.

# Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## Founder's Day Awards 2014.

The 2014 Founder's Day Awards ceremony will be held on 26th March at our Sheffield Centre, which commemorates the date in 1915 when the first 16 war blinded ex-Servicemen entered the new training centre at St Dunstan's Lodge in London's Regent's Park.

This annual ceremony celebrates the special achievements of the members, staff and volunteers of Blind Veterans UK.

The recipients of the 2013 Founder's Day Awards were featured in the May Review. Do you feel you know an equally commendable candidate?

The categories are:

- i) **Community Award** for the best contribution to their local community or the family of Blind Veterans UK by a member, spouse, widow or widower.
- ii) **Training Achievement Award** for the best novice on learning new skills – members only.
- iii) **Creative Art Award** will recognise endeavour in a creative activity and encompass art, handicrafts, sculpture and music. If practical, an example should be sent with the proposal form. If not practical, then please send a photograph – members only.
- iv) **Sports Person of the Year Award** will celebrate an exceptional sporting achievement during the award year – members only.
- v) **Outstanding Achievement Award** is made to a member who has achieved an outstanding level of independence via their participation in activities promoted or provided through and by Blind Veterans UK – members only.
- vi) **Volunteer of the Year (aged 25 or over)** to a volunteer who has shown an exceptional contribution to Blind Veterans UK to the benefit of our members – registered volunteer only.

vii) **Young Volunteer of the Year** for a young person aged 24 or under, where they have used their enthusiasm and dedication to achieve positive things with Blind Veterans UK members – registered volunteer only.

viii) **Group/Team Volunteers of the Year** to a team or group of volunteers who have together worked with each other to create a positive experience that benefits our members – registered volunteers only.

ix) **Chairman's nominations** for exceptional staff achievement. Nominated by line managers.

For guidelines and proposal forms for the above, please contact Barbara Sweeney, PA to Welfare Services, Blind Veterans UK, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London, W1H 4HD, tel 020 7616 7922, email [barbara.sweeney@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:barbara.sweeney@blindveterans.org.uk)

Nominations are treated in confidence and discussed by Selection Committees in January. Nominees are not informed they have been nominated until the Selection Committee has reached its decision.

## Audio described performance of West Side Story.

Sadler's Wells, West Side Story and VOCALEYES have come together to provide a uniquely enhanced experience of this musical masterpiece on Sunday 15th September at 4pm. Audio description is a live verbal commentary providing information on the visual aspects of the story and production, that allows blind or partially sighted theatre patrons access to live performance.

A limited number of stalls seats have been set aside on Sunday 15th September at 4pm, with a free touch tour preceding the performance at 2.30pm. Tickets for this performance of West Side Story can be booked in person at Sadler's Wells or through the Ticket Office on 0844 412 4300 with more information at [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com)

## Apology.

We'd like to offer our apologies to David Poyner for the incorrect announcement in the August edition Family News. We regret any embarrassment or hurt this caused.

## Far East PoW central welfare fund grants, by Margaret Martin.



This fund for FEPOWs, their wives/partners and widows is administered for us, the JAVA Far East Prisoners of War Club 1942, by the Royal British Legion.

Our Welfare Officer, Margaret Martin, can advise and make claims on your behalf. Contact her as soon as possible, and before any items are purchased or alterations made. Her telephone number is: 01273 424686 and email: [margaretmartin2@sky.com](mailto:margaretmartin2@sky.com)

These Grants are not means tested, nor tax deductible:

- Hospital stay - £5 per day for stays of three days or more.
- Nursing/Care Home/Respite Care – maximum £25 per month.
- Carers at Home - maximum £25 per month.
- Reunion - for one FEPOW Reunion per year of two or three nights.

Grants for mobility items and alterations to a home are means tested, for those with savings of less than £30,000.

Margaret Martin, Secretary & Welfare Officer, said: "We welcome all FEPOWs, wives and widows into our Java Club family and assist them however we can. We work alongside other welfare bodies but many eligible people may not be aware of help available specifically for them, so we want to trace as many as we can."

[www.thejavafepowclub42.org](http://www.thejavafepowclub42.org)

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

1. The year 1585 marked the first major importation of tobacco to this country from America, from which state?
2. At which battle in the year 1805 did Admiral Villeneuve command the Franco-Spanish fleet?
3. Which country of Europe abolished its monarchy in the 17th century, establishing a Commonwealth in its place?
4. Which country's fleet was destroyed at the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 when Horatio Nelson is said to have placed his telescope to his blind eye?
5. Which subsequent British Prime Minister was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time of the General Strike in 1926?
6. In England in 597 AD St Augustine became the first holder of which religious title?
7. After which incident was a telephone hot-line established between Washington and Moscow in 1962?
8. An uprising against Communist rule took place in 1956 in which Eastern European country?
9. According to James Ussher, a 17th century Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland and writer on Biblical history, what happened at nightfall preceding Sunday 23rd October 4004 BC?
10. What were known as 'servant regulators' in Victorian times?

**Answers on page 39.**

## Interview with Tom Clough on the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, by Cameron Purse.

Tom Clough has over 1,000 reasons for us to remember Britain's forgotten war. Although he is almost too modest to suggest so himself, the memory of those 1,000 plus Britons who never came home is preserved in the vivid recollections of men like Tom. The memories he shares here are a poignant reminder of the need for experiences of Korea to be told and heard, for the genuine instances of bravery and humility that they reveal. Sitting in his home a few miles from the Imjin Barracks in Innsworth, Tom launches into an engaging account of his extraordinary time in the Royal Artillery, and his part in the battle from which the Barracks takes its name.

Tom said: "I joined the Army at 14, just at the end of World War II. In fact when I went to the Woolwich Royal Artillery Depot on VE Day; I think Hitler saw me coming! I had always wanted to join the Navy but only the Army were recruiting boy soldiers at the end of the Second World War, or so the Recruiting Sergeant told us!

"I did three and a half years in Woolwich where I was fully trained. Although I was only 14, it was a man's world so of course you smoked and drank with everyone else if you could afford it! I eventually went into man service in 1948 to a medium regiment, operating heavy guns. The pay also increased, which I greatly enjoyed. I got my first stripe soon after which was quite special as I was still very young, and I became a TARA (Technical Assistant Royal Artillery). Out of the blue, in mid 1950, I got an order informing me that I had a posting to Worcester as the OP (Observation Post) Officers Assistant.

"The Korean War began in June 1950, and as part of the Royal Artillery C Troop/170 Independent Mortar Battery attached to the Gloucestershire Regiment, I landed in Pusan on 19th November onboard the troopship The Empire Hallidale. Also onboard were the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers who were part of our Brigade. My father had offered to try and keep me on Service in the UK, but I wanted to go. For me, the prospect of the journey across was like a six-week cruise and General McArthur had promised that the war would be over by Christmas! And after all, this is why I joined the Army: it was a big adventure. As it happened, it turned out to be more of an adventure than I thought it would be.

"My father Served with the Royal Artillery during World War II when he was captured in Singapore by the Japanese and made a PoW. Like so many he had a really rough time in Changi Goal and when he was forced to work on the Burma to Thailand railway. He came home safely in 1945, although in very poor health.

"In typical fashion upon arrival in Pusan, our trucks were on the wrong ship so we were forced to travel North to Kaesong by 'passenger train' where we picked up our trucks and continued as a deployed troop of mortars. It was at that time we saw our first Korean refugees, old men, women and children fleeing the conflict. I remember one night we heard an explosion from a field in front of our positions and thought we were under attack, but it was refugees walking onto mines. The Glosters did their best to bring the refugees out of the field and to safety. We gradually advanced 50 miles north of Pyongyang and it was then that the Chinese came into the war over the Yalu River. There were nine Chinese armies, totalling over 300,000 men. We gradually withdrew until we were south of the 38th Parallel. We were sitting in reserve above Seoul in the winter of 1950/51, which was bitterly cold. At that time the Royal Ulster Rifles were involved heavily with the enemy in Happy Valley and suffered many casualties. In February 1951 we took Hill 327, north of Seoul, which was quite an experience for me, especially as I was carrying the batteries for the radio. When we heard incoming fire I couldn't throw myself on the ground like everyone else as the weight of the batteries would have broken my back. I still recall seeing men blown up and to me it looked as though it was in slow motion. It's something I'll never forget.

"After that we went to the Imjin. The weather was reminiscent of an English spring and south of the Imjin river, the enemy was nowhere in sight. We even ventured several miles into enemy territory at one point and were greeted by only a few farmers. However, on the 22nd of April, Chinese forces began to advance across the Korean peninsula in the Chinese Spring Offensive, which was against our Brigade the Glosters, the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, the Royal Ulster Rifles and a Belgian Battalion. I hadn't thought there were that many Chinese soldiers in the entire country! We were forced to cover a divisional front, which was far too big for the number of men that we had. I realised then that we were in trouble."

'Trouble' seems like an understatement, for Tom and the other men were outnumbered 100 to 1 (or so it seemed) by swathes of Chinese troops in a valiant last stand, facing an uncertain outlook.

"We fought for three days alongside the Glosters on what is now known as 'Gloster Hill'. I have no idea how we managed to get up there with all of our equipment, fear probably! Yet strange as it sounds, once we were up the hill I didn't feel scared. Although there were of course moments of terror. The Chinese were either very brave or were very frightened and were being forced to attack by people behind them. I still felt hopeful as we had a bit of ammunition, and I thought the Americans would get us out. How little I knew!

"We used to say that the British Army never made a retreat; only a tactical withdrawal(!). After three days of fighting, things were getting pretty desperate. I turned to my comrade in our slip trench and said to him: 'This will give us something to talk about down the pub when we get back!'. We had very little water and food and we also had our wounded. When we got the order on the third day to withdraw we had to leave our dead and wounded behind with a Padre, the Medical Officer and medics who gave themselves up to the Chinese to try to save the lives of the wounded. I only had five rounds left in my rifle. I was a 20 year old soldier and I naively thought we would fight our way out. That's why as we got off the hill and into a valley I used one round to shoot a Chinese soldier before he shot me. It was then I heard the shout 'Don't shoot!' and realised we weren't fighting our way out. Further along the valley on our descent, Chinese troops came towards us from both sides and I heard someone say 'Alright lads, it's no good. They've got us'. And that was the start of two and half years in captivity.

"A group of us were sat in a muddy farmyard – bedraggled and bloodied from three days of battle – and a Chinese officer came to tell us 'For you, the war is over'. Having heard this line many times in war films, we all doubled up laughing. He walked away shaking his head, probably wondering why we were laughing so much at what he thought was a quite reasonable statement!

"It took us six weeks to walk the 600 miles to the prison camp and our training running up the hills in Korea stood us in very good stead for that. We all had dysentery and of course some of the men were the walking wounded who had been injured in the battle. The Chinese removed the more seriously wounded and left the walking wounded with us. As we walked we heard the battles behind us and we saw Chinese troops heading south. Medical treatment at the time was wholly inadequate as we were without any medical supplies. One man, a Bren Gunner, had splinters from the magazine, which had been hit, in his head and they had to be removed. He was numb and didn't really feel the pain

as a few of the men worked together to remove the splinters from his head. He didn't receive any further treatment, but I'm pleased to say he survived.

"Eventually we got to the prison camp, although it wasn't like the camps in Germany or Poland. It wasn't ringed with barbed wire, but with Chinese guards; it was part of a village that had been taken over by the Chinese forces. When we arrived, the morale of the American prisoners was low and I think our presence gave them a bit of a lift. We did all kinds of things, like pretending to walk an invisible dog around the camp. The Chinese must have thought we were crackers, but I think it was just the good old British sense of humour. We weren't allowed to send letters home; we could only send cards that declared that we were well and that we were being fed. We didn't hear about the death of King George or the Queen's Coronation for months after it had happened. Neither did we receive Red Cross parcels, which would have helped us greatly.

"Our health in the camp wasn't great as our diet was inadequate and there was a lot of sickness, including dysentery, cholera, yellow fever and many men died, especially among the Americans. I had yellow jaundice and other sicknesses, but recovered as most of us did. One of the first among us to die was our Troop cook 'Taffy' Moseley and in one day I saw 15 Americans go up Boot Hill. As we got used to the conditions in typical British fashion we adapted. We were louse ridden but when Lofty Simms somehow got hold of a pair of hair clippers and gave us haircuts that was a blessing. We had Mohicans before they were fashionable and had tonsures just like monks, or we just shaved all our hair off. I even had a shave with a 6" nail that Lofty had fashioned into a razor. That made it more tolerable as far as hygiene was concerned. It was the British sense of humour coming out again.

"I passed my 21st birthday in the camp in the February of 1952. After 18 months in captivity two of us tried to make a break for freedom in the August of 1952. Since it was impossible to blend in with the population the way you could have done in Europe, the only option was to make for the coast as quickly as possible. The escape "committee", which consisted of about half a dozen men, gave me a new watch (which was worse than the one I had reluctantly parted with to help another man escape previously!). I never met the escape committee as they were a covert group and we dealt only with an intermediary. The committee also gave us a route to follow, and one August night we got our stuff together to leave. But just as we had crossed the river, I heard the click of a rifle and knew that we'd had it.

"By trying to escape, I think we had offended them. [It was as if they asked] 'You don't like our hospitality?' The consequences of our escape attempt were severe. I was placed in a cramped disused toilet and was forced to wear handcuffs that bit into my wrists. The only light into the room was from a beam through a crack in the door where I watched a small spider as it lay in wait for any insect that settled into the beam of light. I watched that spider for many hours, which really took my mind off things. Since then I have been unable to harm a spider.

"The Chinese kept dragging me out in the middle of the night for interrogation, but since I wasn't telling them anything, they began threatening to deport me to Manchuria. The idea of capturing us in such large numbers was that they'd be able to brainwash us and convert us to Communism, which we would continue to champion when the war was over. I was worried about being deported and gave them fictitious names such as Tom Mick and John Wayne etc. When they didn't give up and the threat of deportation became very real and after a lot of interrogation from the Chinese and much deliberation on my part, I finally gave them the names of several "progressives" – PoWs who had begun to sympathise with communism – knowing that they wouldn't be reprimanded too harshly. Shortly afterwards, I was moved into an open barn space and into a small cage resembling a dog kennel: we used to call it the Kennel Club. I could only just manage to sit up in the cage. A party of Americans once passed by us and I saw the jaw of one literally drop open. He must have been horrified at the sight of us. We must have looked like The Dog's Trust – 'come and adopt a PoW!'

"I was eventually taken out and told that I'd been given six weeks in a labour camp a few miles from the main camp. There were less than 20 of us in there: all bad boys obviously. Although the work was hard as we gathered wood for the winter, broke it into logs and stockpiled it, we got to eat the same meals as the guards, which was a huge improvement on the old food. After my time of hard labour I resumed normal camp life. As I walked back into the camp with a Chinese guard we mistakenly went into the American compound as he didn't know where he was going. He left me alone for a few minutes while he got directions to the British compound. While I waited I had a whispered conversation with some Americans and told them that I was British and that I'd come from a labour camp. As we walked past them and back to our compound the Americans lined up and applauded and that cheered me up no end.

"We were eventually told by the Chinese commandant that the war was over, but I think we only half believed it: we had been hearing accounts of drawn out

peace talks for several years by that point. When we realised we were being released and as we marched out of the camp I'll never forget that we started to sing 'It's a long way to Tipperary'. At that time we wouldn't have minded where we went, as long as it was out of Korea! We got on a cattle train and travelled back to Panmunjon, where we were handed over to the Americans, and it was quite surreal. We were released in September 1953 and after almost three years in captivity, we were being treated like VIPs - showers, hot food and crisp new uniforms. Eventually we were put on the ship home from Singapore to Southampton."

A "glutton for punishment", Tom said that he couldn't imagine life outside of the Army. He went on to Serve for 32 years, taking postings in Germany and eventually Gloucester, where he now resides close to his three daughters Susan, Yvonne and Melanie. It was his return to Korea in 2011 on the 60th Anniversary of the Battle at Imjin which illustrates how important it is this year, on the 60th Anniversary of the Armistice, to remember the sacrifice made by more than 1,000 British soldiers and of course all the Forces fighting under the UN banner, which included the Commonwealth troops from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and India etc. Tom also believes it is important to remember the many Koreans who lost their lives. In all wars civilians suffer greatly and Korea was no exception and they should not be forgotten.

Tom concluded: "On my return to England I didn't speak with my father about my time as a PoW as we both understood one another. We knew what we'd been through and that was enough, although I tried to reassure him that it hadn't been as bad for us in Korea. I do speak with my fellow PoWs at the British Korean Veterans Association when we meet once a month. I really benefit from the annual Blind Veterans UK Ex-PoW Reunion at the Brighton centre, especially speaking with Billy Orr who is also a former Korean PoW. I greatly value being a member of both distinguished organisations and I thank Blind Veterans UK for all the training they have given me.

"After I had returned from the visit to Korea in 2011, my eldest daughter told me that she had learned more about my time in Korea from me talking to the press than she had learnt from me personally in all the years. Up until the BBC began asking me questions, I hadn't really talked about it. It's often called the Forgotten War, and it largely is forgotten. It might sound a cliché to say, but I think you have to talk about it on behalf of the blokes who didn't come home."

## Social Networking in Sheffield.

You know how each generation seems to re-invent the English language? Take the word 'tweet'. No longer is it the gentle chirping of a small bird. It's now something that humans do over 300 million times a day, on a computer or a mobile phone using Twitter. Stephen Fry is a big tweeter, so is Barack Obama. Not to mention Lady Gaga.

Many new words are spawned by the phenomenon that is Social Networking. But what is social networking exactly? And how do you do it? Well, so far 20 Blind Veterans UK members have attended the Sheffield training centre to find out.

The brainchild of IT Instructor Gaye Atkins, the Social Networking training weeks have been a roaring success. Each course has been different, with diverse levels of experience and computer skills for instance. But two elements have remained constant – enthusiasm and camaraderie.

The course covers the ins and outs of two websites in particular – Facebook and Twitter. Both allow members of the public to share experiences, opinions and interests. And of course, have a good old gossip and a natter. But there are more serious implications. Would the Arab Spring have been possible otherwise? One Egyptian spokesman said: "We use Twitter to coordinate and YouTube to tell the world".

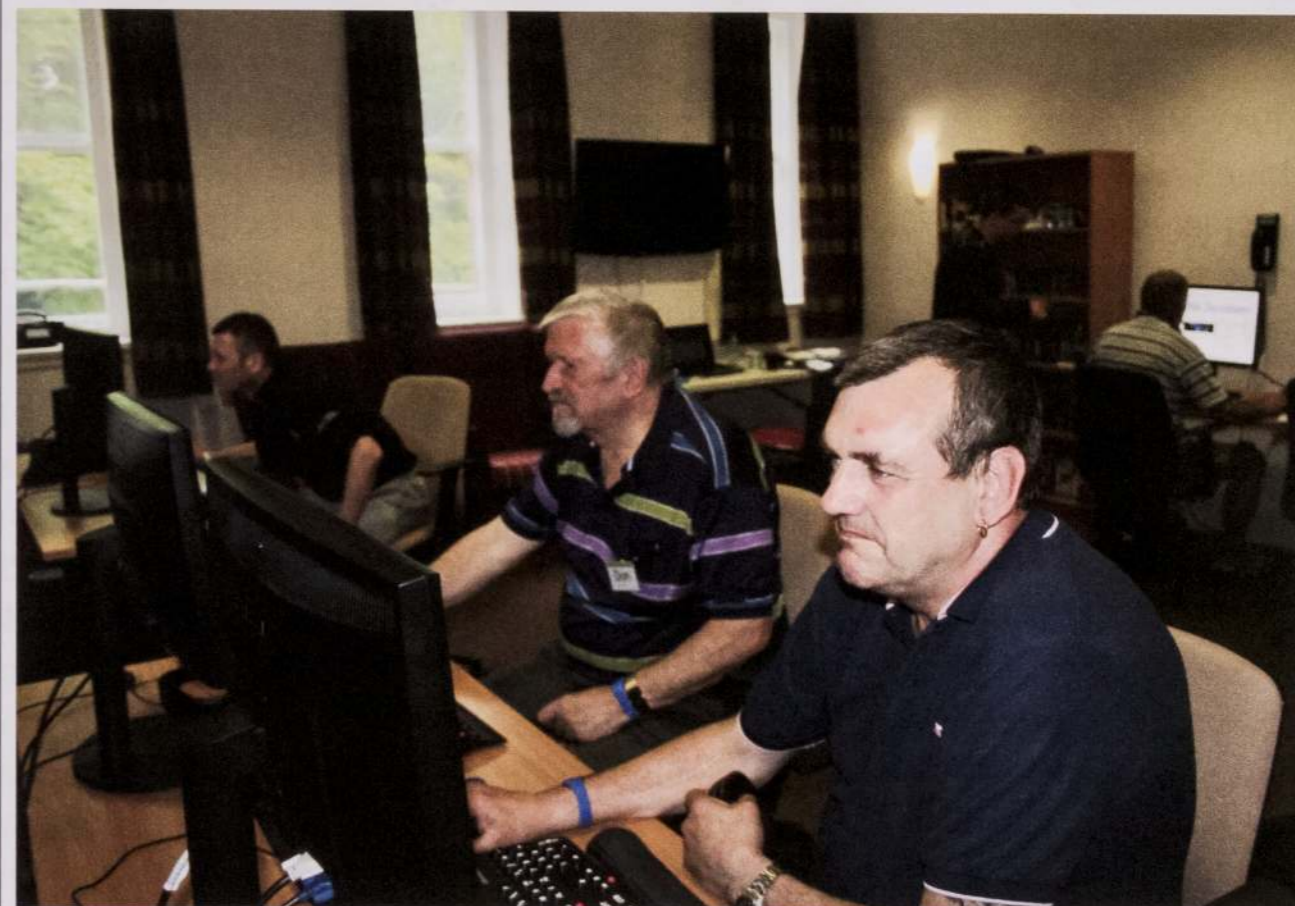
Here is what our intrepid members learnt (and a lot more besides).

- How and why Social Networks are used.
- How to set up Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Understand the importance of security and how to set it up. Many people prefer to let only their friends and family visit their web pages.
- How to use Facebook and Twitter accounts effectively. Members have differing priorities – many purely want social use, whilst others wish to advertise their skills to prospective employers for instance.
- How to upload photos. The ongoing series of photography weeks at Sheffield have proven that being blind doesn't stop you from taking a decent photo.
- Audioboo – a speech only version of Twitter – nothing to see but plenty to listen to.

Gaye has set up a Blind Veterans chat group on Facebook. As well as being used for training, it is open to all members. Think of it as a place to come and chat with other members. You need a Facebook account to join - simply search for Blind Veterans chat. As it is a private group one of the administrators will have to accept any request to join. Please be patient if you don't get an immediate response.

The course has now been run at Llandudno with the help of Dave Cawley (IT Instructor) and John Bingham-Forbes (IT Technical Assistant) as well as Daniel Cawley (Dave's son) volunteering. The course was a resounding success.

To register your interest please telephone or email IT Support. Contact details are telephone: 01273 391432 or email [rehabit@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:rehabit@blindveterans.org.uk)



**Picture:** From left to right front row: Karl 'Charlie' Parkinson, Don Baron, Ian Cloke. Second row with back to the camera: Steve 'Sparky' Sparkes and Tom Prior.



## Ted 'the lad' Cachart relives his Bomber Command days, by Catherine Goodier.

At around 2.30am on 3rd January 1944, Ted Cachart was alone in a forest in Northern Germany - cold, soaked to the skin and with severe cramp in his left leg from a knee injury. A member of Bomber Command he had parachuted from the remains of his Lancaster during a bombing mission to Berlin.

Ted Cachart said: "I wanted to join the RAF, rather than be conscripted into the Army or Navy, as it seemed the best option to me. It also appealed as the RAF were known as the Brylcreem boys in those days and believed to be more attractive to the young ladies. There was a poster, which the MOD denies existed, that showed a young woman kissing an Airman and a queue of young women waiting to kiss him. The slogan read: 'The girls will queue for the boys in blue.' And I wanted to be a boy in blue!"

In 1941, although only 15 years of age, to ensure he became one of the boys in blue Ted went to his local Recruiting Office where he was told he couldn't volunteer until he was 17¼, with his parents' consent. He took the forms home and asked his father and a priest to sign them, telling them: 'It's just to make sure I get into the RAF'. No lies passed his young lips! Ted sent the signed forms off having entered his birth year as 1923 rather than 1925.

In April he attended a medical examination board at Edgware Hospital and was passed as A1. In May he was told to report to Oxford University, where, with others, he took a written exam, followed by an interview with the Air Crew Selection Board. Only too aware of his young age Ted declined to train as a pilot and trained as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner. He was then sworn in and on 13th May 1941, a month before his 16th birthday, he became a member of the RAF.

Ted continued: "I turned 16 in June and received my call up papers in October. My father was quite annoyed, but when I told him I knew he had joined the Army underage in the First World War, he accepted and said: 'OK, but I'll bet you'll want me to get you out by the time Christmas comes.'

"After completion of training in Wireless and Gunnery I was promoted to Sergeant and proudly sewed on an Air Gunners Brevet and three stripes. I am sure I swaggered home for 10 days leave. Further training followed when I

joined with four others to be a crew. They were Flying Officer Johnny Young, Pilot. Pilot Officer Jack Scott, Navigator, both Canadians in the RCAF. Pilot Officer Les Orchard, Bomb Aimer. Sergeant Len Crossman, Rear Gunner. Like myself, all three in the RAF. Two months later we added Flight Sergeant Allen Vidow, Flight Engineer, RAF and Australian Sergeant 'Spud' Mahony, Mid Upper Gunner in the RAAF. As a group we would sleep, eat and play together. We were no longer individuals, we were a unit. It was quite natural to go to the cinema together where we would sit all seven in a row. It made us confident that each person would do their job to the best of their ability."

On 13th October 1943 they were posted to 49 Squadron at RAF Fiskerton near Lincoln City, as part of Base 52 in 5 Group, Bomber Command.

With excitement in his voice Ted continued: "I can only speak for myself when I say what it was like to go on an operation with Bomber Command, and I can honestly say that it was something very special. It was never 'Oh we're on ops' said in a gloomy tone, it was always 'Hey we're on ops tonight!' It started with our regular WAAF driver, Dot Everett, who drove us to our Lancaster, EA-N (NAN), or Nancy Pants as Dot renamed her. The adrenaline kicked in as you thought about the target, the number of night fighters, and if there would be heavy flak and searchlights. It was incredibly exciting.

"During an operation I would stand with my head in the Astrodome as I listened to the radio on a long lead, while also acting as an extra pair of eyes. I can only say it was like watching an exciting film, as everything was going on outside, not in our Lancaster. At least not until our final op! The most critical time in any bombing operation is the last few minutes as the pilot flies the aircraft straight and level at a fixed speed to allow the Bomb Aimer to adjust his bombsight and give instructions for alignment. I am sure we all held our breath until the magic words 'bombs gone'. Targets were bombed on a number of occasions when approaches were made from different directions to ensure that the entire target was attacked. Our approach to the target was via a turning point some 60 miles north of Berlin. As we dropped our starboard wing to turn onto the new course, another aircraft, which had already turned, flew straight into our starboard wing, which snapped off close to the inboard engine. As I looked from the Astrodome I saw part of our aircraft disappear.

"In the collision I lost my helmet and oxygen mask and at that height, if you're lucky, you have about two minutes before you pass out through lack of oxygen. I worked my way along the darkened fuselage and saw both gunners standing

at the open door. I couldn't talk to them and don't remember if they gave me the thumbs up to bail out. I do know I sat on the steps and rolled out. I don't remember pulling the rip cord; I just remember descending in the chute. I could have been court marshalled for having abandoned the aircraft without permission. At that moment I was more concerned to see the aircraft fly away into the clouds, perhaps back home, than what lay ahead of me in Germany below.

"Then my thought was 'how do I keep warm?' as I was frozen. The temperature was probably around 30° below that night. It was a snowy, windy night with 75mph winds. I wished desperately that I'd chosen another role as the other crew members had thick jackets, sweaters and gloves. I just wore battledress and boots as mine was the hottest seat in the aircraft. As I looked down I saw a black area among the clouds and thought I was coming into clear air. But my feet crashed through the branches of a tree and I hung there from the parachute straps in the darkness and pouring rain as I tried to work out how far I was from the ground. Eventually I managed to swing over and grab the tree trunk with my legs; I then released the parachute harness and slid about three feet to the ground."

The impact of the landing injured Ted's knee and made it difficult to walk. He has no memory of how long he struggled through the forest, but he eventually found a remote farmhouse.

Ted continued: "I sat on the doorstep and banged on the door. Someone shouted at me to go away. I kept on banging using the handle of my sheath knife. Eventually a woman opened the door. I held the knife up to her, holding it by the blade to show I meant her no harm. She took it from me, helped me up and inside and into a downstairs bedroom where her husband was in bed. He didn't want to know I was there. She sat me in a chair and gave me a towel to dry myself with; she put a blanket round my shoulders and took a piece of wood from the tree out of my hand and bathed and bandaged it. The bandage on my knee was now too tight and as I struggled to loosen it she took over, removed it and re-bandaged my knee. She gave me a cup of cold coffee and although we didn't speak each other's language we made ourselves understood. I learnt that her son had been killed onboard a U-boat. There was a photograph of him on the mantelshelf with a piece of black ribbon round it. I believe she treated me the way she would have wanted her son to be treated had he been captured."

A car arrived and Ted was taken to the local Burgermeister's house where he was briefly interviewed, before he was taken to a nearby Luftwaffe base.

Clearly remembering the time Ted said: "The German Sergeant in the Guard Room let me sit by a fire and shared his rations with me in the early hours of the morning before he locked me in a cell when he went off duty. Later five officers entered and one tapped me on the shoulder and said 'Liverpool fünf times' and another said, 'London acht times'. Another, who spoke good English, put his hand on my shoulder and said 'You're a very lucky young man as your war is over. We have to fight on'. Looking back there was no animosity. They were no different to us; they were just doing the job they were told to do. There was great respect between the RAF and the Luftwaffe.

"I was eventually taken to Trolenhagen Airbase where I was interrogated by the Commanding Officer who asked why I carried a sheath knife. When I told him it was to puncture the tins of orange juice that we drank on operations he said 'You took drink on operations?' He was even more incredulous when I told him it was to wash down the sandwiches and cakes we ate on ops. Needless to say they confiscated the knife. All our crew were brought in one at a time until we were all seven together."

The Commissioned Officers, the Pilot, Navigator and Bomb Aimer were sent to Stalag Luft III, which was the camp of the great escape, where 50 PoWs were executed. Ted and the other NCOs went to Stalag IV-B near Mühlberg, to the south of Berlin. After two months Ted was sent to Dulag Luft for further interrogation when some new radio equipment was discovered in the wreckage of the Lancaster. He was then sent to Stalag Luft VI, Heydekrug, on the borders of Lithuania and later moved to Toruń in Poland and then to Fallingbomel in Western Germany.

Ted was repatriated in 1945 and continued to Serve in the Royal Air Force until 1949, and for a further six years as a reserve. On his tie below an embroidered Lancaster, he wears the pin badge of a prisoner of war and the small gold caterpillar clasp of the Caterpillar Club that is given to those whose life has been saved by an Irving Parachute. Now he has his Bomber Command clasp, which he wears on his 1939 to 1945 Star.

Asked about the Bomber Command Memorial, Ted said: "It's finally politically acceptable to recognise Bomber Command. Winston Churchill turned his back on Bomber Command at the end of the war when he made no mention of us

in his post war speech. From then onwards Bomber Command was a political hot potato. No-one wanted to be seen to do anything to recognise it. It took more than 60 years to get the Memorial. The Bomber Command Association, along with Robin Gibb of the BeeGees and others started a campaign, which was supported very strongly by the Daily Telegraph and Daily Express, and with their help £5 million was raised in two years. The memorial was unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen in 2012 and I had the honour to be there.

"I have feelings of both sadness and pleasure when I visit the Bomber Command Memorial as I remember the comrades who failed to return and those I Served with who did. I think of the 55,573 who made the ultimate sacrifice, 25,000 of whom flew from Lincolnshire. I hope the Memorial will make people appreciate the sacrifices they made. At long last we have been given the Bomber Command Clasp and I wear mine with a great deal of pride, but I just wish it had been given many years ago."

When asked how Blind Veterans UK has helped him Ted said: "I have really benefited meeting and becoming friends with people with similar difficulties. The care and attention from the staff, who are extremely helpful is wonderful, especially my Welfare Officer, Alison Molloy. In the near future I plan to go to the Sheffield centre for further computer training."

Ted Cachart's book, Ted The Lad, A Schoolboy Who Went to War, is available from Ted at £20, inc p&p to UK addresses. If you would like to buy a copy please phone Ted on: 01773 853181. Or email him at: [ted@49squadron.co.uk](mailto:ted@49squadron.co.uk)



**Picture:** October 1941 the Blackpool Squadron. Ted is featured in the 2nd row, 3rd from the left. Photo from Ted Cachart.

## Bert Bleach MBE.

On 19th July 2013 Bert and Helen Bleach made a very special journey from their home in Nyewood to Windsor Castle, where HM The Queen presented Blind Veterans UK member Bert with an MBE in recognition of his service to his community. Nominated by our Chairman, Major General Andrew Keeling CB, CBE, RM, Bert and Helen said they were thrilled and honoured to have met HM The Queen and Bert said he was overwhelmed with his honour.

In his nomination the Chairman wrote that Bert has excelled over many years as a member of the community of Nyewood in which he lives. In 1946 he started bell-ringing in Rogate church where he rang on a very regular basis for the next 64 years. This included a total of 29 years as Captain of the Tower. This involved him in winding the church clock, which he did for 30 years, maintenance of the bells, and training new ringers. All this was done with immaculate attention to detail and total reliability. Bert is still very engaged with a wide range of local activities. He and his wife Helen are much loved and widely respected for the contribution they have made over a very long period, and which they continue to make.



**Picture:** Helen and Bert Bleach MBE outside Windsor Castle on 19th July 2013.

# Church Stretton 50 year badge holders' reunion.

In the September 1952 Review, Lord Fraser, in his role as Chairman of Blind Veterans UK, wrote of his return to Church Stretton, our war time home, from 1939 to 1945:

'Lady Fraser and I stayed the night at the Longmynd Hotel at Church Stretton during August. This revived memories and caused acute nostalgia. Lady Fraser remembered the first night she, Mr Askew and Miss Canti stayed there in the month of June in 1940, when they were inspecting the place to see if we would requisition it; you can imagine they were not very welcome guests.

'I remembered a night a few weeks later when I slept there for the first time after it had become Blind Veterans UK. We were glad to get away to such a quiet spot after many nights of bombing in London, but I had no sooner got into bed when I heard the familiar drone of a German 'plane, its engines throbbing. They have followed us here from Brighton, I thought, but though we heard them many times, they never dropped a bomb on the town, and only one or two, I think, within 10 or 20 miles.

'The Longmynd hotel has gone back to its original role as a hotel; the carpentry and other workshops have reverted to their use as garages. The lawn just beside the Entrance Gate, where we built temporary huts — the 'Longmynd Huts' — has been cleared but is still very rough. Belmont, the girls' house, is now a boarding house, but the railings which we had put up on the steep stairs to prevent the girls slipping are still there. Tiger Hall is a block of flats, Denehurst a hotel, and Brockhurst, a Roman Catholic Students' College. The main Blind Veterans UK centre which we built in the middle of the village is a County School and we recalled many experiences, happy and sad, as we passed by and looked at the Commandant's and Matron's offices, the music and dance hall.

'Squadron Leader and Mrs Bartlett, who still live at Church Stretton, had dinner with us and told us all the gossip of the village and reminded us of many other old friends such as Miss Zillah Jones, the Misses Jones and the "Chelmick" teas, and Sergeant Lewis and PC Arkinstall, who are still on the beat.'

From 26th - 29th June 2013, the Longmynd Hotel at Church Stretton in Shropshire was once again requisitioned by Blind Veterans UK. This time for the annual 50 year badge holders' reunion. Over the weekend it was home to eight members with their spouses, family members or escorts and 13 widows who were joined by members of staff and distinguished guests.

Blind Veterans UK's Chief Executive, Robert Leader, said: "The annual 50 year badge holders' reunion at Church Stretton is always a very special few days in the Blind Veterans UK calendar. Whilst the numbers of those who actually trained at Church Stretton 70 years ago are quite few now, it is still very moving to see the way the townspeople took us to their hearts and that the links can still be maintained to this day."

It was like going home for some members who were there during its years as our wartime home. One person to attend the reunion who trained at Church Stretton was Gwen Obern. Gwen was injured in an explosion in December 1940. It was only her third day as a Munitions Worker at the Royal Ordnance factory in Bridgend. Gwen was blinded in the explosion, she also lost one hand and the other was severely injured. She became a member of Blind Veterans UK's elite blind and handless group.

Speaking of Gwen, Joan Osborne, a Music Therapist at Church Stretton said: "I remember when Gwen came in. I was about 16 at the time and she was a typical Welsh lady. I remember how she wanted to go home and she would cry. When Gwen cried my father Joe, who was blinded in WWI and was a Braille instructor at Church Stretton, would pretend to cry. Gwen would tell him she wanted to go home and he would ask her to stay another day and say that if she went he would go too. She stayed and really got into life there and became a very important part of our family. Gwennie was a soprano and she would sing on the radio and in the shows that we put on.

"Church Stretton played an important part in my life, as it's where I met my husband Bob, who was wounded in France. I always said that I had 300 brothers there, as we were like a family. I couldn't think of anything else I would rather have done. It was just wonderful. I never thought of anyone as disabled as my father had been blinded and lost his arm in the First World War. They were just boys to me. As they were all together they could always find someone worse off than themselves and this helped them. They also learnt from the First World War men who were instructors as they helped them to adapt to their new lives."



**Picture:** Gwen Obern with Barry Porter, Director of Welfare Services.  
**Photo:** Bill Lyth.

Another person to attend the reunion who trained at Church Stretton was Norman Hopkins MCSP, SPR, who commenced training as a physiotherapist at Church Stretton on 17th June 1945 when he was 21 years old. He was wounded in action in Germany on 17th February 1945 whilst in a tank turret Serving with the 9th Royal Tank Regiment.

John Harris from Caversham in Berkshire, who ran his own physiotherapy practice for many years, was also at the reunion. Following training at Church Stretton from July 1945 and also with the RNIB in London, then the National Institute for the Blind, John commenced work as a physiotherapist at the Royal Gwent in Newport, Wales, before moving to Reading Hospital and then establishing his own practice. John was wounded in Germany in February 1945 by an 8.8" shell while Serving with the Monmouthshire Regiment.

Speaking of his time at Church Stretton John said: "You have to contrast Church Stretton to the fact that I, like many of the other young men who went there, had come from Stoke Mandeville, which was a very different place. The contrast was tremendous, as Church Stretton was a very friendly place for ex-Servicemen. The local people accepted us so very generously and as they worried about cars entering the village and running us over, they put up a sign that stated: 'Beware of the blind ex-Serviceman', which was perhaps rather extreme. They accepted the 300 chaps who had descended on their community and taken over the hotel. We would wander across the road and walk around the place. I once heard a van driver get a ticking off for parking his car where the chaps could walk into it. They really looked after us in that way. They gave us tremendous consideration. That was the climate of war as the people who came through it alright were naturally supportive.

"The function at Church Stretton was to start you doing something positive, learning Braille, typing and training for an occupation. It was the same as going to college as everyone was in their early 20s. It was very happy and the staff were friendly and pleasant. It enabled me to train as a physiotherapist. During reunions it's interesting to see the place again, although so few chaps are there from that era, but it continues to provide a good break.

"I joined the band and learned to play the trumpet, although very badly and was in Joan Osborne's (then Walch) Brass section. Gwen Obern was of course at the latest reunion and I remember what a great singer she was. She really found her voice at Church Stretton. Claude Bampton ran the music dept and Geraldo, a popular band leader at that time, became the Director of Music. Claude enjoyed the job so much he moved to Church Stretton and he became one of the lads. He would pay out of his own pocket for another saxophonist to teach. He really enjoyed being with the other members. Claude wrote a book 'Over The Style' which included mention of Gwen."



**Picture:** The Church Stretton Band with John Harris bottom row on the left.

## Blind Veterans UK Christmas collection for 2013.

It's that time of year again where we prepare ourselves for Christmas. With this in mind, we are pleased to make our new selection of Christmas cards available to order. All of our Christmas cards carry our charity logo and the greeting 'Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'. Each pack contains ten cards and envelopes and all prices include VAT. Postage and packaging costs £2.50 on orders worth up to £30, or it is free on orders worth £30 or more.

To ensure delivery by Christmas, please order by Monday 9th December. To place your orders please telephone: 0845 450 8446, or order from the website at: [www.blindveterans.org.uk/shop](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/shop) where you can also see our full selection.

### **Penguins.**

A row of penguins stand in front of an icy backdrop.

**Ref:** BVE052X.

**Price:** £3.75.

**Size:** 121mm x 171mm.



**Picture:** At Longmynd hotel during WWII, Lord Fraser front centre. **Photo** kindly donated by Vanessa Church, daughter of the late Susan Canti.



### **Choir boys in church.**

A procession of choir boys entering a snow topped church with a Christmas tree outside, shrouded in the light from the moon.

**Ref:** BVE056X.

**Price:** £3.95.

**Size:** 121mm x 171mm.



**Three Kings.**

Three Kings on their camels as they make their journey across the desert to Bethlehem with beautiful gold detailing to give that extra bit of Christmas sparkle.

**Ref:** BVE054X.

**Price:** £3.95.

**Size:** 159mm x 159mm.



**Blues and Royals.**

This Christmas card shows the regal Blues and Royals outside the gates of a snowy Buckingham Palace.

**Ref:** BVE058X.

**Price:** £3.50.

**Size:** 121mm x 171mm.

**A winter sunrise.**

A robin dusted in snow perched on a garden fence with holly and berries in the foreground and a beautiful winter sunrise in the background.

**Ref:** BVE051X. **Price:** £3.75.

**Size:** 159mm x 159mm.



**Dove with olive branch.**

This white dove is in flight with an olive branch in its beak. It is flying through a dark night sky over Bethlehem.

**Ref:** BVE053X.

**Price:** £3.95.

**Size:** 159mm x 159mm.



**Santa with sack of presents.**

This card features Father Christmas carrying a sack bursting with presents in front of a wintery Christmas Eve sky.

**Ref:** BVE057X. **Price:** £3.75

**Size:** 121mm x 171mm.

**Children building a snowman.**

Two young children put the finishing touches to their snowman with help from their puppy. **Ref:** BVE055X.

**Price:** £3.95. **Size:** 121mm x 171mm.



### Christmas house.

This card shows an idyllic snow topped house with light streaming through the windows. Outside there is a Christmas tree and small bridge with a frozen stream.

**Ref:** BVE050X.

**Price:** £3.50.

**Size:** 159mm x 159mm.



### Red wine improves with age apron.

This 100% cotton apron shows a dachshund dog carefully balancing a glass of red wine on its head. It reads 'Red wine improves with age: the older you get, the more you like it.' Exclusively designed for Blind Veterans UK by the artist Simon Drew. **Ref:** BVE061X. **Price:** £12.95.



## Order form



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and our veterans lives.

Blind Veterans Trading Ltd is wholly owned by and gives all its taxable profits to Blind Veterans UK,  
a charity registered in England & Wales (no. 216227) and Scotland (no. SC0394111) under the Gift Aid Scheme.

**Picture:** The order form to tear out should you wish to use rather than order online or by phone.



## Select your Christmas cards today



Code	Description	Number of packs	Cost per pack*	TOTAL £
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BVE054X	THREE KINGS		£3.95	
BVE055X	CHILDREN BUILDING A SNOWMAN		£3.95	
BVE056X	CHOIR BOYS IN CHURCH		£3.95	
BVE057X	SANTA WITH SACK OF PRESENTS		£3.75	
BVE058X	BLUES AND ROYALS		£3.50	
BVE068X	GIFT WRAP PACK 1		£4.00	
BVE069X	GIFT WRAP PACK 2		£4.00	
BVE070X	TRADITIONAL GIFT TAGS		£0.95	
BVE059X	2014 DIARY		£4.00	
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BVE001E	COTTON CANVAS BAG		£3.95	
BVE043X	UNION JACK CUFFLINKS		£10.95	
BVE004E	TROLLEY COIN KEYRING		£1.50	
BVE002E	SILVER PEN		£2.95	
BVE007E	TALL, DUCK AND HANDSOME TEA TOWEL		£4.95	
BVE008E	SLEEPING CAT TEA TOWEL		£4.95	
BVE060X	TRUST ME I'M A DUCKTOR APRON		£12.95	
BVE061X	RED WINE IMPROVES WITH AGE APRON		£12.95	
BVE064X	FESTIVE BUMPER PACK		£4.95	
BVE062X	CLASSIC NAPKINS		£4.00	
BVE063X	MODERN CHRISTMAS NAPKINS		£4.00	
<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>				<b>£</b>

Postage & packing: Orders up to £30 = £2.50  
Orders over £30 = FREE

Send a donation to support **Blind Veterans UK** today  
I'd also like to support your ongoing work with an extra donation of

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\*Cost per pack includes VAT at 20%.

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**FINAL TOTAL**

**£**

22818\_CAT

## Canoe and camp week 2013, by Dewi Roberts, Sports & Recreation Instructor.

At the Llandudno centre we held our first canoe and camping week from 7th to 8th June. Venturing South to Herefordshire seven members tackled the River Wye, canoeing a total distance of over 35 miles! This was achieved with the help of members of staff and a volunteer acting as a guide on the river, who had previous experience of paddling. The members had a day's experience as they were taught by military personnel in North Wales before they headed out. The campsite we stayed at was fantastic and well equipped, and we even had two barbecues as the weather was great!

Members who took part during the week were: Bob Arbuckle, Mark Heaume, Darren Blanks, Carl Adamson, Billy Black, David Greenwood (+ Homer!) and Paul Egan.

Members of staff and guides were Vince Godber ROVI, Steve Boswell R&T Manager, Dewi Roberts Sports & Recreation Instructor, Matt Lee IT Instructor (aka Professor Google), Melinda Dixon Training & Development Manager, Bob Hind volunteer, Andy Warburton, volunteer and Head Chef with TNS Catering Management, Paul Williams volunteer and Pete Lloyd from Reception/Security.



**Picture:** The order form to tear out should you wish to use rather than order online or by phone.

## Back to the bank by Bryan Kilburn, Senior ROVI.

Over three days in early June the first Brighton centre fresh water fishing activity week took place by the lake at Wylands International Angling Centre in Battle. It was a great success, with all of us catching fish despite the traditional English summer weather. We were well looked after by both the Angling centre and our fellow anglers: not only did we not have to pay for the fishing but we were kept supplied with hot drinks, which were essential in the summer wind and rain!

Member Chris Kennie caught several fish: I'm not going to say how big they were but let's just say they were not too hard to fit in the net! They were however, the first fish he had caught since he lost his sight eight years ago, and this ranked as one of the most memorable and important catches of his angling career. Fred Heath had a more difficult week but his patience paid off with a beautiful golden tench which nearly pulled his rod in, the tether saving it: a good tip for us all. The staff who accompanied the members also had success with a number of carp being landed.

Chris Kennie said: "I had a brilliant time, although I didn't catch much, but thanks to those few days I am now back in the game and fresh water fishing on a regular basis after eight years away. I would like to thank Bryan and Kim, the drivers and everyone who made it possible. I picked up a few tips over the week and Fred Heath gave me a little gadget called a sidewinder for my rod that really helps. As there's a certain amount of finesse to fresh water fishing didn't think I'd ever be able to do it again. I've been out since with my son and have had some good results. If it hadn't been for this trip I wouldn't be fishing again. I can't wait for next year! Thank you."

Around the three days fishing, we spent time looking at bits and pieces of kit that people found useful. We put together tips and useful items for people with sight loss to continue, or get back to, fishing. We looked at baits that are easy to handle and tried out a few new ideas. We also had a great fish and chip supper on the last evening. Perhaps I should stress here that all the fish we caught were returned to the lake safely and are happily swimming to this day!

The week was such a success that we plan to run another in 2014. If you'd like more information on this, please contact me, Bryan Kilburn, Senior ROVI, at our Brighton centre. Bryan is on telephone: 01492 868736 or email him at:

[bryan.kilburn@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:bryan.kilburn@blindveterans.org.uk)



Picture: Fred Heath with his golden tench.



Picture: Chris Kennie with his fish.

## Blind Veterans UK Gun Club, Brighton, by Zillah McMullan.

It has been another successful year for the Gun Club. We welcomed Nigel Whiteley to the Club, but sadly it has also been a time to say goodbye to others, as John Watts, Birt Jenkins and Marjorie Scott passed away. We remember them with affection on Club days.

Once again the men were entered in the Winter Postal Leagues of the National Small Bore Rifle Association, and did well in their respective divisions.

The Winter League 2012/2013 (scores out of 1,000) medals were as follows:-

Div 1	Bill Goddon 1st - 1,000	Gold Medal
Div 3	Brian Taylor 2nd - 970 David Weltman 5th - 924	Silver Medal
Div 5	John Nunney 4th - 923 Cliff Ford 6th - 278	
Div 6	Arthur Walton 4th - 927	
Div 9	George Oliver 5th - 860	

The Dorothy Wright Trophy was shot in November and was won by Reg Goodwin with a nominated score of 81 and he shot 81.

The Cliff Ford Shield was for the total scores of Winter and Summer Leagues combined and again was won by Bill Goddon, with a score of 1,993.

In February to mark the success we had our first annual dinner at the White Horse, Rottingdean, which was a great success and enjoyed by all members and guests.

May 28th - 30th we went to shoot against Felixstowe Blind Gun Club, our first trip to them, they made us all very welcome and after a day of shooting we

were entertained to a meal and the prizes were presented. Felixstowe won the Team Shield, the team was formed of Sue Norman, Malcolm Ablett and Mark Maidment.

The Blind Veterans UK team was Bill Godden, Brian Taylor and George Oliver.

The Blind Veterans UK Team Cups for individuals were presented to:-

1st	Sue Norman	Felixstowe	98
2nd	Bill Goddon	Blind Veterans UK	92
3rd	Malcolm Ablett	Felixstowe	91

Our thanks go to all the members in Felixstowe and to Lee, the driver, wives and helpers for a very interesting three days. We hope to entertain in the autumn at the Brighton centre.



**Picture:** Malcolm Ablett, Sue Norman and Bill Goddon a member of Blind Veterans UK.

# Family News.

## Birthdays:

**Leslie Smith** who celebrated his 104th birthday on 6th August.

**Stefan Ciesla** who celebrated his 101st birthday on 18th August.

## Anniversaries:

### Platinum (70th):

**Arthur and Laura Hodges** of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire on 10th August.

**Kenneth and May Grierson** of Llandudno, Gwynedd on 21st August.

### Blue Sapphire (65th):

**Les and Mary Jones** of Brighton, East Sussex on 7th August.

**Arthur and Mildred Hollands** of Halifax, West Yorkshire on 7th August.

**Ronald and Beryl Juchau** of Worthing, West Sussex on 7th August.

**Llewelyn and Glenys Jones** of Llangollen, Clwyd on 9th August.

**Arthur and Nancy Skinner** of Inverness on 13th August.

**Joe and Joyce Chamberlain** of Sittingbourne, Kent on 14th August.

**Ken and Margaret Easton** of Swaffham, Norfolk on 14th August.

**Thomas and Violet Hurley** of Loughton, Essex on 21st August.

**Luke and Mary Devlin** of Dundee on 28th August.

### Diamond (60th):

**Ken and Brenda Beale** of King's Lynn, Norfolk on 1st August.

**Leonard and Daphne Pugsley** of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire on 1st August.

**John and Alice Morris** of Liverpool, Merseyside on 22nd August.

**George and Dorothy Heyhoe** of Swaffham, Norfolk on 24th August.

### Golden (50th):

**Francis and Sheila Carter** of Wantage, Oxfordshire on 31st August.

### Ruby (40th):

**Terence and Jenny Martin** of Oxted, Surrey on 4th August.

**Chris and Win Jordan** of Peacehaven, East Sussex on 11th August.

### Pearl (30th):

**Jack and Sheila Stead** of Preston, Lancashire on 20th August.

## Deaths:

**Edna Boakes** who died on 24th July 2013. She was the wife of Rupert Boakes.

**Muriel Coe** who died on 16th August 2013. She was the widow of the late Stanley Coe.

**Pauline French** who died on 6th August 2013. She was the wife of Roy French.

**Alice 'Betty' Hamling** who died on 1st August 2013. She was the widow of the late Victor Hamling.

**Dorothy Sheldon** who died on 22nd March 2013. She was the wife of Norman Sheldon.

**Eileen Willans** who died on 3rd August 2013. She was the widow of the late Joseph Willans.

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

## Answers to 10 questions on the subject of history from page 6.

1. Virginia.
2. Battle of Trafalgar.
3. England, under Oliver Cromwell.
4. Denmark's.
5. Winston Churchill.
6. Archbishop of Canterbury.
7. Cuban Missile crisis.
8. Hungary.
9. The world was created.
10. Alarm clocks.

# Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

**Doreen Bateson** of Garstang, Lancashire Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

**John Beane** of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire Served in the Royal Engineers and the Parachute Regiment from 1938 to 1955.

**Kenneth Bennett** of Darwen, Lancashire Served in the Royal Marines from 1939 to 1946.

**Anthony Best** of Slough, Berkshire Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Armoured Corps from 1944 to 1948.

**John Bowman** of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Mary Brander** of Southampton Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

**Peter Briant** of Brighton, West Sussex Served in the Royal Artillery and the Royal Tank Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

**Isabella Brittain** of Hassocks, West Sussex Served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1942 to 1957.

**Edward Brown** of Finsbury, London Served in the Royal Signals from 1939 to 1946.

**Arthur Butler** of Kempston, Bedford Served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1965 and in the Royal Corps of Transport from 1965 to 1973.

**Frederick Carlisle** of Arnold, Nottingham Served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1957 to 1959.

**Marjorie Clarke** of Rhyl, Clwyd Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1945.

**Reginald Colton** of Lower Earley, Berkshire Served in the Royal Engineers from 1957 to 1963.

**Theresa Comerford** of Swindon, Wiltshire Served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1976.

**Wilfred Eley** of Bury, Lancashire Served in the Suffolk Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

**Eric Flowers** of Winterbourne, Bristol Served in the Royal Navy Air Service from 1943 to 1946.

**James Ford** of Horley, Surrey Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1947 to 1949.

**Ronald Game** of Sudbury, Suffolk Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**John Gerrish** of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1954.

**Derrick Graham** of Redhill, Surrey Served in the Royal Artillery from 1944 to 1948.

**Dougal Griffiths** of Morpeth, Northumberland Served in the Army Catering Corps from 1954 to 1956.

**Mary Hallworth** of Accrington, Lancashire Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1940 to 1943.

**Brian Jones** of Birmingham Served in the Royal Engineers from 1957 to 1960.

**Eric Jones** of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands Served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1947.

**Gordon Jones** of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956.

**Winifred Jones** of Prenton, Merseyside Served in the Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1944.

**John Kimber** of Brighton, East Sussex Served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1952 to 1957.

**Thomas Lavelle** of Fleetwood, Lancashire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1954.

**Gordon Laybourn** of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear Served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1943 to 1947.

**James McArdle** of Southport, Merseyside Served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1943 to 1947.

**William Morris** of Fleetwood, Lancashire Served in the Royal Signals from 1971 to 1983.

**Edward Palmer** of Weston-Super-Mare, Avon Served in the Royal Artillery from 1943 to 1947.

**William Phillips** of Fareham, Hampshire Served in the Royal Sussex Regiment from 1975 to 1979.

**John Ranger** of Eastbourne, East Sussex Served in the Royal Sussex Regiment and the Border Regiment from 1942 to 1947.

**John Russell** of Halstead, Essex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1959 to 1972.

**Cecil Smiley** of Bedale, North Yorkshire Served in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers from 1946 to 1958.

**Gordon Tull** of Reading, Berkshire Served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1957.

**Ronald Underwood** of Washington, Tyne & Wear Served in the Army Catering Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport from 1950 to 1977.

**Deryck Wallen** of Newport, Gwent Served in the Welsh Guards from 1945 to 1948.

**Victor Walters** of St Helens, Merseyside Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1950 to 1956.

**John Wells** of Preston, Lancashire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1952.

**Leonard Wiles** of Winscombe, Avon Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Joan Wykes OBE** of Bromley, Kent Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

# 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.**

**Edna Banister** of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire died on 15th July 2013, aged 100. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Airforce at Hornchurch and initially trained in Gloucester. She was posted to Morecambe before going to France. She was in Belgium on VE Day and was discharged in 1945 as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

**Robert Bartlett** of Beaminster, Dorset died on 19th January 2013, aged 93. He joined the Territorial Army in 1939 and was mobilised at the beginning of the war with the 94th Field Regiment, part of the Wessex Brigade. He landed at Arromanches on D+10 and moved through Europe, crossing France, Holland and Belgium to Germany. Wounded, he was demobilised in 1946 as a Sergeant.

**David Broadfoot** of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk died on 1st July 2013, aged 68. He joined the Parachute Regiment in May 1964 and trained at Aldershot. He transferred to the Royal Green Jackets in November 1964 and was deployed to Borneo, then Northern Ireland, and finally to Germany. He was discharged in 1968 as a Rifleman.

**John Churchyard** of Ipswich, Suffolk died on 23rd July 2013, aged 80. He joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment for National Service in 1950. He fought in the Korean War and on discharge as a Corporal in 1953 he joined the Royal Engineers (TA), leaving in 1956 as a Corporal.

**James 'Les' Clarke** of Falmouth, Cornwall died on 4th August 2013, aged 92. He joined the Army underage and Served in the Durham Light Infantry in South East Asia, Burma and France from 1935 to 1943 when he was medically discharged as a Private. He then joined the RAF in 1945 and left in 1947.

**Raymond Clough** of Lancaster, Lancashire died on 22nd July 2013, aged 85. He was called up to the RAF in 1946. He Served in RAF Credenhill Hill and later in Chester. He stayed on for an extra six months to help with the Berlin Airlift and was discharged as an Aircraftman First Class in 1949.

**George Coxon BEM** of Chichester, West Sussex died on 22nd July 2013, aged 94. He joined the Royal Navy in 1939 and Served at Southend-on-Sea working with North Sea convoys. He was then transferred to Liverpool as a CPO Yeoman of Signals where he worked with Commodore Sir Roy Gill on the Atlantic Convoys on a variety of vessels. Awarded the British Empire Medal for his services at the end of the war, he was commissioned and retired as a Sub Lieutenant in 1946.

**Allan Daniels** of Canterbury, Kent died on 17th July 2013, aged 94. He joined the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) in 1939 and Served in Egypt. He later transferred to the Corps of Military Police in 1943. He was discharged as an Acting Sergeant in 1946.

**Dennis Davies** of Swinton, Manchester died on 11th August 2013, aged 95. He joined the South Lancashire Regiment in 1940. He took part in the successful assault landings of Madagascar after which the entire Battalion was then sent to South Africa to recuperate from malaria. He was then sent to the 7th Indian Division and moved into Burma after the Japanese. He was demobilised in 1946.

**Sidney 'Jim' Deller** of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on 5th August 2013, aged 98. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940 and after training moved to 150 Company Royal Engineers as a driver. He was deployed to North Africa and then to Italy where he fought at Monte Cassino. He remained in Italy to the end of the war and was discharged in 1946.

**Leonard Donnelly** of Ipswich, Suffolk died on 30th July 2013, aged 96. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940. He was posted to Egypt, spending time in Cairo. In 1942 he was made a PoW at El Alamein. Incarcerated in Italy and later Germany he was freed by the Americans and discharged in 1946.

**Ian Downs** of Brighton, East Sussex died on 22nd July 2013, aged 77. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1957 for National Service and Served in England and Ballykelly, Northern Ireland. Having extended his Service for a year he was discharged as a Senior Aircraftman in 1960.

**John 'Jack' Easter** of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire died on 15th August 2013, aged 98. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 Serving in North Africa before being demobilised as a Flying Officer on 25 May 1945.

**Thomas 'Tom' Egglestone** of Winchester, Hampshire died on 2nd July 2013, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force as an apprentice at Cranwell. In 1940 he

joined Bomber Command. He was posted to India for three and a half years and also Served in the Sudan, Somalia, Egypt and Libya maintaining the aircraft. He retired as a Flight Sergeant in 1963.

**Alan Elliott** of Faversham, Kent died on 18th July 2013, aged 82. He joined the Royal Navy for National Service in 1949, training ashore at HMS Royal Arthur and HMS Ceres and signed on after his two years. He Served in the Mediterranean, the Far East and the Atlantic in HM Ships Resource, Superb and Adamant. He Served ashore at HMS Harrier the Wrens' radar training base in Wales. He was discharged as a Petty Officer in 1965.

**Sidney Flemming** of Sherborne, Dorset died on 21st June 2013, aged 87. He joined the Royal Marines in 1943 and Served in the Far East. He was discharged as a Marine in 1947, after which he worked for the MOD/MI5 in London.

**Gordon Hay** of Bournemouth, Dorset died on 30th May 2013, aged 93. He joined the RAF in 1940, qualified as an aircraft mechanic, and after a spell in the UK he was posted to Manitoba, Canada for flying training. He was discharged in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftman.

**Albert Hogbin** of Brighton, East Sussex died on 28th July 2013, aged 92. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1941 and was an ack-ack gunner until 1943 when he transferred to the Royal East Surrey Regiment. He then transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1944 and was deployed to Italy, moving up the Adriatic coast. Posted to Egypt, he returned to Italy and was wounded. He transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps and was discharged as a Private in 1946.

**James 'Jim' Kay** of Luton, Bedfordshire died on 6th August 2013, aged 93. He Served in the Royal Artillery from 1939, transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps in 1944, Serving until 1946 at home and in Egypt and Norway.

**David Lee** of Waterlooville, Hampshire died on 21st July 2013, aged 84. He joined the Fleet Air Arm underage in 1944 and trained as an artificer at HMS Raleigh at Torpoint, Cornwall. He Served in HM Ships Indomitable and Ark Royal, working on a variety of aircraft. He was later with a special research unit in Canada before discharge in 1969 as a Chief Aircraft Artificer.

**Michael Lennon** of Brighton, East Sussex died on 19th August 2013, aged 64. He Served in the Royal Air Force from 1968 to 1975, leaving as a Junior Technician.

**Eric Lockwood** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 12th July 2013, aged 83. He Served in the Royal Air Force in the UK for National Service from 1948 to 1950, leaving as a Corporal.

**Grace Lydon** of Tamworth, Staffordshire died on 13th July 2013, aged 88. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943 and trained in Northampton at Talwara Barracks where she specialised as a caterer. She Served in a variety of locations in the UK but mainly in the London area, completing her Service in 1947 as a Corporal.

**John Markham** of Bristol, Avon died on 18th August 2013, aged 85. He joined the General Service Corps in June 1945 and following completion of his parachute training transferred to the Army Air Corps in August 1945. He Served with the Army Air Corps in Palestine and in the UK until discharge in 1948.

**Joyce Musgrove** of Swindon, Wiltshire died on 23rd July 2013, aged 87. She was underage when she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941. She trained at Wrexham and Served at a variety of locations with anti-aircraft batteries as a driver. She was later deployed to France and Germany driving rations trucks before discharge in 1945.

**Joyce Nelson** of Crowborough, East Sussex died on 19th June 2013, aged 88. She joined the Royal Navy in 1944 and trained in Eccleshall near Stafford. She Served at RNAS Yeovilton and was discharged as a Wren Air Mechanic in 1946.

**Christina 'Nina' Nicholson** of Hull, East Yorkshire died on 9th August 2013, aged 90. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in Belfast in 1942 and trained at Ballymena. Posted to Belfast she worked as a clerk in the Claims Department before volunteering in 1944 for an Italian posting where she continued with clerical and typing support to the Allied Force HQ as the campaign progressed through Italy. She was demobilised in 1946.

**Roy Pollard** of Preston, Lancashire died on 17th June 2013, aged 87. He joined the General Service Corps in April 1944 and transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in June 1944, Serving in Bicester as a driver. He suffered an accident whilst on duty as a motorbike despatch rider which damaged his right knee permanently and he was discharged in 1947.

**Iorwerth Roberts** of Beaumaris, Anglesey died on 1st August 2013, aged 93. He Served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1937 to 1948, leaving as a Captain. He was in the Western Desert, Europe and the Mediterranean. He was involved

in training the old fashioned Cavalry Units into Armoured Units. In 1940 he was deployed to the Western Desert. His ship was sunk and he was taken to Malta. He was finally deployed to Alexandria by submarine.

**William 'Bill' Simmonds** of Leatherhead, Surrey died on 11th August 2013, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1948 and trained at RAF Cardington and worked in the supply department in England, Cyprus and Egypt, where he did two tours. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1956.

**Vincent Simpson** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 11th July 2013, aged 90. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942, training at Maryhill Barracks in Glasgow. He then transferred to the Gordon Highlanders from July 1942 to December 1943. He subsequently joined the Royal Navy as a Signalman and did mine sweeping duties in the Mediterranean. He was discharged in 1946.

**Dorothy Sutcliffe** of Preston, Lancashire died on 2nd August 2013, aged 83. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1948 and qualified as a clerk. She Served in various stations in the UK and was discharged as an Aircraftwoman Second Class in 1950.

**Brian Wallinger** of Billingham, Cleveland died on 23rd July 2013, aged 78. He joined the Royal Signals in 1952 and Served in Hong Kong in the Post Office before being discharged in 1955 in the rank of Private.

**George 'Brian' Scott** of Kendal, Cumbria died on 1st October 2012, aged 82. He joined the Lancastrian Brigade in 1950, training at Saighton Camp in Chester. He Served with the South Lancashire Regiment in Trieste and Egypt and was discharged from full-time National Service as a Private in 1952, although he continued with part-time National Service until 1956.

**Thomas 'Les' Scott** of Yateley, Hampshire died on 18th July 2013, aged 84. He joined the General Service Corps in 1947 and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers a month later. He Served in various workshops around the UK until discharge as a Craftsman in 1949.

**Benjamin 'Ben' Yeomans** of Litchfield, Staffordshire died on 1st August 2013, aged 78. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1952 for National Service and signed on for a third year. He fought in the Korean War and later went to Malaya as part of an Operational Research Unit. He was discharged in September 1955.





**Picture: Ted Cachart, who Served with Bomber Command during World War II.**