

February 2016

# Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



**On the cover:** Blind veterans Shaun Stocker and Barrie Hathaway at the Llandudno centre. Between March and July 2016 Shaun will undertake Stocker's Strides Challenge to walk 100K to raise £50,000 for Blind Veterans UK. You can sponsor him at: [www.justgiving.com/shaunstocker](http://www.justgiving.com/shaunstocker) **Photo:** Slater King.

**Back page:** Blind veteran Reg Goodwin, who attends the Brighton Club is shown celebrating his 100th birthday at the Brighton centre.

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Feb 2016 | No 1066



#### **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.

One month into the New Year, it feels a little belated to add my many good wishes to you all for 2016. None the less, as this is my first opportunity to do so, I hope this is a great year that brings a lot of good fortune and joy to you all.

That said as Trustees we are very mindful of external events such as the turbulent stock market, and some jitters in some parts of our economy. This all affects consumers and how they give to charities. There is also a rising focus in the media on some examples across the charity sector of overly aggressive fundraising practices. It is something that the Trustees are very mindful of and we will be continuing to assure ourselves that the organisation is applying good practice and ensuring the right controls are in place.

On a positive footing, I have already heard of many of our supporters who are planning individual and team initiatives to raise money for Blind Veterans UK. The actions of some will always inspire others to follow, and with this in mind I'm very encouraged to hear of the varied initiatives being under taken. Please spread the word amongst your friends and family, take the initiative and/or support those who do.

One such example is Shaun Stocker, who features on the front cover of this edition, and also in Family News, as he and his fiancée Persia became parents on Christmas Day to Theo Jackson Stocker. Shaun was injured by an IED in Afghanistan in 2010 whilst serving with 1st Battalion Royal Welsh Regiment when he lost his sight and both of his legs above the knee. With his focus on rehab, eye surgery restored 30% of the sight in one eye and in 2014 Shaun flew to Australia where he underwent pioneering surgery when titanium rods were implanted into the stumps of his legs so that he could attach prosthetics to them rather than use hard carbon fibersockets. It must not be underestimated the hard work that Shaun has put in to becoming once again fully mobile. To thank Blind Veterans UK he set up Stockers Strides and between March to July this year he will walk 100K to raise £50K for Blind Veterans UK. To find out more, or to sponsor Shaun, please go to: [www.justgiving.com/shaunstocker](http://www.justgiving.com/shaunstocker)

Best wishes for 2016 and I look forward to doing my part with the many thousands of others in supporting this great charity in its second century!

# Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

## Calling old comrades.

Blind veteran Charles James Miller, a former Naval Airman, would like to speak with any old shipmates who served onboard HMS Emperor in 1944 to 1945. You can contact him on 0118 9014683.

## Review short story competition: The Wrong Turn.

They say that everyone has a novel in them, but for the 2016 Blind Veterans UK Review short story competition we want to find out how many people have a great short story in them.

We invite you to send a fictional work on the theme The Wrong Turn. Perhaps your character or characters took a physical wrong turn, went up the wrong street that changed events in their life. Or perhaps your character or characters made a wrong decision that was a turning point.

Whatever it was please get writing as we would love to read your entries. All submissions should be an original work and not previously published. The competition is open to members, their spouses, widows or widowers. The judge's decision will be final.

The three winning stories will be published in the Review in 2016.

Please follow these steps when submitting entries for the competition:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1,500 words.
- 2) Only one submission per person.

Entries must be sent to Catherine Goodier, Review Editor, Blind Veterans UK Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by 30th April 2015.

## Register in the online ballot to attend the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Event at Windsor 15th May 2016.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration event will take place over four nights from 12th to 15th May 2016 in Home Park Private, Windsor Castle with Members of The Royal Family attending each night, including The Queen who will attend on the final night of Sunday 15th May. The Celebration is a not for profit event and aims to create a significant surplus that will be donated to charities.

On all four nights over 900 horses and 1,500 participants from around the world will descend on the private grounds of Home Park Private, Windsor Castle. From The Queen's birth in 1926, through World War Two, to The Queen's Coronation in 1953 and a Reign spanning more than 60 years, the story will take us through a remarkable life.

As well as a theatrical kaleidoscope of international acts and British icons already confirmed, including The Oman Royal Cavalry, Chilean Huasos, New Zealand Army Band, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Azerbaijan Cossack Riders, State Carriages from The Royal Mews, South Australian Police Band, The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, The Fijian Army Dancers and Band, 100 Military and Commonwealth Pipers and The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, there will also be references to The Queen's animals including her horses and ponies, her dogs and even Her Majesty's racing pigeons.

On Sunday night the Celebration will be broadcast live on ITV in a two hour programme and on this evening the best of British talent from the entertainment industry will join in the Celebration.

For those who were unable to secure a ticket to one of the four evening shows, it is planned to also hold a pre-performance party on The Long Walk on the final evening. Five thousand free tickets will be made available through a ballot. To register go to <http://www.hmq90.co.uk>

If you are successful you will be at The Long Walk on the beautiful lawns that lead up to Windsor Castle as you soak up the atmosphere and sense of pageantry. Highlights will include the chance to see celebrities as they arrive on the red carpet and performances from some of the displays performing in the show. Giant pop-up screens will broadcast performances against the stunning backdrop of Windsor Castle.

## Patron's lunches to celebrate HM The Queen's 90th birthday.

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday on Sunday 12th June 2016 The Mall will be home to a truly magnificent event, The Patron's Lunch; a classic British street party lunch for 10,000 guests, the first of its kind ever to be held on The Mall. With the vast majority of tickets made available to the Patron's Organisations, this event will provide a very special opportunity for all who have been touched by Her Majesty The Queen to publicly thank her and to be proud of the work and service that their own charity or organisation has provided to this nation or those nations across the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty The Queen will be joined by the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family to celebrate the occasion. Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry will reside as Joint-Presidents of The Patron's Lunch; honouring the dedication shown by Her Majesty to so many charities and organisations. The day itself promises to deliver an electric festival themed atmosphere that can be enjoyed not only by the guests on The Mall, but also by the general public who will be able to soak up the festivities at large screens situated in the Royal Parks, Green Park and St James's Park.

At the very heart of The Patron's Lunch is a desire to give the British and Commonwealth public the chance to not only honour and thank Her Majesty's extraordinary commitment to others, but to also inspire communities the length and breadth of the nations to do the same. The Patron's Lunch will look to re-ignite the famous British community spirit and have villages, towns and cities all over the UK and across the Commonwealth to hold their own street parties. It is hoped these local Patron's Lunches will help raise money for their own communities and local initiatives. In addition to the fundraising generated at a local level, the event will also serve as a unique platform for the charitable organisations to which The Queen acts as Patron, to maximise their own fundraising efforts.

### Enter into a Public Ticket Ballot to attend.

In addition to the many Patron's Organisations who will be represented on The Mall, members of the public will have an opportunity to join The Patron's Lunch celebrations on June 12th. A ballot will open at [www.thepatronslunch.com](http://www.thepatronslunch.com) where members of the public can apply to purchase tickets to attend The Patron's Lunch. Each ticket will cost £150 (£125+VAT). The ballot will be open for four weeks from the end of February until the end of March.

## Improvements to ROVI on Duty and IT Support line

We're making improvements to the ROVI on Duty and IT Support telephone helplines. From 1st December 2015 we set up a new service to replace the current IT Support and ROVI Helplines. This now combines the two current services for ROVI on Duty and IT Helpdesk.

The current numbers will remain in use for the foreseeable future but we will issue a new number, which we will of course inform you of as soon as it is available.

Until that time please continue to phone on: 01273 391447 or 01273 391432.

You can also email the service at: [rovi-it@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:rovi-it@blindveterans.org.uk)

The service will be open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm and our aim is to answer as many calls as possible as they come in. If you call during the opening hours and are not able to get through, please leave a message and we will respond to your call within one working day. You can email at any time and we will get back to you within one working day.

The service will be staffed by a specially trained team of Rehab and Training Support workers and it is our new national contact centre for ROVI and IT queries. Our ROVIs and IT Technician are on hand to deal with more complicated enquiries.

As this is a new service we would welcome your feedback to let us know how you find it, good and bad comments. Please email any comments to [chris.clark@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:chris.clark@blindveterans.org.uk) or call 0114 2672587.

# Tax Help for Older People.

The charity Tax Help for Older People has a website and telephone helpline that offers just that – tax help for older people. You can access this extremely helpful website at [www.taxvol.org.uk](http://www.taxvol.org.uk) Should you wish to speak with Tax Help for Older People the telephone number is: 01308 488066 or 0845 0601 3321.

You may wish to consider subscribing to Tax Help's monthly Tax Tips which contain topical and useful information on personal tax issues.

There are also Tax Help videos which were launched by the charity last year and which provide a simple and clear source of information about the major areas of tax, and give an insight into how to deal with them.

The page includes four videos on the key areas of taxation: General Tax Awareness. Underpayments. Retirement — The Tax Implications and bereavement.

## Join Blind Veterans UK Masonic Group.

For many years St Dunstan's had a weekend for those beneficiaries who are Freemasons, to get together and enjoy an annual meeting, whilst being hosted by the Temple Lodge in Brighton.

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

If you are a Freemason, and interested in joining fellow Masons for a great weekend in April each year, we invite you to join us down at the Brighton centre, where we are the guests of the Temple Lodge.

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

Please contact W.Bro. Clive Jones the group's Chairman/Secretary for more details.

You can contact Clive at email: [clivejones67@btinternet.com](mailto:clivejones67@btinternet.com) or telephone him on: 07854 800256.

## The 2016 Summer Camp at HMS Sultan. By Dave Burrows, Organising Secretary.

This year's summer camp at HMS Sultan will take place from 1400 Friday 5th to 1000 Saturday 13th August. Once again there are a limited number of places for Blind Veterans UK members due to Service accommodation constraints.

### Background

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

### Applications

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

### Finance

The Summer Camp is funded through donations, fundraising by the FAAFGC Association and our local community. The campers are charged a nominal fee that goes towards insurance, transportation (visits during camp), catering and licences to use Service facilities. The committee has two Blind Veterans UK member representatives who are encouraged to voice the opinions and wishes of the campers in the planning of the event. To recap, HMS Sultan Summer Camp in 2016, will take place from 1400 Friday 5th to 1000 on Saturday 13th August, applications are to be forwarded to Dave Burrows either by telephone on: 02392 550532, or by email at: [dcb119399@aol.com](mailto:dcb119399@aol.com) or by post to: 18 Portsmouth Road, Lee on the Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9AG.

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

## A request from the Editor to please get in touch with the Review.

I would dearly love to speak with you if you have a life experience that you think would be of interest to the Review.

It doesn't have to relate to your Service days. Perhaps you were, or are, an instructor for The Duke of Edinburgh Awards, now celebrating its 60th Anniversary. Or perhaps you worked with The Prince's Trust, now celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Or maybe you were a Red Coat at Butlins. Or you may have worked on Fleet Street. Or, as was the case with one member, your mother bet on the Grand National, won a lot of money, and you were named after the winning horse.

If you have something that you would like to share with the Review I would love to hear from you. You can telephone me, Catherine Goodier, on 020 7616 8367 or email: [revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk) If my phone goes to ansaphone I am on an interview so please leave a message.

## Sign up to run the London Marathon and the Royal parks Half Marathon with the Sports & Rec Team at the Brighton centre.

The Sports & Recreation department at the Brighton centre have eight places if you would like to take part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon on Sunday 9th October 2016.

Sports & Rec Instructors at the Brighton centre will work with you to prepare a training schedule to ensure that you are half marathon ready. If you would like to sign up please contact Russell Scullion on telephone: 01273 391481 or email: [russell.scullion@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:russell.scullion@blindveterans.org.uk)

If you don't have a guide Russell and his colleagues will try to find one for you.

## Review format changes.

The Review is also available on MP3CD and USB, by email and in Braille. If you would like to change the format you receive the Review in please telephone Mrs Shernaz Kapadia on 020 7616 8368.

## Sign up to Blind Veterans UK fundraising events in 2016.

### Virgin Money London Marathon 24 April 2016.

Please come and help cheer our amazing London Marathon runners at our cheer point near Mudchute station, Isle of Dogs. Please get in touch if you are able to come along.

### 100k Yorkshire 18th to 19th June 2016 and the London to Brighton 100k Walk 2nd to 3rd July 2016.

We are looking for volunteers to help us at our 100k events this year. Please contact Jennie Chmura on 020 7616 7959 or email [fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk) if you would like to help. If you know anyone who would like to take part in the 100k, please visit our website at: [www.blindveterans.org.uk/100k/](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/100k/)

### Prudential RideLondon to Surrey 100 31st July 2016.

Were you inspired by the thousands of cyclists who celebrated the 2012 Olympic legacy by cycling 100 miles through London and Surrey on August 6? If so it could be you in 2016! The cycle starts at the Olympic Park in Stratford, along the closed roads of London, through the beautiful Surrey countryside and finishes on the Mall outside Buckingham Palace. We have charity places available so please get in touch for more information or visit our website [www.blindveterans.org.uk/ridelondon](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/ridelondon) For one of our places we ask for a registration fee of £25 and a fundraising pledge of £450. Alternatively, please let us know if you were successful in the ballot so we can support you with your fundraising.

### Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon 9th October 2016.

This is one of the most popular events in the UK, taking you through London's scenic parks: Hyde Park, Green Park, St James's Park and Kensington Gardens. Runners have the chance to not only enjoy these beautiful parks in the Autumn but also take in some of London's most iconic landmarks, including the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Albert Hall. We have guaranteed places available for a registration fee of £30. We also ask that you pledge to raise a minimum sponsorship of £300. We will fully support you with reaching your fundraising target — for more information, visit: [www.blindveterans.org.uk/royalparks](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/royalparks)

If you have any questions about any of the events or you would like to find out how to apply for a place, please email [fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk) or telephone Jennie Chmura on 020 7616 7959.

## Have-a-go sailing for vision impaired people 2016.

Do you fancy dinghy sailing or cruising on the River Orwell? Well, come and try it!

During the Royal Yachting Association 'Push the Boat Out' initiative, the East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST) will welcome blind or vision impaired adults who want to have a go at sailing.

'Push the Boat Out' runs from 14th to 22nd May, 2016. EAST keelboats will be available for have-a-go sessions throughout. These are stable small boats, skippered by experienced volunteers ready to let you try your hand.

There will also be a number of cruising yachts, typically 30 to 40 feet in length, available for budding blind or vision impaired yacht crew to get a taste of bigger boats. These yachts will be doing day trips from 17th to 20th May, but for those who would like to try sailing over a weekend, staying on board for two nights, some yachts will be taking crew for a taster mini-cruise. If you opt for the mini-cruise you will join your yacht on Friday evening 13th May and leave it on the afternoon of Monday 16th May.

All these opportunities are free to blind or vision impaired people, except the mini-cruise where you will be asked to contribute £75 per person to cover food and drink on board, and boat running costs that includes mooring fees and fuel.

Please register your interest by 14th March 2016 so that we can line up the yachts and crew.

Telephone: 0333 088 3278 or visit the website at [www.east-anglian-sailing-trust.org.uk](http://www.east-anglian-sailing-trust.org.uk) or email [cruisingsec@e-a-s-t.org.uk](mailto:cruisingsec@e-a-s-t.org.uk)

The East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST), established at the end of 1996, is a registered charity based at Suffolk Yacht Harbour, Levington, on the River Orwell. It gives disabled people and their friends and helps the opportunity to enjoy regular sailing in a safe environment, using specialist equipment where necessary. EAST has no paid staff, and relies totally on its volunteers. This is supplemented by the continuing support it receives from local sailing organisations, and their members, as well as funding from a number of sources, both local and national.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to make members of Blind Veterans UK aware of Heroes Haven, a purpose built lodge in the beautiful Dorset Isle of Purbeck. Heroes Haven provides affordable holidays for disabled, injured and vision impaired serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces, their immediate family and carers.

The lodge has been specially designed to cater for wheelchairs and for those who have suffered serious injuries to enjoy a holiday.

Situated on the beautiful Isle of Purbeck, the lodge nestles in its own extensive landscaped gardens, which offer a tranquil setting for those looking for a peaceful and relaxing family holiday.

A seasonal store, bar, restaurant and launderette are also available to guests staying in the lodge.

The nearby seaside town of Swanage is a few minutes' drive away; where you will find sandy beaches and an interesting range of shops, cafés and restaurants and a vibrant night life. The town is also host to a wide variety of music festivals throughout the year.

For further information Heroes Haven website is at [www.heroes-haven.org.uk](http://www.heroes-haven.org.uk) or you can write to Enquiries, Heroes Haven, 4 Manor Road, Swanage, BH19 2BH.

Yours faithfully,

Gerry Jackson.

## Reunion dates in 2016.

Date.	Reunion.	Venue address.
Thursday 3rd March.	Edinburgh.	Marriott Hotel, 111 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8NF.
Tuesday 15th March.	Brighton.	Sussex County Cricket Club, County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove, BN3 3AN.
Thursday 31st March.	Middlesbrough.	Jury's Inn, Fry Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1JH.
Tuesday 12th April.	Derby.	The Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby, Derbyshire, DE1 2SQ.
Thursday 14th April.	Northern Ireland.	Clayton Hotel Belfast, 22 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HS.
Wednesday 20th April.	Barrow.	The Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Rd, Barrow-in-Furness, LA13 0PA.
Thursday 21st April.	Central London.	RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY.
Wednesday 27th April.	Leeds.	Thorpe Park Hotel, 1150 Century Way, Leeds, LS15 8ZB.
Thursday 28th April.	Swindon.	South Marston Hotel & Spa (Mecure Hotel), Old Vicarage Lane, Swindon, SN3 4SH.
Wednesday 4th May.	Eastbourne 1.	Hydro Hotel, Mount Rd, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.
Thursday 5th May.	Cardiff.	Copthorne Hotel Cardiff, Copthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6DH.

Date.	Reunion.	Venue address.
Monday 9th May.	Hook.	Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9AZ.
Wednesday 18th May.	Cambridge.	The Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6BW.
Thursday 19th May.	Beaulieu.	Beaulieu Hotel, Beaulieu Road, Beaulieu SO42 7YQ.
Wednesday 25th May.	Surrey.	Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey, KT24 5PZ.
Wednesday 1st June.	Chorley.	The Pines Hotel, Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancs, PR6 7ED.
Wednesday 8th June.	West Sussex.	Crouchers Country Hotel, Birdham Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7EH.
Wednesday 22nd June.	Portsmouth.	Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 2NT.
Thursday 23rd June.	Llandudno.	Imperial Hotel, The Promenade, Llandudno, LL30 1AP.
Wednesday 29th June.	Eastbourne 2.	Hydro Hotel, Mount Rd, Eastbourne BN20 7HZ.
Thursday 7th July.	Exeter.	Mercure Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter, EX1 1QF.



Date.	Reunion.	Venue address.
Wednesday 27th July.	Liverpool.	Liverpool Football Club, Champions Suite, Centenary Stand, Walton Breck Road, Anfield, L4 0TH.
Wednesday 3rd August.	Manchester.	The Place Aparthotel, Ducie Street, Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 2TP.
Tuesday 16th August.	Newcastle.	The Thistle Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DF.
Wednesday 17th August.	Durham.	Ramside Hall Hotel, Carrville, Durham, DH1 1TD.
Thursday 18th August.	Inverness.	The Inverness Hotel, Milburn Road, Inverness, Highlands, IV2 3TR.
Tuesday 23rd August.	Blackpool.	De Vere Herons' Reach, East Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 8LL.
Wednesday 7th September.	Bristol.	Mercure Bristol North Grange, Northwoods, Winterbourne, Bristol, BS36 1RP.
Thursday 8th September.	Kent.	Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8JX.
Thursday 22nd September.	North London.	The Noke By Thistle, Watford Road, St Albans, AL2 3DS.
Tuesday 13th September.	Norwich.	Park Farm Country Hotel & Leisure, Hethersett, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 3DL.

Date.	Reunion.	Venue address.
Tuesday 27th September.	Birmingham.	Ramada Hotel Birmingham, Penns Lane, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1LH.
Tuesday 4th October.	Worcester.	The Whitehouse Hotel, Foregate Street Worcester WR1 1EA.
Wednesday 5th October.	Cornwall and Plymouth.	Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5AQ.
Tuesday 11th October.	Sheffield.	Kenwood Hall Hotel, Kenwood Road, Sheffield, S7 1NQ.

If you have not attended a Reunion before they are a great opportunity for you and your spouse or family member to meet your fellow blind veterans and their spouses and your Welfare Officer in a relaxed setting over a three course lunch.

A Trustee or senior member of staff will deliver a speech to which a blind veteran will respond. We look forward to welcoming you to your Reunion.

If you require any further information please contact Abby Tarrant, Events Coordinator on telephone: 020 7616 8372 or email: [abby.tarrant@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:abby.tarrant@blindveterans.org.uk)

## Accommodation charges at the centres in 2016.

We remain committed to providing the best quality and range of services to our members. Our three centres are an integral part of our service provision and in order to provide an excellent level of service, we employ an annual pricing review for our accommodation charges. Below are the new charges effective from the 1st of April 2016.

Clubs using the centres will be eligible for the accommodation discount in 2016 subject to the previously agreed terms and conditions. Members staying at Port Hall near the Brighton centre will be charged at the rate set out below.

### Accommodation charges from April 2016 at the Brighton and Llandudno centres.

Guest type	Nursing		Residential		Holiday Low Season 1st October to 31st March		Holiday High Season 1st April to 30th September	
	Weekly	Daily	Weekly	Daily	Weekly	Daily	Weekly	Daily
<b>War blinded</b>	329	47	266	38	210	30	231	33
<b>Non war blinded</b>	553	79	413	59	266	38	315	45

### Club Weeks — Bowling, Archery, Computer and Amateur Radio Clubs.

<b>War blinded</b>	203	29	217	31
<b>Non War blinded</b>	245	35	301	43

### Themed Weeks.

Gardening Week, History Week, Ladies Week, Race Week and Widows Week. Charges relate to non war blinded only.	£30 plus seasonal accommodation charge for holiday only.
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	Weekly	Daily
<b>Port Hall</b>	189	27
<b>Club discount at Port Hall and Beacon Hill.</b>	182	26

Introductory Stays	Weekly
<b>Member</b>	Free
<b>Spouse/Escort/Carer</b>	Free

Training Stays	Weekly	Daily
<b>Member</b>	Free	Free
<b>Spouse/Escort/Carer</b>	As per accommodation booked	As per accommodation booked

Children aged from 3 to 16 years	Weekly	Daily
	105	15

### Accommodation charges from April 2016 at the Sheffield centre.

	Weekly
<b>Intro Week — Spouses</b>	Free
<b>Training Week — Spouses</b>	108
<b>Holidays (no high/low season)</b>	148

	Weekly.	Daily.	Weekly.	Daily.
<b>Permanent care for non war blinded members</b>	602	86	504	72
<b>Permanent care for war blinded members</b>	336	48	273	39

## Blind Veterans UK Amateur Radio Society meeting. By Edna McGoff.

Once again we had a successful week from 22nd to 28th November 2015 at the Brighton centre. By Sunday night all our members plus, three new members that we were pleased to welcome to the Amateur Radio Society met up to get to know one another.

On Monday morning the Annual General Meeting was held in the Trophy Room which was well supported. Since the last annual general meeting John Bell one of our members had gone silent key.

An excellent report was given by Ray Peart the Chairman and Ray Hazan Secretary and our Treasurer Claire Peart presented an accurate account of the Society's financial state. We would like to thank them for the excellent work they do to keep the society in good stead. I reported that a good number of QSL cards had been received and reply cards sent. As the meeting took place in November, and we were coming to the end of Blind Veterans UK's centenary year, the Amateur Radio Operators used a special call sign GB100BVU at both the Llandudno and Brighton centres. It is expected that a lot more QSL cards will be requested from countries around the world and the UK. What a great way to promote our charity.

Ray Peart, in his role of Chairman of the Amateur Radio Society, thanked John Houlihan and friends Rob Thornton and Gordon Ward who are both at Llandudno for all the work they have done to maintain our aerials and radio equipment at the Llandudno centre. Of course not forgetting Don Wallis and Graham Moore for their help with operating on the air. They are not blind veterans, but great friends and crucial to the Amateur Radio Society, and we are indebted and eternally grateful to them as they give up so much of their valuable time volunteering to help promote Blind Veterans UK on the air.

Following the meeting we gathered in the Winter Garden where we enjoyed an excellent luncheon courtesy of the catering staff there. On this occasion we were once again we were pleased to be joined by Ted and Janet Dady. After the excellent meal Ray Hazan had great pleasure to present the G3MOW Trophy to Dick Hardy (G3TIX) for all the good and helpful work that he has done running the daily nets for a number of years.

Gordon Ward was awarded recognised for his help with the aerials and radios at the Llandudno centre. Ray Peart will present Gordon with his award when Ray is next at the Llandudno centre.

The third person to receive the Trophy was Ray Peart for his exceptionally good work as Chairman/Secretary that makes the Blind Veterans UK Amateur Radio Society such a success as it continues to spread news across the airwaves of the great work that is done by Blind Veterans UK while celebrating the past 100 years of this remarkable charity.

Over the past week 160 contacts had been made by our member operators and the help of Don Wallis and Graham Moore who once again gave up their valuable time to help us. Alistair McGoff was very busy recording all these contacts in the log book, for future records when sending out QSL cards by Edna as requested.

We now look forward to our next meeting at Llandudno on the 6th to 12th March 2016. If you would like to join the Amateur Radio Society please do get in touch.



**Picture:** Ray Peart (G0FHK), Ray Hazan OBE (G0PQQ) and Dick Hardy (G3TIX) stand with the G3MOW Trophy in the Winter Garden at the Brighton centre.

## Gallipoli Commemoration Exhibition.

During his Christmas break on the Isle of Lewis our Chief Executive, Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB, was presented with a cheque for £250 by Sheriff Colin Scott MacKenzie and Donald Martin, Vice-Lord Lieutenant. They represented the committee responsible for the month long Gallipoli Commemoration Exhibition that was opened by Nick and held in the Drill Hall on Stornoway from April 2015. Although there were no admission charges at the exhibition, an exit collection box produced sufficient monies to hand over cheques to Blind Veterans UK, Poppy Scotland, Combat Stress and Help for Heroes. We are grateful to them for their generous donation.

Sheriff MacKenzie's latest book on the adventures of the Ross Mountain Battery at Gallipoli in 1915, where they were the very first artillery ashore at Cape Helles and at Suvla Bay will be available in 2016.



**Picture:** Sheriff Colin Scott McKenzie and Donald Martin, Vice-Lord Lieutenant present our Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB with a cheque from monies raised at the Gallipoli Commemoration Exhibition. **Photo credit:** Christeen.

## Phone calls from Heaven. Jerry Lynch 1924 to 2015.

Here we remember Jerry Lynch who died at Ovingdean, Sussex on 24th December 2015, as his family stood beside him, holding his hands and he passed peacefully away to be reunited with his wife Patricia, whom he had missed every day and to see his best friend Ernie Cookson, his great chum from their first meeting at Church Stretton as two young war blinded soldiers.

Born in Cork, Ireland, Jerry Lynch enlisted into the 9th Cameronians as a Rifleman on 15th July 1943. He took part in the D-Day Landings and was wounded in action on 9th September 1944 when a sniper's bullet pierced his skull. He was admitted to our World War Two Training Centre at Church Stretton on 4th December 1944 where he commenced training.

The Lynch family's association with our charity spans our 100 years of service as Jerry's uncle, Danny Lynch, was blinded by a sniper's bullet in WWI. Danny enlisted with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in August 1914 and he was shot by a sniper and blinded in January 1915 at Givenchy in France. As a young boy Jerry could not have imagined that the same fate would befall him 29 years later.

Speaking of his uncle in a past Review, Jerry said: 'He was badly wounded and I remember visiting him in his cottage and seeing him sitting by the fire.' Danny Lynch died in 1947, just three years after his nephew joined St Dunstan's.

At Church Stretton Jerry enjoyed his time in the Music Department where he played the drums and after he left he was asked by the Musical Director Claude Bampton if he would make a system of Braille music. It was also where he met Ernie Cookson, who would become his life long best friend. In the band Jerry played the drums and Ernie the saxophone.

On 20th August 1949, with Ernie as his Best Man, Jerry married Patricia and they had five children Gary, Michelle, Jeannette, John and Paul.

A member of the Archery team in October 1986 he took part in a demonstration at Buckingham Palace with his fellow archers when they showed their prowess. On that day his fellow team members included Norman Perry, Tommy Gaygan, Charlie McConaghy and Stan Sosabowski. Jerry was a member of the Bridge Club and he would attend HMS Daedalus Summer Camp.

In June 1984 Jerry returned to Normandy for the 40th Anniversary of D-Day. Shortly afterwards David Castleton, former editor of the Review and a friend of Jerry's, met him at Ian Fraser House when Jerry told him of his impressions of Sword Beach where he landed with 9th Battalion, Cameronian Scottish Rifles. Here we bring you an extract of David's conversation with Jerry.

Jerry said that his second trip [to Sword Beach] was more enjoyable than the first! Although he had never felt the need to go back before, he said he thought the 40th anniversary seemed an occasion, 'Like going to the Cenotaph, a little appreciation, a little thought for those who didn't come back.'

With his group Jerry visited the beaches and cemeteries on 5th June, the day before the main ceremonies. In the Bayeux Cemetery, just behind where Jerry and his party were standing, was a Polish contingent with their Standard Bearers, 'All the British Standards had been put on parade. Tony Holt, who was our guide, knew a Czech officer with the Polish and he pointed them out to the officer in charge who came and spoke to the Polish chaps. Then Winston Churchill Junior came over and the Polish Standard Bearers were included in the ceremony. I thought this was a nice gesture and well-warranted.

'Most places were taken up between 12 noon and 1pm. We got there just after 1pm. The Queen arrived by helicopter alongside the cemetery and visited the Memorial, where she greeted President Mitterand. They walked up to the Cross of Sacrifice where the service took place. We sang O God our help in ages past, said a few prayers. Just for once in your life you like to give a thought back — you're thankful.

'Bayeux was the first town to be liberated. I went through Caen. It was shattered when I was first there. It's a very nice town now. On Pegasus Bridge I shook hands with Major John Howard, who took the bridge with his glider force. It was a fantastic achievement — you wonder at the courage. Some of them were only 18 or 19. I was 19 when I went over. I was 20 in August and I was hit on September 9th. We were inland in Normandy. I never knew what hit me. Then I was out for a fortnight and didn't know anything at all. Going back was a very moving occasion.'

Ron Freer who met Jerry in 1961 during the Annual Bridge Congress said: "When our two wives were alive we would all enjoy holiday together and I have so many wonderful memories of Jerry. I and others who knew Jerry have lost a great friend. I shall cherish his memory forever."

Speaking of his father, Jerry's son John said: "Some of my earliest memories were at St Dunstan's and I think that went in some way to my having a career in disability services. St Dunstan's, now Blind Veterans UK, was ahead of its time, as it looked at the ability, and not the disability of its members. We as a family are hugely indebted to Blind Veterans UK. It's unique compared to other organisation in the training and care that it delivers.

"Dad's funeral was held at St Dunstan's Chapel at Ovingdean and family members flew in from America, Canada and Spain. At the reception afterwards everyone enjoyed the speech that was made by dad's great friend Ron Freer. Although he hadn't seen us for some time Ron remembered all of us and regaled everyone with tales of his holidays with dad.

"I delivered the eulogy and there were so many poignant memories, but I think for us, one of the strongest related to dad's best friend Ernie who died in 1989. Before he died dad went to see him and Ernie said 'We'll always go on Jerry. We'll always be together.' The day before dad died Ernie's son Robert came to visit him and reminded dad of his words. Dad heard those words and he shed a tear. Robert gave him Ernie's WWII ID tags and they were put into the casket with dad. Dad and Ernie's lives were permanently entwined. I remember how when mum and dad moved to Selsey, Ernie and his wife Vi decided to retire and live in the same village in neighbouring bungalows. At that time St Dunstan's didn't think that was appropriate so mum and dad moved across the road and Ernie and Vi moved into their bungalow!"

John summed his father up when he said: "Dad was once asked if he had any bitterness or regret over losing his sight, his response was 'None at all, I'm a lucky man with a good job, lovely wife and family and good friends, I'm very happy'.

"Dad was a man of compassion, a stoic individual who never complained. When he was offered a guide dog he turned it down saying there were others who needed it more.

"Dad loved music, whether playing or listening, he loved to sing and to dance, ballroom dancing with mum and still dancing in his later years with little Emma on the nursing wing at Blind Veterans UK.

"Another great asset dad had was a wicked sense of humour, he loved to laugh with others and even after being diagnosed with dementia he continued to laugh, sometimes at his own actions on not so good days."

John has allowed us to share stories of his father's from his eulogy.

"Once dad took the dog for a walk over Wimbledon Common but unfortunately lost the Dog and after searching in vain for an hour and a half he reluctantly came home anticipating mum's wrath. She greeted him at the door saying: 'The dogs been home for an hour you silly old fool and I've given her your tea.'

"Another occasion was after mum had died and dad was living on his own with the onset of dementia. Dad liked his routine and having things to do around the house, one of which was feeding the fish in the pond out the back after he'd had breakfast and cleared away the dishes. I popped out to the pharmacy quickly to collect some medicine for dad and on my return the car outside was smothered in fish food, I went in and asked dad if he'd fed the fish that morning and he responded 'Yes, they were really hungry so I gave them the lot.'

"Another time the front door alarm woke me at 2am and I dashed out to see dad exiting the property in his shorts with a slipper on one foot and a shoe on the other. I asked him where he was going to which he solemnly informed me 'I'm off to find a jezebel!'

"It wasn't too long after that Dad came to live at Blind Veterans UK, but the fun didn't stop, as one day the staff found him on the floor tinkering under his bed, he told them 'I'm fixing the car so I can go out for a drive tomorrow.'

"And last but certainly not least was his love for mum. Dad never really accepted that she was gone, sometimes she was out and once he was so distressed that staff had to phone my sister in Canada so she could tell dad that mum was over there with her. This was quite difficult to manage but there was one moment that we'll never forget.

"Dad's sisters May and Marge were over from Texas for his 90th birthday party and during our conversation dad told us he was upset that mum hadn't been in to see him. May and Marge told dad that mum couldn't as she was in Heaven now, to which Dad responded 'Yes I know that but that's no excuse for not ringing me.'



**Picture:** Jerry Lynch is surrounded by his family as he celebrated his 90th birthday in the Winter Gardens at the Brighton centre.



**Picture:** Jerry with Emma Newman (right) Emma Stainer (left) and Linda Bryen (front) Health Care Assistants at the Brighton centre.

# John Perfect 1924 to 2015.

On 25th November 2015 John Perfect died in Ovingdean, East Sussex after 68 years as a member of Blind Veterans UK. To mark his life we bring you an article that was written by his late wife Audrey that featured in the Review of December 2012.

Some years ago a little girl of seven was out with her dad flying her kite on Savile Park, a grassy area of Halifax. She had just recalled her kite when a small boy with fair curly hair, who hadn't enjoyed much success with his kite, ran across the grass and jumped up and down on her kite and smashed it to pieces. "I hate you!" she shouted, sobbing, as her Dad bundled her up and took her home. That little girl was me.

Some years passed. WWII came along. The church we attended had to close and we attended one in another part of Halifax. To my horror I found myself in the same Sunday school class as my kite flying enemy. But we had grown up a little and John and I became friends. Eventually John went to university to read Physics and Maths and I went to the Royal School of Music at Tottenham Court Road in London.

John graduated with a 1st Class Honours degree in Physics and I must have played the right notes and not muddled my Beethoven with my Bach because I became an Associate of the Royal School of Music and Baccalaureate of the Academy.

John was sent to the Ministry of Supply, now MoD, as the Navy had a problem, which he had researched and thought he knew the answer to. It was November 1945 and he was right, but the experiment blew up in his face, burnt the fronts off his eyes, and he later became a St Dunstaner.

After a year at Moorfields he met Ian Fraser, we married and off he went to Ovingdean. He was part of the first intake after the Navy gave it back.

John retrained as a Personnel Manager and returned to work with his former employer, The Cosmos Manufacturing Co, with Audrey as his Personal Assistant in the newly amalgamated firm Edison Swan Electrical Co in Sunderland.

Our eldest son became a Commander in Her Majesty's Royal Navy and was escort to John when he had the great honour to be the Standard Bearer, for what was then St Dunstan's, at the Armistice Service in Rottingdean. Our younger son never married, he lives with us, and cares for us, so I suppose we can say they all lived happily ever after.

Our thoughts are with John and Audrey's family.



**Picture:** Audrey and John Perfect, pictured at their 65th wedding anniversary celebrations in September 2011.



**Picture:** John and Audrey outside the Brighton centre in 1946

## **Norman Hopkins 1924 to 2016. By Colin Williamson, Review Contributing Editor.**

There is no disputing the fact that mobile armoured warfare can be a decidedly brutal way to conduct the business of war. Tanks, by their very nature, are a noisy, hot, cramped, claustrophobic and nerve wracking environment to operate in so it takes a particular breed of men who choose to crew these land battleships. One of these men is 91 year old World War Two veteran Norman Hopkins.

Norman was born in the small village of Tonna, near Neath in South Wales in February 1924, the only son of a tinplate worker. He was called up in May 1942 and did his initial tank training at Catterick in Yorkshire before being posted to his unit, the 9th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment where he joined 13 Troop, C Squadron at Halls Place Camp near Charing on the Kent Downs as a wireless operator.

The battalion landed in Normandy on June 21<sup>st</sup> as part of the 31<sup>st</sup> Tank Brigade and had its baptism of fire in the battle for Cheux and the River Odon against German Tiger and Panther tanks, the feared 88 millimetre anti-tank gun and elements of the S.S. infantry who put up such stiff resistance that the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion had to fight hard for every yard gained. The battalion continued to engage the enemy until it reached the important strategic area of Falaise where it helped close the pocket which finally sealed the fate of the German army in Normandy.

From there the fighting continued through France where the battalion was embroiled in the fierce fighting around the heavily fortified city of Le Harve. After successfully clearing the dock area of the city and after a short rest south of Dieppe the battalion moved to Eindhoven in the Netherlands where it was transferred back to 49<sup>th</sup> Division under the command of the Canadian Army and tasked with clearing the waterlogged area up to the River Maas.

On the morning of October 30<sup>th</sup> 1944 the battalion entered the town of Roosendaal where they were greeted by the jubilant inhabitants who had been living under the German jackboot since May 1940. The German Army unit that had occupied the town having fled during the night.

Exactly 50 years later Norman and his wife Mary, along with thirty of his comrades returned to Roosendaal to take part in the celebrations

commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of this small Dutch town and the nearby village of Nispen. Norman said "The hospitality as you may imagine was out of this world. We were wined and dined in superb style. There was little rest however and on the Saturday we were taken to Nispen which back in 1944 was just a small village but it has now been absorbed by Roosendaal. I had stark recollections of this place as my own tank was hit here and the cupola blown off which resulted in the turret being out of action. My friend and tank commander was badly injured and with the help of the rest of the crew we carried him under heavy shelling on an old door to a first aid vehicle parked in this blazing village.

That's how I remember it and here we are now in 1994 walking through this lovely area surrounded by well-wishers and bedecked with banners and bunting. When we entered the church the entire congregation clapped us which I found very moving".

Jump back to 1940 and after a month of refitment, training and rest and recuperation in and around this once picturesque little town the tanks were loaded onto transporters and moved to the area around Maastricht and then, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, into Germany.

February 1945 found C Squadron deployed in Broedersbosch Forest where it came across very stiff resistance. Norman takes up the story. "The squadron's tanks were in staggered formation moving through this heavily wooded area when suddenly there was a violent explosion in our tank and a tremendous flash of flame. We had been hit by a bazooka. I became enveloped in flame as the temperature in the tank rose rapidly. I knew that if I didn't get out now, I would burn to death. I managed to haul myself out of the hatch and drop to the ground. The enemy gunfire was fierce and the noise of battle all around. I got to my feet and staggered around to the rear of the tank thinking that it would offer me some protection. After doing so, I passed out. I knew very little about the next few hours as I drifted in and out of consciousness. I distinctly remember hearing the voice of our troop leader, Lieutenant Lilly, asking me if I was all right and I replied that I couldn't see anything and could barely move. The rest of that terrible night was punctuated with the sound of battle; men groaning, shells exploding and lots of gunfire. I remembered that I still had on me a German Luger pistol and I was worried in case the enemy came across me and found the weapon in my holster. I still don't know what happened to that pistol.



The next period was very hazy in my recollections but events moved fast and I was taken to a first aid post and then flown to England and onto Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury where I spent the next five months. The doctors were baffled by the extent of my injuries and try as I might I couldn't enlighten them to how they came about. Not only was I blind, but I had extensive burns to my body, lots of broken ribs and I had developed pneumonia after one of my shattered ribs had punctured my lung. It wasn't until I made contact with some of my friends in 13 troop that I pieced together what had happened to me. After escaping from the blazing tank and collapsing at the rear, I was half carried, half dragged into some fallen trees and laid down on the branches. My friend who witnessed the whole episode told me that he still has nightmares about what happened next. The tank that had been ahead of us started to reverse and we were directly in its path. My friend tried desperately to drag me out of the way but to no avail, I was too tangled up in the branches and he was unable to free me. The tank, all fifty tons of it, rolled right over me. Luckily for me, the fallen trees took most of the weight and that fact that the ground was soft also helped."

Norman went on to make a full recovery with no permanent disabilities apart from his sight loss and after being discharged from hospital he moved to Church Stretton under the care of St Dunstan's. Norman has fond memories of Church Stretton and eventually, with the help of St. Dunstan's he went on to have a very fulfilling career as a Chartered Physiotherapist working in a hospital and also practising from two rooms in his home which he had converted into treatment rooms.

Norman met his wife Mary at St. David's hospital in Cardiff where they were both employed as physiotherapists and they married in 1950. In the same year Norman became one of the first guide dog owners in Cardiff and in 1991 he became a member of St. Dunstan's Council. 1996 saw Norman elected Chairman of the Cardiff Council of the Institute of the Blind and he is still a volunteer member of the committee of the South Wales Talking Magazine Association. He still attends the 50 year badge holder reunion at Church Stretton and in 2007 he gave the following address.

"Church Stretton is the place where we started the beginning of our fight back into society. There is a very close bond between St Dunstan's and Church Stretton, very close and very dear to our hearts. Since the fifty year badge holder reunions held annually since 2005, we've been able to meet old friends

again and remember the 'old days'. Looking back, I could say that I've had the best years of St Dunstan's. They stepped in after my war time injuries and convalescence at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. I remember receiving the watch and from that time they never left me, St Dunstan's has always been there. The story started at Church Stretton, that wonderful little place that provided us with such comfort and strength. What I'm really trying to say is that despite all of the horrible injuries that one suffers in wartime, by the grace of god and with the help and support of St Dunstan's we can win through and have a happy and fulfilling life".

Many thanks to Norman for allowing us the privilege of hearing his amazing story and many thanks to Susan his daughter for all of the help and information that she provided for this article. Norman still lives in the family home where he and his wife Mary brought up their two children and he is eternally grateful for the help and support that Blind Veterans UK has provided for him and his family ever since he became a member of this amazing charity. He continues to be an active member of his local community proudly displaying to everyone that there is life after sight loss.

This article was included in the Review before Norman's death on 18th January 2016. Our sympathy goes to his family.



**Picture:** 9th Royal Tank Regiment Jock Pearson and Norman Hopkins.



**Picture:** Norman Hopkins and Chief Executive Major General Nick Caplin CB.



**Picture:** Norman Hopkins with fellow member of 9th Royal Tank Regiment Crew 054.

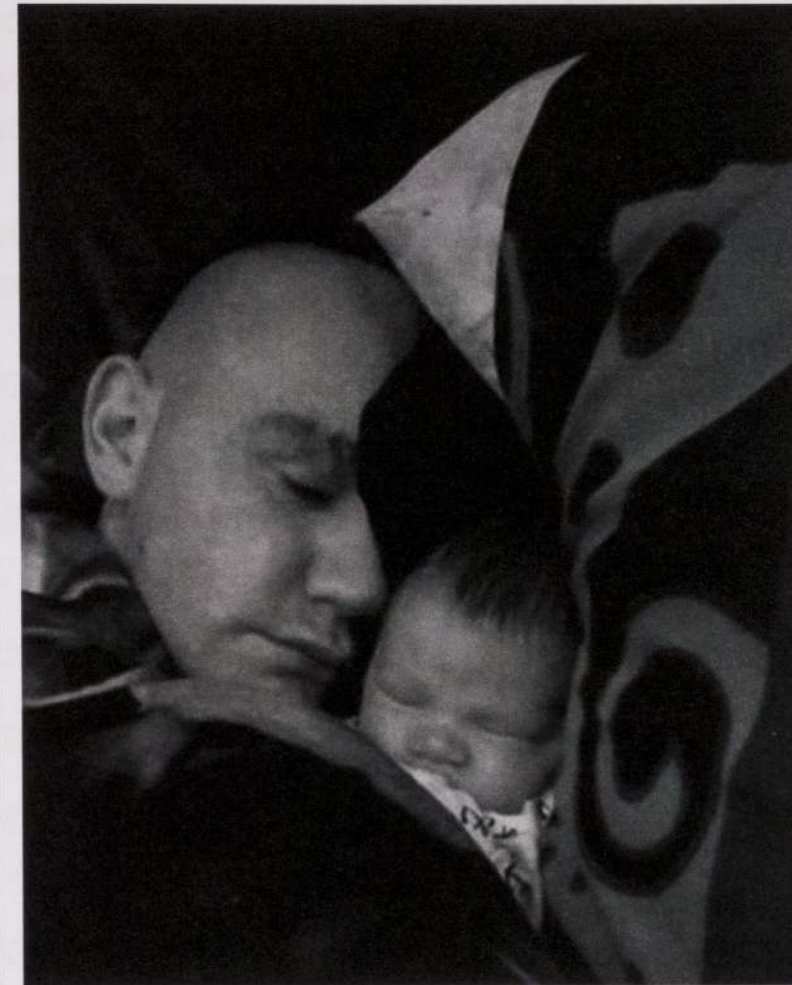


**Picture:** Norman Hopkins with colleagues at St David's Hospital in Cardiff.

## Family News.

### Births:

Congratulations to Shaun Stocker and his fiancée Persia on their birth of their son Theo Jackson Stocker on Christmas Day 2015.



**Picture:** Shaun Stocker with his son Theo Jackson Stocker who was born on Christmas Day to Shaun and Persia.

### Birthdays:

**Margery Lovert** who celebrated her 103rd birthday on 7th December.

**Percy Norton** who celebrated his 102nd birthday on 27th December 2015.

**Percy Wykes** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 4th December 2015.

**John Evans** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 8th December 2015.

**Reg Goodwin** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 27th December 2015.

**Jim Booth** who celebrated his 104th birthday on 23rd January.

**Janet Cruse** who celebrated her 100th birthday on 10th January.

**Eric Stace** who celebrated his 100th birthday on 25th January.  
**Zoe Holman** who celebrated her 100th birthday on 26th January.

**Anniversaries:**

**Diamond Gold (75th):**

**Mary & Cyril Caridia** of Ivybridge, Devon on 4th January.

**Platinum (70th):**

**Norman & Elsie Hayes** of Crawley, West Sussex on 1st December.

**Bill & Mary Shields-Appleton** of Frinton On Sea, Essex on 4th December.

**Ted & Ethel Mawdsley** of Harlow, Essex on 22nd December.

**Blue Sapphire (65th):**

**Tony & Glad Gordon** of Guildford, Surrey on 16th December.

**Walter & Dorothy Forshaw** of Middleton, Manchester on 23rd December.

**Dennis & Jean Crouch** of Mildenhall, Suffolk on 25th December.

**Ned & Audrey Archibold** of Giffard Park, Milton Keynes on 26th December.

**Maurice & Betty Chubb** of Dudley, West Midlands on 6th January.

**Jim & Irene Ayling** of Chichester, West Sussex on 6th January.

**Trevor & Betty France** of Foxton, Cambridge on 8th January.

**Charles & Jean Reagan** of Kirkhamberton, York on 29th January.

**Diamond Yellow (60th):**

**Arthur & Pauline Harvey** of Halesowen, West Midlands on 8th December.

**Ken & Marjorie Davison** of Chesterfield, Derbyshire on 10th December.

**John & Ann Golding** of York, North Yorkshire on 10th December.

**John & Joyce Thorne** of Woking, Surrey on 17th December.

**Don & Rosemary Cox** of Chichester, West Sussex on 24th December.

**Barry & Ena Best** of Wakefield, West Yorkshire on 26th December.

**Michael & Maureen Bruton** of Berkeley, Gloucestershire on 29th December.

**Jim & Joan Coggins** of Hyde, Cheshire on 29th December.

**Peter & Miriam Matthews** of Hertford, Hertfordshire on 31st December.

**John & Jean Wheeler** of Horsham, West Sussex on 31st December.

**Peter & Jo Wagerman** of Hendon, London on 8th January.

**Golden (50th):**

**Matty & Mavis Avery** of Washington, Tyne & Wear on 27th December.

**Martin & Kath Walsh** of Wigan, Lancashire on 27th December.

**Pete & Iris Rolfe** of Daventry, Northamptonshire on 22nd January.

**Ruby (40th):**

**Richard & Sylvia Vickers** of Pulborough, West Sussex on 29th December.

**Pearl (30th):**

**Dennis & Michelle Sarginson** of Scunthorpe, South Humberside on 11th January.

**Silver (25th):**

**William & Norma Gasson** of Burgess Hill, West Sussex on 1st December.

**Ron & Paula Scott** of Mapperley Park, Nottingham on 2nd December.

**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.**

**Cecilia Bloxham** who died on 18th December 2015. She was the wife of John Bloxham.

**Dorothy Cooper** who died on 18th November 2015. She was the widow of the late John Cooper.

**Jane Corke** who died on 15th November 2015. She was the wife of Reginald Corke.

**Daphne Dix** who died on 21st November 2015. She was the wife of John Dix.

**Dorothy Docton** who died on 2nd January 2016. She was the widow of the late Vincent Docton.

**Gwendoline 'Gwen' Hall** who died on 24th November 2015. She was the wife of Henry Hall.

**Pauline Harvey** who died on 13th December 2015. She was the wife of Arthur Harvey.

**Elsa Higgins** who died on 1st June 2015. She was the widow of the late John Higgins.

**Margarette 'Peggy' Hill** who died on 30th November 2015. She was the wife of Robert Hill.

**Maureen Hill** who died on 23rd November 2015. She was the wife of James Hill.

**Georgina 'Georgie' Hobbs** who died on 5th January 2016. She was the wife of Kenneth Hobbs.

**Tessie Knight** who died on 25th November 2015. She was the wife of Douglas Knight.

**Roy Marrable** who died on 9th December 2015. He was the husband of Winifred Marrable.

**Cyril 'George' Mathews** who died on 1st February 2016. He was the husband of Audrey Matthews.

**Marjorie Mills** who died on 23d November 2015. She was the widow of the late Jesse Mills.

**Pearl Milne** who died on 24th October 2015. She was the widow of the late Thomas Milne.

**Teresa Mugan** who died on 19th December 2015. She was the widow of the late Thomas Mugan.

**Patricia Parratt** who died on 6th December 2015. She was the widow of the late Stanley Parratt.

**Rita Prest** who died on 1st May 2015. She was the wife of George Prest.

**Elizabeth Robey** who died on 17th January 2013. She was the widow of the late Brian Robey.

**Bridget Salters** who died on 6th January 2014. She was the widow of the late George Salters.

**Valerie 'Val' Stackhouse** who died on 11th December 2015. She was the wife of Joseph Stackhouse.

**Mary Storey** who died on 11th January 2016. She was the wife of Kenneth Storey.

**Elsie Warren** who died in 2015. She was the widow of the late Sydney Warren.

**Harry West** who died on 17th November 2015. He was the husband of Joan West.

**Gladys 'Joni' Winter** who died on 5th November 2015. She was the wife of George Winter.

# Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

**Mabel Aitchison (nee Griffith)** of Saltdean, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

**John Anderson** of Alnwick, Northumberland served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1955.

**David Bate** of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear served in the Army Catering Corps from 1948 to 1950.

**Menna Bauer** of Pwllheli, Gwynedd served in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps from 1953 to 1956.

**Sir Simon Bland** of Edenbridge, Kent served in the Scots Guards from 1942 to 1978.

**Colin Bromfield** of Coventry served in the Royal Engineers from 1953 to 1955.

**Catherine 'Kitty' Brown (née Wilson)** from Croydon, Surrey served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

**Charles Brown** of Burnley, Lancashire served in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947.

**Kenneth Buffery** of Bristol served in the Royal Artillery from 1945 to 1948.

**Christopher 'Chris' Buxton** of St Helier, Jersey served in the Parachute Regiment, Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport 1958 to 1982.

**John Bye** of Saxmundham, Suffolk served in the Suffolk Regiment from 1951 to 1956.

**John Cole** of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1958 to 1964.

**Timothy Colebrook** of Kingsbridge, Devon served in the Light Infantry, Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Logistics Corps from 1988 to 2004.

**Paul Collins** of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1970 to 1975.

**Ronald Corfield** of Shrewsbury served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**Maud Cottle née Farrell** of Lee On The Solent served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1952 to 1955.

**Walter Czwarkiel** of Tamworth, Staffordshire served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1945 to 1948.

**George 'Tom' Daly** of Stockton On Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Navy from 1970 to 1979.

**Desmond Deans** of Chichester, West Sussex served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the Royal Veterinary Corps from 1942 to 1946.

**Margaret 'Peggy' Dunlop (née Weldrick)** of Edinburgh served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1944 to 1947.

**Vincent Furbey** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and the Devonshire Regiment from 1946 to 1948.

**James Glover** of Haddington, East Lothian served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Dorothy 'Pam' Goodger née Christmas** of Warminster, Wiltshire served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1949.

**Peter Graves** of Bridlington, North Humberside served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Corps from 1972 to 2016.

**Anthony Green** of Steyning, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

**Henry Grundy** of Bootle, Merseyside served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1949 to 1954.

**Alan Harrison** of Midhurst, West Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

**Joan Harrison** of Hayling Island, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1946.

**John Hazell** of Coventry, West Midlands served in the Royal Navy Air Service and the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1948.

**William 'Alan' Head** of Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1954.

**Ian Henderson** of Prudhoe, Northumberland served in the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1960 to 1978.

**Tudor Holland** of Bagillt, Clwyd served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1947 to 1949.

**Derek Huckle** of Leatherhead, Surrey served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1957.

**Stanley 'Stan' Hunt** of Darlington, County Durham served in the Royal Signals and the Royal Engineers from 1948 to 1964.

**George Hutcheson** of Inverness served in the Highland Brigade and the Army Catering Corps from 1959 to 1966.

**Jack Ibbotson** of Barnsley, South Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947.

**Peter Jackson** of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

**Derek Kemp** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1958 to 1967.

**Raymond Kidd** of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1949.

**Eric Knott** of Leigh On Sea, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

**John Lancum** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

**Dennis Lawrence** of Sidcup, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1948 to 1953.

**John Lawrence** of Burnley, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1951 to 1953.

**Derek McConnell** of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1948 to 1949.

**Geoffrey Moss** of Woodbridge, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1959 to 1961.

**Frederick Nancollas** of Littlehampton, West Sussex served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1948.

**Bryan Naylor** of Chiswick, London served in the Royal Navy from 1959 to 1998.

**John Nicol** of Llandudno, Gwynedd served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1955 to 1958.

**Naz Niner** of Wantage, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Logistic Corps from 1988 to 2005.

**Keith Ott** of Southampton served in the Royal Engineers from 1944 to 1948.

**Michael Pattison** of Houghton Le Spring, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Navy from 1956 to 1978.

**Edward Perry** from Poole, Dorset served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1973 to 1995.

**Arthur Phillips** of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan served in the South Wales Borderers from 1954 to 1959.

**Archibald 'Arch' Redman** of Warminster, Wiltshire served in the Royal Sussex Regiment and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1952 to 1954.

**George 'Gordon' Richards** of East Cowes, Isle of Wight served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

**Joseph Riley** of Widnes, Cheshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1950 to 1955.

**Frederick Rowley** of Beverley, North Humberside served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

**David Smith** of Atherstone, Warwickshire served in the Royal Pioneer Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1971 to 1986.

**Gerard Smith** of Liverpool served in the Royal Artillery and the Lancastrian Brigade from 1951 to 1956.

**Frank Southwell** of Aldershot, Hampshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1947.

**Nora Spence** of Stanley, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1944.

**John Spurgin** of Leigh On Sea, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1946.

**Sydney Tapp** of Hassocks, West Sussex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1949 to 1954.

**Peter Thomas** of Wokingham, Berkshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1943 to 1947.

**Terence Thomas** of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Artillery from 1952 to 1958.

**Frank Thorn** of Bournemouth, Dorset served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950.

**Donald Thorne** of Looe, Cornwall served in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1972.

**Kenneth Towsey** of Dagenham, Essex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1953.

**Roy Trezies** of Bracknell, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

**Frank Walden** of Clacton On Sea, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

**Norman Walker** of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Royal Signals from 1948 to 1953.

**Peter Welham** of Swindon served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1956.

**Peter Wilkinson** of Leigh On Sea, Essex served in the Royal Navy from 1938 to 1953.

**Henry Wilson** of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

# In Memory.

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

**Leonard Andrews** of Luton, Bedfordshire died on 13th November 2015, aged 92. He served in the Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers from 1943 to 1947 when he was posted in England, Scotland and Burma.

**Frank Aplin** of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire died on 6th November 2015, aged 91. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942 and was transferred to the Royal Artillery serving in Western Europe. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1947.

**Kathleen 'Kath' Beard** of Newhaven, East Sussex died on 23rd November 2015, aged 92. She joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1941. Stationed in the UK she was a teleprinter operator before discharge as a Leading Aircraftwoman in 1945.

**Gordon Bennett** of Houghton Le Spring, Tyne and Wear died on 25th November 2015, aged 89. He joined the General Service Corps in October 1944, transferring to the Royal Engineers a month later. He served in India, Japan and Malaya prior to discharge as a Corporal in 1948.

**Joan Bronsdon née Mizen** of Salisbury, Wiltshire died on 15th December 2015, aged 95. She enlisted into the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1941 and served as a Wireless Operator at Cheadle and Dunstable. She was discharged as a Sergeant in 1945.

**John Bruscini** of Palmers Green, London died on 10th January 2015, aged 81. He joined the Irish Fusiliers for National Service in 1951. After service in the UK and the Suez Canal Zone he was discharged as a Fusilier in 1953 but continued with part-time National Service until 1957.

**William Butcher** of Ross On Wye, Herefordshire died on 15th October 2015, aged 89. He served in the Royal Navy in 1944, training at HMS Royal Arthur, before transferring to HMS Ganges to learn seamanship skills.

**Ried Butler** of Derby, Derbyshire died on 3rd November 2015, aged 64. He joined the Royal Signals (TA) in 1973 and he enjoyed his service immensely as a member of the Derby Unit, leaving in 1977.

**Ivor Canterbury** of Barry, South Glamorgan died on 11th November 2015, aged 82. He served in the Royal Artillery in February 1952. He continued with part-time National Service in England and Wales until 1957.

**William Carrick** of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 1st November 2015, aged 94. Joining the Royal Navy in 1941 during his service saw duty in the Far East and on North Atlantic convoys. He also served in the Mediterranean and was involved with the D-Day landings. He was demobilised in 1946 as an Able Seaman.

**Ross Chisholm** of Haslemere, Surrey died on 25th November 2015, aged 93. He enlisted in the Canadian Navy in 1942 as an Ordinary Coder. He served on HMCS Huskey and HMCS Kamloops completing ten North Atlantic crossings. He also fought in the Far East on an Armed Merchant ship right up until VJ day. He was discharged in 1945 as a Leading Telegraphist.

**Peter Coleman** of Norwich, Norfolk died on 19th December 2015, aged 94. He joined the Rifle Brigade in 1939. He was stationed around England, including Lowestoft and then went to Egypt. He transferred to the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers in 1942 and joined the Army Education Corps in 1944. He was discharged in 1946 as a Sergeant.

**William Conway** of Richmond, North Yorkshire died on 6th November 2015, aged 81. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1952 and serving in the UK. He was discharged as an Aircraftman Second Class in 1953.

**George Copeland** of Hastings, East Sussex died on 1st November 2015, aged 88. He joined the Royal Navy in 1944 and served on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific until 1948 when he was discharged as an Able Seaman.

**John 'Ian' Crawford** of Paisley, Renfrewshire died on 3rd April 2015, aged 64. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (TA) in 1975 and did his basic training in Surrey. He was discharged as a Private in 1977.

**Roy Crawford** of Bramwell, Stockport died on 15th June 2015, aged 79. He joined the Royal Air Force for National Service in 1953 and served initially as a Squadron storeman at RAF Valley in Anglesey. He subsequently did electrical engineering. Extending his service he was discharged in 1956.

**John Dart** of Swindon, Wiltshire died on 4th November 2015, aged 88. He joined the General Service Corps in February 1945, transferring to the Wiltshire Regiment in March. He then transferred to the Army Catering Corps in May 1946, serving in Northern Ireland and Germany. Discharged as a Private in 1948 he served as a Lance Corporal with the TA (Army Catering Corps and Royal Signals) from 1957 to 1967.

**Stanley Davidson** of Beaworthy, Devon died on 18th September 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Marines in 1943 and served in Sri Lanka and Singapore before his discharge as a Corporal in 1946. He enrolled in the Royal Fleet Reserves in 1948, remaining until 1957.

**Richard Davies** of Scunthorpe, South Humberside died on 24th November 2015, aged 96. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps on 1st February 1939, and fought with the BEF in France. He was evacuated from Dunkirk having swum two miles out to reach an allied rescue boat. He later served in North Africa and was discharged as a Quartermaster Sergeant on 6 Feb 1946. He remained deeply affected by the war and the treatment of the BEF in France.

**Kenneth Dean** of St Helens, Merseyside died on 16th November 2015, aged 88. Following a month's training in the General Service Corps he joined the Royal Engineers in March 1945 and was posted to the Middle East. He was discharged as a Sapper in 1948.

**John Drummond** of Alloa, Clackmannanshire died on 5th November 2015, aged 95. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and was sent to India, followed by Rhodesia where he trained as an air gunner. He was sent briefly to Cape Town and was then involved with guarding German PoWs en route to America by ship. He was posted back to the UK, serving in Harrogate and RAF Mildenhall. He was discharged as a Warrant Officer in 1946.

**Frederick Edwards** of Deeside, Clwyd died on 1st November 2015, aged 99. He served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1941, transferring to the Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1943. He served in the UK, Suez Canal, India and Burma. He was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1946.

**Victor Edwards** of Newton Flotman, Norwich died on 22nd November 2015, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and trained as an Aircraft Mechanic with the Fleet Air Arm, specialising in electronics and electrical work. He served in HMS Indefatigable in the Far East and then in Brisbane, working with Spitfires and Barracudas. He returned to UK and was discharged in 1946.

**Robert Elliot** of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire died on 29th November 2015, aged 90. He served with the 14th/20th Hussars (Royal Armoured Corps) in Scotland in 1949.

**Allwyn Evans** of Southam, Warwickshire died on 1st December 2015, aged 67. He joined the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters in 1964 and served in Cyprus, Berlin, Gibraltar and Northern Ireland. He was awarded the General Service Medal for his four tours in Northern Ireland and the UN Medal for his time in Cyprus. He was discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1974.

**Lilian Evans** of Poulton Le Flyde, Lancashire died on 6th May 2015, aged 92. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941 and trained as a Clerk. Having served in the UK and Brussels she was discharged as a Private in 1945.

**Charles 'Charlie' Ewen** of East Kilbride, Glasgow died on 14th November 2015, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and specialised in Radio before transferring to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a radar specialist in 1942. He then worked for searchlight units before moving to London to work with heavy Ack-Ack units. He transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers that year maintaining radar equipment and remained with them until the end of the war. He was demobilised in 1946.

**John Finch** of Preston, Lancashire died on 25th October 2015, aged 95. He joined the East Lancashire Regiment in 1940 and served in the UK and Italy before discharge as a Gunner in 1946.

**Harold Firth** of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died on 28th November 2015, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1945 and served in Singapore with the RAF Police until discharge as a Corporal in 1948.

**Clifford 'Cliff' Ford** of Brighton, East Sussex died on 24th November 2015, aged 92. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946 in the UK and Australia, discharged as a Corporal.

**Russell Ford** of Exeter, Devon died on 1st November 2015, aged 79. He joined the Dorset Regiment for National Service in 1954 and was posted to Korea and Hong Kong. Discharged in 1956 he remained on part time National Service until 1959.

**Bernard Gardner** of Lancing, West Sussex died on 9th December 2015, aged 86. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for National Service in 1947 and served in Eritrea until 1949.



**Kenneth 'Ken' Goldsmith** of Worthing, West Sussex died on 8th December 2015, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943. He embarked for Durban but ended up in Mombasa. He then sailed to Ceylon and India on AMV Chitral and later joined HMS Quilliam, a D4 destroyer, sailing the Pacific via Australia. He was discharged as a Signaller in 1946.

**Joshua Goodlad** of Sheffield died on 9th December 2015, aged 89. He served in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1945 to 1953, discharging as a Lance Corporal.

**Derek Hall** of Minehead, Somerset died on 9th November 2015, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force and completed his basic training but then transferred to the Army, joining the Buffs in 1944. He later transferred to the Pioneer Corps in 1946 and served in Liverpool and Ireland. He was discharged as a Trooper in 1947.

**Norman Harrison** of Clitheroe, Lancashire died on 11th November 2015, aged 89. He joined the General Service Corps in Apr 1944 training as a Driver before transferring to the Royal Army Service Corps in August that year. He was deployed to Italy, moving from Naples to Venice in a motor boat unit but returned to Naples where he crewed the Commander in Chief's launch. He was discharged in 1948.

**Eva Haworth** of Burnley, Lancashire died on 15th November 2015, aged 90. She volunteered to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943, trained in the North of England and was posted to Lee Road Camp in Gainsborough on general duties before being discharged in 1945.

**Ann Herod** of Ovingdean, West Sussex died on 2nd December 2015, aged 91. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943 when she was billeted at Chalkwell-on-Sea, working at the barracks at Shoeburyness. Her job finished on D-Day as by this time she was married and pregnant. She was discharged in 1944.

**Roy Heginbotham** of Southport, Merseyside died on 6th October 2015, aged 93. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1942 serving on North Atlantic convoys and a Malta convoy, in which his ship was torpedoed on 12th August 1942. He was discharged as a Chief Radio Officer in 1946.

**William Hill** of Welshpool, Powys died on 29th November 2015, aged 97. He joined the Royal Signals in 1939 and deployed to Belgium as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was evacuated through Dunkirk. Later after D-Day he went to France and then on to Germany before being discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

**Leonard Hobbs** of Waterlooville, Hampshire died on 18th December 2015, aged 95. Initially in a reserved occupation he Served with the Royal Air Force from 1942. He joined the RAF(VR) and was sent to Southern Rhodesia and later South Africa where he qualified as a pilot. He then trained for Coastal Command. He returned to the UK and joined Coastal Command flying Warwicks (a modified Wellington), on anti-submarine work. He was demobilised as a Flight Sergeant in 1946.

**George Hocknell** of Chester, Cheshire died on 1st June 2015, aged 97. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1939 and served in the Middle East and Italy with the 8th Army. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

**Francis 'Ken' Horner** of Blackpool, Lancashire died on 23rd November 2015, aged 93. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and trained at Devonport in gunnery. He served on RMS Mooltan, an armed merchant ship, on convoy duties in the North Atlantic. He was demobilised as an Able Seaman in 1946.

**James Howard** of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 1st November 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and specialised as an air mechanic in the Fleet Air Arm serving in Australia and the USA prior to discharge as an Air Mechanic 1st Class in 1946.

**Hugh Hughes** of Great Lever, Bolton died on 4th December 2015, aged 98. He enlisted in the Liverpool Scottish Regiment in 1940. He specialised as a mortar number and spent his service in the UK until D-Day when he landed on Sword beach in Normandy. He moved through France, Belgium, Holland and finally Hamburg in Germany. He was discharged as a Private in 1946.

**Thomas Hyslop** of Devizes, Wiltshire died on 5th November 2015, aged 94. He joined the Scots Guards in 1939. Serving in the Home Counties and France he lost his right eye to a German sniper bullet just after D-Day in Normandy on 6th August 1944. He was discharged in October 1944 as a Sergeant.

**David Jenkins** of Worthing, Sussex died on 23rd November 2015, aged 90. He was a member of the RNVR whilst at school. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and carried out his initial training at HMS Royal Arthur at Skegness. He went to

a variety of training establishments and became a Midshipman in 1945 and a Sub-Lieutenant later in the year. He served in the UK and the Far East.

**Joyce Johns** of Ovingdean, West Sussex died on 3rd January 2016, aged 89. She joined the Royal Navy in 1951 as part of the Voluntary Aid Detachment. She served at RN Hospitals in Chatham and Hong Kong. She was discharged as a Senior VAD Nursing Member in 1955.

**Marie Jones** of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd died on 1st February 2014, aged 90. She enlisted into the Women's Royal Air Force in 1941. She served in the UK but was posted to Germany towards the end of the war and discharged as a Leading Aircraftwoman in 1946.

**Henry Kavanagh** of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 11th November 2015, aged 89. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1944 and served in Italy in 1945 and Palestine from 1946-47 before discharge in an Electrician.

**John King** of Skelmersdale, Lancashire died on 15th December 2015, aged 93. He joined the Irish Guards in 1940 and served in North Africa where he was injured during a German Stuka Dive Bomber attack. He was discharged from the regular Army as a Lance Corporal in 1946 but stayed on in the TA 1951.

**Robert Lord** of Burnley, Lancashire died on 16th October 2015, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and Blackpool, and was posted to 221 Squadron at Denham. After service in Ireland, Iceland and the Middle East he spent three years in the desert at Gambut in Libya and then served in Egypt before discharge as an Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

**Horace Male** of Kingswinford, West Midlands died on 18th November 2015, aged 84. He was called up in 1949 for National Service and spent two years in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He was employed in an ammunition supply depot at Corsham supplying the troops in Korea before being demobbed as a Private in 1964.

**William 'Bill' Monck** of Hexham, Northumberland died on 1st December 2015, aged 85. He joined the Royal Navy in 1948 and qualified in the stores branch. He served in various naval air stations including Seahawk, Merlin and Goldcrest. He also served in the frigate HMS Wild Goose before discharge as a Petty Officer in 1955.

**Joseph Munroe** of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear died on 26th November 2015, aged 102. He enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1940 and was posted to Bomber Command in Norfolk working on Wellington and Lancaster bombers prior to a posting near East London in Queenstown, South Africa. He returned to the UK before discharge as a Corporal in 1945.

**William Mooney** of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 1st February 2014, aged 90. He served with the Royal Marines from 1942, where he served in Malta and the South Pacific. He was discharged as a Marine in 1946.

**Wilfred Morgan** of Kidlington, Oxfordshire died on 14th December 2015, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, training as an electrician. He worked on various aircraft at stations across the UK before discharge in 1945.

**John Morrish** of Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on 3rd December 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and trained as a pilot at 4 British Flying Training School in Arizona, USA and served at Bomber Command stations in Lincolnshire Discharged as an Acting Corporal in 1947.

**Sarah 'Gillian' Mulholland née Walker** of Largs, Ayrshire died on 13th December 2015, aged 91. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in May 1942, trained as a radar operator and was posted to Lincolnshire radar stations. She was discharged in 1946, leaving as an Aircraftwoman First Class.

**Leslie Murray** of Holywell, Clwyd died on 21st December 2015, aged 75. He served in the Queen's Own Highlanders from 1960 to 1964 in the UK, Singapore and Brunei.

**William Newton** of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 10th June 2015, aged 97. He volunteered for the Royal Air Force but later joined the Royal Signals in 1940. He was commissioned in 1942 and sent to East Africa with the King's African Regiment where he remained throughout the war. He transferred to the Worcester Regiment before discharge as a Captain in 1946. He was a member of the Royal Artillery (TA), joining in 1952 and later transferring to the Intelligence Corps; he retired in April 1961 as a Major before moving to the RAFVR as a Flight Lieutenant.

**Gordon Oatley** of Stockport, Cheshire died on 28th December 2015, aged 97. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939. After serving in North Africa, Sicily and Italy he was discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1946. Commissioned in the Royal

Engineers Reserve in 1952 he later took part in the Suez Canal campaign and was discharged as a Captain in 1973.

**Tom Owen** of Alcester, Warwickshire died in 2015, aged 96. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1939, trained at Aldershot and Crookham and was posted to France before Dunkirk. He subsequently served in North Africa with the 8th Army and took part in the invasion of Italy, but on the East coast. He returned for D-Day and then went to the Baltic before his discharge as a Sergeant in 1946.

**John 'Ranyl' Parry** of Ipswich, Suffolk died on 9th November 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy as an Instructor Officer in 1952 later based at HMS Ganges where he trained new entry junior seamen. He then successfully completing the Commando course with the Royal Marines at Lympstone, Devon and joined 45 Commando and subsequently trained apprentices at HMS Fisgard, Torpoint. He served in the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle in the Far East and returned to HMS Ganges for his final appointment, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander in 1973.

**Harold Pearce** of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 13th November 2015, aged 97. In 1939 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving as a Field Ambulancer in London. He then went to a field hospital in Elstree. In July 1942 he transferred to the Army Catering Corps, working in the hospital kitchens. He was discharged in 1946.

**Ann Pollard** of Beverley, North Humberside died on 9th December 2015, aged 95. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1939 and was attached to several corps and HQs in North Africa, Italy and Singapore. Discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1949 she had enjoyed life abroad and joined the Colonial Service after the war. She was posted to East Africa and remained until retirement in her 60s, returning to the UK to live near her family in Yorkshire.

**Barbara Poole** of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire died on 31st December 2014, aged 89. She volunteered for the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1944 and served at Lossiemouth in Scotland. She was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

**Jean Potter** of Swanley, Kent died on 1st October 2015, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1944. He moved to the Indian Ocean onboard HMS Courageous, a battle cruiser converted to an aircraft carrier. He was demobilised as a Leading Supply Assistant in 1946.

**John Ranger** of Eastbourne, East Sussex died on 19th November 2015, aged 92. He joined the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1942, transferring to the Border Regiment (Glider Regiment) in 1943 he served in North Africa, Italy, Sicily, Norway and Holland (at Arnhem he swam the river to escape capture) and was discharged as a Private in 1947.

**Gordon Rowlands** of Seaford, East Sussex died on 7th December 2015, aged 86. He joined the Royal Engineers for National Service in 1947, where he served in the UK as a basic training officer. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1949.

**Frederick Rowley** of Beverley, North Humberside died on 21st November 2015, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and was posted to Reading, Camberley, France, Holland, and India. He was Mentioned in Dispatches for his role in an ammunition explosion. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1947.

**James Sabourin** of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on 9th December 2015, aged 95. He served with the Royal Air Force from 1936 to 1969. During the war he was on flying duties and flew in Burma, India, Canada, UK, France and Germany. He retired as a Navigator.

**Nicholas 'Nicki' Salt (née Clarke)** of Warminster, Wiltshire died on 2nd December 2015, aged 94. She enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1942. Serving in various military hospitals throughout the war, she was a private on her discharge in 1945.

**Edward Shaw** of Glasgow died on 1st December 2015, aged 87. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1946 for National Service and served in the Middle East until 1948. He then joined the Royal Navy in 1948 and served in the Far East and Mediterranean as a Leading Stores Assistant until 1968.

**George Simpson** of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear died on 11th December 2015, aged 93. He joined the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1945 and served in a variety of locations around the UK. He was involved with the tidying up of various military installations at the end of the war and was discharged as a Private in 1948.

**Robert 'Bob' Simpson** of Bingham, Nottingham died on 26th November 2015, aged 80. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1953 and serving in the UK as a fighter plotter and later remustered as a General Duties clerk. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1956.

**Godfrey 'Tom' Skinner** of Bathwick, Bath died on 8th September 2015, aged 84. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps for National Service in 1949 and served in the UK as a driver until 1951.

**Barbara Smith née Wright** of Preston, Lancashire died on 23rd December 2015, aged 91. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943 and carried out her initial training at Oswestry. She then trained to become a telephonist/plotter and worked with an artillery anti-aircraft unit in Gosport. She later moved to Croydon and thereafter to Preston where she was discharged in 1946.

**John 'Scott' Snodgrass** of Omagh, County Tyrone died on 2nd January 2016, aged 84. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1950 and served in the Far East, Malaya, Hong Kong and Singapore. He was in Berlin for six years. He transferred to the UDR on 13 June 1975 and was eventually discharged as a WOII in 1983.

**Dewi Thomas** of Cardiff died on 28th December 2015, aged 90. Having been in the ATC he volunteered to join the Royal Air Force in 1942 and was called up in 1943. He served in a variety of RAF stations across the UK including RAF Cranwell in 1944 where he became a Sergeant (Signaller) and then a PT Instructor before discharge 1947.

**Harold Thomas** of Denbigh, Clwyd died on 1st July 2015, aged 89. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1943 and landed at Normandy on D+2. He fought his way through to Holland where he was injured, suffering a bullet wound in the head. He was hospitalised in a school in Holland and was discharged in May 1947.

**Donald Varley** of Preston, Lancashire died on 11th December 2015, aged 94. He served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery from April 1939 to August 1946. He served in London during the Blitz on anti-aircraft guns and later became a radar operator. In 1941 he served in Haifa, Israel, Egypt and Tunisia. He took part in the invasion of Sicily and then on into Italy. He was repatriated in 1945 and was briefly attached to the Pay Corps.

**Ronald Wildman** of Cullompton, Devon died on 31st October 2015, aged 80. He joined the Royal Signals in 1953 and served in Korea and Japan. He was discharged as a Private in 1956.

**Colin Whitehead** of Selby, North Yorkshire died on 27th December 2015, aged 94. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1939. He trained at Norbury Hall in Sheffield and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942. He was deployed to the Gold Coast for around 15 months. Later posted to Italy he was discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

**Herbert Wilkinson** of Chiswick, West London died on 6th January 2016, aged 95. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942, where he served in India and Burma in a mobile signals unit. He was discharged in 1946.

**Irene Wilkinson** of Huddersfield died on 15th November 2015, aged 97. She joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1941 and trained at Bridlington where she ran the clothing store. She was promoted quickly and posted to Bridgnorth, Cheshire with Barrage Balloon Command on the Mersey. Postings at Hull, Oban and RAF Leuchars, all with Coastal Command, followed and she was discharged as a Corporal in 1945.

**Terence Williamson** of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 1st November 2015, aged 81. He joined the Royal Air Force for National Service in 1952 and after training at RAF Padgate he became a fighter controller with Phantom squadrons, serving at RAF Neatishead. He was discharged as a Senior Aircraftman in 1954.

**Mary Windsor** of Southampton died on 26th November 2015, aged 79. She joined the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in 1960 starting as a Lieutenant. She left in 1982 as a Major having served in Cyprus, Germany and the UK.

**Anthony Wright** of Crawley, West Sussex died on 26th November 2015, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy as a Stoker Mechanic in 1947 and trained at HMS Raleigh on diesel engines. He served in survey ships and later in the reserve fleet before going in a minesweeper to Singapore. He was returned to the reserve fleet and discharged in 1954.

**Carol Wrightson (née Barnes)** of Exeter, Devon died on 29th November 2015, aged 91. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941. She trained at Lancaster Barracks and specialised as a radio interceptor based initially at Trowbridge and later at Bean Manor, Leicestershire. She also served at Quorn, Loughborough and Keddlestone before discharge as a Corporal in 1944.

