

February 2014

Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



On the cover: Blind Veterans UK member Gerry Jones accepts a cheque for £2,500 from Lion Ken Polkinghorne of Redruth Lions Club at the St Agnes Hotel.



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Review

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From the Chairman.

Your message from Tim Davis.

This is my first message as Chairman of Blind Veterans UK; as many of you may know Andy Keeling stepped down at our last Council meeting, after 18 years as a Trustee of which the last five years was as Chairman.

I want to thank Andy most sincerely for his leadership and fulsome contribution to this great organisation over the years. Aside from his commitment in length of his service and active engagement with the organisation, he has 'set a course' and proactively helped Blind Veterans UK establish itself as a true National Charity with a footprint able to do its work and bring benefit to every corner of our country. On a personal note Andy's engagement, humility, genuine care for others, and positive approach to getting things done have been great examples of the strong values that are core to the Charity. I'm sure we all send Andy and his family our very best wishes in his retirement, and hope he will stay in touch with Blind Veterans UK for many years in the future.

Looking forward, continuity and building on the 'current course' will characterise the Charity's evolution. During last year the Trustees discussed the future direction of the Charity and subsequently with management. Extending the reach of the Charity to serve more blind or vision impaired ex-Servicemen and women will be a priority. In addition being more accessible and evolving the range and orientation of services to create the greatest difference to beneficiaries' independence will also be a key focus.

To do this the Charity will continue to develop the awareness and recognition of what it does and grow the number of donors and beneficiaries. We will also do more to engage, listen and develop insight to help prioritise how we evolve. One example of this is a survey of members and other beneficiaries we are carrying out to listen to views on the Charity's performance, its relevance of services and satisfaction.

This year will be an important year where the country commemorates the start of World War I, and we prepare to mark our own 100 year anniversary in 2015. Remembering key points of history and those who gave and lost so much to defend our freedom, is I'm sure you will agree a very worthy cause. It is also the reason why Blind Veterans UK is investing time to record the experiences of its members, so that we continue to remember. I hope these acts of remembrance will keep alive why we owe so much to those who serve in our Armed Services, and why sustaining and building organisations such as Blind Veterans UK is a critical long term goal we must encourage as many as possible to support.

My very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling 2014, and I look forward to meeting you through a variety of events throughout the year.



Picture: The former Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, RM (left) and the Chairman Tim Davis (right).

From Chief Executive Robert Leader.

The appointment of a new Chairman will always and inevitably be an anxious moment for any Chief Executive. We all know that change should be constant and is important, but it still makes us nervous! The nervousness in this case is principally caused by the recognition that the relationship between these two people is absolutely central to the success or otherwise of the Organisation. Experience elsewhere has also shown me that if Chairman and Chief Executive fail to get on, then it is not generally the Chairman who disappears!

I have served under two Chairmen during my time at Blind Veterans UK and in both cases the relationship has been a highly successful one of mutual support based on a clear understanding of each other's roles. I should hasten to add at this point, that I am totally confident that my relationship with the new Chairman will be equally harmonious.

Any relationship, however, takes time to develop. Two-way trust and confidence are the two essential ingredients. As Chief Executive I have always promised my Chairman "no surprises" based on a firm belief in the maxim that "if you want your Chairman there at the landing it is best to make sure that he is there at the take-off". All Chief Executives need 'top cover' from time to time!

When I first came here I greatly enjoyed my time with Michael Gordon Lennox in the Chair and then, five years ago Michael resigned from the Council and Andy Keeling took over. After a further five years Andy has resigned and Tim Davis has taken over. Succession planning has helped greatly, in that we have developed a system whereby it is hoped that the Vice Chairman will become the next Chairman and this gives the Chief Executive an opportunity to get to know the person better before they take the chair.

Over the past five years Andy and I have successfully brought two major projects to fruition, the first being the development of the Llandudno centre (originally purchased in Michael Gordon Lennox's time as was the Sheffield Centre) and the second being our re-branding as Blind Veterans UK. Most importantly however we also got to know each other and have enjoyed each other's company. I am really grateful to both Michael and Andy for the

unswerving support and loyalty they have both shown to me, particularly when the going got tough, as it inevitably does from time to time.

Tim's task now, as the new Chairman, is to lead the Council through the continuing development of strategic direction for the Organisation and my role is then to lead the Executive Team through the various stages that will lead to the implementation of the direction set by the Trustees. I am really looking forward to working with Tim, who I know will bring a different range of skills to those of his predecessors. Tim's background in marketing will open up new opportunities for us and hopefully enable us to visualise ways in which we might do some things differently.

It is this varying range of skills and experience that each Chairman brings to the role, which makes it so valuable. Frequency of face to face meeting is one of the main things that I always ask of my Chairman, because it is only by meeting regularly that we will get to know each other better, understand each other better and thus, together, be able to lead the Organisation onwards and upwards.

Thank you Andy for everything you have done, throughout your chairmanship, for me and the staff. Tim, a very warm welcome to you as our new Chairman, we are all looking forward to working closely with you and the other trustees over the coming years.



Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

Blind Veterans UK Masonic Group

For many years, Blind Veterans UK has had a weekend for those beneficiaries who are Freemasons to get together and enjoy an annual meeting, whilst being hosted by the Temple Lodge in Brighton.

With the name change to Blind Veterans UK, the group remains the same, and their weekends still continue. But as the name of the Charity has changed, so has the size and momentum of the group.

If you are interested in joining fellow Masons for a great weekend in April each year, why not join us down at the Brighton centre, where we are the guests of the Temple Lodge.

Age, Rank or experience is no barrier; it's a wonderful weekend for all.

Please contact W.Bro. Bob Strickland the group's Secretary for more details.

His email address is: robert.strickland1@btinternet.com

Or you can telephone him on: 01329 841022.

The next meeting of the Masonic Group will take place at the Brighton centre over the weekend of 25th to 27th April.

Blind Veterans UK Golf Club – Under New Management!

Blind Veterans UK Golf Club welcomes golfers, old and young, past and present members, to join its 2014 activities, aiming to meet over seven weekends at the Brighton Centre from April to October. The anticipated dates are:

April 19th/20th

May 17th/18th

June 21st/22nd

July 19th/20th

August dates tba

September dates tba

October dates tba

The new committee is made up of Blind Veterans UK members Graham Johnson (Captain and Chairman), Derek Roden (Secretary) and volunteer Pam Crossan (Treasurer).

The golf club practices and plays at the Rusper Golf Club in Surrey, and has in the past enjoyed many successful competitions and events there. The Saturday is for practice and training, with professional tuition a possibility, and the Sundays are for the Stapleford competition.

If you do not have a golf-loving friend or escort to accompany you on the course, our Brighton Volunteering Development Officer Kerrie Stapley will aim to provide you with a local volunteer to match your needs.

If you are interested in teeing off in 2014, please contact Pam Crossan in the first instance, on 02381 787636, or email pcrossan@talktalk.net Alternatively telephone Graham Johnson on 02380 702 505.

Letters to the Editor.

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

Dear Madam,

I wish to thank all the staff at Blind Veterans UK for the help, understanding and assistance they have given to me along the way and in particular following the sad passing of my wife Joyce on 1st December 2013. I cannot stress enough the importance of all the support you have given me through this difficult time of my bereavement.

I would like to give a special thank you to Father Martin for the lovely service in the chapel here at the Brighton centre. Joyce and I were married in this chapel so it is quite fitting that the service should have been held there.

I do sincerely appreciate every help and understanding shown by you all. Once again, thank you for everything.

Yours faithfully,

Alf Dodgson.



Picture: Alf and Joyce Dodgson on their wedding day in 1985.

Accommodation costs update at our centres in 2014.

We remain committed to providing the best quality and range of services to our members.

Our three centres are an integral part of our service provision and in order to provide an excellent level of service, we employ an annual pricing review for our accommodation charges.

This review ensures we are still achieving viable operating costs whilst allowing us to provide and develop our services. Below are the new charges effective from 1st of April 2014.

Clubs using the centres will still be eligible for the accommodation discount in 2014 subject to the previously agreed terms and conditions.

Members staying at either Port Hall or Beacon Hill near the Brighton centre will be charged at the rates set out below.

Charges for non war blind members.

Permanent care at the Brighton centre only.

	2013.	2014.
Nursing	£567 (£81 per day).	£574 weekly (£82 per day).
Residential	£469 (£67 per day).	£476 weekly (£68 per day).

Respite care at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

Nursing	£511.	£525 (£75 per day).
Residential	£371.	£385 (£55 per day).

Holidays at the Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield centres.

	2013.	2014.
Low season (Brighton and Llandudno centres). 1st October to 31st March.	£231.	£245 (£35 per day).
High season 1st April to 30th September.	£287.	£294 (£42 per day).
Sheffield all year round.	£132.	£140 (£20 per day).
Clubs. Special group rates for low season.	£210.	£224 (£32 per day).
Clubs. Special group rates for high season.	£269.50.	£280 (£40 per day).

Theme week surcharge - Brighton and Llandudno centres only.

	2013.	2014.
All year.	£26.50.	£28.

Port Hall/Beacon Hill.

	2013.	2014.
Standard rate.	£168.	£175 (£25 per day).
Clubs discount.	£161.	£168 (£24 per day).

Introductory Week.

	2013.	2014.
Members.	Free.	Free.
Spouses at the Brighton or Llandudno centres.	£104.	£105.
Spouses at the Sheffield centre.	£72.	£77.

Training.

	2013.	2014.
Members.	Free.	Free.
Spouses at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.	As per accommodation booked.	
Spouses at the Sheffield centre.	£97.	£100.

Charges for war blind members.

Permanent care at the Brighton centre only.

	2013.	2014.
Nursing.	£301 (£43 per day).	£308 (£44 per day).
Residential.	£238 (£34 per day).	£245 (£35 per day).

Respite care at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

	2013.	2014.
Nursing.	£301.	£308 (£44 per day).
Residential.	£238.	£245 (£35 per day).

Holidays at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

	2013.	2014.
Low season.	£189.	£196 (£28 per day).
High season.	£210.	£217 (£35 per day).
Clubs. Special groups rates at low season.	£185.50.	£192.50 (£27.50 per day).
Clubs. Special group rates at high season.	£196.	£203 (£29 per day).

To make a holiday booking please phone the Bookings team on telephone: 01273 391500 or email: centre.bookings@blindveterans.org.uk

Bookings for care services and training cannot be booked directly, please contact your Welfare Officer.

Reunion dates in 2014.

Date.	Reunion.	Venue address.
12th March.	Edinburgh.	Marriott Hotel, 111 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh EH12 8NF.
27th March.	Middlesbrough.	Thistle Hotel, Fry Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1JH.
3rd April.	Brighton.	Blind Veterans UK Brighton centre.
8th April.	Derby.	The Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby, Derbyshire DE1 2SQ.
9th April.	Cambridge.	The Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW.
16th April.	Northern Ireland.	The Ramada Hotel, 117 Milltown Road, Shaws Bridge, Belfast BT8 7XP.
17th April.	Central London.	RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY.
29th April.	Barrow.	The Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Road, Barrow in Furness, LA13 0PA.
30th April.	Leeds.	Thorpe Park Hotel, 1150 Century Way, Leeds LS15 8ZB.
1st May.	Bradford Upon Avon.	Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Cumberwell Park, Bradford upon Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2PQ.
7th May.	Eastbourne 1.	Hydro Hotel, Mount Road, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.
8th May.	Cardiff.	Copthorne Hotel, Copthorn Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6DH.
19th May.	Hook.	Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9AZ.
22nd May.	Beaulieu.	Beaulieu Hotel, Beaulieu Road, Beaulieu SO42 7YQ.
28th May.	Surrey.	Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5PZ.
11th June.	West Sussex.	Crouchers Country Hotel, Birdham Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7EH.
12th June.	Eastbourne 2.	Hydro Hotel, Mount Road, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.

Date.	Reunion.	Venue address.
17th June.	Exeter.	Mercure Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1QF.
25th June.	Liverpool.	Liverpool Football Club, Centenary Suite, Anfield Road, Liverpool L4 0TH.
26th June.	Llandudno.	Imperial Hotel, The Promenade, Llandudno LL30 1AP.
9th July.	Portsmouth.	Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 2NT.
6th August.	Inverness.	The Kingsmills Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness IV2 3LP.
19th August.	Newcastle.	The Thistle Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DF.
20th August.	Durham.	Ramside Hall Hotel, Carrville, Durham DH1 1TD.
2nd September.	Blackpool.	De Vere Herons' Reach, East Park Drive, Blackpool FY3 8LL.
3rd September.	Chorley.	The Pines Hotel, Preston Road, Clayton le Woods, Chorley, Lancs PR6 7ED.
4th September.	Kent.	Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8UX.
10th September.	Norwich.	Barnham Broom Hotel, Honingham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 4DD.
25th September.	Watford.	The Park Inn, 30 - 40 St Albans Road, Watford WD17 1RN.
30th September.	Birmingham.	Ramada Hotel Birmingham, Penns Lane, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield B76 1LH.
1st October.	Cornwall & Plymouth.	Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5AQ.
7th October.	Worcester.	The Whitehouse Hotel, Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1EA.
14th October.	Sheffield.	Kenwood Hall Hotel, Kenwood Road, Sheffield S7 1NQ.

A tribute to my father, Professor Maurice Vincent Aldridge BA, MA, MLitt (Oxon), PhD (Rhodes) 12th December 1936 to 19th November 2013, by Dr Oliver Aldridge.

Maurice Aldridge came to Blind Veterans UK in 1954 after he was blinded while Serving in the Royal Navy as a Boy 1st Class. His first start was to rebuild his life at Blind Veterans UK before returning to education. We have reproduced a eulogy by his son that shows blindness did not stop him achieving his goals and becoming a Professor Emeritus.

Whether it was bowling a cricket ball to me in our back garden, guided only by the sound of my voice, or trying to master the classical guitar, my father was a man who simply refused to imagine that there was anything that he could not do. This self belief was underpinned by a ferocious intellect and a staggering degree of determination, drive and sheer courage. His heroes were men like Pablo Cassals, the world renowned cellist, who even in his nineties, was reputed to practice for six hours a day, men like Galileo who pushed back the frontiers of knowledge against all the odds. How else would it have been possible for a young man in the 1950s, without much formal education, having grown up in a poor, working class family in Devonshire to win a scholarship to Oxford, from where he would graduate with not one, not two but three degrees and go on to be Professor and Head of the Department of Linguistics in the biggest university in the Southern Hemisphere?

He completed his Master's thesis in Latin, learnt Old High German, Old English, Anglo Saxon, French and Icelandic and completed his PhD in six months while working full time. He wrote a book on modelling language mathematically, contributing to the body of knowledge that allows computers to understand us when we use normal, everyday language. That would be cause for amazement in itself; but to do it all after being blinded as a teenager in the Royal Navy almost defies belief.

He approached his blindness in the same way, refusing to be compromised by it. For much of his life, he would walk with such unerring confidence around his offices that people would often not realise that he could not see. He saw in technology a chance for liberation and was one of the few people in the world to master the Optacon, a device which allowed him to read ordinary print by guiding a camera, letter by letter, over the page with one hand while discerning the shape of the letters traced out by pins under the index finger of the other.

It was a joyous moment for him to be able to pluck a book from the shelves in his study and read it, however laboriously; a moment surpassed only by the discovery that he too, could access the internet and email read aloud to him by a mechanical voice that he would force to read so fast that to most it was an unintelligible babble. He always lived in hope that some technological miracle would allow him to see his family and the world around him; but, as the years went by without being able to check even his own reflection in a mirror, he found it harder and harder to imagine what he himself looked like and became increasingly anxious that his appearance was defined by the scars of his wounding and so he became insistent that he wore a hat at all times and found his blindness an ever harder cross to bear.

His grit and determination were complemented by an enthusiasm for life. He knew how to have fun: I remember pillow fights and the subsequent confessions to my mother explaining the broken lampshade or ornament; the thrill he experienced through riding his horse who briefly gave him the freedom to not worry where he was going; his delight in swimming; his full laugh; his sharp wit and how he managed to retain an almost child like wonderment at life. My childhood memories include him telling stories he had written about a house on chicken legs and of the sound of his piano playing.

He always seemed to have a sense that his time on earth was limited: everyone of course knows this; but only some feel it and act on it. This sense of his mortality led him to choose what he did with care: it always needed to be something he felt worthwhile because, as he often told me, there isn't the time to do everything. Usually that translated into something challenging and his sense of satisfaction at mastering a difficult piece of music or reaching an understanding of a complex mathematical equation or crafting a poem was almost palpable.

Too much is made of Darwinism, of the survival of the fittest: not a single one of us could live our lives without the cooperation of others. My father always recognised the value of the support he received, especially from my mother, Blind Veterans UK, friends, teachers and the communities in which he lived. Equally, he gave his support as husband, father, director of St Dunstan's South Africa, as professor, as friend and as a member of the community. We are all richer for having him in our lives.

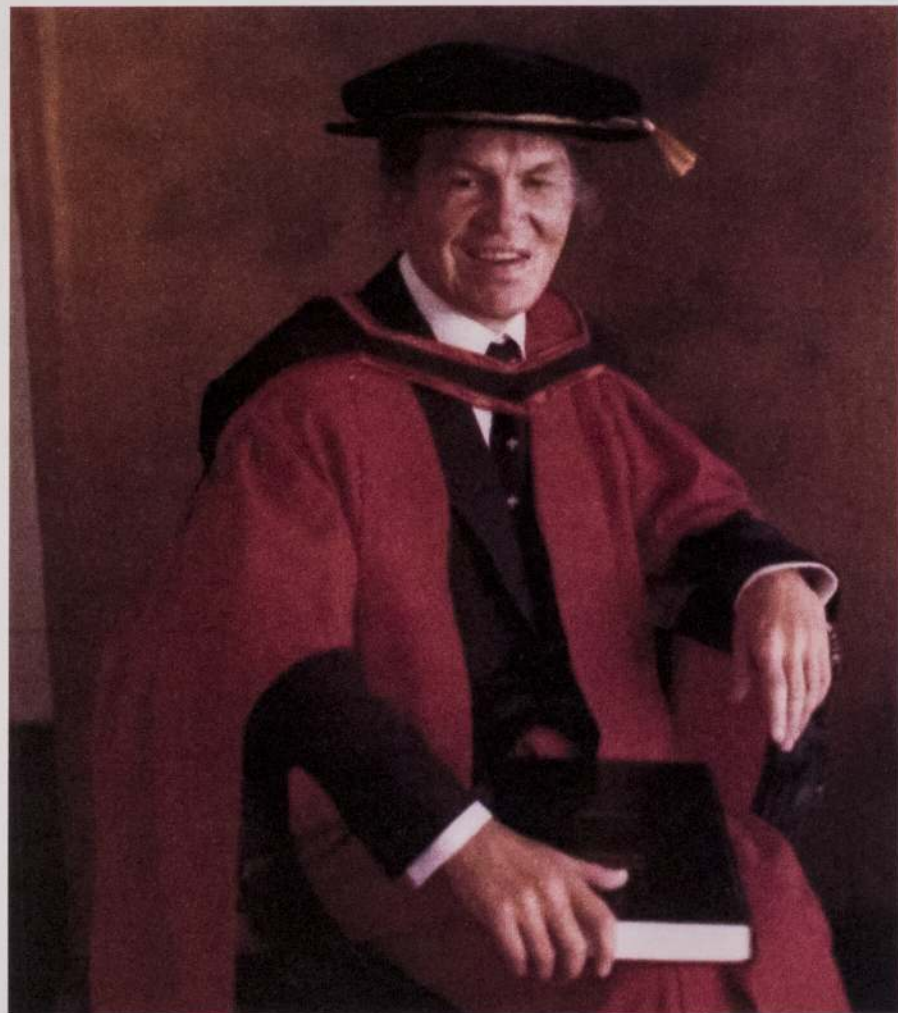
My father was a man who possessed timeless qualities which would have been instantly recognisable to Robert Burns: a man of independent mind, the pith

o' sense an' pride o' worth, a man who played his part in the prayer 'that sense and worth, o'er a' the earth, Shall bear the gree, an' a' that'.

In this world of 'tinsel shows', fools with silks, birkies and coofs 'Wha strut and stare an' a' that', my father stands out, a beacon of inspiration to me certainly; but I think also to others who knew him.

It was a cruel twist of fate that deprived my father of his intellect in his last days. On his deathbed, he said that he had lived a full life: I know that I have not done that life justice in this short epitaph. He also said that he was tired and wanted to rest: his rest is well deserved, his memory endures and, in that sense, he is still very much alive in my heart.

Finally, I want to reflect on another hero of my father's, Anthony Wedgewood Benn, who said (and I paraphrase), that it is important not whether you are on the winning side; but that you fight on the right side. I want it to be recorded and witnessed that I believe my father fought on the right side, that he was a good man. I can think, ultimately, of no greater accolade than that.



Pictures: Professor Maurice Aldridge.

Honorary Treasurer.

During the Council meeting in December Air Vice Marshal Paul Luker was elected Vice Chairman and Tony Fletcher replaced Iain Lumsden as Honorary Treasurer.

Tony was born in Hong Kong when his father was stationed there with the RAF. He has been married for 30 years to Jill, originally a nurse, but now a chartered psychologist, and they have one son, Sam, who is studying for a Masters in Economics and Finance at the University of Bath. After leaving the London School of Economics in 1975 with a degree in Economics Tony qualified as a chartered accountant and spent 36 years working for Saffery Champness, a top 20 firm of chartered accountants, the last 26 years as a partner. Tony retired from the firm in 2011 at which point he commenced a part time BA degree course in history with the Open University. His recreational interests are sports (now watching rather than playing), food and wine and travel.

Tony does have a familial connection with Blind Veterans UK as his maternal great uncle, Private Patrick Sheehan of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, was a long-standing member and, indeed, is mentioned on the Honours Board at the Brighton centre.



Picture: Honorary Treasurer Tony Fletcher.

G.O.A.L. Group. Join us to Get Out and Live! By Carol Davies.

G.O.A.L. stands for "Get out and live". The group has been formed for male and female members of Blind Veterans UK from the age of 60 to 72, who want to join a group that strongly advocates independence within their day to day lives. The intention of G.O.A.L. is to encourage members to take the helm and steer themselves to an independent lifestyle with the support of other like minded vision impaired people. In order to involve all beneficiaries to the full and in the spirit of G.O.A.L., which is to promote independence, the group will be for members only and will not extend to partners.

We will arrange events each year. They may take place at the Brighton, Llandudno and Sheffield centres. Or we may arrange an event at a private venue, it really depends on what the members want to do. Due to the diverse capabilities of members and the varying physical requirements of different events, activities will be tailored to meet the participating members' capabilities within each group event. Travelling to and from the events independently will always be encouraged. Each event is planned in advance and will comprise activities that have been suggested by members of the group.

The activities may differ from event to event. The scope is only limited by the practical suggestions of the group. It will give members the opportunity to try something totally new. In addition, activities not undertaken since losing their sight could be tried as a group which would complement the charity's objective of assisting vision impaired ex-Servicemen and women to live more independently in their own community.

A G.O.A.L. Group Facebook Page has been set up for those able to use it. Alternative arrangements will be made to ensure those without that facility will receive information in another format.

G.O.A.L. Group venue dates for 2014

Brighton Port Hall Monday 16th to Friday 20th June.

Sheffield Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th August.

Llandudno Monday 17th to Friday 21st November.

If anyone who meets the club's criteria is interested in the events please contact Carol Davies on 01754 450232 or Chris Humphrey on 01603 701402.

A G.O.A.L. event took place from Monday 2nd September to Friday 6th September 2013 when Blind Veterans UK members met. They were me — Carol Davies, Graham Walker, Roger Williams, Clifford Sherer, David Williams and Peter King. We arrived at Sheffield at around midday and after lunch we settled into our rooms. The first evening we travelled by taxi with two volunteers and enjoyed a very nice meal at The Sportsman whilst getting to know each other. We told the Landlord about the G.O.A.L. group and explained why we were all together and he was very interested — so interested that he gave us a 20% discount and said he would do some fundraising for us and that he would welcome us back! Afterwards back at the Sheffield centre Roger Williams, our resident quiz master, entertained us with questions when we were joined by other blind veterans who were on courses. They enjoyed themselves so much that we found them waiting for us in the lounge every night on our return from our evening out.

Tuesday 3rd September.

The following day we went to a museum at Eden Camp, which transports you back to wartime Britain. It was a one and a half hour journey to reach our destination. The museum is constructed in the huts of an original Prisoner of War Camp built in 1942. Eden Camp has reconstructed scenes using movement, lighting, smells, and even smoke machines. It was a very reasonable day out. It cost £10 per head which included entrance, a meal (definitely not prisoner rations), and a drink. Whilst our members enjoyed the day it was very difficult for vision impaired people to totally enjoy the experience, as the only audio we had was a CD to listen to prior to our visit. It would have enhanced the day if there was an audio option inside the huts giving a brief overview of the content of each hut. There was a lot of written information which the group could not cope with and too much for a volunteer to read. Feedback will be sent to Eden Camp in the hope it will be taken on board for future visits by people who have a vision impairment.

Our evening meal was at the Shiny Sheff named after the famous HMS Sheffield which was sunk during The Falklands War. We travelled to and from the venue by ourselves in the spirit of G.O.A.L. (Get Out and Live). The meal and service was very good. We had intended to stay for the music quiz but thought it would not be much of a competition, as there were only three other people

in the pub. Or perhaps we beat a hasty retreat in case we lost to them? So we made our way back home and had our own quiz with our mates in the lounge.

Wednesday 4th September 2013.

After breakfast we headed out in the mini bus to Castle Howard which dates back to the 18th century. The journey took us about one and a half hours to reach our destination. This was a lovely day out and the weather was very kind to us. On arrival we made our way by shuttle to the house. It was very interesting touring the house and there were plenty of guides scattered about, only too willing to answer any questions we had. Brideshead Revisited was filmed at Castle Howard and there was a great deal of information on this.

The kitchen staff at Blind Veterans UK made us a wonderful packed lunch which we enjoyed in the courtyard by the ticket office where there were a number of shops and places you could grab a coffee or something to eat. At around 3pm we made our way back to the centre.

Our evening meal was at The Old Queens Head which is a public house on Pond Hill in the City of Sheffield. It occupies the oldest domestic building in the city. This timber framed building is thought to date from c.1475, although the earliest known written record of it is in an inventory compiled in 1582 of the estate of George Talbot, the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury that included the furnishings of this building, which was then called The Hawle at the Poandes.

Our mini bus driver from the centre, Adrian, had previously told us that he used to frequent said pub in the 60s/70s and that it was a right dive. Needless to say we were a little worried as to what we would be letting ourselves in for. It turned out to be really nice as it had recently been refurbished. Although said to be haunted, none of us had the pleasure of meeting any ghosts. Once again we made our own arrangements for the journey to the pub. The service and meal was very good and we would highly recommend a visit. After dinner it was back for more of Roger's quizzes and his new found fans waiting patiently in the lounge.

Thursday 5th September 2013.

Today after breakfast we made our way to the Armouries Museum in Leeds on our last trip of the week. We arrived around 10.45, a journey of around an hour.

At 11am we went for our prearranged private, tactile workshop on guns and their history dating from 1750 to the present day. The instructor, Trevor, was an ex Coldstream Guard, although Gaynor, one of the volunteers, was adamant it was Elvis. Apparently he had one hell of a quiff! After the workshop we explored the rest of the museum. It is a great day out. The museum itself is free of charge; however the cost of the workshop for our group was £52.50. It was great value for money. It is impossible to get around the museum in the time we had, so it can be visited many times without becoming bored. In addition, it has many events throughout the year. Sadly we had to say goodbye to Graham Walker who had to leave the group a bit early as he was flying off to Turkey with his family the next day.

Once again the kitchen staff at the centre made us a great packed lunch which Adrian, our mini bus driver, had waiting in the picnic area outside the museum.

For our last evening meal we dined at the Fulwood Inn, located just down the road from the centre. We had pre booked a private dining room at no extra charge which was really nice as we had plenty of room and a waiter service for our drinks and meal orders. The service and food was excellent and was voted by members as the best of the week. The waiter really joined in with the spirit of the evening. How else could we top off the night but by going back to the centre to take part, along with our new found mates in the lounge, to enjoy our last quiz of the week.

Friday 6th September 2013.

We enjoyed our last breakfast, handed back our keys, paid our dues, and then went into the conservatory to await our departure. Before we left we enjoyed a meal of fish and chips.

All the participating members of this GOAL week have said how much they have enjoyed the experience and how well everyone got on with each other. They gave constructive feedback which will be used in planning future events.

All the staff and volunteers at Sheffield were amazing and very helpful. We thank every one of them from the bottom of our hearts for helping make our event a success.

Archery Club report, Norwich November 2013, by David Poyner, Chairman of Blind Veterans UK Bowmen.

Six archers from Blind Veterans UK Bowmen formerly St Dunstan's went to Norwich for the weekend of 16th and 17th November, travelling from points across the UK as far as Dunfermline and Worthing for the annual shoot against Clickers Archery and Thorpe Hamlet Juniors.

Our aim: to win back the trophy which we lost last year, and for me [David Poyner] to hold on to the Longbow Challenge Cup, which is currently fought for between myself and Graham Harris.

Carole Sharpe, Bert Nelson, David Poyner, John Bower, Peter Price and Sandy Donnelly went to shoot, accompanied by their helpers and spotters Jane Pittaway-Hampson, Linda Price, Carolyn Day, Brian Muggridge and Henry Chester.

We shot a Double Portsmouth — 10 dozen arrows at 20 yards. I'm delighted to say we achieved our objective and won the team match (which was handicap adjusted) with Carole Sharpe, David Poyner, John Bower and Peter Price in the winning team.

I kept hold of the Longbow Cup, beating Graham by 534 to 421, a very satisfactory margin of 113 points on a straight score.

Carole, John, Peter and I also won our individual bow-style categories.

It was a buzzing shoot with such a warm welcome extended to us by our pals in Norwich, and we're looking forward to the outdoor shoot in June 2014.

If you would like to find out more about Blind Veterans UK Bowmen the website is at: www.blindveteransukbowmen.org.uk



Picture: Blind Veterans UK Bowmen with Abbie Fisher of the GB Archery Squad. From left to right: David Poyner, Carole Sharpe, Abbie Fisher, John Bower and Peter Price.



Picture: David Poyner accepts the Longbow Cup from Abbie Fisher of the GB Archery Squad.

Lions Club Redruth cheque presentation.

On Tuesday 12th November Gerry Jones represented Blind Veterans UK at the St Agnes Hotel when he collected a cheque for £2,500 from the Redruth Lions Club. This was arranged by Aaron Tillyer, Community & Events Assistant in the Fundraising department.

Speaking of an unusual turn of events at the presentation Gerry Jones's said: "The presentation was held in my local and I would like to thank the Landlord Bill English. Mark Exell, one of the Lions, told me that his grandfather had been a member of Blind Veterans UK, hence his willingness to support our charity. On behalf of Blind Veterans UK I would like to thank Mark and the Redruth Lions Club for all that they do for us."

Mark Exell said: "Blind Veterans UK is an organisation which is very close to my heart. My grandfather was George William Powell, who Served with the Queen's Royal Regiment and was in Anzio during the Second World War. His story is quite harrowing but I will tell you, as he told me.

"My grandfather George landed at Anzio under heavy fire from the Germans, but they managed to push their way forward. Soon after they encountered a German unit and exchanged fire. My grandfather was manning the Bren gun when a German bullet hit the frame of his glasses. The glass shattered and went into his eye, blinding him. He passed out as a result of the pain and was left for dead.

"He was found by the Germans who took him to a hospital in another part of Italy. My grandfather recalled that on the way to the hospital he was aware that he was on a train and recalls that a German soldier, who was also injured, offered him a cigarette. Once he arrived at the hospital he was left standing, naked and blind, clutching his clothes.

"He was rushed to the surgeon, who unfortunately didn't have any anaesthetic. It was decided that his eye needed to be cut out in pieces due to the damage caused by the glass. He recalled several people holding him as the surgeon began to remove his eye. Quite understandably he shortly passed out due to the pain.

"He was transferred to a prisoner of war camp where he remained until Italy was liberated. When he returned home he settled in Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire where he spent the rest of his life.

"My grandparents would spend weekends at Blind Veterans UK centre in Brighton, which he always had a huge amount of praise for. He was able to enjoy many activities and was always made to feel welcome and that he was amongst friends. Sadly my grandfather died on 7th October 2005.

"It is difficult for my generation to comprehend the sacrifice the members of our Armed Forces made and continue to make. I will certainly make sure that my children are aware of the sacrifice their great grandfather made and the importance of Remembrance.

"I would like to thank everyone at Blind Veterans UK for all the love and care that they gave my grandparents and I hope that the donation that our Lions' Club has made will go a little way to repaying and acknowledging the excellent work that you do."



Picture: Mark Exell's grandfather George Powell.

Blackpool Air Cadets, by Colin Williamson, Blind Veterans UK Cadet & Youth Challenge Project Officer.

The weather forecast wasn't looking good; heavy rain and strong winds were forecast for the Blackpool area for the weekend the Cadets were to do their challenge.

However, this didn't deter the Cadets and adult staff from 177 Blackpool Airport Squadron and 967 (British Aerospace Warton) Squadron Air Training Corps. They were on parade at 09:00 hours on Saturday 26th October, ready to take on the Blind Veterans UK Cadet & Youth Challenge competition.

Accompanied by regular RAF Chief Technician David (Albert to his friends) Hall and Blind Veterans UK member Alan Holderness and me Colin Williamson, Cadet & Youth Challenge Project Officer, and my long suffering wife and volunteer Brenda, the group moved off to meet the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Eddie Collett on Blackpool promenade.

After a quick chat and a few photos with the Mayor the party set off on their 13.1 mile walk to help raise awareness and funds for Blind Veterans UK. 177 Squadron are no strangers to the competition, having won it three times in the past four years and they had their sights on winning it again! The walk was punctuated by the cadets from both Squadrons (and Albert!) stopping holidaymakers and the public at large and relieving them of their money, all for a good cause! Fortunately the forecasters got it wrong and the weather, although cold, wasn't too bad and a lot of people were out and about. The group even roped in some Blackpool donkeys for part of the journey, but unfortunately Alan Holderness was ever so slightly over the eight stone weight limit and wasn't allowed to saddle up.

It was a fantastic challenge event and carried out with humour and a great sense of camaraderie. The cadets weren't shy when it came to asking for donations so hopefully this event has raised quite a considerable sum for us and a great deal of awareness. Well done to everyone who participated, a good day was had by all. The cadets are a credit to their squadrons, to the Air Training Corps and to Blackpool.



Picture: Cadets from 77 Blackpool Airport Squadron and 967 (British Aerospace Warton) Squadron Air Training Corps pose on Blackpool Promenade. Colin Williamson is at the far right of the photograph and Alan Holderness and the Mayor of Blackpool Councillor Eddie Collett are to the left.



Picture: Colin Williamson, left with Cadets from 77 Blackpool Airport Squadron and 967 (British Aerospace Warton) Squadron Air Training Corps as they take part in the Cadet Challenge.

Finchale Training College, by Colin Williamson Blind Veterans UK Cadet & Youth Challenge Project Officer.

I recently met with the principal of Finchale Training College near Durham regarding the college's training and rehab programmes for disabled veterans.

The centre was originally set up in 1943 to provide training and rehabilitation for those injured Servicemen returning from WW2. It is a marvellous facility providing a wide range of courses and training programmes.

All of the courses are designed to help disabled veterans return to work and the various programmes cover issues such as mental health, homelessness, disability, debt, legal issues, addictions, criminal records issues and long and medium term unemployment.

Finchale (pronounced 'Finkle') Training College is a residential college near Durham which provides employment focused training and rehabilitation for disabled adults. It has a strong veterans ethos, having been founded as a veterans training college back in 1943 and provides support for reservists, early Service leavers and regular ex-forces personnel.

The residential courses are all free of charge, as is all food, accommodation and transport. Their veterans services are open to anyone who has served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces and is experiencing difficulties in civilian life.

The aim of the Veterans Support Services is to address a variety of issues such as unemployment, mental and emotional health, physical disability, financial difficulties, housing issues, relationship problems, substance misuse and alcohol issues. The Veterans team is made up of a mixture of specialist qualified staff from both civilian and military backgrounds and they will not only help individuals to build their self-confidence and self-esteem but will also help to offer a better understanding of civilian culture.

The former personnel officer of Finchale College was Richard 'Dickie' Annand VC. His is a very interesting story. He started his military career as a Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve back in 1933 but was refused a commission because of his age. He then transferred to the 2nd Battalion

Durham Light Infantry in 1938 where he reached the rank of Captain. He won his Victoria Cross, the first VC awarded in WW2, for his actions at the River Dyle in Belgium on the 15th May 1940. The following extract is taken from the London Gazette.

'For most conspicuous gallantry on the 15th – 16th May 1940, when the platoon under his command was on the south side of the River Dyle, astride a blown bridge. During the night a strong attack was beaten off, but about 11am the enemy again launched a violent attack and pushed forward a bridging party into the sunken bottom of the river. Second Lieutenant Annand attacked this party, but when ammunition ran out he went forward himself over open ground, with total disregard for enemy mortar and machine-gun fire. Reaching the top of the bridge, he drove out the party below, inflicting over twenty casualties with hand grenades. Having been wounded he rejoined his platoon, had his wound dressed, and then carried on in command.'

Richard Annand's Platoon Sergeant said later "Mr Annand came to me at platoon headquarters and asked for a box of grenades as they could hear Jerry trying to repair the bridge. Off he went and he sure must have given them a lovely time because it wasn't a great while before he was back for more. During the evening another attack was launched and again Second Lieutenant Annand went forward with hand grenades and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. When the order to withdraw was received, he withdrew his platoon, but learning on the way back that his batman was wounded and had been left behind, he returned at once to the former position and brought him back in a wheelbarrow, before losing consciousness as the result of wounds."

'Dickie' Annand was born in South Shields, Tyne and Wear and served as personnel officer at Finchale Training College for over 30 years.

If anyone is interested in finding out more of what the college could offer please go to the following website www.finchalecollege.co.uk/aboutus.php and click on Veterans Services.

Family News.

Congratulations to.

Birthdays:

Margery Williams who celebrated her 101st birthday on 7th December.

Joseph Munroe who celebrated his 101st birthday on 20th December.

Jan Krawczyk who celebrated his 100th birthday on 27th December.

Percy Norton who celebrated his 100th birthday on 27th December.

Anniversaries:

Blue Sapphire (65th):

George & Joan Whitehouse of Bilston, West Midlands on 13th December.

Roy & Pat Barratt of Bampton, Oxfordshire on 13th December.

Bernard & Marion Blacker of Saltdean, East Sussex on 18th December.

Raymond & Georgina Anstee of Coventry, West Midlands on 18th December.

Bob & Jean Curtis of Waterlooville, Hampshire on 26th December.

Diamond (60th):

Laurence & Rebeka Hardy, Haywards Heath, West Sussex on 16th December.

Raymond & Mickie Le Page of Painswick, Gloucestershire on 19th December.

Harry & Lyn Symn of Wigton, Cumbria on 19th December.

John & Betty Mercer of Coventry, West Midlands on 19th December.

Lewis & Judith Mendoza of Brighton, East Sussex on 21st December.

Jack & Ann Tawn of Prescot, Merseyside on 9th January.

Jack & Dorothy Lanagan of Washington, Tyne & Wear on 16th January.

Golden (50th):

David & Rose Stevenson of Wimborne, Dorset on 21st December.

Ruby (40th):

Douglas & Lexy Pillans of Isle Of North Uist on 31st December.

Silver (25th):

Jamie & Shauna Cuthbertson of Glasgow, Scotland on 10th December.

Christopher & Bev Lee of Redcar, Cleveland on 10th December.

Eric & Maddy Powell of Weymouth, Dorset on 19th January.



Wedding Congratulations. Picture: From left to right Barbara and Brian Muggridge (Best Man). Jane Pittaway-Hampson (Bride). David Poyner (Groom). John & Sue Lilley. John gave away the bride. Seated in front is Rosalind Hampson, Jane's daughter. **Photo:** Vincent Abbey.

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

Joan Brown who died on 3rd January 2013. She was the widow of the late Dennis Brown.

Marie Burns who died on 16th November 2013. She was the widow of the late Albert Burns.

Margaret Croydon-Savage who died on 12th December 2013. She was the wife of Sidney Savage.

Joyce Dodgson who died on 1st December 2013. She was the wife of Alfred Dodgson.

June Fairmaner who died on 4th November 2013. She was the widow of the late Peter Fairmaner.

Patricia Griffiths who died on 26th November 2013. She was the wife of Peter Griffiths.

Evelyn Hanna who died on 9th December 2013. She was the wife of Arthur Hanna.

Kathleen Jenkins who died on 1st December 2013. She was the widow of the late William Jenkins.

Ethel Jenrick who died on 25th November 2013. She was the widow of the late George Jenrick.

Jeanne Major who died on 10th December 2013. She was the widow of the late Raymond Major.

Margaret Neale who died on 3rd January 2014. She was the widow of the late Raymond Neale.

Mariette Pilbeam who died on 9th December 2013. She was the wife of Kenneth Pilbeam.

Maurice Riach who died on 17th November 2013. He was the husband of Margaret Riach.

Ann Rix who died on 31st December 2013. She was the wife of John Rix.

Doris 'Dorrie' Rose who died on 27th November 2013. She was the wife of John Rose.

Ann Taylor who died on 5th January 2014. She was the widow of the late Richard Taylor.

Jean Vickers who died on 23rd November 2013. She was the wife of Albert Vickers.

Kathleen Whittaker who died on 17th November 2013. She was the wife of Rowland Whittaker.

Mary Wren who died on 27th November 2013. She was the widow of the late Harold Wren.

Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

George Allport of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk Served in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Royal Artillery from 1942 to 1946.

Ronald Ambrose of Pokesdown, Bournemouth Served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1979 to 1992.

Derek Anderson of Llanymynech, Powys Served in the Royal Navy and the Royal Signals from 1948 to 1956.

Ian Ayer of Stanley, County Durham Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

James Ayling of Chichester, West Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

John Baptie of Ardersier, Inverness Served in the King's Own Scottish Borderers from 1966 to 1981.

Harry Barber of Brighton, West Sussex Served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

George 'Arthur' Beasley of Keswick, Cumbria Served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1943 to 1946.

Ronald Benton of Rhyl, Clwyd Served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

Nigel Best of Wakefield, West Yorkshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1962.

Thomas Bird of Hornchurch, Essex Served in the Royal Artillery in 1947.

Patrick Birmingham of Cambridge, Gloucester Served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1951 to 1957.

Ellen 'Helen' Black of Dorchester, Dorset Served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

Josephine Bloomfield of Southsea, Hampshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

John Bowe of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire Served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1948.

Edward Brearley of Retford, Nottinghamshire Served in the Royal Signals from 1957 to 1965.

Thomas Cain of Widnes, Cheshire Served in the General Service Corps and the King's Regiment from 1947 to 1949.

Florence Callaghan of Bristol Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1947.

Peggy Carey of Lewes, East Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

Edward Carroll of Montrose, Angus Served in the Royal Air Force from 1976 to 1979.

Peter Catling of Ipswich Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1946 to 1952.

Leslie Cheetham of Wigan, Lancashire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Simon Clark of Newport, Gwent Served in the Royal Engineers from 1983 to 1990.

Gordon 'Joseph' Clarke of Cleethorpes, South Humberside Served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

John Copeman of Norwich Served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1954 to 1971.

Dennis Cousins of Guildford, Surrey Served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1948.

Dorothy Cox of Southam, Warwickshire Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1945.

Terence Curtis of Luton, Bedfordshire Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1953 to 1955.

Terence Davis of Southampton Served in the Merchant Navy from 1941 to 1951.

Stephen Davison of Blyth, Northumberland Served in the Army Catering Corps

in 1979.

Alice Dove of King's Lynn, Norfolk Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Bernard Doyle of Wigan Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1946 to 1949.

Eileen Dykes of Weston-Super-Mare, Avon Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1947.

Paul Edwards of Hull, North Humberside Served in the Royal Navy from 1949 to 1951.

Edward Ellis of Lingfield, Surrey Served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1948 to 1950.

Robert Evans of Newport, Isle of Wight Served in the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars from 1969 to 1973.

Alfred Fillingham of St. Ives, Cambridgeshire Served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1947 to 1949.

Wallace Fisher of Swansea Served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

Walter Forshaw of Manchester Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1948.

Bryan Fountain of Banbury, Oxfordshire Served in the Royal Corps of Transport in 1979.

Trevor Frankton of Coventry Served in the Royal Fusiliers from 1970 to 1985.

Harvey Godber of Taunton, Somerset Served in the Royal Air Force in 1959.

Keith Gool of Swindon, Wiltshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

Charles Gough of Middlesbrough, Cleveland Served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Terence Gray of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1953 to 1958.

Maurice Green of Middlesbrough, Cleveland Served in the Royal Marines and the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

William Grimes of Milton Keynes Served in the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines from 1944 to 1946.

George Gulliford of Seaham, County Durham Served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1943.

Tas Gurung of Wembley, Middlesex Served in the Queen's Gurkha Engineers from 1980 to 1994.

John Hamer of Fownhope, Hereford Served in the Royal Engineers and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1950 to 1980.

John Harbourne of Birmingham, West Midlands Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1959 to 1960.

Vincent Hames of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire Served in the Royal Engineers from 1983 to 1992.

Margaret Hillerby of Bridlington, North Humberside Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Nigel Hills of Halesworth, Suffolk Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

John Hooper of Gillingham, Dorset Served in the Royal Armoured Corps, the Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards) and the Royal Dragoon Guards from 1949 to 1953.

George Horsburgh of Town Yetholm, Kelso Served in the Royal Navy from 1963 to 1975.

Robert Howes of Ferndown, Dorset Served in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment from 1937 to 1946.

Andrew Hunter of Bath Served in the Black Watch from 1954 to 1964.

Ronald Israel of Swansea Served in the Royal Engineers from 1952 to 1957.

Ronald Iverson of Wirral, Merseyside Served in the Cheshire Regiment and the Parachute Regiment from 1953 to 1960.

Stanislaw Janikowski of Felixstowe, Suffolk Served in the Polish Army from 1945 to 1949.

Gerald Jefferies of Skelmersdale, Lancashire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

Robert Johnson of St. Helens, Merseyside Served in the General Service Corps, the Loyal Regiment and the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1944 to 1947.

Colin Johnston of Carlisle Served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1952 to 1954.

Dennis Kerby of Abingdon, Oxfordshire Served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1954.

Charles 'Tony' Killick of Crawley, West Sussex Served in the Army Catering Corps from 1954 to 1959.

William Kennedy of Peebles, Peebleshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

June Kingsbury of Weston-Super-Mare, Avon Served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

Michael Leech of Coventry Served in the Royal Engineers from 1960 to 1966.

Rhydwyn Lewis of Swansea, West Glamorgan Served in the General Service Corps in 1942.

Kingston Lindsay of Liverpool Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

Howell Lloyd of Denbigh, Clwyd Served in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Welsh Regiment from 1957 to 1962.

John Loades of Sheffield, South Yorkshire Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1944 to 1948.

Ronald Lobb of Felixstowe, Suffolk Served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1955.

John Lofts of Salisbury, Wiltshire Served in the Gloucestershire Regiment, the Officers' Training Corps and the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from 1942 to 1947.

Aubrey Logan of March, Cambridgeshire Served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1960.

Peter Lowen of Weston-Super-Mare, Bristol Served in the Royal Air Force from 1936 to 1945.

Simon Mahoney of Ashbourne, Derbyshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1966 to 1967.

Audrey Manning of Wilmslow, Cheshire Served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1946.

Peter Marks of Uckfield, West Sussex Served in the Royal Signals from 1951 to 1957.

Charles Mathieson of Epsom, Surrey Served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1969.

Mary Matthews of Oldham Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944.

David McClelland of Neston, Cheshire Served in the Royal Engineers from 1966 to 1976.

Kenneth McCormack of Prescot, Merseyside Served in the Army Catering Corps from 1953 to 1959.

Francis McGreal of Wirral, Merseyside Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1946 to 1948.

Anthony McMeekin of Walkergate, Newcastle Upon Tyne Served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.

James McNeilly of St. Helens, Merseyside Served in the Royal Irish Regiment from 1971 to 1978.

Walter Meaton of Pembroke Dock, Dyfed Served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Patrick Morris of Bedworth, Warwickshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1952.

Bernard Myerscough of Liverpool, Merseyside Served in the Coldstream Guards from 1943 to 1950.

Charles Nicholas of Ferndown, Dorset Served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

John Northedge of Southend-On-Sea, Essex Served in the Royal Engineers and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1950 to 1956.

Frederick Osborne of Daventry, Northamptonshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Colin Owen of Barnsley, South Yorkshire Served in the Royal Engineers from

1940 to 1945.

Robert Page of Walsall Served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1947.

James Parker of Preston, Lancashire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1956.

Leslie Payne of St Martin, Guernsey Served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

William Phillips of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan Served in the Royal Navy from 1966 to 1972.

Patrick Pinkney of Fareham, Hampshire Served in the Merchant Navy from 1941 to 1944.

Reverend George 'Alex' Potts (Major) Served in the Royal Air Force from 1960 to 1997.

Irene Powell of Brighton, East Sussex Served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1944 to 1951.

Ronald Prankerd of Chichester, West Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Alan Rebbeck of Huntley, Gloucester Served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1951 to 1957.

Donald Richardson of West Molesey Served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

John Roberts of Eastbourne, East Sussex Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1948 to 1950.

Basil Robinson of Norwich Served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment from 1944 to 1948.

Robert Robinson of Wirral, Merseyside Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Margaret Sawyer of Emsworth, Hampshire Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1939 to 1945.

Ronald Scobie of Paisley, Renfrewshire Served in the Royal Engineers from 1971 to 1983.

June Scothern of Sheffield, South Yorkshire Served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1950 to 1951.

Neville Scott of Gnosall, Stafford Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949.

David Shaw of Midhurst, West Sussex Served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1952 to 1956.

George Shaw of Gosport, Hampshire Served in the Royal Artillery and the Corps of Military Police from 1948 to 1950.

Alan Silvester of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1981.

James Simms of Nottingham Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Thomas Showler of Brecon, Powys Served in the Home Counties Brigade and the Royal West Kent Regiment from 1951 to 1953.

Eric Slade of Brighton, East Sussex Served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

Major Joseph Smith of Peebles, Peebleshire Served in the Royal Scots Regiment, the East Yorkshire Regiment, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the King's Own Regiment and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1939 to 1959.

Robert 'Bob' Stewart of Nairn, Inverness-shire Served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1950.

Pauline Stiles of Lymington, Hampshire Served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1943.

David Squire of Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland Served in the Royal Engineers from 1941 to 1947.

Donald Stubbing of Waterlooville, Hampshire Served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1964.

Harry Tailford of Huddersfield Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1946 to 1949.

Eric Taylor of Wirral, Merseyside Served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1957 to 1962.

Peter Taylor of Solihull, West Midlands Served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the Royal Military Police and the Parachute Regiment from 1952 to 1958.

Stephen Thomas of Llanrwst, Gwynedd Served in the Royal Signals from 1988 to 1992.

Violet Tingley of Littlehampton, West Sussex Served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1939 to 1943.

Ian Toone of Solihull, West Midlands Served in the Royal Navy from 1955 to 1968.

Vernon Trenfield of Worcester Served in the General Service Corps and the Duke of Wellington's from 1946 to 1948.

Thomas Tucker of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd Served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Albert Vincent of Birmingham Served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1936 to 1946.

Frank Walker of Matlock, Derbyshire Served in the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1947.

Robert Walker of Glasgow Served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1946 to 1949.

Leslie Wall of Birmingham Served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

William Waters of Sprowston, Norwich Served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

John Widdrington of Ashington, Northumberland Served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Derek Woolley of Manchester Served in the Royal Corps of Transport from 1977 to 1981.

Colin York of Brighton, West Sussex Served in the Royal Engineers from 1948 to 1950.

James Young of St Helier, Jersey Served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Violet Young of Peterborough Served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1942 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, families and friends.

Norman Allen of Swansea, West Glamorgan died on 23rd December 2013, aged 93. He Served in the Merchant Navy from 1940 to 1972.

Derek Bailey of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 8th December 2013, aged 74. He joined the Army Catering Corps in 1958 and Served in the UK and Cyprus. He was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1960.

James Bannister of Glasgow, East Dunbartonshire died on 1st November 2013, aged 84. He joined the Royal Signals in 1951. Commissioned in 1952, he Served at Aldershot, Catterick and Loughborough and was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1957.

Nathan Barker of Hove, East Sussex died on 1st November 2013, aged 99. He joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1940 and was commissioned into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in 1942, Serving in India. He later joined the Indian Army before discharge in 1946 as a Captain.

George 'Arthur' Beasley of Keswick, Cumbria died on 11th December 2013, aged 97. He joined the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1943 and Served in the UK, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Egypt and Palestine before being discharged as a Lieutenant in 1946.

Reverend Douglas Bell-Richards of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 1st December 2013, aged 90. He joined the RAF in 1942 and did pilot training in South Africa. At the end of the war he was converting to Typhoon aircraft. He was discharged in 1947 in the rank of Flight Sergeant. He was then ordained.

Richard Bishop of Brighton, East Sussex died on 25th November 2013, aged 91. He Served in the RAF from 1940 to 1944 when he was discharged as a Corporal. He lost the sight in his right eye whilst a school boy. He lost his sight in his left eye whilst doing duty as an Orderly Corporal in August 1943 when an object hit him in the eye. He joined Blind Veterans UK on 18th April 1991.

Frederick Blanshard of Barrow in Furness, Cumbria died on 21st June 2013, aged 90. In 1941 he signed on as a Merchant Seaman beginning his seagoing life as a Cabin Boy. In 1943 he joined the Royal Navy working the Cable Ships as an Able Seaman. He left the Royal Navy in 1946 to rejoin the Merchant Navy. He sailed all over the world until he retired in 1953.

Alfred 'Don' Booker of Loughborough, Leicestershire died on 5th December 2013, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery (TA) in 1939 and was posted to France with the BEF. He and a companion acquired a rowing boat to get off the beach at Dunkirk and after safe return to the UK he was stationed in Kent as a dispatch rider with the 57th Anti-Tank Regiment, followed by the 82nd Anti-Tank Regiment at Clacton. He was then posted to India and spent the rest of the war fighting in the Burma Campaign. He transferred to the Army Catering Corps in 1944 and was discharged in 1946.

Kezia Brinkley of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire died on 16th November 2013, aged 90. She Served in the Women's Royal Air Force in 1942 at Cardington, Blackpool and Morecambe, leaving as an Aircraftwoman 2nd Class.

Robert 'Bob' Brittles of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 19th November 2013, aged 78. He Served in the Kings Own Royal Regiment from 1953 to 1955 leaving as a Private. During that time he was posted to Hong Kong and thereafter to Japan to the Battle School. He was later deployed to Korea.

Kenneth 'Harry' Brough of Padgate, Warrington died on 4th December 2013, aged 83. He was called up for National Service in 1948 and after training at RAF Padgate Served at RAF West Kirby, RAF Morton Hall and RAF Swinderby. He was discharged as an Aircraftman 1st Class in 1950.

Cyril Burton of Lee on the Solent, Hampshire died on 24th November 2013, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and trained as a stoker, serving in various ships until he was discharged in 1948.

Lieutenant Commander Geoffrey 'Nick' Carter of Menai Bridge, Gwynedd died on 5th October 2013, aged 91. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of 16. He was later drafted to the Mediterranean and subsequently had several posts with the RAF in the North African desert. He was later seconded to the Royal Canadian Navy and was commissioned in 1955. He was an Air Engineer and Served in the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal and Eagle. He also worked in the MoD before retiring from the Royal Navy in 1972 as an Acting Lieutenant Commander.

Dennis Cope of Stafford, Staffordshire died on 12th December 2013, aged 82. He Served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1949 to 1951 for National Service, Serving in Oswestry, Rhyl, Taunton and the Isle of Wight. He was discharged as a Lance Bombardier.

Alan Crompton of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 18th November 2013, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and trained at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall. He was drafted to Australia and Served in a pre-war cruise ship which had been converted into a troop landing ship. He was discharged in 1946 as an Able Seaman.

Albert 'Bert' Deadman of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire died on 10th December 2013, aged 83. He completed his National Service from 1952 until 1954 in the Royal Army Service Corps. He Served in Germany in Borden, Geldern and Paderborn with 123 Company, a tank transport company. He was discharged in 1954 as a driver.

Charles 'Norman' Docker of Barrow in Furness, Cumbria died on 13th November 2013, aged 81. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1954. He trained at Oswestry and Rhyl. He was posted to the British Army of the Occupied Rhine and located at Lippstadt. On completion of his National Service he was demobilised as a Gunner in 1956.

Pauline Dutton of Mold, Flintshire died on 3rd January 2014, aged 70. She joined the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1962, qualifying as a driver. She Served in Chetwyn and Birkenhead before discharge in 1964.

1st Officer Yvonne 'Madeleine' Earle of Brighton, East Sussex died on 25th November 2013, aged 94. She joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment in 1942, Served at Haslar Hospital and later Malvern, and was discharged as a Detachment Supervisor in 1946. In 1952 she joined the Womens Royal Naval Reserve unit at HMS Sussex and retired as a 1st Officer in 1974.

Brian Excell of Lowestoft, Suffolk died on 11th December 2013, aged 77. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1955 and after training joined the RAF Catering Specialists. He became an Aircraftman 1st Class and was later deployed to Christmas Island prior to being sent to Kenya and finally RAF Eastleigh. He completed his Service in 1965, leaving as a Senior Aircraftman.

Eugene Fitzsimmons of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 28th August 2013, aged 84. Called up for National Service, he joined the Royal Artillery in 1947 and Served in Germany as a gunner until 1949.

Gary Flack of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 22nd November 2013, aged 72. He joined the Royal Navy as a Junior Electrical Mechanic in 1956. After training he was posted to HMS Gambia and then HMS Whitby, operating in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. He later sailed the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea and was involved in the Indonesian Emergency. He was discharged in 1968.

Leonard Forde of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd died on 14th December 2013, aged 95. He joined the Royal Signals (TA) in 1936 and was mobilised in 1939. He qualified as a high speed Morse operator and fought with the 8th Army in North Africa, the Middle East, Italy and Germany. He was introduced to journalism and worked on the '8th Army News'. He was discharged in 1947 as a Signaller.

Peter Forder of Lincoln, Lincolnshire died on 23rd November 2013, aged 89. A scientific instrument maker he was enlisted in the Army. He trained at Blackpool and Woolwich, the latter for trade testing and training, and joined the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers in 1944. After a posting to Burma he was demobilised as a Lance Corporal in 1948. In 1950 he rejoined the REME Serving until 1969 in India, Hong Kong and Germany.

Eric Freeman of Lancing, West Sussex died on 3rd December 2013, aged 94. He Served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1940 in the UK, Ireland and Northern Europe until discharge as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

Henry Harrison of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd died on 28th December 2013, aged 75. He Served with the Royal Signals at Catterick Camp from 1960 until April 1961.

Kenneth 'Ken' Horton of Rhyl, Denbighshire died on 18th November 2013, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940 carrying out his basic training in Lincolnshire. He Served in a variety of locations around the UK prior to being demobilised in 1946 as a Gunner.

James Howell of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear died on 24th September 2013, aged 91. In a reserved occupation he joined the Royal Artillery in 1943. He landed in Normandy on D-Day +3 and his unit went through to Germany, working closely with American forces. Involved with the Nuremberg trials after the war he was discharged in 1947 as a Lance Bombardier.

Bernard Hurrell of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 9th December 2013, aged 92. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1941. He moved into France six weeks after D-Day on the supply and stores support side. He moved into Belgium where he remained until he was demobilised in 1946.

Stanley Jackson of Oldbury, West Midlands died on 21st December 2013, aged 91. His call up was delayed as his engineering job was a Reserved Occupation. He joined the Royal Signals in 1945 and after training was posted to Austria to work as a wireless operator in a unit monitoring Russian broadcasts. He was demobilised in 1948, leaving as a Corporal.

John Jeans of Ormskirk, Lancashire died on 29th November 2013, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1944 as an Officer Cadet. He carried out his initial training in Torquay and initial flying training in Somerset. He was demobilised in 1948 as an Aircraftman 1st Class.

Marcel Julier of Hove, East Sussex died on 22nd November 2013, aged 96. He Served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1945 in Cyprus, North Africa and the Middle East.

Pearl King of Guildford, Surrey died on 22nd December 2013, aged 87. She was a dancer and toured with a troupe from the age of 15. At 18 she was in London when in January 1945 a V2 rocket struck the family home and as a result she lost her sight completely. She was in hospital convalescing for a year following the raid. She became a war blinded member of Blind Veterans UK in 2012. Her admission came late as she had been given incorrect information by a war blinded World War II member who told her she need to have Served in the Forces.

Thomas 'Tom' King of St Leonard's on Sea, East Sussex died on 30th November 2013, aged 101. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1941. He was later transferred to the Royal Engineers in 1944 where he Served in Gibraltar and Italy before being demobilised as a Sapper in 1946.

Czeslaw Knopp of Norbury, London died on 7th December 2013, aged 90. He joined the Polish Armoured Regiment. In 1943 he fought in Italy with the British Forces. Following the war he Served in the UK with the Polish Resettlement Corps until his discharge in 1949.

Thomas 'Tommy' Loudon of Barrow in Furness, Cumbria died on 13th September 2013, aged 92. In July 1941 he joined the Royal Artillery as a Craftsman. From 1941 to 1942 he Served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He then Served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the UK and in Egypt, where he was posted to Malta and from there to Sicily and on to Italy. He was discharged in 1946.

Leslie Manklow of Heathfield, East Sussex died on 28th November 2013, aged 98. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939 and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1941. He Served in France in 1940 with the British Expeditionary Force and in Egypt and was discharged as a Private in 1946.

James 'Jim' McArdle of Southport, Merseyside died on 6th December 2013, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and was with Bomber Command at RAF Tholthorpe before being posted to South East Asia Command in India. He was discharged as a Flight Lieutenant in 1947.

John Mercer of Coventry, West Midlands died on 11th December 2013, aged 90. He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1942 and was made a Training Assistant in officer training. He was posted to India via South Africa and eventually to Burma with 36 Division where he fought with 'Vinegar' Joe Stilwell. He was medically discharged as a Private in 1946 following multiple gunshot wounds to his left leg in Burma.

William Morris of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 7th December 2013, aged 96. He joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1935. Trained at Bodmin he was posted to India in 1937 for four years and later moved to Iraq, Palestine and the Libyan Desert where he was captured. Sent to Italy and later Germany as a PoW he spent some time at a rehabilitation unit following his release by US Forces. He was discharged in 1946.

Charles Morrison of Plymouth, Devon died on 13th December 2013, aged 91. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942, trained at HMS Raleigh, Torpoint and HMS Impregnable at St Burdeaux, Plymouth. Qualified as a gunnery rating he Served in HMS Abdiel, a fast minelayer, off North Africa, Malta, Sicily and Normandy. He was discharged as an Acting Able Seaman in 1946.

Frederick 'Stan' Newsome of York, North Yorkshire died on 7th September 2013, aged 94. He joined the Royal Navy in 1939 and qualified as a seaman. He Served in several ships during WWII, notably on Russian convoys and he was discharged as an Able Seaman in 1944.

James O'Brien of Neath, West Glamorgan died on 20th November 2013, aged 84. He joined the General Service Corps in 1946 and transferred to the Loyal Regiment in 1947. He Served in Italy, Eritrea, Somalia, Cyprus, Egypt and Kenya and was discharged as a Corporal in 1952.

Stanley Paine of Maidstone, Kent died on 8th November 2013, aged 93. He joined the 2nd Buffs in 1940 and Served in both the Middle and Far East before being discharged as a Private in 1946.

Doreen Proctor of Hartley, Longfield died on 28th November 2013, aged 91. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and was stationed in Liverpool with a Balloon unit on anti-air raid duty. She later moved to Stranraer and worked with a Sunderland Flying Boat unit. She then spent some time at RAF St Athan and later RAF Hickson where she worked on Wellington Bombers She was discharged in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

David Reid of Llangefni, Anglesey died on 8th December 2013, aged 84. He Served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1954. He specialised as a Radar Plotter and his first large ship was HMS Victorious, an aircraft carrier. He Served in the Far East, South Atlantic, South America, Germany, West Indies, Korea and Hong Kong. He was discharged as an Able Seaman in 1954.

Phillip 'Victor' Richmond of Orpington, Kent died on 2nd November 2013, aged 94. After joining the Merchant Navy in 1937 and qualifying as a Radio Operator he Served in various passenger liners, tankers and cargo ships. He left in 1954.

Henry Riley of Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd died on 1st December 2013, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and completed his basic training at RAF Blackpool. He specialised in airfield defence with the RAF Regiment and was stationed in Wales. He was initially posted to Singapore followed by Iraq, North Africa, Palestine and Greece. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

Elwy 'Rob' Roberts of Cumnock, Ayrshire died on 2nd January 2014, aged 82. He joined the Royal Signals for National Service in 1952 and trained at Catterick and Ripon as a driver. He Served at Aldershot and later Chester before discharge in 1954, but remained in the TA until 1958.

Albert 'Bert' Sanders of Mitcham, Surrey died on 23rd November 2013, aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, was posted to the Faroe Islands for two years and then to the Middle East and West Africa. He transferred to the Sherwood Foresters Regiment in 1945 where he remained until he was discharged in 1946.

Frederick Saul of Manningtree, Essex died on 26th November 2013, aged 83. Called up for National Service he joined the Royal Army Service Corps in July 1948 and transferred to the Royal Military Police the following month. He Served in Trieste, Italy and was injured in a mortar fire incident, losing the sight in one eye. He was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1950.

Helen Seal of Blantyre, Glasgow died on 1st January 2014, aged 75. She joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1956 and carried out her training in Wilmslow. She specialised as a medical secretary and Served in a variety of locations around the UK. She was discharged in 1960 as a Senior Aircraftwoman.

Gordon Sherwen of Hyde, Cheshire died on 25th December 2013, aged 91. He joined the RAF in 1940 and trained as a Flight Mechanic, Serving in Egypt, Kenya, Palestine and the UK before discharge as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

Leslie Sims DSC of Southampton, Hampshire died on 30th November 2013, aged 99. He joined the Royal Navy in 1929. He Served in various ships as a Torpedoeman and was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his involvement in the battle of Tobruk where he was captured by the Italian Army and became a POW. He was exchanged with Italian/German prisoners six months later in 1943 and after obtaining a commission, joined the Fleet Air Arm Electrical Branch. He Served during the Suez crisis in 1956 and finally retired in 1964 as a Lieutenant Commander.

Morris Slade of Yateley, Hampshire died on 27th November 2013, aged 87. He joined the Royal Navy for National Service in 1946 and Served at various UK air stations and was eventually discharged as a Naval Airman in 1948.

William 'Bill' Smith of Ormskirk, Lancashire died on 16th November 2013, aged 95. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and Served in the Indian Ocean, Atlantic, Mediterranean and Arctic Convoys in four ships, two of which were bombed and the third was mined. He was discharged as an Acting Leading Signaller in 1945.

John 'Bernie' Stevens of Dunstable, Bedfordshire died on 15th October 2013, aged 102. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 when he trained as a store keeper. He was subsequently deployed to France some time after D-Day, moving through Belgium, Holland and Germany as a member of a mobile repair unit. He was demobilised from RAF Henlow in 1945 as a Leading Aircraftman.

James 'Jim' Suttle of Lichfield, Staffordshire died on 21st November 2013, aged 80. He joined the Worcestershire Regiment in 1952 and trained as a Bandsman. He played the French horn and Served at Norton Barracks, Worcester and Kiwi Barracks, Bulford. He was discharged as a Bandsman in 1955.

Harold Swift of Leeds, West Yorkshire died on 11th December 2013, aged 90. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942, transferring a month later to the Royal Armoured Corps (53rd Training Regiment) and then to the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards (7th Armoured Div. He was in the 28th Armoured Brigade Serving as a Tank Commander in France from D+10 fighting through to Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1947.

Michael Taite of Uckfield, East Sussex died on 27th November 2013, aged 100. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and Served in Catterick and then Germany. He was granted an emergency commission in 1940 and was discharged as a Captain in 1946.

Marjorie Townsend of Derby, Derbyshire died on 10th December 2013, aged 93. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 and trained at Uxbridge, specialising in secretarial duties in the wages department. She spent time in Netheravon, Middle and Nether Wallop in Wiltshire before discharge as a Corporal in 1945.

Joseph Tucker of Godalming, Surrey died on 1st May 2013, aged 87. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943, Serving in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. He was discharged as an Able Seaman in 1946.

Eric Turner of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 27th December 2013, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and Served in the destroyer, HMS Scorpion on Russian convoys. He was in the cruiser HMS Jamaica in the Far East when the war ended. He was discharged in 1946 as an Able Seaman.

Frances Verity of Swindon, Wiltshire died on 4th November 2013, aged 90. She joined the Woman's Royal Air Force in 1943 and was posted to Croydon, then Bomber Command at Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire. At the end of the war she elected to stay in the WRAF as a General Duties Clerk and was posted to RAF Innsworth for five years. She was then posted to HQ Fighter Command at Bentley Priory. She was later posted to 25 Group HQ in Germany and after a time in the UK was then sent to Norway for two years. She returned to the UK and went to Aircrew Duty before discharge in 1960 as a Sergeant.

Victor Wainwright of Gravesend, Kent died on 4th January 2014, aged 88. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and Served in the aircraft carrier HMS Victorious in the Pacific. He was there when the Far East war ended in 1945. He then joined HMS Whimbrel, a third class ship before being discharged as an Able Seaman in 1947.

James 'Jim' Ward of Romford, Essex died on 3rd March 2013, aged 91. He joined the Auxiliary Fire Service just before the war and then joined the Royal Marines in 1941. He Served on HMS Resolution and spent time at Scapa Flow and Mombasa. He was later involved in the Sicily and Italy invasions. His ship was hit off Salerno by a glider bomber. He eventually returned to Rosyth before taking part in the D-Day landings. He was demobilised in 1946 as a Marine.

Peter Webb of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 3rd January 2014 aged 93. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940. He was posted to the Middle East with No 3 Mobile Laboratory and was based in Damascus. He spent time in Beirut and was eventually deployed to Italy. He completed his time at No 6 Field Hospital and was discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

Rudolph 'Rudy' Wessely of Brighton, East Sussex died on 22nd December 2013, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and trained at HMS Royal Arthur as a specialist writer as he was fluent in German. He joined HMS Tartar which was at D-Day. He also Served in a French destroyer, which was sunk while he was onboard. He was discharged as a Petty Officer Writer in 1945.

Bryan 'Bryn' White of Crawley, West Sussex died on 24th December 2013, aged 82. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps in 1949. He transferred to the East & West Riding Unit in 1951 and then to the 8th Hussars in 1952. He Served in Korea, Japan and Europe before discharge in 1961.

Victor Williams of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 7th January 2014, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and Served in various locations including Bermuda and Singapore. He was discharged in 1946.

William Williams of Clapham, South West London died on 29th October 2013, aged 89. He joined the Coldstream Guards in 1943 and landed in Normandy shortly after D-Day. He fought through to the Baltic and was discharged as a Guardsman in 1947.

William 'Bill' Williams of Worsley, Greater Manchester died on 2nd January 2014, aged 89. He trained in the King's Liverpool Regiment from 1942 and was later posted to the Royal Signals in Lisburne. He was later posted to India and finally to Burma with the 14th Army. He ended up in Rangoon, followed by Singapore before returning to the UK. He was discharged in 1946.

Frances Wolseley-Wilmsen of Northampton, Northamptonshire died on 29th November 2013, aged 93. She initially did nursing work in the Voluntary Aid Detachment before joining the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1942. She Served in Liverpool, Newcastle and Inverness prior to discharge as a Leading Wren in 1945.

Phyllis 'Phyl' Woodford of Eastleigh, Hampshire died on 21st November 2013, aged 92. She left her studies at Southampton Art College in 1942 to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. She qualified as a Map Clerk and was stationed at Middle Wallop, Harwell and later at 18 OTU in Desborough before discharge in 1945 as a temporary Corporal.

Sidney Woods of Horfield, Bristol died on 13th November 2013, aged 100. He joined the RAF in 1939 and worked on a Balloon Barrage Unit and later qualified as a Radio Mechanic. He attended Bradford Technical College followed by RAF Cranwell and was briefly at West Hammet working on Spitfires. He was later posted to Ceylon and India. He was demobilised in 1945.

Blind Veterans UK Legacy Gifts.

We are grateful to the following members who left bequests to Blind Veterans UK in their Wills.

Michael Lennon of Ovingdean, East Sussex who died on 19th August 2013.

James Kay of Luton, Bedfordshire who died on 6th August 2013.

Helen Ann Wallace Scott Wilson of Inverness who died on 19th March 2013.

Donald Barton of Stockport, Cheshire who died on 10th April 2013.