

September 2014

# Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



**We Remember  
1914 - 1918.**



**On the cover:** John Perriton, Lorraine Coombes with Jim Hartley, Paul Jacobs GM, Captain Neil Perriton with daughter Serena, Julia Brookes with Ben Gascoigne and Diana Perriton with daughter Laura Sanders. They are outside The Parish Church of St Margaret, The Green, Rottingdean.

The back page of the Review is of a panel in a stained glass window in Bethnal Green Library.

Contact: Review Editor, Catherine Goodier 020 7616 8367  
Email: [revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk)



Sept 2014 | No 1050



### Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Blind Veterans UK Review is published monthly by Blind Veterans UK, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD [www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk) A company limited by guarantee No. 189648, registered in England. Registered Charity No. 216227 (England & Wales) and SCO39411 (Scotland). ISSN 2050-1404. Unless otherwise stated all content © copyright Blind Veterans UK. All rights reserved. Printed by Newnorth.

### Contact telephone numbers.

**The Brighton centre** 01273 307811.

**The Llandudno centre** 01492 868700.

**The Sheffield centre** 0114 2672550.

**The Booking Office:** To book accommodation please contact the Booking Office on 01273 391500. If you have care needs please first contact your Welfare Officer.

**ROVI on Duty:** If you need to speak with the ROVI on Duty please telephone: 01273 391447.

**IT Training Support:** If you need to speak with the IT Instructor on support please telephone: 01273 391432.

**New members:** If you know someone who could be eligible to join Blind Veterans UK they can phone our Membership Department on Freephone: 0800 389 7979.

# From the Chairman.

## Your message from Tim Davis.

In 2015 our charity will celebrate 100 years of proud service. We are currently planning a number of activities to mark this occasion, including one very special event that we hope you will be a part of.

I am absolutely delighted to be able to inform you that, by kind permission of our patron, Her Majesty the Queen, we will hold a garden party at Buckingham Palace to mark our centenary.

It's our hope that the centennial Buckingham Palace garden party will be attended by representatives of the Royal Household and other high-profile guests. We also hope that as many members of Blind Veterans UK as possible will be able to attend the garden party, along with a guest; that could be your wife/husband/partner, a family member, friend, escort, guide or carer.

At the time of writing, the Palace has yet to confirm the exact date of our garden party, but we do know it will be in either May or June 2015. We will inform you of the details towards the end of this year.

Given the scale of this event, it will not be possible for us to arrange transport for every member attending the Garden Party. Consequently, we will be asking members and guests attending the event to make their own travel arrangements, as far as possible, and where necessary find and book your own accommodation. Where that is not possible, however, Blind Veterans UK will of course be able to provide some support to guests who could otherwise not attend the event.

Given the importance of this event at the Palace, there will be a formal application process for those planning to attend. Once we know the date we will send you a form to complete, as the Palace requires a certain amount of security information and we will of course need to register everyone who wishes to attend.

I look forward to sharing further news of the Buckingham Palace garden party and our other exciting centennial celebrations in the months ahead.

## Blind Veterans UK Calendar

### Activities from the Brighton centre in September.

Walking/Exploring 7th to 13th. Pamper Week 14th to 20th **(full)**.  
Fishing Week 14th to 20th. Writers' Forum 20th  
The Golf Club 20th to 21st. History Week 21st to 27th **(full)**.

### October.

Amateur Radio Week 3rd to 11th. Music Week 12th to 18th **(full)**.  
The Golf Club 18th to 19th. Bowling Club 19th Oct to 1st Nov **(full)**.  
Writers' Forum 20th. Great South Run 26th **(full)**.

### November.

Cenotaph 8th to 9th. Writers' Forum 15th. Dance Week 23rd to 29th.

### December.

Turkey and Tinsel Week 14th to 20th.

### Activities from the Llandudno centre in September.

Canal Boat/Cycling Week 21st to 27th **(full)**. Mostyn Arts Week 21st to 27th.

### October.

Walking/Photography Week 12th to 18th **(full)**. Computer Club 22nd to 24th.

### November.

Military Week 2nd to 10th **(full)**. Christmas Crafts 23rd to 6th December.

### December.

Christmas Crafts 14th to 31st.

### Activities from the Sheffield centre in September.

Culture Week 8th to 12th **(full)**.

### October.

The Big Draw 6th to 10th **(full)**.

### December.

Christmas Theme Week 15th to 19th **(full)**.

### The Booking Office:

To book accommodation please contact the Booking Office on 01273 391500.  
If you have care needs please first contact your Welfare Officer.

## Sheffield centre short stay holidays.

Fancy a few days away in Sheffield?

The Sheffield centre is a fine historic house, located in a leafy suburb. The city centre is only two miles away with excellent transport links. It is also a great base for independent exploration of the nearby Peak District.

Some of our many local attractions include:

Millennium Gallery — Sheffield's landmark art gallery, housing permanent and touring exhibitions.

Winter Gardens — the largest urban glass house in Europe.

Botanical Gardens — 19 acres of plants from all around the world.

Sheffield Theatres — the largest theatre complex outside London.

Kelham Island Museum — telling the story of Sheffield's industrial past and present, housing Europe's largest working steam engine.

Chatsworth — the Palace of the Peaks — the lavish home and gardens of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

We are offering all members short stay holidays which can be tailored to suit your needs. In keeping with Sir Arthur Pearson's founding principle of independence we would ask that you travel independently to the Sheffield centre, but be assured there will be a warm welcome on your arrival.

Please contact the centre on 0114 267 2550 for more details. You'll be assured of a hearty Northern welcome!

# Noticeboard.

## Dates for your diary and useful information.

### Blind Veterans UK Founder's Day Awards for 2015.

The 2015 Founder's Day Awards ceremony will be held on 26th March at our Llandudno Centre. It is an important date in our history as it celebrates the date in 1915 when our first 16 war blinded ex-Service men 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 2014 Founder's Day Awards were featured in the May Review. Do you know any equally commendable candidates?

#### 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 — member 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 — member only.
- iv) **Sports Person of the Year Award** will celebrate an exceptional sporting achievement during the award year — member 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 — member only.

vi) **Volunteer of the Year** (over 25) 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 Veteran UK members — registered volunteer only.

viii) **Group/Team Volunteer of the Year** to a team or group of volunteers who have worked together to create a positive experience that benefits our members — registered volunteer only.

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

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

Nominations are treated in confidence and discussed by Selection Committees in January 2015. Nominees are not informed that they have been nominated until the Selection Committee have reached their decision.

## Review format changes.

The Review is also available as an MP3CD, by email and in Braille.

If you would like to change the format you receive the Review in please telephone Catherine Goodier, Review Editor on 020 7616 8367 or email: [revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk)

## Would you like to join the Nottinghamshire Knights blind cricket team?

The Nottinghamshire Knights were formed in 2010 by My Sight Nottinghamshire, a voluntary organisation that gives help to vision impaired people. The intention in forming the team was to give an opportunity for vision impaired players to take part in a competitive sport on equal terms with other teams.

The club has been given the support of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, who are based at Trent Bridge, and the Knights train at the international ground during the winter months. This has the effect on the individuals of improving their confidence, social skills, fitness, and restoring some of the self-worth that can be lost with vision impairment, as well as being great fun.

Knights currently play in the BCEW Development League and the BBS Cup and have male and female players of all ages.

If you would like to join the Nottinghamshire Knights please telephone Phil Hancock on telephone: 0115 9706806 or email him at: [philh@mysightnotts.org.uk](mailto:philh@mysightnotts.org.uk) Their Facebook site is at: [www.facebook.com/NottinghamshireKnightsVIC](http://www.facebook.com/NottinghamshireKnightsVIC) and Twitter: [@NottsKnightsVIC](https://twitter.com/NottsKnightsVIC)

If you do join please let Catherine Goodier know so that she can come out and report on you!



## D-Day veterans to be awarded the Legion d'Honneur.

The French government is to recognise D-Day veterans with the country's highest honour. The Government of France has told the UK Ministry of Defence that it wishes to recognise the selfless acts of heroism and determination displayed by all surviving veterans of the Normandy Landings, and of the wider campaigns to liberate France in 1944, by awarding them with the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur.

This recognition extends beyond the troops who actually landed on and fought their way up the beaches 70 years ago, and will include Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel who operated in support of the landings.

Requests for the award should be made using the application form on the following page and will be processed by the Ministry of Defence, who will forward the details to the French authorities.

The French authorities will then make all the final decisions on the awards.

Any veterans wishing to apply for the award, or anyone enquiring on their behalf, should either send the application form to:

Personnel and Training – Defence Services Secretary – Commemorations  
Floor 6 Zone C, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, London SW1A 2HB.

Or email it to: [PersTrg-DSSec-CommemAug1@mod.uk](mailto:PersTrg-DSSec-CommemAug1@mod.uk)

The French government will be reviewing the applications, so the MOD is unable to give any guidance on timings or the arrangements for the presentation of the awards. Awards will not be given posthumously, and any further questions should be directed to the French authorities.



ADMINISTRATION FORM

Regarding the proposed veteran

NAME AND SURNAME; ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS :

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH :

NATIONALITY :

RANK :

ROLE OCCUPIED :

AWARD TO BE BESTOWED : Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur

FRENCH DECORATION(S) HELD :

REASONS JUSTIFYING THE PROPOSAL :

TEN LINES MAXIMUM

THIS PARAGRAPH WILL DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL – PLEASE GIVE BRIEF DETAILS OF SERVICE IN THE CAMPAIGN – UNITS SERVED WITH, ANY SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOUGHT (SERVICE IN REAR ECHELON, ON SUPPLY VESSELS ETC STILL QUALIFIES FOR THE AWARD)

Date and Signature of claimant

**Blind Veterans UK Bowmen Shoot at Six Villages Archery Club Sussex on Sunday 6th July 2014. By Patrick Sidnell.**

Two members of Blind Veterans UK Bowmen, John Cunnington and me, Patrick Sidnell, attended an Archery Tournament at Six Villages Archery Club Sussex on Sunday 6th July 2014.

The rain was heavy at the start of our trip but by the time we arrived at Six Villages Sports Centre in Westgate, Chichester the sky was clear. We were warmly welcomed by the members of Six Villages Archery Club (SVAC) with tea and bacon rolls.

I am not sure how many bacon rolls John Cunnington had, but his wife Sue looked tired from all her visits to the food table. They obviously helped John as he came in 1st place on handicap in the Gents section (good shooting John).

Also two members of Greenways Archery Club (made up of staff and volunteers from the Brighton centre) attended with our 'dolly with the trolley' Wendy Jefferson in 1st place in the Ladies section and Christine Price in 3rd place. Both act as spotters during our archery weeks.

It was nice to see the junior archers shooting in their first archery tournament and doing really well.

We all then enjoyed a nice barbeque at the end followed by the presentation.

Once again we have to thank our spotters Sue Habgood and Colin Dickinson and tea and food lady Sue Cunnington, who each gave up their Sunday to allow us to take part in the shoot.

Our thanks also go to the members of Six Villages Archery Club for organising the tournament and making us so welcome. We made new archery friends and look forward to returning next year.

## **Westminster Abbey's Solemn Commemoration of the Outbreak of the First World War. By Catherine Goodier.**

Shadows moved through Westminster Abbey as the lights were dimmed in the North Transept, they continued through the South Transept and into the Quire and Sacarium, until all within were shrouded in darkness. The only lights that shone were in the Nave from the imposing chandeliers and the lit candle that each person within held in front of them. The piercing beauty of The Lark Ascending soared to greet heaven as the 1,500 strong congregation sat in silence.

The Collegiate Procession, together with Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, moved from the Quire and the Sacarium through the Abbey to the Nave and the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. Four Guardsmen stood beside the corners of his Grave, turned and bowed their heads in solemn respect, and there they remained, as motionless as statues, as they represented the four nations of the United Kingdom.

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, drew everyone into prayer as he said: "Eternal Father, the darkness is no darkness to you, and the night is as clear as the day. Accompany and protect us as we enter the night; give us eyes that watch for the dawn and hearts to learn again the lessons of love, that reconciled to one another and to you we may walk through this world's perils and sorrows as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

At 11pm HRH The Duchess of Cornwall extinguished the final remaining flame at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior and with one collective breath, we who were seated in the Nave, blew out our candles to be enveloped in a symbolic darkness, just as darkness had shrouded the nation 100 years before at 11pm on 4th August 1914. The last moments of peace spent as four years of the horror of war lay ahead.

Only one candle remained alight, the Paschal Candle in the Lady Chapel, which represented the Light that forever shines in the darkness, offering us hope.

When we arrived at the Abbey two hours earlier light shone throughout the building from the beautiful crystal chandeliers and we were each given a candle that we would extinguish as darkness passed through the Abbey in four stages.

The first part of the Abbey to be clothed in gloom was the North Transept when Able Seaman Kam Clarke extinguished the first candle.

The second was the South Transept when The Right Honourable The Baroness Warsi, Senior Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs extinguished the candle.

The third candle was extinguished in the Quire and the Sacarium by Major General Edward Smyth-Osbourne CBE, General Officer Commanding London District, and Major General Commanding the Household Division.

The service was conducted by the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall GCVO represented Her Majesty The Queen.

The opening hymn was Jesu, Lover of My Soul, by Charles Wesley, sung by The Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

Sir Hew Strachan, Chichele Professor of the History of War, University of Oxford gave a historical reflection.

There were readings by the actor David Morrissey who read 1914 by Wilfred Owen. Actor Rachel Stirling read On Receiving News of the War by Isaac Rosenberg. Dame Penelope Keith DBE DL, read Many Sisters to Many Brothers by Rose Macaulay. Actor Pippa Bennett-Warner read from The Great War Diaries of Georgina Lee and the actor Mark Gatiss read from The Messages by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson. Sebastian Faulks CBE read from Birdsong Part 5: Stephen Wrayford's Diary, January 1918.

General The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL read from Isaiah 2: 2-4. The Reverend Jonathan Woodhouse CB QHC, Chaplain-General to Her Majesty's Land Forces read A Letter Home, from the letters of The Very Reverend Eric Milner-White CBE DSO, Army Chaplain during the First World War. The letter was written on 15th June 1915.

There were many other readings and the musical programme was sublime. It was a fitting commemoration on the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War to remember those who fought so that we might be free.

I would like to thank Barbara Sweeney and Blind Veterans UK member Michael Callaghan, as they made it possible for me to attend.

# We Remember 1914 - 1918. Rottingdean, 3rd August 2014.

On Sunday 3rd August 2014, three members of Blind Veterans UK and two Health Care Assistants took part in The Royal British Legion's parade from the White Horse Hotel in Rottingdean to the War Memorial on Rottingdean Village Green, where a Service of Remembrance was conducted by Father Michael Morgan from The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rottingdean.

They included Jim Hartley (93) who joined Blind Veterans UK in 2007, a Second World War veteran who served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946 in France, Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He arrived with 98 year old Ben Gascoigne who served in Norway before he was drafted with the 7th Leicester Regiment to India and was later deployed with the Chindits in Burma.

They were accompanied by Blind Veterans UK Health Care Assistants Lorraine Coombes and Julia Brookes. Paul Jacobs GM marched with Captain Neil Perriton, 7 Rifles (Reserves) who has served on operations in Northern Ireland and Bosnia. Neil, who is local to the area, has a long association with Blind Veterans UK having instigated and taken part in a number of fundraising challenges for us.

They also marched with Diana and John Perriton and their daughter Laura Sanders. Diana, who is featured on the front cover, wore her grandfather's medals. He was an RSM at the Battle of Mons, an Old Contemptible who gained a gallantry Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

Paul Jacobs GM, who served with the 2nd Battalion The Rifles, was blinded on Afghanistan's frontline on 20th August 2009. He was awarded the prestigious George Medal for bravery as he continued to protect his colleagues after he was wounded. His medal citation read: "His sheer personal courage and startling determination, unswerving courage, selflessness, devotion to duty and dedication to his comrades was faultless."

Speaking at the memorial service Paul Jacobs GM, said: "It is an honour to have been part of today's commemorations as we take time to honour the dead and also the thousands who were wounded, either physically or mentally."

A time capsule that contained soil from a number of First World War Battlefields and memories of Rottingdean today, and the organisations in the area, was buried at the foot of the war memorial. The children of the village covered it in earth as children also read out the names of the local men who were killed during the war. When the time capsule is opened in 2114 people will read of Blind Veterans UK from information that was included by Natasha Cartwright, Activities Co-ordinator at the Brighton centre.

Before the burial of the time capsule Father Michael Morgan said: "Today we remember all who suffered during the First World War and returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home and those who returned wounded and disillusioned. Those who mourned and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss. Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades and those who in the aftermath of war worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world."



**Picture:** Back row from left to right: Lorraine Coombes, Paul Jacobs GM, Captain Neil Perriton, 7 Rifles (Reserves) and Julia Brookes. Front row: Jim Hartley and Ben Gascoigne.



## A Moment to Remember. Bethnal Green Library, 4th August 2014.

On 11th November 2009, following the death of the last of the men from the British Isles who had fought in the Great War, Her Majesty The Queen laid a wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey to mark the passing of the First World War generation. It was a very public act of Remembrance.

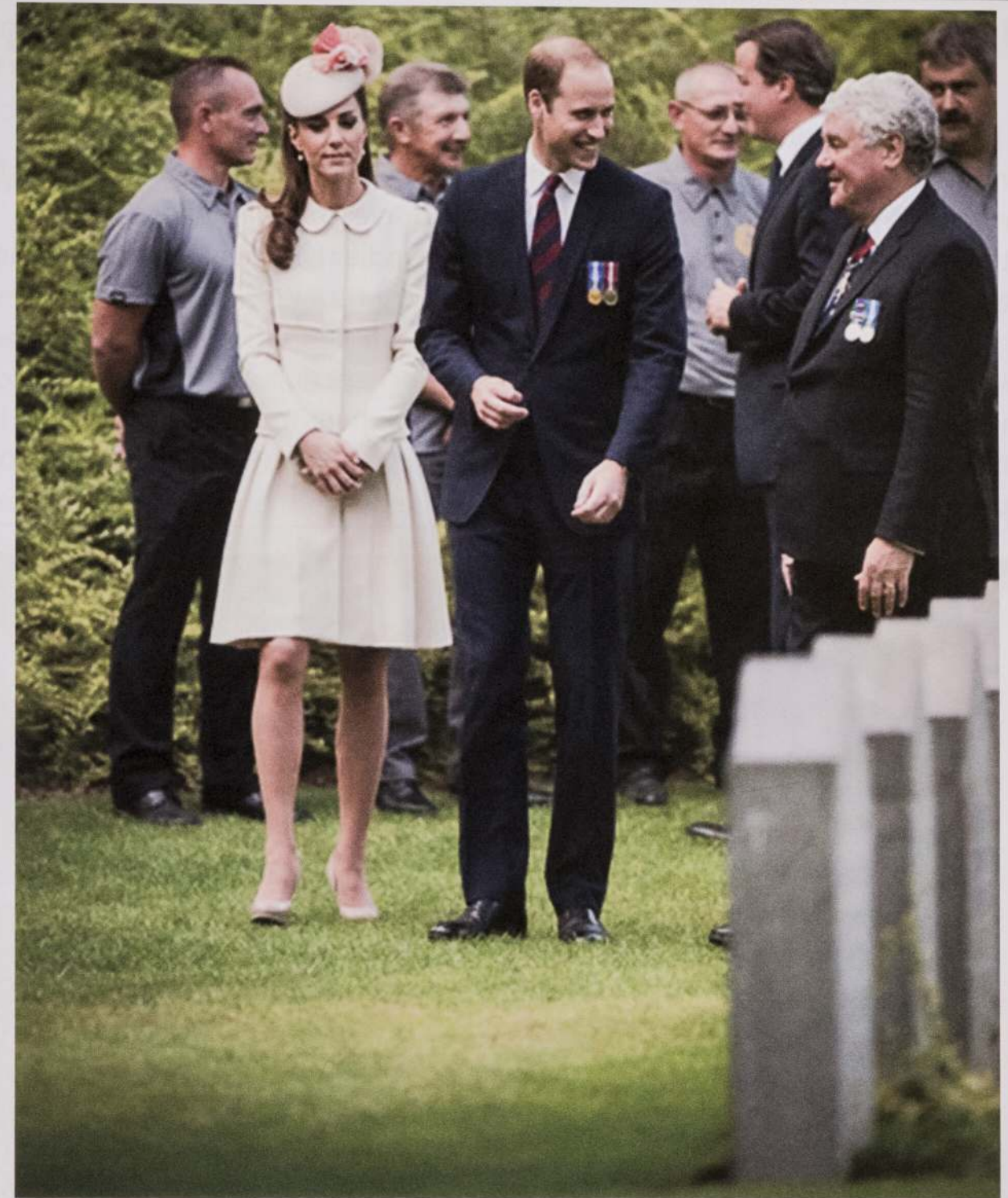
In a less public way Gary Haines, World War One in Tower Hamlets Project Co-ordinator, who worked in Blind Veterans UK's Archives department for six months, has been working to keep the memory of the War Blinded Soldiers of the First World War alive. They are the subject of his PhD and numerous talks and papers. On Monday 4th August 2014 Gary organised a public Inter Faith commemoration on the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in the grounds of Bethnal Green Library, with Blind Veterans UK at its centre.

Gary Haines said: "I think with all the commemorations that are going on for the First World War it's important to remember the people who died and also the people who came back from the war wounded. In Bethnal Green, 20,000 men served and of those 1,122 were killed, but there's an unknown number who were wounded. From the research I've done, usually from the people who come back from war 25% of them are wounded. This service, that I have called A Moment to Remember, is part of the Tower Hamlets series of events to remember the First World War. I thought it was very important to remember those who come back and were wounded, as well as those who died, as the people who were wounded seem to be forgotten in all the statistics. Wars are not only in our past, they are also in our present and our future too."

The Service was lead by Rev Alan Green who said: "We have gathered around this memorial today to remember all those from this community who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War. We remember those who were killed in action, or by disease, the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered, the wounded, maimed and injured, those who held in silence unspeakable memories of warfare."

Gary has organised a series of commemorative events in Tower Hamlets to ensure residents can learn about the nation's past. All events are free and no booking is required. For full details visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ideastore](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ideastore)

## St Symphorien Military Cemetery, Mons.



**Picture:** Vice Patron of Blind Veterans UK, Air Chief Marshal Sir Joe French KCB CBE, Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is shown with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at St. Symphorien Military Cemetery in Mons on 4th August 2014. Sir Joe welcomed the guests to the cemetery on behalf of the CWGC to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. **Photo:** Edouard Bocquet at SHAPE.

# Imperial War Museum's First World War Galleries. By Catherine Goodier.

As we walked through the newly opened First World War Galleries at IWM London, soldiers ran past us through green fields holding their rifles in front of them, bayonets fixed. There was a sudden loud scream of shrapnel shells and within seconds they were gunned down, their bodies lying lifeless in the blood soaked grass. The caption read: A Dastardly Slaughter.

It was one of the provocative displays in the Shock section of the exhibition where footage of soldiers advancing to battle is superimposed on grey metal cut outs. As the audio and the footage starts they come to life and then all too soon — their untimely deaths.



**Picture:** The end of battle is shown on metal cut outs of soldiers in the First World War Galleries in IWM London's new First World War Galleries to mark a centenary since the outbreak of WWI. Copyright: IWM London.

Move forward a few feet and you enter the first days of the Battle of The Somme. New footage has been superimposed on old film with actors walking along Sunken Lane. There's the sound of shelling and scenes of mile upon mile of deep unrelenting mud and rolling credits proclaim: Mud is now Victorious. How many mother's sons must die?

But first to start at the beginning.

To mark the start of the centenary of the First World War, IWM London opened new, permanent, First World War Galleries where like me you can discover the story of the war through the eyes of people in Britain and its Empire, both on the home front and the fighting fronts. It tells how the war started, why it continued, how the Allies won and its global impact. It is an accessible exhibition that from September 2014 will be audio described by Vocaleyes. Over the opening weekend there were record numbers of visitors with 10,000 people visiting the exhibition on Saturday 19th July.

I attended the exhibition with Blind Veterans UK member Will Phillips, a former Museum professional. We were guided through the Galleries by Will Fowles, one of four Visitor & Customer Engagement Officers at IWM London, who explained:

"The First World War Galleries are on the lower ground floor at the back part of the building. They start on the east side and go around to the west side of the building in a horseshoe shape. On your left you have the War Front and on the right is the Home Front. One of the things the historians have drawn out is that people associate the Home Front very much with the Second World War, things like the Blitz and rationing. In our old First World War galleries the Home Front was relegated to just one case. But obviously in the First World War the Home Front was as important as it was during the Second World War as it involved millions of people, women war workers for example whose stories the Imperial War Museum was originally founded to tell. It was never a military museum. It was a war museum.

"As you walk around, particularly in terms of the audio, you hear sounds bleeding through from your left and your right. From the left it is the sounds of the Battlefronts and from the right the sounds, music and conversations from the Home Front. It's not intrusive, it's more atmospheric and it isn't disorientating. The Galleries are broken into sections to take you through the war and there are seated areas where you can stop and take time to reflect."



**Picture:** Will Phillips and Will Fowlis in the IWM's First World War Galleries.

Stepping into the Galleries we are presented with three large ship models, as we are introduced to Britain at the turn of the 20th century, a maritime power dependent upon its empire, seaborne trade and the mighty Royal Navy to protect that trade. It is here that we learn how tensions and rivalries were developed in Europe, and crucially, as the crisis of summer 1914 led to war, why Britain felt it had to fight.

In Shock, you are surrounded by the scream of shrapnel shells as you come face to face with a French 75mm field gun, which contributed to the deaths of a million men in just four months of fighting in 1914. There are objects on display for the first time from the Christmas Truce, including a button from a German tunic that was given to a soldier as a souvenir.

On the Western Front, trench warfare takes the fighting below ground, as armies try to escape the murderous hails of shrapnel and bullets. In Deadlock trench signs, such as Hellfire Corner and Piccadilly Circus, helping soldiers navigate the complex network of trenches, are shown alongside objects telling the stories of innovations in trench warfare; from the geophones used to detect the enemy in mineshafts beneath the trenches, through to a hollowed out fake tree which became a camouflaged look out post in No Man's Land.

Drawing on IWM's rich poster collection, Your Country Needs You focuses on the campaign to recruit a New Army. Visitors will see a doll of Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, figurehead of the recruitment campaign, letters from an adoring fan asking him to marry her, and a letter from nine year old Alfie Knight pleading to allow him to enlist as he 'can ride jolley [sic] quick on my bicycle and am a good shot with a revolver.'

World War, where visitors can explore the war at sea and campaigns in the Middle East, Africa and Gallipoli, is dominated by the naval gun from HMS Chester at which young Jack Cornwell VC was mortally wounded in the Battle of Jutland. In Feeding the Front, visitors will be required to 'make' food, boots and shells through large, digital animations at an interactive Supply Line table over four metres long, which shows the unprecedented scale of production required on the home front to keep the troops fed and fighting.

At the centre of the Galleries is the towering 9.2 inch howitzer gun 'Mother' on display. Total War explores the Battle of the Somme, the five month long costly battle that started in July 1916 and marked a pivotal point in the war. The scale of casualties is represented through a chilling map showing the numbers of British and Empire temporary graves in just one sector of the battlefield, and a Union Flag used by a regimental chaplain to conduct burials of the Somme. There is an original 1916 documentary film of the battle in its entirety and for the first time with the original musical accompaniment.

Life at the Front takes you through what life was like for the troops in and behind the trenches; how they coped with hardship, discomfort and loss, what they ate, how they entertained themselves with plays, vegetable shows and sports day, and the souvenirs they collected — there's a scrap of wallpaper that was pulled off the walls of a German trench.

After taking in the displays you walk through a trench where shadows of soldiers cross in front of you. It's unnervingly eerie to stay in too long, but it is one of the highlights of the galleries. A Sopwith Camel fighter plane hangs over the trench and a giant Mark V tank clammers up its banks. A soundscape evokes the drudgery, discomfort, danger and comradeship that characterised the experience of the British Tommy on the Western Front as you hear a sudden thunderstorm to a gas attack.

At All Costs explores how a total war on the battlefields meant a total war on the home front as women stepped into roles in factories, hospitals, transport

and agriculture and how even children helped the war effort. It's here we learn how Britain came under enemy air attack, how during the 1916 Easter Uprising in Dublin, it faced rebellion on its own streets and how Germany's fateful decision to launch a campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare ultimately brought the USA into the war on the side of the Allies.



**Picture:** The uniform of the Red Cross Nurse in the Home Front side.

In 1917, as the war raged on, we go into the Machines against Men part of the exhibition that shows how the armies of Britain and the Empire looked at new technology and tactics to win the war. The area features the stories of two famous air aces, British Major James McCudden VC and the German 'Red Baron' Manfred von Richtofen, and fragments from the planes in which they met their deaths. It also looks at how, even as communications technology became more advanced, animals were still used to send battlefield messages with a collar worn by a messenger dog as well as a pigeon message book.

Having visited Ypres with the Younger Group in 2012 I found moving on to the next part of the exhibition very sombre as I faced the original boards that were placed on the mud during the Third Battle of Passchendaele. It is here you can see, or listen to audio descriptions, of photographs that record the shattered landscapes of the Western Front. One photo shows stretcher bearers thigh deep in mud as they carry a wounded soldier to safety. The war artist Paul Nash wrote: 'I have seen the most frightful nightmare of a country. Unspeakable utterly indescribable.'

The terrible strains that people endured is explored in Breaking Down, through such objects as Siegfried Sassoon's letter protesting at the continuation of war. There is also German clothing made out of paper as the British naval blockade contributed to a severe lack of resources, hunger and even starvation.

Finally in Seizing Victory the dramatic story of 1918 is told. After almost another year of war, from near defeat, allied forces were able to defeat Germany and its allies. The Galleries conclude in War Without End, showing how the war changed the world forever, from the enormous human cost, to the new world order that emerged, the indelible changes which the war had on British society and the Empire, through to the commemoration and remembrance as people looked back 10 years after the war.

To conclude Will Phillips said: "It is a very atmospheric and informative exhibition which Blind Veterans UK members will get a lot out of. There is tactile information and sound and I have no doubt that the IWM's audio descriptions that they are producing with Vocaleyes will be excellent. But until they are available someone going through with a sighted guide or a member who has some sight would also get also a lot out of this exhibition.

"It's well worth members of Blind Veterans UK travelling to IWM London to visit the exhibition. Large print guides are also available as the IWM is on top of ensuring this exhibition is accessible."

I would like to thank Charlotte Sluter of IWM, London for arranging this visit and Will Fowles, who impressed us with his knowledge, for taking us through the First World War Galleries.

## **“I had a marvellous war.” 50 Year Badge Holders’ Reunion. By Catherine Goodier.**

“I had a marvellous war. That’s what I tell everyone and it’s true. I met my husband Bob and made so many great friends who we stayed in touch with. Yes of course there was sadness, but there was more laughter and fun and friendship.”

Those were Joan Osborne’s words as we sat in the lounge of the Long Mynd Hotel in Church Stretton at the recent 50 Year Badge Holders’ Reunion. As the late afternoon sun shone through the window I asked Joan about her time there during the Second World War when it became our war time home. She opened a book ‘St Dunstan’s At Play 1940 - 1946’ that was written by Claude Bampton, our Wartime Director of Music.

As Joan turned the pages she took me and Blind Veterans UK Archivist Rob Baker and Jacky Gracey, Receptionist/Security at the Llandudno centre through the lives of the young men and women who came to Church Stretton after they were blinded. Her face lit up as she pointed out her father Joe Walch, Gwen Obern, Tommy Gaygan, Claude Bampton and so many more as we went through photographs of the revues they put on and read of sporting prowess on the playing fields. Our small table was soon full with people coming to join us and listen, and Beryl Tatchell and Jane Williamson shared their own memories. Joan showed her cheeky side when she was asked what VAD stood for and she replied, Voluntary After Dark!

Joan has known Blind Veterans UK her entire life. Her late father, Joe Walch, was blinded at the age of 20 in 1917 at Ypres. He was one of the First World War members to receive training at Regent’s Park, gaining employment with the charity as a Braille teacher. He was also the only one to teach Moon Braille. With the advent of the Second World War our work relocated to Church Stretton in Shropshire, our wartime home. Joe moved there with his family and it was during the war years that Joan also joined the staff at the age of 16.

A skilled pianist she worked in the Music Department and it was there she met her late husband Bob. Like her father, Bob was blinded at the age of 20, and like her father, he too sustained other injuries, losing a leg and part of one arm.

Bob was blinded in Normandy on 11th July 1944. Following treatment on our ward at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, he arrived at Church Stretton in September 1945.

Speaking of that time, Joan said: “I worked at Church Stretton as a music therapist. My father was a keen musician and I grew up with a love of music. Through my work I saw just how effective a form of therapy it was, as many of the young men were shell shocked and it gave them a focus and helped them to come to terms with the terrible traumas they had experienced. They were great to work with and we put on lots of productions. I have so many wonderful memories of the people there. Young men like Tommy Gaygan who was blinded in WWII, when he also lost both hands. I taught him to play the trombone and he joined the brass section. Before we started classes I had to remove his gauntlets and as he was a real joker, he would pick me up and sit me on top of the piano. We always said that I helped him to court his wife Audrey, as we would walk to the phonebox and I would wait outside while they talked. It was fine in the summer, but during the winter months the phonecalls seemed to take an awful lot longer!

“I first met Bob when I was 18 when I was asked to take a young lad to the pictures in Shrewsbury. It was Bob and I remember thinking how handsome he was. After that he started coming to the music classes. He learnt to play the guitar as he had a gadget he could fit to his artificial arm and he would play Hawaiian style. I never thought of any of the boys as wounded or disabled in any way, they were just boys. It’s probably because of my dad as I never thought of him as disabled and my boys never thought of Bob as disabled.”

This year’s 50 Year Badge Holders’ Reunion took place from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st June 2014. Everything ran to plan and there was something for everyone to enjoy and no-one went hungry or thirsty. Wednesday was a relaxed day as the 50 Year Badge Holders and widows arrived and everyone caught up over afternoon tea, followed by an informal dinner.

It was an early start on Thursday when the group took a coach trip to Church Stretton to look around the shops and visit the church, and for those who knew it in the 1940s to reminisce. Later they enjoyed lunch at The Navigation Inn near Oswestry with an afternoon visit to Percy Thrower’s Garden Centre that everyone enjoyed. Then it was back to the hotel for tea at 4pm.

Dinner that night was a formal affair when our former Chairman Major General Andrew Keeling CB CBE RM and Cllr Michael Braid, Mayor of Church Stretton and the Lady Mayoress Carol Braid, with Christine Harvey the Town Clerk and her husband Philip, were the guests of honour.

Barry Porter was the MC welcoming everyone as long standing friends of the charity and toasting absent friends, and with the passing of time there were many to remember. Lt Col Jeremy Hinton said Grace and gave thanks for the special opportunity that brought everyone together once again. Major General Andrew Keeling gave a speech and he of course mentioned our Chief Executive Robert Leader who died in April this year.

Mike Tetley MBE made the response speech when he spoke of coming to the charity in 1954 after he was blinded in the Mau Mau Emergency and the things it had enabled him to do. As Blind Veterans UK 100K London to Brighton 24 hour walk was due to start the following day, Mike mentioned Jane Williamson who was at the Church Stretton 50 Year Badge Holders' Reunion and her late husband Chas. He said how in their day he and Chas would walk from London to Brighton and back again with the Walking Club.

At the end of the speeches Barry Porter brought news of the latest World Cup scores: England: 0 Uruguay 1. The recordings of the speeches are included in the Talking Review.

Staff who took part in the weekend were Glynis Gillam Acting Welfare Group Manager, Julie Shales Welfare Officer, Lynn Powling Welfare Officer, Jackie Greer Head of Care, Brighton, Bill Lyth Head of Security, Chris Kirk Bookings and Transport Manager, Paul James PBK, Steve Burchett Transport Department, Paul Wynne-Williams Facilities Manager, Andy Mountford Transport Department and Jacky Gracey Llandudno Reception/Security Assistant.

Friday was a greatly enjoyable day when we all set off to Wroxeter Roman Vineyard where we were given a talk, tour and taken through wine tasting by Martin Millington, whose father David planted the vineyard in early 1991. He was extremely informative and after an excellent lunch in their restaurant we made our way to the shop to purchase wine to take home. On the coach to the hotel I had the pleasure to sit next to Nancy Bickley who had worked for the charity until she met her late husband, Bob, a World War II war blinded man.



**Picture:** Mike Tetley MBE addresses the 50 Year Badge Holders' Reunion watched by Chris Kirk, Bookings & Transport Manager.

Then it was back to the hotel for tea before dinner, which was a relaxed affair.

The customary raffle took place when Barry Porter asked David Thomas, a 50 Year Badge holder, to draw the tickets for the prizes. Each year the main prize is a splendid cake that is baked by Dot Madgwick, and this year's cake was no exception as it was emblazoned with 99 years in red, white and blue icing to show the years since we were formed. David chose the ticket, passed it to Barry, who gave a hearty laugh as the prize had been won by David and Brenda! They donated the cake to the hardworking hotel staff.



**Picture:** Anne Moore and Jane Williamson catch up.



**Picture:** Taking time to enjoy a fascinating talk by Martin Millington at Wroxeter Roman Vineyard.



**Picture:** Barry Porter, Interim Chief Executive and Director of Welfare Services, praises Dot Madgwick's delicious cake.

After dinner I sat at a table with June Tufnell, Barbara Sweeney, Jacky Gracie and Rob Baker. Again it was a fun affair as June told us an amusing story about her late husband Denis. A former Pilot Officer in the RAF, Denis was shot down in 1941 and after his recovery he made his way to the Officer's quarters at Church Stretton with his remaining possessions in just one small case. The door was answered by Sir Ian Fraser's butler who looked at his case and asked 'Will the remainder of your luggage arrive later Sir?'

I also had wonderful talks with Christine Aldridge and Julia Mearns, Anne Moore and Joan Revis. Joan's late husband Ken Revis MBE was a former bomb disposal expert. A Captain in the Royal Engineers he disabled hundreds of bombs, some as large as 1,800 kilograms. In September 1943 it was decided that the Germans were not going to invade, and he was asked to "delouse" the two piers at Brighton, which had been mined by the engineers of The Canadian 1st Division at the beginning of the war. He had no difficulty with the Palace Pier, and then approached the West Pier by rowing boat.

Avoiding the ladder, he climbed up the diagonal crossbracings and, with the aid of a map, defused six mines. "It's money for old rope, this," he remarked to his Corporal. Then 13 mines went up in a flash. On coming to, he could see nothing, but he still protested indignantly to a nurse who put a sheet over him: "Take that bloody thing off - I'm not dead yet." He was rushed to Sir Archie McIndoe's plastic surgery unit in the Queen Victoria Hospital at East Grinstead.

When Clark Gable, the American film star visited Ken's unit after he was blinded he remarked: "You've a very pretty wife. I do hope you will be able to see her again soon."

They later moved to India when Ken was asked by our Chairman Sir Ian Fraser to become our representative there. On return to England Ken worked as a press officer for Morris Motors. He qualified as a solicitor, went beagling, learned to water-ski and flew a glider.

When a programme in the television series It Happened to Me featured him in 1959, he drove an MGA sports car at 100 miles per hour on an aerodrome runway, with Joan giving him instructions at his side. I can imagine that as I was impressed by Joan's level headed approach to life. As we sat together she told me that when Ken left in the morning she would say 'Lunch will be ready when you come home.' She never showed that she might be nervous about his work.

Fifty year badge holders who attended this year's reunion were Norman Hopkins MCSP, SRP who was at Church Stretton during the war, Bernard and Marie Blacker, Clifford Fisher, Brian and Margaret Lang, John and Susan Lilley, Mike Tetley MBE, David and Brenda Thomas and John Walbrugh.

The widows who attended this year were Joan Osborne, June Tufnell, Joan Revis, Nancy Bickley, Dot Madgwick the widow of Frank Madgwick, Anne Moore the widow of Alan Moore, Rhys Nuyens, the widow of First World War veteran Paul Nuyens, Beryl Tatchell the widow of Trevor Tatchell MBE, Jane Williamson the widow of Chas Williamson, Cynthia Baker, the widow of Paul Baker, and Marjorie Coupland, the widow of Robert Coupland. Christine Aldridge, the widow of Maurice Aldridge, attended with Julia Mearns. Dee Croyman, the widow of Robert Croyman attended with Dawn Myatt. Nancy Fraser, the widow of James Fraser attended with Pamela Bushnell.

If you would like to learn more about Church Stretton there is a chapter in David Castleton's book: *In the Mind's Eye, the blinded veterans of St Dunstan's*. Priced at £19.99 it is available in all good bookshops and online. An audio version will be available this year and it will be produced in paperback in 2015.



**Picture:** Christine Aldridge and Julia Mearns who travelled from Huntly, Aberdeenshire.



**Picture:** Marie Blacker and Nancy Bickley.



**Picture:** Beryl Tatchell.



**Picture:** Nancy Bickley and Rhys Nuyens.



**Picture:** Joan Osborne and Nancy Bickley.



**Picture:** Brenda and David Thomas.



**Picture:** Dawn Myatt and Dee Croyman. **Photos:** Bill Lyth.



**Picture:** Norman Hopkins MCSP SRP with carer Tatiana Pirvu.



## Llandudno Fishing Week July 2014. By Colin Williamson, Contributing Editor.

Nine keen anglers from around the country gathered at the Llandudno centre in July to spend a week fishing in and around the Irish Sea. The week, organised by Sports and Recreation Instructor Dewi Roberts, has proved to be very popular and places were filled very quickly. I joined the group at the centre on Thursday evening and spent a very enjoyable couple of hours with them in the bar listening to their stories of "the ones that got away" and some really amazing, probably slightly exaggerated, tales of previous fishing expeditions in some of the world's most remote rivers, seas and lakes.

After a good night's sleep we all gathered in the lounge the following morning to wish one of the members who was taking part in the week, Mike Mann from Northern Ireland, a very happy 65th birthday where the group presented him with a nicely decorated pink Disney Princess birthday cake to celebrate this milestone. Mike responded with a heartfelt speech thanking them all for their kindness and good wishes.

After collecting their rods and tackle the group boarded the minibus for our destination for the day, Llandudno Pier where hopefully a good days fishing was in store. Unfortunately, conditions weren't in our favour. The weather was looking pretty miserable with strong South Westerly winds, heavy cloud and the threat of rain. The tide was also against us as it was on the way out, which, according to the more experienced anglers, didn't bode too well for a good days fishing.

According to the latest research, there are over thirty species of shark that regularly pass through the Irish Sea, one of them is the enormous Basking shark, the world's second largest fish; other species that are known to frequent the 45,000 kilometres of sea are whales, dolphins, porpoises, leatherback turtles, conger eels, pollack, codling, bass, whiting, rays, plaice, turbot, bream, ling and a host of others too numerous to mention. On the day that we spent on the pier, I reckon they all must have been attending a fish-fest at Cape Cod as we never had a single bite. Not a sniff, not even a cursory glance. Our bait, we were fishing with rag worm, probably had a better chance of dying of old age than being snacked upon by a hungry predator. Despite our best efforts we spent

most of the day waiting and praying that something, somewhere, out in that vast expanse of water was at least slightly peckish; but it wasn't to be. Such is the way of the angler; it's either a feast or a salmon.

After packing up our equipment and leaving the fish to enjoy what was left of the day we headed off for a bite to eat at a great little fish and chip shop in Llandudno Junction where we had a superb meal of fresh cod, the only one we encountered that day. After lunch, I spoke with some of the members who had signed up for the week.

Born in Belfast, Mike Mann joined the RAF in 1965 and after training at RAF Cosford he qualified as a medic and went on to serve in the UK, Oman and the Indian Ocean. After leaving the RAF he went on to work as a medic in various UK hospitals working mainly in the operating theatres. During the period in Irish history known as 'the troubles' Mike worked in one of the busiest hospitals in Northern Ireland helping to treat patients who had suffered appalling injuries sustained by both bomb and bullet.

Here was Mike's take on the week so far.

"Once I spotted the article in the Review regarding the fishing week I put my name down straight away. I've fished since I was a boy, fishing for salmon and trout in the rivers around my home and sea fishing with my father, who was a keen angler and taught me all I know. I've fished for shark and barracuda in the Maldives and for tuna in Oman and I once caught a shark in Strangford Lough, not far from where I live now. I really enjoy staying at the Llandudno centre, I call the staff there 'angels without wings' they are so good at what they do and they all seem to do it with a smile! Another thing about the week is the company, they're a great bunch of lads and I love to sit in the bar of an evening and join in with the craic! It's a great way to wind down."

Another member who took part in the week was former Royal Irish Ranger Hugh Megarry. I caught up with Hugh on the Pier.

"I've been keen on fishing since a wee boy. Whether it was river fishing, sea fishing, casting for pike or catching sticklebacks in the local pond as long as I had a rod in my hand I was happy. Most of my childhood memories are of me fishing with my mates. About five years ago I was introduced to fly fishing and

I took to it straight away. I really enjoy pitting my wits against the fish and look forward to my weekly fly fishing. I'm looking at maybe going to Norway or one of the Russian lakes to fish for salmon. That would be fantastic. I'm having a great time at the centre. I love the banter with the other lads and I'm very impressed with the grub! When I first came for my intro week, I actually thought that the staff had been recruited from other blind centres as they were so good at their jobs, I didn't realise that they had arrived at the centre from different jobs and occupations and from all walks of life. It's an absolutely fantastic place and I'd like to come back on another themed week, possibly something that would involve spending some time under canvas as I love the great outdoors."

Edward Vaughan was another member whose interest in fishing was rekindled by a visit to the centre some months ago when he overheard some members talking about the upcoming fishing week and he decided to put his name down. "I'm really pleased I came along, they're a great bunch of lads and we get along just fine. I guess we all share that same sense of humour that's part of having served in the Forces. Llandudno is a marvellous facility and the food is wonderful. The wife and I will probably have to go on a diet once we get back home!"

Wolverhampton born Derek Jackson was called up to do National Service in 1950 aged 18. He did his initial training at Oswestry and then completed trade training as a gun fitter at Borden. He served in the UK before being demobbed in 1952. I asked Derek what it was about the week that attracted him.

"I've always had a passion for fishing and thought that I'd give this week a go and see if I still enjoy it as it's been a while since I last fished. I like the company of fellow Blind Veteran UK members and the fresh air is good for my asthma. Once I'm back home I'll look at future themed weeks and see if there's something else that appeals to me. I can't thank the staff at Llandudno enough for what they've done for us this week, it's been marvellous, and a special thanks to Peter Lloyd from the security/reception desk at the centre for all his help during the week."

The other participants on the week were David Poyner, Mark Heaume and his cousin Steve who acted as his guide, Rob Irons and Maurice Leighton.



**Picture:** Edward Vaughan with Sport & Rec Instructor Dewi Roberts at Llandudno Pier.



**Picture:** Derek Jackson, Mike Mann and Peter Lloyd from Llandudno centre security/reception at Llandudno Pier.

## Planes, Trains and Automobiles week at the Brighton centre. By Colin Williamson, Contributing Editor.

Barry Commoner served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy during World War Two and ran for president in the 1980 U.S. elections. He was also an academic, taking up a post as a Professor at Washington University where he taught for over 34 years. Below is a quote from him regarding the pros and cons of modern technology; "Despite the dazzling successes of modern technology and the unprecedented power of modern military systems, they suffer from a common and catastrophic fault. While providing us with a bountiful supply of food, with great industrial plants and high speed transportation and military weapons of unprecedented power, they threaten our own survival."

This may be true, but it certainly didn't deter the 15 or so members who attended the recent Planes, Trains and Automobile week held at the Brighton centre from coming along.

These transport aficionados were looking forward to a very exciting itinerary put together by Art and Craft Instructor Leigh Gibbins and I joined them on a trip to nearby Shoreham Airport on a delightful sunny summer's day and chatted with a few of them.

Shoreham Airport was officially opened on 20th June 1911. During the First World War it served as a base for the Royal Flying Corps and was the departure point for the first flight to join the conflict across the channel. During the Second World War the airfield was used by a variety of military aircraft including Spitfires, Lysanders, Hurricanes and Bristol Beaufighters. It also served as an Air Sea Rescue base with Supermarine Walrus aircraft. The airfield was bombed a number of times and a Messerschmitt 109 was shot down as it carried out an attack on the aerodrome, crash landing near to the terminal building. An American Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress four engine bomber was damaged during a raid on Germany and crash landed near to the old guard house on the north side of the airfield, the damage is still visible today.

John Sefton was called up for National Service in December 1946, joining the General Service Corps and later transferring to the Royal Artillery, serving in Woolwich, Oswestry and Plymouth.

This was John's first holiday at the Brighton centre and he described it as "a wonderful facility." This is John's take on the day spent at the airport. "I came away with a head full of facts. I'm really interested in transport in general; I'm particularly keen on aviation as my son-in-law's father served as a Group Captain in the RAF during the Second World War, flying Mustangs and the Hawker Typhoon fighter bomber. I'm very much looking forward to visiting the Bluebell Railway as I used to live in East Grinstead so I know a lot about it."

Another member keen on aviation is former RAF navigator Graham Murrin, who lives in Warminster. "I flew in Catalina flying boats during WWII, serving in many theatres around the globe. After the war, I flew in lots of different types of aircraft and I racked up lots of flying hours flying back and forth to Singapore, hence my interest in aviation and aircraft. I heard about this week and thought it would be just up my street so I applied for a place immediately. I'm very pleased with the facilities at the Brighton centre and I've met some very nice people during the time I've been here."

Eric Walters joined the RAF in 1946 and did his basic training at RAF Compton Bassett in Wiltshire before completing his trade training as a flight mechanic at RAF St Athan. Eric served in the UK, the Mediterranean and Lubeck in Germany. "Being ex RAF I'm passionate about aircraft and have enjoyed touring the airfield and looking at the various aeroplanes. They have a couple of De Havilland Chipmunks and a beautiful Stampe bi-plane used by the French Air Force in one of the hangers and it was nice to go around and get acquainted with them. I'm enjoying staying at the centre; I've been before for dance weeks and I'm looking at coming back as I'm interested in joining the Amateur Radio Club".

Another member interested in aircraft was former REME artificer Keith Plummer. Keith served as a Staff Sergeant before being commissioned in India in 1946 and was based at Chittagong with the 14th Army. He went on to see service both in India and Burma.

"I used to fly gliders and powered aircraft," explained Keith, "that's why I signed up for the week. I used to hold a private pilot's licence and was a member of a flying club in Sywell for a number of years. I once flew a Tiger Moth and it was a fantastic aircraft to fly. This has been a superb visit and I'm really glad I made the effort to come along. Leigh has done a tremendous job and I'm looking

forward to the rest of the week. I've been to Sheffield on a history week where we visited some old factories and weaving mills and I really enjoyed it as I'm keen on all aspects of history. I'm off to Llandudno in September as I've heard so much about it I thought I better go and see it for myself!"

Tony Emery joined the Royal Engineers in 1955 and trained at Norton Barracks in Worcestershire where his cricketing skills kept him there for the entire season! He later went on to serve with 49 Railway Squadron R.E. where his love of trains really took off. After service life, he joined British Rail and worked as a draughtsman. He is keen on all modes of transport and likes to take photographs of trains and buses.

"I love anything to do with transport, especially rail, and I've been taking photos of trains since I was 15 years old. I'm enjoying this week and really can't wait to go on the Bluebell Railway. I've been to the Brighton centre on a couple of occasions, once for IT training and another time to visit Lord's cricket ground with Steve Mills from the Sports and Recreation department. I live in Suffolk so it's handy for me"

Jeff Parker and his escort Bill Hill are a familiar sight at the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph having attended for over 30 years and are both keen history buffs and thought that this themed week was just the ticket! Jeff, who served with the Royal Army Service Corps, told me why he liked coming to the Brighton centre. "I love this centre because it was designed especially for blind people. I really feel comfortable at Brighton as it's very tactile and I've got to know it very well over the years that I've been coming here. We're both very keen on history and found this visit to Shoreham Airport very interesting. Tim, one of the volunteers here at the airport, is very knowledgeable and has so many interesting stories about the place"

Many thanks to Leigh for allowing me to join in and also to all of the members who I chatted with during the day. We had a very interesting tour, superb weather, a great lunch in the airport restaurant and some laughs along the way. If you are interested in coming along on one of the themed weeks, which are held at all of our centres, please refer to the calendar section in the Review for further information.



**Picture:** A happy bunch at Shoreham Airport.



**Picture:** Bill Hill and Jeff Parker stand beside a de Havilland Chipmunk

## Harry Beevers's 10 Questions on the subject of English Counties.

1. The Wiltshire Cure is a method of producing which kind of food?
2. What name is given to the race run at Newcastle and known as the Pitman's Derby?
3. In which county is the Queen's residence Sandringham House?
4. In which county is Stonehenge?
5. The former steel town of Consett, the railway town of Darlington and Bishop Auckland are all in which county?
6. Somerset and which other first-class cricketing county plays its home games in the city of Bristol?
7. From which county did the so-called Tolpuddle Martyrs come?
8. In which county was natural gas first pumped ashore in England on 4th March 1967?
9. According to the Ordnance Survey, Grid Reference SK 257144, just east of Church Flatts Farm, is the furthest point in Great Britain from the sea. In which English county?
10. In a 2003 survey by Country Life magazine, which county was voted the best place to live in England because of its coastline, tranquillity and low crime rate?

**Answers on page 65.**

## Mammoth Run. By Marion Sharville.

This year's Review short story competition was judged by the brilliant and prolific comic novelist David Nobbs, whose latest novel, *The Second Life of Sally Mottram*, is now available in paperback at £8.99. Published by Harper Collins it is available in all bookshops and online. It's recommended reading and we will bring you a review in a future edition of the Review.

David's career as a comedy writer began in 1963 when he was a contributor to the iconic live Saturday evening satire show, *That Was The Week That Was*. You will of course all know him for *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin* and perhaps you watched the recent rerun of *A Bit of a Do* on the Drama channel.

We bring you the third placed entry in this year's competition, *Mammoth Run*, by Marion Sharville from Worthing, West Sussex.

-----  
"You need a break, honey, get away from the heat of New York," he'd said, "and it will do James good, too. You know what he's like when his friends aren't around. He'll be moody and stuck on that computer all day, it worries me. His friends will be away all summer; their folks are doing Europe this year."

"But what will I do for a whole six weeks?" she'd complained. "And I bet there isn't even a movie house in that God forsaken place."

"Now, be reasonable, Fran, it's a great place, a holiday village right on a beautiful lake. You'll love it."

"James is 17 and he'll be off directly we get there. I'll be all alone and what about you? I know you can't leave the office. That would be too much to ask." Her sneer cut into Ed.

"Perhaps you forgot," he retorted, "that I have to work all hours in order to provide you both with all the things you want and do I get any thanks? As for that boy, he has no respect for either of us. Every suggestion we make, he ridicules. I'm telling you, I'm at the end of my tether." Slumping into an armchair, he looked older than his 43 years.

"Well, you can't expect him to want to do the things we like." He spoke wearily. "I'll try to be down each weekend. I'll be glad to get away for a couple of days, anyway."

So, here she was, sitting on this rock, gazing into the calm waters of the lake, wondering how to fill her time. James had made friends and she only saw him at meal times. Aimlessly stretching one leg down she touched the surface of the water, causing ripples. Her reflection distorted but as the ripples cleared, she found herself staring at a reflection she didn't recognise. It was her face right enough and her hair but she couldn't remember when she had last seen its natural colour. It was hanging lank and uncombed. Her face was bronzed, the skin rough and smudged with dirt. But the biggest shock of all was that the figure in the water was bare breasted and wearing only a ragged piece of leather, tied as a skirt around her hips. She stared into the hostile eyes in the reflection, unable to understand what was happening. The unfamiliar, yet strangely familiar face returned her gaze with animal wariness. She stirred the water again and it was back to normal. She guessed it was a trick of the light.

Ed arrived late next morning. He'd been driving for four hours and after lunch, as James had predicted, was on the phone.

"I've got to, honey," when she objected. "There are a lot of changes going on at Head Office. I've got to know what's happening." Fran wandered off, leaving him to it. She was drawn, once again, to the rock by the lake. Seated as before, she tentatively stirred the water with her toes, fearful, yet wondering. She didn't want it to happen again, did she? Still!

Then, as the water cleared, she gazed once more at the other Fran. As she stared, the water suddenly receded and she found herself seated, surrounded by hot sand and she became aware that gone were the neat holiday homes. In their place was rough terrain with a tangled growth of shrubs and small trees. In the side of the hill, caves gaped darkly and there were people moving about. They were almost naked, as in her own strange reflection. There were women cooking over a fire, others, further away, gathering plants and herbs. Men were busy chipping at stones and skinning hides. Children watched, learning the skills of survival in their hostile environment. As Fran watched, she noticed a man, taller than the rest, walking towards her. He was looking at her with an expression of bewilderment. It was Ed but a broader, more muscular Ed, walking with a cat like tread, his unshod feet making no noise. He too was naked, except for a rough loincloth. At his waist was a sling.

"Ed," she screamed but only strange sounds broke from her throat. He grabbed her arm and pulled her, half dragging her towards the women at the cooking fire. He left her there, returning to join the men at the other fire.

Her companions took no notice of her and she gazed about her, uncomprehending. She was surprised to see James sitting next to his father, absorbed in the discussion going on in their strange language; a mixture of grunts and signs and excited gestures, mammoths had been seen and they were planning a hunt, an event so important that failure would threaten their survival throughout the next bitter winter.

Their leader, a short stocky man, stood up, signalling that the meeting was over. They all dispersed to their caves.

The sun was going down and the cold became unbearable. There were plenty of large hairy hides stretched out on the ground and she wrapped herself in one. Ed came and laid down beside her. James crept in and laid at their feet.

At sunrise, everybody gathered by the lake, the men with their weapons and the women and children with the food they had prepared. They moved off slowly towards the distant hills, trudging for hours through tracks of forests. James kept close to his father who handed him a sharp stone dagger tied with thongs to a long sturdy branch. James watched intently everything his father did. The tribe travelled on, silently.

Suddenly, there was a signal from the clan leader and everyone was still. Fran peered towards the foothills. Shapes moved against the background of the undergrowth; mammoths, great lumbering beasts, terrifying, even at that distance. The hunters were tense, immobile. At a signal, they began to run swiftly and silently towards the herd, carefully encircling them as they drew nearer, to trap them in a gully between the sheer hard rock sides of the lower reaches. The youngest and most fleet-footed lured the animals towards the narrowest part, while the strongest attempted to close the ravine with heavy boulders.

The trapped animals raised their heads and trumpeted their fear, charging at their puny enemies. Trumpeting and screams rent the air. Rampaging over everything, trampling over men still desperately rolling boulders into place, an occasional beast managed to escape. One huge creature thundered towards James who was pitifully armed only with his spear. Then with a roar, powered by fear for his son, Ed came racing towards them wielding a jagged piece of rock with which he struck at the mammoth, breaking off a piece of its tusk. It veered in its tracks and Ed dragged his terrified son away. The piece of tusk had flown through the air and landed near Fran. James ran towards her, stumbled

and put out his hand to save himself.

At that moment, unexpectedly, the noise stopped and Fran found herself back at the lake. She shivered. At first she could see no reflection at all in the water. No reflection! Had she died? Then the surface broke and her normal reflection was back. The neatness of her appearance now seemed alien to her in the turmoil of her thoughts.

How long she sat there, she had no idea but she became dimly aware that behind her, reflected, she could see Ed and James coming slowly towards her. What a relief! She watched them apprehensively as they approached. There seemed a subtle difference between them.

"What about some dinner?" Ed called. She rose swiftly, then turned once more, to look at the now innocent expanse of water, then followed them slowly, back to the villa where Ed and James were already starting to prepare the meal.

As they sat at dinner, she wondered what they would think if she told them about her lakeside hallucinations? They wouldn't believe her. She wasn't sure she believed it herself, she could never tell them.

She watched them as they chatted amicably. What a difference! She tried to control her thoughts but they kept coming back to her fantasy world. For a moment she wished they were back — no — they'd been in danger there, she was back in the real world now and that was where they belonged. Unknowingly, she spoke her thoughts aloud.

"Only ghosts living in the past."

The men looked up, startled. Then James reached slowly into his pocket and brought out a jagged dirty white object, which he placed carefully on the table. Fran gasped!

"Where did you get that?" she almost screamed.

Ed put his arm across his son's shoulder as James replied.

"You know where, Mom. You were there. We all were."

The End.

If you enjoyed Mammoth Run, Marion is a prolific writer who has published a number of books. She told the Review: "I started writing at grammar school and

when I was about 11 or 12, I entered a story into a competition and it won. The prize was either a shilling or a box of chocolates and when they asked which I would prefer I chose the box of chocolates as I thought my mum would only make me put the shilling in a piggy bank. I should have chosen the money as when I opened the box of chocolates they were white and stale, but then me and money have never really got on!

"After that I started to write verses and when I left school at 16 I went to work for a while and then a year before the war we moved from Edmonton to Petts Wood in Kent. I had a year there and my cousin moved nearby and suggested I join the youth club where I met my future husband. We were only 17, but we had nine months before the war started when we went round in a group. I didn't write during the war as I couldn't think of much else.

"I had a few jobs and volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and I was a driver in England, Scotland and Wales until 1945. I got married a week after the war ended in Europe and my husband went straight out to the Far East. When he came home we settled down and had seven children. We wanted a big family and we had one daughter and six sons.

"I would write little verses and stories for them, nothing terribly serious, just fun really. Sadly my husband died when my youngest was just 10 and I didn't have any time to write, although I would always tell them stories. When I started writing again the first thing I had published was in the first edition of the News Shopper in Bromley when I submitted a poem about a dragon who had eaten his neighbours and was feeling a bit lonely and needed to be rehoused. Later I had stories published in Yours magazine.

"The first book I wrote was called A Carrot in the Toaster; it was the first in an anthology of poems. I chose the name as I was worried that I was forgetting things and I borrowed three books from the library that included memory improvement techniques, but I forgot to return them and had to pay a fine. The next in the anthology was Pastry Needs a Light Touch, as I could hear the Domestic Science teacher at school and I thought that like pastry, life needs a light touch. It's a mixture of my views of life with some humour. I don't like writing much about beautiful scenery as it's been done so well by others, but I do sometimes have a bit of a sideways look at life.

"I only write seriously when I'm moved by something. That's why I wrote The Veterans Journey and The World is Weeping after the children died so tragically

when the ferry they were travelling in sunk. I met a cousin after 50 years and I wrote about that as we were young when we last met and when we met up again we were old.

"I loved being with my children and as they grew up and went to work they started to illustrate my stories as three of them trained as illustrators. When my eldest son Christopher went to America he had a book published there called *The Magic Gardens*, which was the title of one of my poems. When he came back he illustrated some of my other books.

"My son Tim illustrated *Picklemouse Pumpkin*. It's the story of a lonely mouse, living in a house on a hill, who receives an unexpected letter from his Great Uncle Jack. Back from his travels, Jack's coming to visit, and he's not alone. For the first time in his life, *Picklemouse Pumpkin's* little house is about to become gloriously busy. I haven't made any money from writing, but I feel if there's someone who can't go to bed without *Picklemouse* that's my reward. I wrote *Picklemouse Pumpkin* years ago when my children were small and it's lovely that other children can still enjoy it.

"My son Simon illustrated the cover for my one and only novel, which is called *Daisy Chain*.

"I say that my books are for children from 10 to 100, especially *The Incredible Creatures of the Secret Ark*. It's about eccentric creatures who live in the yard where Noah built his ark. They won't mix with the other animals and as they wouldn't get into the Ark they borrowed bits of wood from his boat yard and built their own ark. One animal, a Gubbem, is the only one who can write and he wrote on the walls of the caves and Tim illustrated all of the creatures from A to Z. The most difficult to illustrate was the *Lumpana* who has hundreds of hairy legs and keeps on running about, but the back lets run faster than the front and it ends up inside out.

"I'm still trying to write but of course as a member of Blind Veterans UK I have eyesight problems, but the boys have fixed me up with a big TV screen with a computer attached to it, which is a big help. I'm finding it a bit slow going as I can only do a bit at a time, but I'm still writing and I've written some short stories. I'm very proud of my children as they are all their own people. My daughter who is a nurse is also a trained milliner who makes the most beautiful hats and fascinators. One of my sons does special effects for films. They've all

grown up to be nice people and they are a great blessing to me. I keep busy as I'm 92 now.

"Being a member of Blind Veterans UK is absolutely brilliant. I'm really glad that a friend, Bill Savage, who is a member suggested that I join.

"Lesley was my ROVI during the introductory week and later on I had two separate weeks with Amandine Noel for touch typing and she was very helpful. She did some lovely notes that I can refer to. I'm more interested in the writing than anything else. I'm so grateful for the equipment they've provided me with as I have a CCTV which I use and the Penfriend, little tops that go on jars and tins. I find everything I've learnt at the Brighton centre very useful and the atmosphere there is lovely as the staff and volunteers have a great attitude and the good atmosphere spreads. I really enjoy my visits there."



**Picture:** Marion Sharville in her garden as she reads from her first book *A Carrot in the Toaster*. **Photo:** Tim Sharville.



## Blind Veterans UK Christmas collection for 2014.

Hard to believe but it's that time of year where we start to prepare ourselves for Christmas. With this in mind, we are pleased to bring you our new selection of Blind Veterans UK Christmas cards. They each have the Blind Veterans UK 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 £40, or it is free on orders of £40 or more.

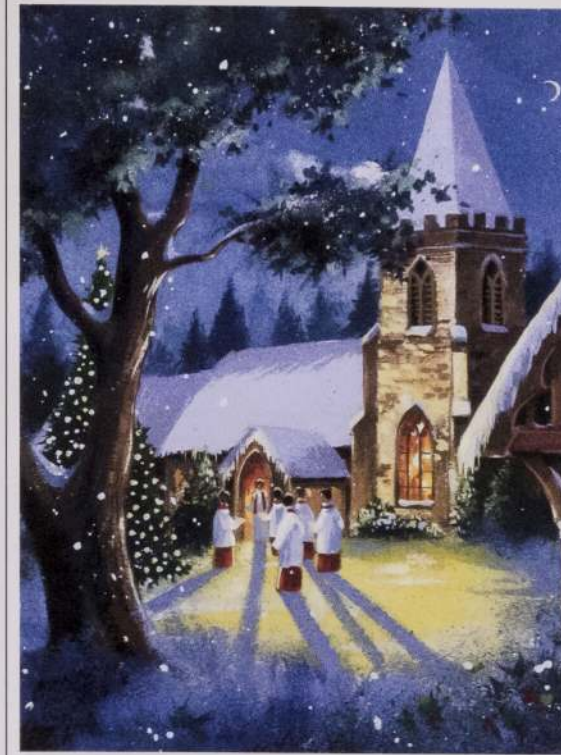
To ensure delivery by Christmas, please order by Thursday 18th December. To place your orders please telephone: 0300 111 0440, or order from the website at: [www.blindveterans.org.uk/shop](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/shop) where you can also see our full selection. We have also included an order form in this month's edition.



**Picture:** Gift Wrap selection with Noel and Christmas tree. Ref: BVE093X. Price £4.00.



**Picture:** Gift wrap selection with robins and stockings. Ref: BVE094X. Price £4.00.



**Picture:** Choir Boys. Ref: BVE090X. Size: 98mm x 130mm. 10 cards and envelopes. Price: £3.50.



**Picture:** A Night on the Roof Tiles. Size: 137 x 137mm. 10 cards and envelopes. Price £3.95.



**Picture:** Four doves. Ref: BVE088X. Size: 121mm x 121mm. 10 cards and envelopes. Price: £3.75.



**Picture:** Hellebore. Ref: BVE091X. Size: 121 x 121mm. Price: £3.75.



**Picture:** Madonna and Child. Ref: BVE092X. Size: 98 x 130mm. 10 cards and envelopes. Price: £3.50.



**Picture:** Pulling a sleigh. Ref: BVE086X. Size: 137 x 137mm. 10 cards and envelopes. Price: £3.95.



**Picture:** Three Kings. Ref: BVE088X. Size: 121mm x121mm. 10 cards and envelopes. Price: £3.75.



**Picture:** Robin. Ref: BVE085X. Size: 137mm x 137mm. 10 cards and envelopes. Price: £3.75.



### Select your Christmas cards today

Name	
Address	
Email:	
Tel no:	

Product code	Description	Price	Quantity	TOTAL
BVE001E	COTTON CANVAS BAG	£3.95		
BVE002E	SILVER PEN	£2.95		
BVE003E	MOUSEMAT	£3.95		
BVE004E	TROLLEY COIN KEYRING	£1.50		
BVE005E	BLIND VETERANS UK PIN BADGE	£1.50		
BVE006E	MUG	£5.95		
BVE007E	TALL DUCK AND HANDSOME TEA TOWEL	£4.95		
BVE008E	TEA TOWEL SLEEPING CAT	£4.95		
BVE020E	WRIST BANDS	£1.50		
BVE022E	LANDSCAPE NOTECARDS	£3.95		
BVE023E	SEASCAPE NOTECARDS	£3.95		
BVE060X	DUCKTOR APRON	£12.95		
BVE061X	RED WINE IMPROVES WITH AGE APRON	£12.95		
BVE065X	WELSH BILLY GOAT MASCOT	£5.99		
BVE043X	UNION JACK CUFFLINKS	£10.95		
BVE076X	BLIND VETERANS TIE LOGO	£8.00		
BVE077X	BLIND VETERANS TIE WAVE	£8.00		
BVE086X	A NIGHT ON THE ROOF TILES	£3.95		
BVE087X	FOUR DOVES	£3.95		
BVE088X	THREE KINGS BEARING GIFTS	£3.75		
BVE089X	PULLING A SLEIGH IN THE SNOW	£3.95		
BVE090X	CHOIR BOYS	£3.50		
BVE091X	HELLEBORE	£3.75		
BVE084X	RED DOOR	£3.75		
BVE085X	ROBIN	£3.75		
BVE092X	MADONNA AND CHILD	£3.50		
BVE064X	Festive bumper pack of Christmas cards	£7.50		
BVE079X	CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS	£0.95		
BVE063X	MODERN CHRISTMAS NAPKINS	£4.00		
BVE062X	CLASSIC CHRISTMAS NAPKINS	£4.00		
BVE093X	CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER	£4.00		
BVE094X	CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER	£4.00		
POSTAGE & PACKAGING				
FOR ORDERS UNDER £40 = £4.25				
FOR ORDERS OVER £40 = FREE				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Your order will be despatched within 21 days.

In the event that one or more of your choices is sold out, Blind Veterans UK will substitute an alternative design for you

Please return this order form along with your payment to:  
 Freepost Plus RSHE-JEUX-AGAY, Blind Veterans UK, Bumper Farm, Chippenham, SN14 6NG  
 NO STAMP NEEDED

## Reg Goding 2nd August 1916 to 12th July 2014.

Reg Goding passed away peacefully on 12th July 2014 at Dean Wood Nursing Home in Brighton, East Sussex. He was 97. He leaves his wife Eileen, two children, one grandchild and two great grandchildren.

Originally from Newcastle, Reg was a plasterer before the Second World War, when he enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers in June 1940, becoming a Lance Corporal.

Reg had a long history with the charity as he was blinded at the Battle for the River Sangro in Monte Cassino in 1944. He came to Blind Veterans UK on 27th June 1944, training at our former war time home in Church Stretton in Shropshire. He went on to run his own shop and later became a telephonist until his retirement in 1977.

He had many hobbies and one of them attracted the attention of our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, when she visited the Brighton centre in 1985 and watched Reg play Bridge with Jim Padley and Harry Mellerson.



**Picture:** Photo of Reg, seated centre, playing Bridge as the Queen looks on.

Reg enjoyed horse racing and every morning after breakfast he would head to the Stables in the Brighton centre with his fellow veterans when they would listen to the day's racing that was read to them by a local bookmaker who had travelled in from town. Reg would place half a crown on his chosen horse, which was done more for fun and as an interest, rather than to make money.

He loved being a part of the charity and always said that without the staff and the training he wouldn't have achieved the many things he did and have been able to lead such a full and varied life. But it also has to be remembered that he was a very strong man, a Geordie and a real go getter.

He would tell many stories of his time at Church Stretton, recalling outings to the pubs where he and the other men would meet up with the local girls. His fellow St Dunstaners were an inspiration to him and Reg continued in that role. He would speak with the younger members, reminding them that they still counted despite their sight loss and telling them of the many things they could do with their lives.

Reg and his wife Eileen returned to Monte Cassino for the 45th rally of the anniversary when they hired an Italian taxi driver to take them to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's River Sangro War Cemetery. As they walked through the lovingly preserved cemetery and Eileen read the names on the headstones, it was a moving return for Reg as he had not known that his Captain and so many of his pals had been killed during the war.

When he became a permanent resident at the Brighton centre he became a regular in the Art & Craft Workshop, where he has attended on and off for many years.

Esther Freeman, Member Activities Manager, said: "Reg settled on the skill of mosaics. He worked on ever increasingly intricate, difficult mosaics, working without any sight; he achieved the most remarkable finish, some of which would test the patience of any man! He regularly gave the works that he completed as gifts to family or friends, and has contributed to a number of exhibitions and events that Blind Veterans UK took part in. Reg was quite remarkable and he would come into the workshop four mornings a week, when he would work solidly on one piece until he had completed it. His sense of humour and character was always an asset to the Workshop. We missed him when he moved to Dean Wood Nursing Home and his presence is still missed."

His funeral Service was conducted by Father Martin Morgan at The Parish Church of St Margaret, The Green, Rottingdean on Friday 25th July at 11.15 am. It was followed by interment in the Churchyard.

His widow Eileen said that it was a wonderful service and she would like to thank Father Martin and everyone who attended and those who sent cards of condolence, as she was moved by their kind wishes and memories of Reg.

In keeping with Reg's Geordie heritage, the music chosen was the Blaydon Races.

He is greatly missed.



**Picture:** Reg Goding (right) chats with the late Colwyn Lloyd in the Art & Craft Workshop at the Brighton centre as he works on one of his mosaic pieces.

## Billy Orr 21st February 1921 to 19th July 2014.

Billy Orr, a resident at the Brighton centre, died on 19th July 2014 at the age of 93.

A highly decorated soldier, Billy Served in the Gloucester Regiment from 1939 to 1954, when he saw active service during World War II, the Greek Uprising and the Korean War. It was during the Korean War that Billy was captured at the Battle of Imjin River in 1951 and made a Prisoner of War for three years. Billy escaped only to be recaptured and was branded a war criminal by his captors. His eventual loss of sight is the result of his internment as a POW.

In 2013 he was awarded the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal in recognition of his Service in the Korean War. Unable to travel to Korea in 2011 when the medals were awarded to his fellow veterans, he gained a special award from the UK Ambassador for the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Sunngam Lim.

Speaking at the time Billy said: "It's nice to have the medal. I lost a lot of good friends in Korea and this medal is also for them. The people in South Korea really appreciated what the UN Forces did for them, but we were just soldiers doing our job, it was as simple as that."

Ambassador, Mr Sunngam Lim said: "It is my honour and privilege that Mr Orr has received this medal. As a former POW his bravery is beyond measure. He and his brothers in arms are heroes to all Koreans, and we remain eternally grateful for the courage, dedication and sacrifice of the Korean War Veterans and their families."

Avril Wilbourne said "Billy and I had been close friends for a long time, as he knew my husband Bill and I knew his wife Nell. When I went to work Billy would look after my dogs and each day my dog Murphy would stay with him. The day he died Billy was talking about Murphy as he loved him and he told me to look after Murphy. Billy was a keen gardener and he planted two apples trees and a rowan tree in my garden. Every day when I look at the trees I say hello to Billy. When we planted the apple tree we buried a newspaper and money at the foot of the tree and it's now 24 foot tall. Billy was a great friend to me for so many years and I will miss him."

Billy's funeral took place in St Dunstan's Chapel on Wednesday 6th August. Blind Veterans UK member and Korean veteran Tom Clough was there to pay his respects as Tom had campaigned for Billy to receive the Korean Ambassador

for Peace Medal. A Sergeant in the Royal Artillery Tom fought in the Korean War attached to the Gloucester Regiment. He fought in the Battle of Imjin and was held as a PoW for 2 ½ years after the battle. His account featured in the September 2013 edition of the Review.

Paul Cartwright, Residential Manager at the Brighton centre spoke at Billy's funeral when he said: "I had the great pleasure of knowing Billy for 14 years. Born in Belfast he always wanted to tell you a joke or have a glass of whisky with you. He was humbled and proud when he was presented with his Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal last year, and although he wasn't in great health at the time but he did TV and radio interviews as nothing was ever a problem for him or too much trouble. He was a true soldier and a wonderful man.

"A few years ago I went to Belfast with Billy as he wanted to go for one last visit. He introduced me to every pub there and I was amazed at the number of people who asked if I was with the Billy Orr. He was recognised by so many people as he was a hero to so many there. It was an exceptional holiday and an honour to spend time with him. Billy will be missed by everyone at Blind Veterans UK, members and staff alike as his passing leaves a big hole at the Brighton centre. I would like to say to Billy — remember us because we will never forget you."



**Picture:** Billy Orr with the Korean attaché.

## Family News.

### Congratulations to:

#### Birthdays:

**Leslie Smith** who celebrated his 105th birthday on 6th August.

**Stefan Ciesla** who celebrated his 102nd birthday on 18th August.

**Walter Sharp** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 7th August.

**Ronald Brendell** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 22nd August.

**Edgar Waller** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 29th August.

#### Births:

Congratulations to proud grandparents Andy and Nicola Bull on the birth of their first grandchild, Sophie Pippa Bull. She was born to their eldest son Benjamin and his wife Gemma on Monday 28th July 2014, weighing in at just over seven pounds.

#### Anniversaries:

##### Platinum (70th):

**Tony & Beryl Haspey** of Neston, Wirral on 10th August.

**Ritchy & Sarah Riley** of Bootle, Merseyside on 26th August.

##### Blue Sapphire (65th):

**Ron & Brenda Marriott** of Crawley, West Sussex on 1st August.

**Stan & Dot Bush** of Preston, Lancashire on 6th August.

**Alfred & Mary Gardner** of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands on 27th August.

##### Diamond (60th):

**Donald & Vida Hendry** of Tain, Scotland on 3rd August.

**Glyn & Mavis Davies** of Church Stretton, Shropshire on 11th August.

**Bryan & Elizabeth Wilkinson** of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear on 13th August.

**Harry & Gwen Hall** of Sevenoaks, Kent on 14th August.

**Basil & Anita Beresford** of Burntwood, Staffordshire on 14th August.

**Fred & Ann Robson** of Ashington, Northumberland on 14th August.

**Peter & Joan Rooke** of Ipswich on 14th August.

**Ray & Kathleen Wiggins** of Southampton, Hampshire on 21st August.

**Stuart & Elizabeth Lewis** of Plymouth on 28th August.

### **Golden Anniversary (50th):**

**Geoffrey & Greta Hodgetts** of Halesowen, West Midlands on 3rd August.

**Phil & Ann Wadman** of Alfresford, Hampshire on 7th August.

**Derek & Shirley Bannister** of Leatherhead, Surrey on 8th August.

### **Silver (25th):**

**Karen & Billy Baxter** of Llandudno, Gwynedd on 12th August.

**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.**

**Dorothy Andrews** who died on 18th August 2014. She was the wife of Philip Andrews.

**Ernest 'Ernie' Birks** who died on 13th April 2014. He was the widower of the late Mildred Birks.

**Caroline Bulbrook** who died on 19th July 2014. She was the widow of the late George Bulbrook.

**Doris Juner** who died on 10th August 2014. She was the widow of the late David Juner.

**Eileen Killick** who died on 5th August 2014. She was the widow of the late Norman Killick.

**Margaret Moore** who died on 19th June 2014. She was the widow of the late Rev John Moore.

**Margaret Morgan** who died on 23rd June 2014. She was the widow of the late Victor Morgan.

**Joseph Nelson** who died on 1st October 2012. He was the widower of the late Lucy Nelson.

**Elizabeth 'Beth' Parrish** who died on 1st January 2014. She was the wife of Dennis Parrish.

**Dorothy Sabourin** who died on 10th July 2014. She was the wife of James Sabourin.

**Agnes 'Nancy' Skinner** who died on 17th March 2014. She was the wife of Arthur Skinner.

**Joan Thompson** who died on 12th June 2014. She was the widow of the late George Thompson.

# Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

**Raymond Ashworth** of Ellesmere Port served in the Royal Artillery from 1957 to 1958.

**Arthur Avery** of Narberth, Dyfed served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

**Brian Bailey** of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps, the Royal Corps of Transport and the Yorkshire Regiment from 1957 to 1989.

**Arthur Bates** of St. Helens, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1945.

**Andrew 'Andy' Bell** of Redditch, Worcestershire served in the Green Howard's in 1988.

**Reginald Bennett** of Littlehampton, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Bernard Boyle** of Warwick served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

**Edward Brading** of Bracknell, Berkshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1950 to 1986.

**Ellis Brears** of Sheffield served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1943.

**Claude Brimlow** of Rushden, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Brian Brooks** of Rugeley, Staffordshire served in the Royal Signals from 1955 to 1961.

**James Brown** of Minehead, Somerset served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1964.

**William Brown** of Colwyn Bay, Conwy served in the Black Watch from 1944 to 1947.

**Vivien Brunner (nee Edmonds)** of Fareham, Hampshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1945.

**Eleanor Brushfield** of South West London served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1946.

**Lilian Carrington (nee Baggaley)** of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Percy Clayton** of Lowestoft, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**George Copeland** of Bexhill On Sea, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1948.

**Rita Copland (nee Franks)** of Somerton, Somerset served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

**William Corns** of Prestwick, Ayrshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

**Alistair Corstophine** of Lee On The Solent, Hampshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1953 to 1961.

**Bernard Cox** of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1953 to 1956.

**George Crane** of Ringwood, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1950.

**Tom Daniel** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**John Davis** of Heathfield, East Sussex served in the General Service Corps and the King's Royal Rifle Corps from 1944 to 1945.

**Frederick Eckhardt** of Middleton, Manchester served in the Royal Ulster Rifles from 1946 to 1948.

**Charles Edgar** of Newton Abbot, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1975.

**John Elliott** of Dereham, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1948.

**Harold Evans** of Liverpool served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Sadie Farrelly (nee Baker)** of Woking, Surrey served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1945.

**Elizabeth Forster (nee Mayo)** of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

**George Fraser** of Looe, Cornwall served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1951 to 1957.

**James Frazer** of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949.

**Leslie 'Peter' Frost** of Dunstable, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1948.

**Robert Garrett** of Ramsey, Isle Of Man served in the Royal Artillery from 1951 to 1957.

**Peter Gill** of Redcar, Cleveland served in the Royal Artillery from 1938 to 1946.

**Arthur Goodwin** of Wallasey, Merseyside served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1944.

**Ronald Hall** of Liphook, Hampshire served in the General Service Corps and the South Lancashire Regiment from 1943 to 1946.

**Phillip Hawk** of Market Harborough, Leicestershire served in the Parachute Regiment and the Royal Corps of Transport from 1968 to 1985.

**Raymond Heard** of Newtown, Powys served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1951 to 1956.

**Kenneth Henson** of Norwich served in the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1942.

**Peter Hill** of Southampton, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1987.

**John Hindmarsh** of Swindon served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1984.

**Harry Hitch** of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Alan Hornsey** of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

**Peter Howe** of Coventry served in the Army Catering Corps from 1954 to 1960.

**Gordon Howells** of Blackpill, Swansea served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1946 to 1948.

**Harold Hyde** of Whitefield, Manchester served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1951 to 1956.

**Bernard Izzard** of Ipswich served in the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1949 to 1967.

**Wing Commander Michael Jones** of Sherborne, Dorset served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1964.

**Stanley Jones** of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Patrick Kelly** of Sheffield served in the General Service Corps in 1945.

**Peter Knight** of Ruddington, Nottingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

**Alan Lambert** of Shipley, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1956.

**Richard Ling** of Beccles, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**William Lister** of Liverpool served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment from 1951 to 1975.

**Jeffrey Llewellyn** of Saltdean, East Sussex served in the Royal Marines from 1962 to 1985.

**Ian Lupton** of Stretford, Manchester served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946.

**Henry Marchant** of Polegate, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

**James Merritt** of Alton, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

**Charles Miller** of Reading, Berkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**Leonard Milton** of Penzance, Cornwall served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Tom 'Derek' Mitchell** of Huddersfield served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1948.

**Samuel Myrans** of Churchdown, Gloucester served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947.

**Laura Packwood (nee Murphy)** of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1979 to 1980.

**Harold Padfield** of Oxford served in the Royal Engineers from 1936 to 1963.

**Enid Page** of Peacehaven, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1945.

**Marjorie Peel-Richards (nee Pinks)** of Bristol served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

**John Pickering** of Birkenhead, Merseyside served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1950 to 1972.

**Colin Pickvance** of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force in 1953.

**George Phillips** of Choppington, Northumberland served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport from 1961 to 1967.

**Eric Rainbird** of Bedford served in the Royal Signals from 1940 to 1946.

**Derek Rawlings** of Saltash, Cornwall served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps/ Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1951 to 1953.

**William Reed** of Cardiff served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

**Frank Reynolds** of Wigston, Leicestershire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment from 1942 to 1945.

**Michael Reynolds** of Long Eaton, Nottingham served in the Royal Artillery from 1973 to 1978.

**Robert Reynolds** of Wombourne, Wolverhampton served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

**Elizabeth Rooney (nee Cragg)** of Alderley Edge, Cheshire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

**Terry Roskilly** of Haverhill, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.



**Robert Russell** of Colne, Lancashire served in the Duke of Wellington's, the East Lancashire Regiment and the King's Regiment from 1939 to 1945.

**Fred Schofield** of Brighton, East Sussex served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1945 to 1959.

**Edward Scott** of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Engineers from 1952 to 1958.

**Doreen Shawyer** of Salisbury served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945.

**David Sheppard** of Nottingham served in the 17th/21st Lancers from 1964 to 1986.

**Harry Short** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Home Guard from 1940 to 1941.

**Robert Simpson** of Nottingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1956.

**Thomas Slaughter** of Ashted, Surrey served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1959 to 1964.

**Marjorie Smart (nee Bancroft)** of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

**Jack Smith** of Burnley, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**Cyril 'Graham' Smith** of Broadway, Worcestershire served in the Royal Artillery from 1955 to 1961.

**Arnold Somerset** of Sheffield served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1948.

**David Spencer** of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1947 to 1949.

**Stanley Stone** of Northampton served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

**George Stringer** of Warrington served in the King's Regiment and the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

**Alfred Swinbanks** of High Barnes, Sunderland served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1958.

**John Taylor** of Brighton, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Maurice Thirkill** of Bradford, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

**David Thomas** of Bristol served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**John Ward** of Lichfield, Staffordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

**Gordon Warne** of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1946 to 1948.

**John Western** of Coventry served in the Royal Air Force from 1961 to 1965.

**Raymond White** of Barrow In Furness, Cumbria served in the Royal Air Force from 1980 to 1986.

**Brian Widdowson** of Newark, Nottinghamshire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1959 to 1965.

**Derek Widdowson** of Manchester served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1955 to 1961.

**Jean Young (nee Bottomley)** of Seaham, County Durham served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1945 to 1949.

## Answers to Harry Beevers's 10 Questions on the subject of English Counties from page 40.

1. Bacon and ham.
2. Northumberland Plate.
3. Norfolk.
4. Wiltshire.
5. County Durham.
6. Gloucestershire.
7. Dorset.
8. Country Durham.
9. Derbyshire.
10. Devon.

# 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.**

**Michael Barley** of Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria died on 29th July 2014, aged 86. He joined the South Staffordshire Regiment in 1946 and was commissioned in 1947 and was seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force. He was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1948.

**Velven 'Peter' Barron** of Colchester, Essex died on 12th August 2014, aged 87. He served in the Merchant Navy from 1944 to 1951. He was involved with the supply to Arromanches Beachhead during the Normandy Landings and his ship later worked out of Antwerp, Poland and Italy. He subsequently joined the Union Castle Line and later Shaw Savill.

**Ernest Bell** of Seaham, County Durham died on 2nd July 2014, aged 87. He joined the General Service Corps in 1944 and was transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps. He was deployed to Egypt and Palestine where he drove a variety of vehicles and was attached to the RAF, working for Air Despatch. He was demobilised in 1948 as a Driver.

**Mary Brander** of Southampton died on 23rd July 2014, aged 92. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942. Attached to the Royal Army Service Corps she worked in transport at the War Office in London. She was discharged as an Acting CSM in 1946.

**Stephen 'Steve' Briggs** of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham died on 12th August 2014, aged 97. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. Amongst other postings he served on the south coast of Kent on anti-aircraft protection duties and was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

**Frederick 'Percy' Burrows** of Norwich died on 28th March 2014, aged 95. He joined the Royal Signals in 1939, fought with the British Expeditionary Force in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk in May 1940. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

**Graham Colley** of Droitwich, Worcestershire died on 20th June 2014, aged 79. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1955. He trained at RAF Padgate and then RAF Ternhill where he spent all his service as a Batman for senior officers. He left as a Leading Aircraftsman.

**Dennis Collison** of Maidenhead, Berkshire died on 14th August 2014, aged 67. He joined the Royal Artillery as a Junior Tradesman in 1963 and was posted to 94 Locating Regiment in Celle, Germany and specialised in Roberts Radar. He was later posted to Gibraltar where he spent time with the British Forces Broadcasting Service. He later moved to North Africa and spent time in Libya. He was discharged in 1972 as a Bombardier.

**Roy Davis** of Wallasey, Merseyside died on 10th August 2014, aged 89. He served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946 when he qualified as a Petty Officer Radio Mechanic. He spent most of his time in the North Sea and English Channel with a brief trip to Italy in an escort vessel. At the end of the war he spent a period of time in the Pacific before being demobilised.

**Reginald Dolan** of Abergavenny, Gwent died on 18th August 2014, aged 92. In 1941 he joined the RAF and qualified as an airframe fitter serving in Iceland, Russia, France, Germany and Belgium. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1945.

**John Fifer** of Edinburgh died on 7th August 2014, aged 83. He joined the East Surrey Regiment in 1949, transferring to the Royal Army Education Corps in 1950 before serving with the Honourable Artillery Company (TA) from 1951 to April 1955.

**Pearl Fillingham** of Romford, Essex died on 8th May 2014, aged 90. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942. After training in Devon, she was posted to the Royal Signals. She was posted to a variety of locations around the UK. She was demobilised in 1946 as a Lance Corporal.

**James Gordon** of Limekilns, Dunfermline died on 14th August 2014, aged 90. He joined the General Service Corps in September 1942 before transferring to the Royal Scots Regiment in the December. He served with various Scottish regiments including the Highland Light Infantry and the Gordon Highlanders before being commissioned in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. He served with the King's African Rifles from 1945 and resigned his commission as an Acting Captain in 1947. He also served with South East Asia Command in the Far East and India.

**Robert Grainger** of York, North Yorkshire died on 22nd July 2014, aged 88. From 1944 to 1948 he served in The General Service Corps, the Sherwood Foresters and the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He served in the UK and India. He was discharged as a Private in 1948.

**Rosalie Grimes (nee Samms)** of South Croydon, Surrey died on 18th August 2014, aged 91. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941. On completion of training she was sent to Highgate, London where she learnt to be a Projectionist. She spent her service at Arborfield as a Cinema Projectionist in the Training Establishment. She left as a Corporal in 1943.

**Elsie Hall** of Muir of Ord, Ross-shire died on 25th July 2014, aged 92. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1939 at the age of 17. She was posted to a balloon site at Dagenham in Essex, and then the Air Ministry in central London. She was discharged in 1942 as a Corporal.

**Howard Hollingworth** of Storrington, West Sussex died on 19th July 2014, aged 92. He joined the RAF in 1941 and specialised in General Duty Clerical Work. He served in the UK and was later posted to West Africa spending time in Nigeria and Sierra Leone. He returned to the UK in 1944, moving to Cheddington and was discharged from the RAF as a Corporal in 1946.

**Wilfred 'Wilf' Holmes** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 7th August 2014, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, specialising in Radar. He served in the UK, Freetown in Sierra Leone, India and also in Burma in the Arakan and at Cox's Bazaar and in Hong Kong. Returning to UK he was demobilised as an Aircraftman First Class in 1946.

**Sidney Hoyle** of Selby, North Yorkshire died on 24th July 2014, aged 92. He served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946 in the Far East where he was made a Far East Prisoner of War from 1942 to 1945. He developed nutritional retrobulbar neuritis as a result of malnutrition and suffered sight loss. He had joined the RA in March 1938 when he was just 16 years old. After training he was posted into the 85th Anti Tank Regiment RA in the rank of Gunner. He then moved with the Regiment to Singapore in 1941 and was captured by the Japanese in February 1942. As a FEPOW he was forced to work on the Burma Railway. He was demobilised in 1946.

**Albert Jones** of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 12th December 2012, aged 83. Called up for National Service he served with the General Service Corps from 1947, transferring to the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1948. He served in

Northern Ireland and the Middle East and later transferred to the Irish Fusiliers where he served in Egypt followed by Jordan, completing his service in 1949.

**Donald 'Don' Journeaux** of Rushden, Northamptonshire died on 27th July 2014, aged 87. He served in the Royal Air Force for National Service from 1946 to 1948, training at RAF Padgate. He served at Compton Bassett, the Isle of Man and later Topcliffe, Melksham and Tern Hill, leaving as an Aircraftman Second Class.

**George Lees** of Woking, Surrey died on 29th July 2014, aged 86. He joined the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment in 1946 for National Service. He served in Greece before discharge as a Private in 1948.

**John Mannion** of Rotherham, South Yorkshire died on 14th August 2014, aged 83. He joined the Royal Army Pay Corps in 1949 for National Service and served in the UK. He was discharged as a Private in 1951.

**Horace 'Bob' Massey** of South East London died on 12th August 2013, aged 92. He served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946, leaving as a Signaller. He served on board HMT *Asie* in the Channel, from 1941 to 1943. From 1943 to 1944 he was an Escort/Search around the coast of the British Isles on HMS *Annet*. He was involved in the D-Day Landings.

**Stuart McFarlane** of Grangemouth, Stirlingshire died on 9th August 2014, aged 59. He joined the 51st Highland Regiment (TA) in 1973 and was posted to Cyprus during the 1974 emergency following the Turkish invasion. He was discharged in 1976 as a Private.

**Edgar 'Ted' McWilliams** of Paignton, Devon died on 28th May 2014, aged 96. In 1940 he joined the King's Regiment in Liverpool, eventually transferring in 1942 to the Royal Tank Regiment. He served in Penrith doing trials on tanks before going to India in 1945 at the end of WWII.

**Roydon Morgans** of Wolverhampton, West Midlands died on 1st July 2014, aged 85. Called up for National Service he joined the Welsh Regiment in 1949. He fought in the Korean War and received the Korea campaign medal and served in the UK, Hong Kong, and Germany. He was medically discharged as a Corporal in 1953 because of a spinal injury, but went on to serve with the TA (Welsh Regiment) from 1953 to 1962.

**William Nash** of Northampton, Northamptonshire died on 24th July 2014, aged 94. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1940. He fought in Northern Europe after D-Day (he was attached to the 6th Airborne Division) and was later posted to India after the war ended. He was discharged as a Sapper in 1946.

**John Owen** of Chatham, Kent died on 12th July 2014, aged 94. He joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1939. Following Officer training he was posted to the Devon Regiment, but transferred to the Royal Artillery. From there he was posted to India where he served in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps. He then went to Burma in the General Purpose Transport Company and on to Malaya where he was demobbed in 1946 as a Captain.

**Kenneth Price** of Llanfechain, Powys died on 25th July 2014, aged 91. He joined the General Service Corps in 1943, training as a driver mechanic before transferring to the REME. He was posted to No 2 Command Workshop and then to 53 Recce Regiment. He landed on D+3 on Gold beach and moved through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was discharged in 1946.

**James 'Jim' Pritchard** of Llanbedr y Cennin, Conwy died on 16th October 2013, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1943. He trained at Scarborough and Brough in Yorkshire before becoming a radar instructor based in Yatesbury, Wiltshire. He served at home in Yorkshire and Wiltshire before leaving as a Sergeant in 1948.

**Joan Recknell** of Newton Abbot, Devon died on 16th July 2014, aged 96. She served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. She did her training at Morecambe and Blackpool and was a driver at a variety of locations. She then trained as a telegraphist and was posted to Ceylon and then on to India. She was demobilised in 1946 as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

**Ronald Robinson** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 17th July 2014, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and specialised as a Radar Mechanic. He was posted to 34 MU as a clerk. He served in the UK, Denmark and Germany, and in Singapore for two years until he was demobilised as an Acting Sergeant in 1967.

**Dr Zdzislaw 'Chris' Siemaszko** of South West London died on 31st July 2014, aged 93. At the age of 18 he was deported to the Soviet Union into Kazakhstan. When Hitler invaded Russia he joined the Polish Army under General Anders in Persia, coming under British Command in April 1942. He moved through Jordan, Palestine and then on to Scotland. He trained as a Radio Operator and

was posted to a radio centre in Hertfordshire where he helped to maintain a clandestine link with Polish Resistance, manning secret reception locations until 1946. He was discharged in 1948 as a Corporal.

**Albert 'Jim' Smith** of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 27th June 2014, aged 89. He joined the General Service Corps in July 1943. Following training he transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in October 1943 and served at Bicester, Aldershot, Old Dalby and Castle Donington before his discharge as a Private in 1947.

**Terence Smith** of St. Helens, Merseyside died on 14th August 2014, aged 79. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for National Service in 1953 and served in Guiana, Jamaica and the UK. He was discharged in 1955 but remained in part time National Service until April 1956.

**Granville Williams** of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan died on 31st July 2014, aged 88. He completed National Service from 1946 to 1948 in the Fleet Air Arm, training as an Air Fitter. He was posted to Dale, Pembroke and then to RNAS Culdrose.

**Geraldine 'Rosemary' Wiltshire** of Welwyn, Hertfordshire died on 3rd August 2014, aged 96. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1940, was sent to RAF Debdon as a plotter, and later went to RAF Coltishall. After the Battle of Britain she transferred to Northern Ireland for a brief period where she applied to join 'Y' enabling her to make use of her German language skills. She was then responsible for listening to German RT traffic. Towards the end of the war she spent time in Belgium and was demobilised as a Sergeant in 1945.



PEACE

PEACE · HATH · HER · VICTORIES  
NO · LESS · RENOWNED · THAN · WAR