

May 2016

Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



On the cover: Blind veteran Ken Facal accepts The Ted Higgs Trophy from Valerie Shannon-Higgs at the 2016 Founder's Day Awards Ceremony from St Dunstan's Chapel at the Brighton centre

Back page: Blind veteran Shaun Stocker accepts the Outstanding Achievement Award from Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB at the 2016 Founder's Day Awards Ceremony.



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Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

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Contact telephone numbers.

The Brighton centre 01273 307811.

The Llandudno centre 01492 868700.

The Sheffield centre 0114 2672550.

The Booking Office for the Brighton and Sheffield centres: To book accommodation at the Brighton and Sheffield centres telephone the Booking Office on 01273 391500. If you have care needs please first contact your Welfare Officer.

The Booking Office for the Llandudno centre: To book accommodation at the Llandudno centre please telephone 01492 868700. If you have care needs please first contact your Welfare Officer.

ROVI IT Helpline: If you need to speak with the ROVI IT Helpdesk please telephone: 01273 391447 for ROVI and IT enquiries.

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.

Blind Veterans UK Calendar

Activities from the Brighton centre.

May.

Photography Week 1st to 7th. Adrenaline Weekend 6th to 9th.
Archery Club 29th May to 4th June.

June.

Gardening Week 5th to 11th. Ex POW Week 19th to 25th.

July/August.

Widows/Ladies Week 17th to 23rd July.
Transport Week 31st July to 6th August.

Activities from the Llandudno centre.

May.

Coarse Fishing Week 9th to 13th.

June.

Adventure Week 6th to 10th. Potting & Planting Week 13th to 17th.
Water Week 20th to 24th.

July.

Music Week 4th to 8th July. Archery Week 11th to 15th July.
Recreation Taster Week 18th to 22nd July.

Activities from the Sheffield centre.

July.

Culture Week 18th to 22nd.

August.

Gardens Week 8th to 12th.

August/September.

Younger Week 30th August to 2nd September.

To book Themed and Club Weeks at the Brighton and Sheffield centres.

For further information and to book your place telephone the Booking Office on 01273 391500. If you have care needs please speak with your Welfare Officer.

To book Themed and Club Weeks at the Llandudno centre:

For further information or to book your place please telephone: 01492 868741 or 01492 868740.

From the Chairman.

Your message from Tim Davis.

In this edition of the Review we celebrate Founder's Day as we recognise the achievements of blind veterans for the talents they have developed and for staff members who have made an exemplary contribution to the organisation and the work that it does. It is a constant reminder to me of the example that so many set in pushing the boundaries of endeavour for the betterment of others, or in overcoming the personal challenges in life we face.

In this very busy world we live in, recognising these achievements acts to remind us all of what can be achieved by individuals from very different circumstances and walks of life. It also provides the inspiration to consider what we can all do to break down barriers and selflessly help others to succeed.

It is this spirit that I believe is so important to the 'family of Blind Veterans UK' to help our members achieve Victory Over Blindness. I encourage you all to read about the achievements outlined in this edition, and pause to reflect. I find these stories encourage me to double my efforts to find ways to help others. Whenever facing challenges in my own life, these stories also help put my own in their proper context, and provide encouragement to think creatively about how they can be overcome. I hope they do the same for you all.

Two blind veterans are set to feature in the world's media in May. They are Mark Abel who will take part in swimming events in this year's Invictus Games in Orlando, Florida. Another member of our charity will also take part in the Invictus Games, although not in a sporting role. We will bring you news of their success in the June edition.

The Review is your magazine, and if you have a story to tell, be it topical news, examples of initiatives you are involved with, or recognition of a relevant event or moment from the past, I encourage you to get in contact with Catherine Goodier (Editor), and share it with her and all of us. Inspiration to others is a wonderful tonic for new ideas and achievement, and a wonderful way to build on the spirit of the organisation we all continue to nurture.

Enjoy the spring and I look forward to meeting many of you through the Reunion lunches, fundraising and other events happening throughout the year.



Picture: The members of Blind Veterans UK staff who won The Chairman's Commendation Award at this year's Founder's Day proudly display their certificates following the ceremony in St Dunstan's Chapel at the Brighton centre.

From left to right they are: Jacky Alden Grants Administrator, Lisa Hollick Financial Accountant and Data Analyst, Joanna Tann Volunteering Development Officer (Llandudno), Rachel Chitty Regional Fundraiser (Brighton), Chris Kirk Bookings & Transport Manager (Brighton), Krasimir Ivanov Housekeeping Assistant (Brighton), Peter Finn Welfare Support Officer (Ipswich), Liz Humphrey Senior Grants Administrator.

Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

New bookings system at the Llandudno centre. You asked us for it. We Listened and acted on what you wanted.

You can now book direct to stay at the Llandudno centre.

From 1st May 2016 you can phone the Llandudno centre direct to book holiday stays through the Bookings team at the Llandudno centre. To book direct please telephone the Llandudno centre's reception team on 01492 868700. If you currently book your stays via your Welfare Officer, this will continue to work in the same way. The move has been made as part of a wider change to make services more accessible and avoid confusion. The change will not impact on any booking that has already been made, any planned group bookings or transport arrangements.

Booking.

At present bookings can be made a maximum of six months in advance on the 1st of the month. This has caused some upset with members calling on the 1st only to find that the centre is already full. To improve the situation we are trialling a 'rolling room' release day. Each day rooms will be made available for booking six months in advance. For example, if your pickup day is Monday and you call on the 3rd of May, rooms up to Monday 3rd October would have been made available that day.

Why it has been difficult to book holidays at the Llandudno centre.

One reason it has been difficult to book holidays at the Llandudno centre is that the centre has a maximum of 20 holiday rooms, seven of which are for members who require nursing or care. If a Themed Week or a Club Week is taking place in the centre the number of available rooms further decrease. This has meant that on some weeks there have been fewer than 10 rooms available for holidays. To try and counteract this the Llandudno centre's Bookings team will keep a close watch for any vacancies and will telephone members who are on the waiting list if a vacancy appears.

How do I book a room?

If you would like to book a holiday please contact the Llandudno reception on telephone: 01492 868700 and they will transfer the call to someone who can help you with your enquiry. If the lines are busy the reception staff will take details and a member of the Bookings team will call you once they are free.

How do I book for the Brighton and Sheffield centres?

The booking process for the Brighton and Sheffield centres remains unchanged. The Bookings team based in Brighton will continue to book all types of rooms at the Brighton and Sheffield centres. The telephone number is 01273 391500.

Frequently Asked Questions.

Do I have to book six months in advance?

Bookings can be made a maximum of six months in advance. However, if you would like to enquire about booking a room earlier then you can call to check availability. We will maintain a waiting list and aim to fill any spaces from this waiting list as they become available. If we are unable to offer you a space we will add your name to the waiting list.

When can I book if I do not require Blind Veterans UK transport?

If you do not require Blind Veterans UK transport or are using public transport to access the centre you can book to arrive any day up to a maximum of six months in advance.

What is my Pickup Day?

The day you will be picked up to travel to the Llandudno centre is based on the first letters of your postcode. For reference the following pages show your day of pickup and return.

As an example if your postcode starts with the letters CV you will be picked up on Wednesday and depart on Wednesday.

Postcode.	Arrive Llandudno.	Depart Llandudno.
AL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
B	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
BA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BB	Tuesday.	Monday.
BD	Tuesday.	Monday.
BH	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BL	Monday.	Monday.
BN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
BS	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CA	Tuesday.	Monday.
CB	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CF	Tuesday.	Monday.
CH	Monday.	Monday.
CM	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CO	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CT	Thursday.	Wednesday.
CV	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
CW	Friday.	Friday.
DA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
DE	Friday.	Friday.
DH	Tuesday.	Monday.
DL	Tuesday.	Monday.
DN	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
DT	Thursday.	Wednesday.
DY	Friday.	Friday.
E	Thursday.	Wednesday.
EC	Thursday.	Wednesday.
EN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
EX	Thursday.	Wednesday.
FY	Tuesday.	Monday.
GL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
GU	Thursday.	Wednesday.
HA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
HD	Monday.	Monday.
HG	Tuesday.	Monday.

HP	Thursday.	Wednesday.
HR	Friday.	Friday.
HU	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
HX	Monday.	Monday.
IG	Thursday.	Wednesday.
IP	Thursday.	Wednesday.
KT	Thursday.	Wednesday.
L	Monday.	Monday.
LA	Tuesday.	Monday.
LD	Friday.	Friday.
LE	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
LL	Friday.	Friday.
LN	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
LS	Tuesday.	Monday.
LU	Thursday.	Friday.
M	Monday.	Monday.
ME	Thursday.	Wednesday.
MK	Thursday.	Wednesday.
N	Thursday.	Wednesday.
NE	Tuesday.	Monday.
NG	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
NN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
NP	Tuesday.	Monday.
NR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
NW	Thursday.	Wednesday.
OL	Monday.	Monday.
OX	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PE	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PO	Thursday.	Wednesday.
PR	Tuesday.	Monday.
RG	Thursday.	Wednesday.
RH	Thursday.	Wednesday.
RM	Thursday.	Wednesday.
S	Wednesday.	Wednesday.
SA	Tuesday.	Monday.
SE	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SG	Thursday.	Wednesday.

SK	Friday.	Friday.
SL	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SM	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SO	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SP	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SR	Tuesday.	Monday.
SS	Thursday.	Wednesday.
ST	Friday.	Friday.
SW	Thursday.	Wednesday.
SY	Friday.	Friday.
TA	Thursday.	Wednesday.
TF	Friday.	Friday.
TN	Thursday.	Wednesday.
TQ	Thursday.	Wednesday.
TR	Thursday.	Wednesday.
TS	Tuesday.	Monday.
TW	Thursday.	Wednesday.
UB	Thursday.	Wednesday.
W	Thursday.	Wednesday.
WA	Monday.	Monday.
WC	Thursday.	Thursday.
WD	Thursday.	Wednesday.
WF	Tuesday.	Monday.
WN	Monday.	Monday.
WR	Friday.	Friday.
WS	Friday.	Friday.
WV	Friday.	Friday.
YO	Tuesday.	Monday.

We hope that you will find the new arrangements improve your experience of booking into the Llandudno centre. If you have any queries please contact the Llandudno centre on 01492 868700 and ask to speak to the Bookings team there about the new bookings arrangements.

If you can't read the print try the audio Review.

If you can read this

And if you can read this

But you can't read this

you may need to request the Review in audio or email format. The Review is available on MP3CD, on USB, by email, on Sonata 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.

The Patron's Lunch.

In his letter in the May Review our Chairman, Tim Davis mentioned that you may consider holding a Patron's Lunch to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. If you do please send your photos into the Review as we would dearly love to feature you.

Please email them to revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk If you have any questions please telephone Catherine Goodier, Review editor on 020 7616 8367.

Defence Discount Card.

Veterans and their spouses can apply for a Defence Discount Card to save money on the high street. If you have a computer you can apply online at: www.defencediscountservice.co.uk If you do not have a computer please telephone 01509 233446 to apply.

Touch Tour at the V&A 14th June at 11am.

Curtain Up: Celebrating 40 Years of Theatre in London and New York.

Part of the 40th anniversary of the Olivier Awards, Curtain Up invites you to explore the extraordinary story of the world's two greatest theatrical cities, London's West End and New York's Broadway. A tour that has been designed especially for those who are vision impaired will take place on 14th June from 11am at the V&A Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL.

The tour is free of charge and to reserve your place please telephone the V&A bookings team on 020 7942 2211 or email: bookings.office@vam.ac.uk

Enjoy tea, cake and friendship with Contact the Elderly.

Contact the Elderly is a national charity that has organised afternoon tea parties for older people for over 50 years. One Sunday a month, groups of people aged 75 or over who live alone are taken out to afternoon tea by local volunteers. The tea parties are completely free and they are a brilliant way for older people to enjoy an afternoon out, make friends and enjoy some delicious tea and cake in good company.

Sundays can be particularly long and quiet, which is why Contact the Elderly's Sunday tea parties are perfect for people who may not see friends and family very often, and who may struggle with reduced mobility or other issues.

There is no need to worry about transport as older guests are picked up by their volunteer driver who will take them to the tea party and bring them safely home. The same small group of people meet each month which means that everybody gets to know one another and soon become friends.

Freda, 83, from Bristol said: 'I'm so glad I got in touch with Contact the Elderly. The social contact the tea parties bring has made a big difference to my life. Being around people again has made me feel like my old self.'

Contact the Elderly has groups across England, Scotland and Wales. If you would like to find out where your local group is you can telephone freephone 0800 716 543 or visit www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk/locations



Picture: You too could join a Contact the Elderly tea party where you live.

Veterans Oyster photocard.

If you receive payments under the War Pensions Scheme, or Guaranteed Income Payment under the Armed Forces Compensation Schemes, you may be eligible for concessionary travel. With a Veterans Oyster photocard you can travel free on bus, tube, tram, DLR, London Overground and most National Rail services in London.

You may be eligible for a Veterans Oyster photocard if you are:

In receipt of ongoing payments in your name under the War Pensions Scheme or income payment under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, again in your name. This includes widows, widowers and dependants.

Ongoing payments are awarded to Service personnel who have sustained a certain level of physical or psychological injury in the line of duty. If you received a one-off gratuity payment instead of ongoing payments, then you're not eligible for a Veterans Oyster photocard.

You can also travel on the following National Rail services in London:

Chiltern Railway services between Amersham and Marylebone, West Ruislip and South Ruislip.

Great Northern services between Finsbury Park and King's Cross.

Thameslink services between West Hampstead Thameslink and Elephant & Castle.

London Midland services between Harrow & Wealdstone and Euston.

Greater Anglia services between Stratford and Liverpool Street.

c2c services between Upminster and Fenchurch Street.

You can travel free from 09:30 on weekdays and any time on weekends and public holidays on most other National Rail services in London and services to Dartford and Swanley. Telephone Transport for London on 0343 222 1234 to get an application form.

We celebrate Founder's Day 2016.

"We cannot see the world in which we live, but one thing we will not see, and that is the dark side of our lives."

Those words were spoken by our founder Sir Arthur Pearson Bt CBE (reprinted in St Dunstan's Tenth Anniversary Review in 1925). Today those words still resonate within the family of Blind Veterans UK.

Each year as we celebrate Founder's Day it shows how the vision of this remarkable man continues to change the lives of you, today's blind veterans, and the lives of your families as you embrace his work to gain Victory Over Blindness.

On 31st March Mark Lovatt, Director of Welfare East, acted as MC for the 2016 Founder's Day Awards that were held in St Dunstan's Chapel at the Brighton centre. Opening this important ceremony Mark began by welcoming everyone and quoting Sir Arthur Pearson:

"As this is Founder's Day I wanted to read something that Sir Arthur Pearson wrote in his 1919 autobiography 'With practically no exceptions all the soldiers and sailors of the British Imperial Forces blinded in the war came under my care, in order that they might learn to be blind. The main idea that animated me in establishing this hostel for the blinded soldiers was that the sightless men, after being discharged from hospital, might come into a little world where the things which blind men cannot do were forgotten and where everyone was concerned with what blind men can do. A world where they could learn to be blind.'

"It's a really powerful statement and 101 years since those guiding principles were laid down I'm sure you will recognise them as true and as relevant now as they were then, despite the different times and changes in society.

"The specialist training we have undertaken has stayed the same you will recognise the three As. The first is Acceptance — to accept that you are blind and have sight loss. Next comes Adjustment — to adjust to a new life, one with sight loss. Finally you move on to Achievement — to go on to achieve new goals, and there are a huge variety, learning IT, taking up a sport, participating in Art & Crafts, importantly living independently or perhaps to pursue a dream — and today here at Founder's Day we will celebrate those achievements.

Ken Facal winner of The Ted Higgs's Trophy.

The first award at Founder's Day 2016 was the presentation of The Ted Higgs's Trophy. Introducing this Mark Lovatt said: "Our first award the Ted Higgs Trophy is given to a war blinded veteran in recognition of their achievements. The late Ted Higgs was a member of the charity from 1944 when he lost his sight during the Second World War and I'm sure that he would fully support the award being given to Ken Facal.

"Ken joined the Royal Anglian Regiment in 2004 aged just 17 and he served a tour in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan. It was in Afghanistan in January 2010 that he was badly injured by an IED blast. Ken spent 10 weeks in intensive care and had countless operations and hospital stays. He continues to astound his medical professionals and all who know him will recognise his unique determination and resolve to get on with life and not let his injuries hold him back.

"On discharge from the Army Ken was determined to work and following qualifications as a gym instructor for people with disabilities he began to volunteer in a local council leisure centre. So impressed were the centre's management with Ken that he was quickly offered a contract and he has since risen up the ranks and taken up a duty manager role.

"Ken married Bella in May last year and they both belong to a local Church where Ken is also realising his huge potential as a Church leader. His responsibilities include giving instruction and support to other Church members, to youth groups and to teaching in Sunday School. This commitment to others is typical.

"Throughout his time in Blind Veterans UK Ken has demonstrated an outstanding willingness to assist the charity and he has willingly provided his time to support several charity PR campaigns, including representing us to MPs and to the Mayor of London [Boris Johnson]. In addition Ken is a proactive fundraiser for Blind Veterans UK and for other military charities. I'd like to finish by using some words that were written by Alan Hay, who has been Ken's Welfare Officer since Ken joined the charity.

"Ken has always impressed me with his focus, his commitment to hard work and his incredible ability to overcome any hurdles presented to him. He has a

cheerfulness and humour that has always humbled me.

"A very worthy winner of the Ted Higgs's Award is Ken Facal. We are honoured to have Valerie Shannon-Higgs, Ted's daughter with us today. Valerie is a life-long supporter of our charity and we are honoured that Valerie has agreed to present this award."



Clive Jones winner of The Community Award.

Mark Lovatt continued: "Our second Founder's Day Award is the Community Award that is presented for the best contribution to the local community, or to the family of Blind Veterans UK by a member, spouse, widow or widower of Blind Veterans UK. This year the competition was so strong that we have joint winners and our first is Clive Jones.

"Clive has not allowed the trauma of his sudden sight loss to deter him from living life to the full and amongst other things he has devoted a tremendous amount of personal time and effort to community fundraising. In addition to Blind Veterans UK Clive has raised money for other military charities, for a new club house at his rugby club, for local children's projects and also for the Air Ambulance. To date he has raised in excess of £40,000.

"An inspiration to many in his local community Clive gets support through his highly positive and proactive attitude. His charming, open and humorous personality has meant that he's developed trust and relationships with local businesses who have donated, sponsored and pledged gifts and prizes to make his fundraising events hugely successful. Clive continues with his charitable work by amongst other things running quiz nights, raffles, curry evenings and taking part in sponsored walks. In Sir Arthur's Pearson's spirit Clive is a fundraiser who happens to be blind. He is most certainly not a blind fundraiser."



Picture: Clive Jones accepts The Community Award from our Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB. An interview with Clive will feature in the June edition of the Review.

Irene Howarth winner of The Community Award.

"Our second winner is Irene Howarth whose late husband Tony was a member of the charity for four years from 2010. Together they assisted at several Blind Veterans UK events and in 2012 Irene undertook a sponsored walk with the Plymouth Lions to raise money and publicity for Blind Veterans UK. Latterly Irene has become involved as a Blind Veterans UK volunteer and she regularly assists at Plymouth, Redruth and Sidmouth Lunch Clubs. She takes on an administrative role and helps to ensure that members can attend by picking them up and acting as an escort. Irene also assisted members at a local Not Forgotten event, our centenary cream tea celebration and our Christmas lunch in Exeter. In addition Irene visits two of our members who live in care homes, she supported a war blinded widow and has been extremely helpful in helping one of our younger members and her family.

"Irene also arranged a lunch to introduce two late members of our charity who were then in their 90s and lived in the same town. Importantly when Irene discovered that one of our members had been discharged from hospital without a suitable care package she raised this with her Welfare Officer, resulting in a highly positive outcome for the member. Irene is an excellent team player and without her help and support her Welfare Officer reports that she would not have been able to develop the same quality, or number of events in the community. So please join me in congratulating Irene."



Picture: Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB presents Irene Howarth with her Founder's Day Community Award.

Bernard Parker winner of The Creative Art Award.

Introducing the Founder's Day Creative Art Award Mark Lovatt said: "Some of you may have noticed that when you went into the centre today there is a display of art around the model of the centre. The next award is the Creative Art Award and that represents the work of two people who have each won the award this year, which is also in recognition of a very strong field, it is their art that surrounds the model.

"The Creative Art Award recognises the endeavour of a blind veteran in a creative activity that encompasses art and crafts, culture or music. Our first winner is Bernard Parker who encouraged by the Brighton art and craft scene started to learn to paint just over a year ago, having been told at school that he has no artistic potential. A very modest man, hardworking, easy to get along with, keen to take instruction and to improve, his first paintings were surprisingly good and it soon became apparent that Bernard had talent. But this is not a nomination based on talent alone. Bernard is a winner for the way that he agreed to give painting a go, even though he was uncertain about it. It's also for his hard work, commitment and dedication and for the way he modestly brushes aside compliments and he was genuinely surprised by those compliments because Bernard, by his own admission, thinks that he's no good.

"Bernard's latest achievement is that he is showcasing a set of paintings on The Outside In Online Gallery, a national exhibition for marginalised artists. Bernard has built up an impressive body of work in the last year and all who have worked with him have described how he has worked so hard to learn, practice and hone his talents, to make something he thought he was no good at into something he excels at.

"Bernard is an example to other members, and indeed to us all, and demonstrates that by throwing yourself into something and doing your best you can achieve things that you never believed possible. Bernard Parker is now definitely an artist and a very worthy winner of this Founder's Day Award."

Accepting his award Bernard said in response: "I have several people that I'd like to thank who have helped me during my period of being introduced to art. To my mind I was totally useless at it and the main person who made a difference is David [Bryant] who works in the Art & Craft Workshop here at the Brighton centre. He's very talented, in fact he's very good with sticky tape, he puts sticky

tape on the canvas to outline the tree trunk and I can paint the tree trunk. He's very good at demonstrating that technique and showing you how to do it yourself.

"The next person I would like to thank is Hattie [Lockhart-Smith] who I know is here today as she has helped me tremendously in the Workshop and I thank her very much for everything.

"The third, and not the last by any means, is Louise Partridge, who actually suggested that my pictures be put on the internet. A thing I never dreamt was conceivably possible, and I'm eternally grateful to her for that."



Picture: Blind veteran Bernard Parker accepts The Founder's Day Creative Art Award from our Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB.

Brenda Bryant winner of The Creative Art Award.

Mark Lovatt continued: "Our second winner is Brenda Bryant, a Second World War veteran who went on to become a weaving teacher and travelled for several decades with her husband, teaching many different types of weaving. During this period she also invented several very clever weaving related gadgets. Due to her worsening eyesight Brenda is now unable to weave in a way that she has loved throughout her life. Instead she has taken the time to pass on her knowledge to members and to the instructors here at the Brighton centre so that it will not be forgotten and so that others can benefit from her vast experience and knowledge.

"Brenda is very keen and highly able and regularly makes a variety of items to sell in the Art & Craft shop. In addition over the last year she has contributed extensively by making centenary craft items for the website. These included beautiful and popular felt brooches and silk scarves. Brenda is known for her pleasant good natured manner, her professionalism as a crafter and her quiet and effective way of giving invaluable assistance to the instructors when producing items to sell. It is clear that Brenda is a very worthy winner of our Founder's Day Craft Award, and again you can see some of her work when you walk back into the building."

Accepting her award from our Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB Brenda thanked the instructors at the Brighton centre whom she said were all wonderful to work with.



Picture: Brenda Bryant accepts her Creative Art Award from Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB.

Kelly Ganfield winner of The Sports Person of the Year Award.

Mark Lovatt continued: "The next Founder's Day Award is The Sports Person of the Year Award, which celebrates the blind veteran who has demonstrated an exceptional sporting achievement during the year. The winner of the 2016 Sports Person of the Year Award is Kelly Ganfield. She thoroughly deserves to win this award for her outstanding achievement running the 2015 London Marathon for Blind Veterans UK in a fantastic time of 4 hours 21 minutes. This was achieved despite undergoing a medical procedure that left her in tremendous discomfort. This fortitude has been readily displayed in many sporting and physical activities that Kelly has undertaken with the charity and which also reaffirm why she so thoroughly deserves this prize."

"Kelly also ran the London Marathon in 2014 and she also enjoys the rigours of coastering around the cliffs of Tavistock, camping out on Dartmoor and participating in the Blind Veterans UK 100K walk. For her dignity, courage and determination in the sporting arena please give Kelly a round of applause as she collects her prize."



Collecting her award Kelly moved everyone present with a heartfelt impromptu speech when she said:

"Can I just firstly say thank you very much to Blind Veterans UK who has helped me through many, many things in my life since the loss of part of my vision. I'm not as bad visually as a lot of other members who are here today. I would like my award to go to my Welfare Officer Amanda O'Carroll, as without her help, to be quite honest, I probably wouldn't be here as I wasn't coping with a lot of things in life. I'm sure those of you who also can't see very well have probably been through hard times like myself. So I'd like to say thank you to Amanda O'Carroll."



Picture opposite: Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB and Kelly Ganfield Sports Person of the Year.

Above: Welfare Officer Amanda O'Carroll and Kelly Ganfield proudly display Kelly's Founder's Day Award. Amanda nominated Kelly for The Sports Person of the Year Award. Kelly put her achievements to Amanda's support.

Shaun Stocker winner of The Outstanding Achievement Award.

Mark Lovatt: "The Founder's Day Award for Outstanding Achievement is made to a blind veteran who has achieved an outstanding level of independence by their participation in activities promoted through and by Blind Veterans UK.

"The winner of this year's award is Shaun Stocker. Shaun has made great strides to adjust and adapt to his sight loss and other devastating injuries. He has been quick to use his experiences of the last six years to benefit others, by fundraising and by raising awareness of Blind Veterans UK. In doing so Shaun has demonstrated an outstanding level of independence and a remarkable degree of self-confidence, as well as reminding us all how far blind veterans can come with the support of family, friends and our charity.

"Shaun has used examples of both his personal achievements and difficulties through the story of how he became a blind veteran, his battle to become mobile, his recent operations and ongoing rehabilitation and the recent birth of his son as an opportunity to raise awareness of Blind Veterans UK in the national media. Shaun has inspired others to support our charity by making donations or by following his lead and undertaking their own fundraising activities. Shaun has committed a great deal of his time and personal energy to fundraising activity, giving talks and presentations to local community groups and schools and encouraging local businesses and organisations to support the charity via matched funding, the placement of collection tins and participation in our own events.

"This is done in parallel with his own personal projects, such as property development, ongoing rehabilitation, Stocker's Strides to walk 100K on his new legs between March and July this year, and his new and most important role — that of a dad. Shaun for his undoubted commitment and dogged determination continues to enthuse others to support the Blind Veterans UK cause. His fight and determination is an inspiration and I'm convinced we all recognise Shaun as a highly worthy winner of this award."

We will bring you an interview with Shaun Stocker in the June Review. If you would like to support Stocker's Strides please go to website:

www.justgiving.com/shaunstocker



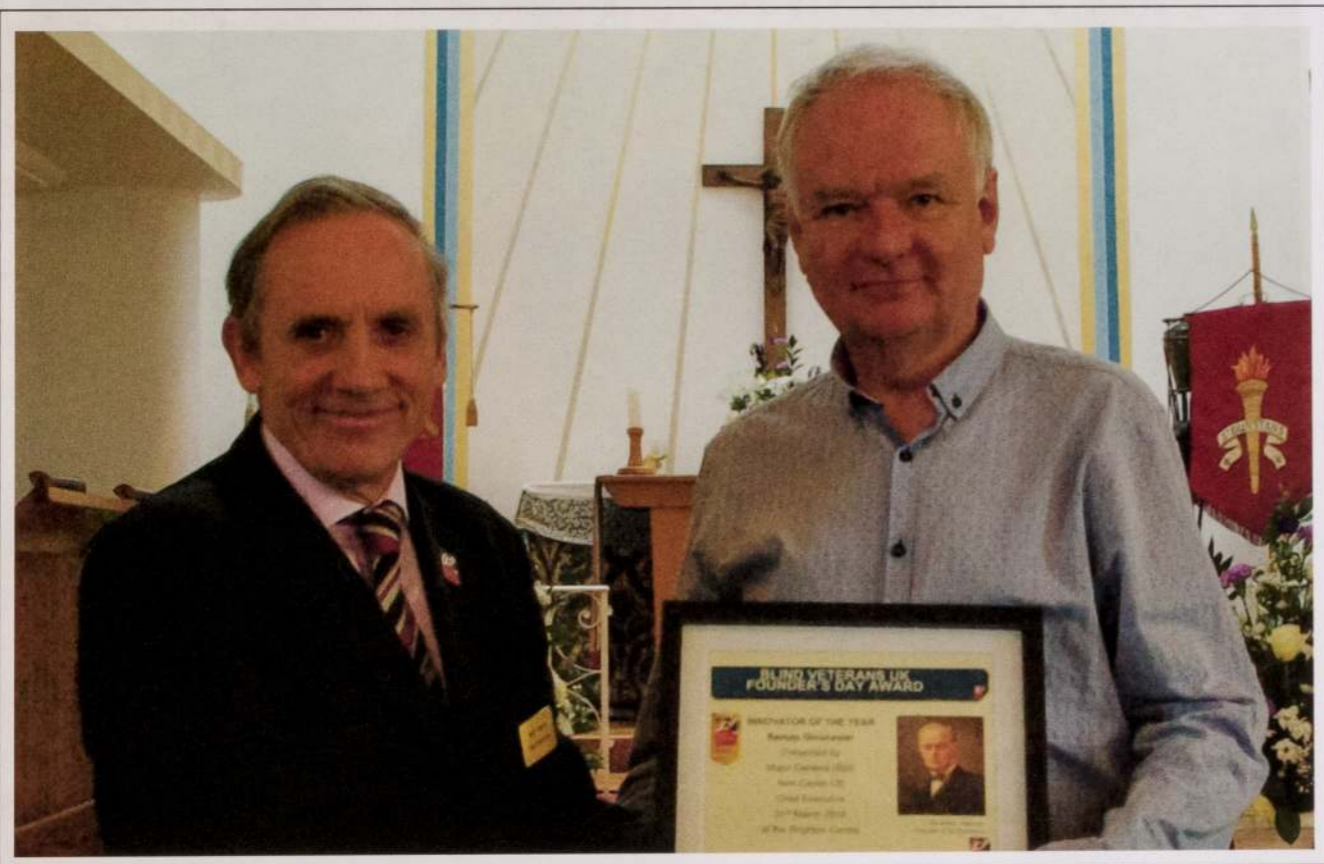
Picture: Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB presents Shaun Stocker with The Outstanding Achievement Award at The 2016 Founder's Day Awards ceremony at St Dunstan's Chapel.

Remap Gloucestershire winner of the Innovator of the Year Award.

"The next award has a slightly different bias and this is recognising an organisation or individual that has successfully introduced to Blind Veterans UK a beneficial device or idea that otherwise might not be available and this is the Innovator of The Year Award, which is awarded to Remap, Gloucestershire. Remap is an independent charity that engineers, designs and makes custom one off equipment to improve the quality of life for disabled individuals or their carers when there is nothing else commercially available.

"Established 35 years ago Remap, Gloucestershire is part of a national charity and its engineers give their time on a voluntary basis. One of their engineers, Tom Bradley of Remap, Gloucestershire came to support a blind veteran who although still very active in his 80s is affected by fainting fits and was rapidly losing confidence to go out, even to exercise his guide dog. Tom developed a successful tilt device which provides an audio alarm in advance of a fit and which has been so successful that the member's confidence has been restored.

"This successful partnership has been extended further with Remap, Birmingham who are working with a blind veteran, who due to his sight loss, hearing loss and a stroke is unable to answer the telephone. This is an inspirational piece of work and we are delighted to recognise Remap, Gloucestershire as our Innovator of The Year."



"During the Founder's Day Awards Ceremony three very important speeches were made by representatives of the three services The Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force. These were included to acknowledge the important and unique part that Blind Veterans UK holds in the Armed Forces family and the Armed Forces Community.

The first speech was delivered by Bill Lyth, Security & Maintenance Manager at the Brighton centre. Before Bill started his speech Mark Lovatt announced it was his birthday and everyone present joined in to sing Happy Birthday.

Introducing himself Bill said: "I've been with the charity for 20 years, ex Royal Navy where I reached the dizzy heights of Leading Seaman and specialised in electronic warfare. During my time I served on HMS Victory, not with Nelson I must add, on the Invincible and the Type 42 Destroyer HMS York."

Bill proceeded to describe the stained glass that runs throughout St Dunstan's Chapel and its significance within our charity and the Brighton centre's links with the Senior Service during the Second World War. A transcript of this is included in the Talking Review.



Picture opposite: Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB with Tom Bradley of Remap, Gloucestershire winner of the Innovator of the Year Award.

Picture above: Representing the Royal Navy Bill Lyth, Security & Maintenance Manager at the Brighton centre delivered a winning speech at the 2016 Founder's Day Awards Ceremony in St Dunstan's Chapel.

The second staff member to speak was Steve Richards, now based at the Brighton centre in the Transport department Steve began his speech. "Good morning ladies, gentleman and honoured guests. British Army on Founder's Day. I am 24454595 Sergeant Richards of the 2nd Queen's. I enlisted in 1977 and I was discharged in 1994." He then linked his speech to blind veterans and finished with Kipling's Tommy. A transcript is included in the Talking Review.



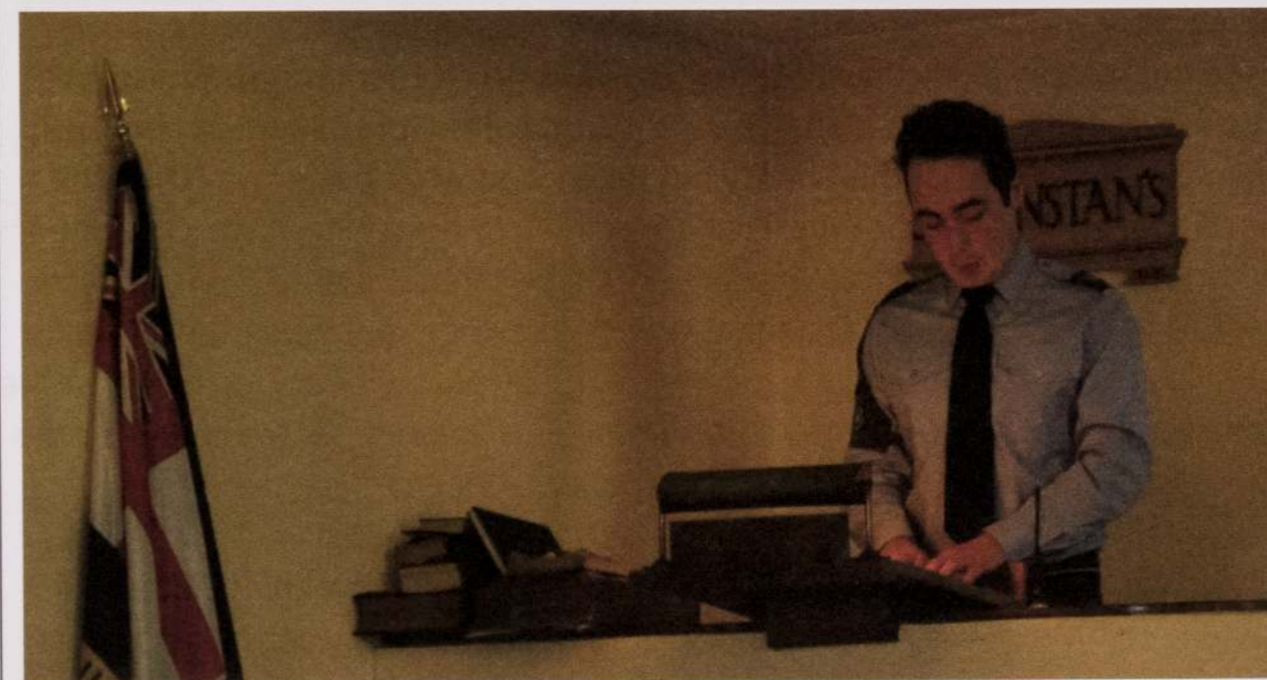
Picture: Steve Richards salutes following his speech during the 2016 Founder's Day Awards at St Dunstan's Chapel in the Brighton centre.

Following Steve's speech Mark Lovatt remarked: "Steve I'd just like to say a personal thank you. I think in terms of taking something and linking the service to people is exactly what this charity is about. I think it also demonstrates how intertwined we are with the military and by being so intertwined we are close to the Front Line. We're not going to go now and fight on that Front Line, but we are here to support those who do, and I thought that what you said really brought that home. Thank you.

"I would like to thank Lesley Garven, Brighton centre manager and her extended team for putting Founder's Day on today. I'd like to give a personal thanks to Esther [Freeman] who I think did the majority of the work, putting on a really great event today. Esther thank you very much. And also thank you to Jane Keene at the Llandudno centre."

Before the closing speech was made by our Chief Executive, Air Cadet Sergeant Nye, representing the Royal Air Force recited the Royal Air Force prayer. In introduction Mark Lovatt said: "This is a really great day as tomorrow (1st April) is the 98th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Air Force."

Aspirant Royal Air Force Nursing Officer Sergeant Nye then recited: "Almighty and eternal God, Lord of the Universe, the maker of all that is, we praise and thank you for all those who denied themselves and laid down their lives for their friends. Grant to those who are remembered here in our hearts that their names may be written in your book of life. And to us who remember them give grace to walk in the same way of love and faith that we may come at last with them to the eternal kingdom where you live and reign in perfect unity of love, one God now and forever Amen."



Picture: Air Cadet Sergeant Nye who represented the Royal Air Force at the 2016 Founder's Day Awards on 31st March when he recited the Royal Air Force prayer.

Concluding the 2016 Founder's Day Awards Ceremony Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB said: "Well ladies and gentlemen I'm sure you will want to join me in thanking Sergeant Nye, Steven and Bill for their readings and for the prayer. May I also add my thanks to Mark Lovatt and to Lesley Garven and to all of her staff for making this day possible. The Chapel looks marvellous and I'd just like to remark on the flowers, not just the way they look, but their fragrance is coming across beautifully.

"This is all the more meaningful to me being here in St Dunstan's Chapel as it's such a special place that's played such an important role for the charity over many, many years and will continue to for many years to come. It reminds us of that journey that we take. I just thought I would let you into a little insight in terms of marking a journey. Those who were at the Westminster Abbey Service of Thanksgiving in October last year will recall the statue of the Gassed Soldiers leading their way into the Abbey and what an extraordinary monument that was to our forebears. We have taken the decision as a charity to commission a bronze out of that and we want to place it somewhere prominent in London to mark the journey that this charity has taken, and what better way than the gassed soldiers leading the way from adversity to a better life. It won't happen overnight, it will take a couple of years, and if we can get that to coincide with the centenary of the end of the Great War in 2018 then that would be fantastic. We will launch a fundraising initiative to mark the extraordinary journey that the charity has taken as St Dunstan's through to Blind Veterans UK and every single member who has ever been part of the charity.

"This is why today is so special as it marks the extraordinary achievements of people within the charity, it's not just members with supporters, it's family, it's staff, it's everyone who is part of our family. And how moving it was to hear the remarks from Bernard, from Brenda and from Kelly about what it actually means to them individually and the effect of the support given by the charity, and the extraordinary things that they then go on to achieve as a result of it. This is what it's all about and it has been for over 100 years and it's going to be for some time to come because of the demand for the charity and what we do is growing, our membership is growing. So that's fantastic."



Picture: Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB draws attention to the fragrance from the flowers on the altar during his closing speech at the 2016 Founder's Day Awards ceremony.



Picture: Mark Lovatt, Director of Welfare East, who acted as MC for the 2016 Founder's Day Awards from St Dunstan's Chapel at the Brighton centre.

Bowling Club report. By Alan Gibson.

We were very pleased to welcome back Janet and Jack Pulfer after a break and you will read later in this report that Jack had a good tournament. Twenty four members took part with some exceptional bowling, particularly in the two semi-final singles games.

The results are as follows:

Winner of the singles Graham Johnson.

Runner up Jack Pulfer.

Group winners Alan Gibson and John Russell.

Pairs winners Paul Watson and Jim Glendenning.

Runners up Ron Jones and Jack Pulfer.

Triples winners Connie Apletree, Harry Murray and Alan Balanger.

Runners up Ted Arnold, Jack Pulfer and Ken Parker.

I would like to thank our ladies who as usual did an excellent job. Iris Rolfe, Daphne Brownhill and Janet Heasman who called the games. Shirley Russell and Janet Pulfer who kept us supplied with tea and coffee. Cathy Sullivan who helped everyone on the green sorting bowls, especially for Norman Perry, Harry Murray and myself (Alan). And Ann Bradshaw did a sterling job with Joan in the 'office'.

May I wish you good bowling during the summer and look forward to meeting you again on 23rd October to 5th November.

Join us in wishing Mark Able great luck at the Invictus Games. By Colin Williamson.

I'm sure that you will all join me in wishing blind veteran Mark Abel success in this year's Invictus Games in Orlando, Florida from 8th to 12th May. Mark will compete in the freestyle 50m backstroke and breast stroke and the 100m freestyle. He is one of 110 athletes who will take part, 33 of whom will compete in the swimming events.



The Disturbing Visions of Charles Bonnet Syndrome, by Hilary Brown, Welfare Officer.

Blind Veterans UK Welfare Officer, Hilary Brown, examines the strange phantom visions that can make people with a vision impairment doubt their minds.

I developed an interest in Charles Bonnet Syndrome when a member of Blind Veterans UK with very severe symptoms described them to me as she was so distressed by the effect they were having on her. She sees visions of gargoyles and fairy tale figures, amongst others during the day and at night her late husband and other living family members 'visit' her as well as some cats.

She told me that she had experienced these symptoms for some time but as is quite often the case she was reluctant to tell anyone as she thought they would think, as she put it, that she was 'losing her marbles'. She did indeed fear that she may have a mental illness.

I have since carried out a study of the incidence of Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS) with the members that I visit. I have looked particularly at the symptoms and the eye condition.

What is Charles Bonnet Syndrome?

A Swiss naturalist, Charles Bonnet, originally observed this condition in the 1760s. His 89 year old grandfather, Charles Lullin, began to experience visions. Bonnet noted that his grandfather, who suffered from cataracts, spoke of seeing people, birds, carriages and buildings while those around him saw nothing. It is suspected that Charles Bonnet developed the condition himself in later life. However, it was only in the 20th Century that Bonnet was recognised as being the first to identify this syndrome.

In current medical terms it is believed that the brain pathways attempt to fill in obscured areas of vision. The Royal College of Ophthalmologists say that it is thought that Charles Bonnet Syndrome occurs when visual images are no longer channelled into the brain, which goes on to replace real images with its own stored images.

Or as one member was told by our consultant Ophthalmologist, it occurs when the brain becomes 'bored' so it creates these visual hallucinations. When describing Charles Bonnet Syndrome to members, I liken the condition to phantom limb syndrome, where people with missing limbs experience sensations as though the body parts are still present. For example, an amputated leg where a patient still feels their toes.

Symptoms

The images are detailed and vivid but the person experiencing them knows that they are not real. They can vary from mild symptoms to the more severe. Symptoms do vary and not everyone with a loss of sight experiences Charles Bonnet Syndrome. The visions are very detailed, sometimes bizarre, and can last from a few seconds to several hours. They seem to come and go of their own accord.

Near misses have been reported by the British Medical Journal, in which patients were almost confined to mental health institutions.

However, once asked about it, people generally say it is a great relief to be told of this condition and that they are not the only people who experience it. When some people tell me they see these visions their partners can be surprised as they are not aware this occurs. For instance, one member sees snakes descending from the ceiling but did not tell his wife as he did not want to worry her.

It also happens the other way around, in that some individuals tell me that their vision impaired partner sees visions – cats seem to be a common one – and that they frequently tell the cat to get out of the way when there is not one in the house.

The mild symptoms vary from such visions as seeing lights that move across the field of vision, or balls of light, horseshoe shapes, lamps or sweets that float in the air and when the person tries to grab them they disappointedly can't. Some people have told me that they enjoy these visions and even find them relaxing.

The more moderate levels of vision are not too dramatic, but are more detailed than lights. Some of these present as common place objects, for example, surfaces covered in non-existent patterns, such as brickwork, mesh or tiles. One member I visit sees coloured plates on her ceiling, another lions' heads on her cushions, another geometric images and 'Eastern like', pierced screens of stone.

Then there are more complex visions which I have classed as high level. Again these are very detailed and 'real', usually involving people, gargoyles, or bright abstract shapes. The image can be life size or very small, scurrying across the floor.

Since Charles Bonnet's original recordings, there have been numerous cases diagnosed. It has long been regarded as a rare disease, but recent evidence suggests that it is much more widespread than previously believed. Charles Bonnet Syndrome is generally under-diagnosed by the medical profession, but is a rather common cause of complex visual hallucination.

The Royal College of Ophthalmic Surgeons feel that those with a sight loss have at least a 20% chance of developing visual hallucinations. They state that they think around 100,000 patients have Charles Bonnet Syndrome as a side effect of their macular disease. Some studies show its prevalence in patients with age related macular degeneration varies from 10% to 20%.

In the group of members that I visit I have found a much higher incidence, possibly 65%. This difference again could be due to medical under-diagnosis and recording, or the type of eye condition that our members experience.

Medical research tells us that most of those who experience Charles Bonnet Syndrome are people in the early stages of sight loss, and the hallucinations usually begin while their vision is still present but has diminished. The most common cause is macular degeneration. Other eye diseases such as glaucoma and cataracts can cause symptoms and in a few rare cases it has been diagnosed in people with no detectable vision problems.

In my research I have found that those who still have a fair amount of useful sight see less bizarre objects such as vases, shelves, books and lines. Whereas those with a more severe sight loss seem to see the more vivid images.

There are members who tell me that they have seen images in the past but these have stopped after a couple of years, whereas some tell me they see images that seem to get more bizarre as their sight deteriorates. Medical research informs us that removal of a cataract or recovery of vision can lead to improvement. Some may find relief if the eye condition progresses to total blindness, although for some people the visions will stop over time.

Others are able to banish their phantoms by changing the environment in some way – such as closing their eyes, turning the lights on or off, increasing the lighting; if it happens when you are sitting down then try standing up. Trying to keep the brain active can be helpful. Most visions seem to occur when you are relaxing. These recommendations do not banish the visions for everyone.

It helps if the vision impaired person can try and feel in control of their environment. Some people have tried befriending the apparitions, talking to them, but of course getting no answer. Sometimes talking over feelings with a counsellor or psychiatrist can help provide people with ways of coping with the visions.

At the moment there is no known cure for Charles Bonnet Syndrome. However, just knowing that it is poor vision and not mental illness that causes these problems often helps people come to terms with them. Generally these experiences will disappear after about a year or 18 months but this will not be the case for everyone.

Conclusion

Firm reassurance that Charles Bonnet Syndrome is not related to mental illness is in itself a major relief to a person already dealing with failing vision, and maybe other medical problems. Some sufferers consider them as 'one of those things you have to put up with'.

I have found that once a member has had the symptoms of Charles Bonnet Syndrome explained to them they feel immeasurable relief and can often tolerate the condition better.

The Macular Disease Society runs a telephone helpline, which is available to all macular patients and their families. Please telephone 0845 241 2041. Lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Alan Lock; Adventure Athlete. By Colin Williamson, Contributing Editor.

If you said that Alan Lock was passionate about sport and adventure then that would be one massive understatement. Whilst most of us are content with the occasional visit to the gym or a few lengths of the local pool Alan's thirst for adventure has taken him up mountains, across oceans, through deserts and sometimes, into the unknown.

A former officer in the Royal Navy, Alan lost his sight in 2004 due to a rare and incurable genetic condition similar to macular degeneration and he became a beneficiary of Blind Veterans UK a year later. Since joining the charity, Alan has competed in some of the world's toughest physical and mental challenges, setting multiple world records along the way.

In 2007 he tackled one of the hardest endurance runs in the world, the gruelling Marathon Des Sables, regarded by some as the toughest footrace on earth. Participants are required to carry everything that they need to survive in the harsh climate (with the exception of water) on their backs for a distance of 156 miles across the scorching Sahara desert. Just eight months later he set a world record as the first vision impaired person to row across the Atlantic, a total distance of 3000 miles which took him and his rowing partner 85 days to complete. In 2011, Alan set a new world record for the first blind person to ski from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. Throw in successfully summiting Mt Blanc in the Alps and Mt Elbrus in the Russian Caucasus, plus numerous marathons and ultramarathons and you begin to get an idea of the man's zest for life. In 2017 he hopes to become one the first blind people to swim the English Channel.

When he's not globetrotting, Alan works full time for British Telecom as Head of Logistics for BT and is also a Trustee for Action for Blind People. He's also a husband and father so has to be, by his own admission, very good at time management! The Review managed to catch up with Alan and had a brief chat.

Review. "How do you manage to juggle the time between work, family, sport and your duties as a Trustee for Action for Blind People?"

Alan. "I really struggle sometimes! One of the skills that I've fallen back on from

my military days is the need to prioritise. I have to focus on important things like my family, work and my passion for sport."

Review. "How long have you been a Trustee for Action for Blind People?"

Alan. "About a year. I'd never had any previous involvement with the charity but one day out of the blue I was approached by them and asked if I'd consider becoming a Trustee. I suppose being relatively young I can give a different perspective on things. One of the things that my time in the Royal Navy taught me was how to work as part of a team and I think that it comes in handy in my role as Trustee".

Review. "Would you ever consider a similar role within Blind Veterans UK?"

Alan. "Yes, I'd certainly consider it but perhaps now isn't the right time. I have enough on my plate as it is thanks!"

Review. "Do you think that the skills you picked up in the military have helped you in civilian life?"

Alan. "Definitely. In my role with BT as well as being a Trustee. I have to be a good communicator, work well within a team and manage to work well under pressure. All skills that I learnt during my time with the Royal Navy".

Review. "What challenges lie ahead for you?"

Alan. "I'd like to have another go at swimming the Channel. I nearly succeeded in 2014 but the tide turned and forced me to quit. I also fancy a few more ultra-marathons. Of course, the biggest and most important challenge is my new daughter, Penelope, so she's taking precedence at the moment!"

Review. "Thanks Alan and good luck for the future".



Picture: Blind veteran Alan Lock at the South Pole.

The annual concert by The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines at the Brighton centre on 13th July.

It is approaching that time when we will soon have the pleasure of the company of The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines at our Brighton centre.

We at Blind Veterans UK are privileged each year to experience the magic of this concert; a day which is always immensely enjoyed by all. This special event is a highlight amongst our annual programme for local and visiting members. However hosting this event also provides an opportunity to invite and give something back to our volunteers, VIPs and supporters and to demonstrate our ongoing connection with this group of people.

As you are aware it is a popular event and we only have a limited number of seats available for local members and their spouses. If you wish to apply for a place, please contact Charlotte Davies at the Brighton centre on telephone: 01273 391412.

There will be a limited bus service for members who live in the immediate vicinity of the centre who require the assistance of transport. If you do live locally and are able to make your own way to the centre this would help to alleviate unwanted pressure on the Transport Department.

Unfortunately lunch bookings cannot be taken on the day except for those who are already in house. We look forward to enjoying the concert with you.

Order of events for the concert:

1330	Pimms will be served in the Inner Garden
1400 to 1515	Royal Marines Band concert
1520	Afternoon tea in the Inner Garden
1600	Guests depart

Computer Club Technology Week from the Brighton centre 11th to 15th April 2016. By Bob Strickland.

Blind Veterans UK Computer Club members who were present were Albert Southerden, Bob Strickland and Ann, Bob Waller and Margaret, Cliff Swann and Kathleen, David Thompson and Sylvia, Jane Collins, John Pullinger, John Taylor, Laurence Hardy, Peter Lennon and Cath, Ray Hazan and Robbie, Richard Rawlinson and Marlene, Roy Casterton.

Blind Veterans UK staff members present were Amandine Noel, Anna Brownlie, David Dent, Graham Reed (IT Volunteer), Lucy Kyle (Birthday Girl), Mark Kingston, Matt Holland, Bryan Kilburn (Senior ROVI), Jenny Evison (ROVI), Alex Tring (Support Worker) and Craig Brindley (Rehab and Training Support Supervisor).

Monday 11th: We gathered together in the Winter Gardens at 09.30 and before everyone was introduced, Ray Hazan stood up and gave a few words with regard to the passing of Harry Beavers. Harry had been a strong member of the Computer Club for so many years and he will be very sorely missed. We will miss his sense of humour and wit. His knowledge and grasp of computers was of the highest quality. He will also be remembered for the quizzes both at the Computer Club and each month in this magazine. Our thoughts are with Joan, Harry's wife, who was always at Harry's side. He would like us to remember him with smiles and not sadness. May he rest in peace.

The first session was opened by Anna Brownlie, who introduced everyone and gave out the proposed programme for the week.

Monday morning was taken up by Bryan Kilburn, Senior ROVI, who gave us a talk and demonstrated various ROVI equipment that is held at the Brighton centre.

In the afternoon, Teresa Gane, IT Instructor gave a talk on Blind Veterans UK Communications followed by an ORCAM Demonstration by Jo Sinkins ROVI.

In the evening we had a welcome meal in the Winter Gardens.

Tuesday 12th: The morning started with a question time session by the IT

Instructors. This was followed after morning tea by John Paton, Digital Media Development Officer for RNIB who gave a talk on the advances in Access Technology. The afternoon session started when David Grundy, IT Technician, gave a talk on the Techno Gram.

After the break, we were treated to a Treasure Hunt by Mark Kingston and Matt Holland, IT Instructors. This was great fun as we ran around the building picking up various clues that were sent to us on the new Synapptic Tablet. In the evening we assembled in the Winter Gardens to watch The Imitation Game, a film all about the Enigma Coding machine. Really Good.

Wednesday 13th: During the first session, we all had a one to one snagging session with our allocated IT Instructor. After the morning break we assembled at the main entrance when we were taken by coach for a visit to the Observatory Science Centre at Hurstmonceux, which included lunch. This was great fun, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. The weather was very kind to us which was great because some of the exhibits were outside. It is an ideal place to visit if you have children.

Thursday 14th: The whole morning, and part of the afternoon, was spent with Jonathan Tregear, Security Consultant from Platinum Squared and our own David Dent who spoke about computer security, both on our personnel computers and security on computers in general. We all found their talks very interesting and very informative. The last period of the day was spent as a one to one snagging session.

Friday 15th: The morning session up until lunch was in the hands of Ken Bridge, Sales Director, Synapptic Ltd. Ken gave a full presentation and demonstration on Synapptic tablets and phones. Very, very interesting.

At 11am we all climbed on the coach and went off for a pub lunch. On our return we went to the fifth floor Winter Gardens at the Brighton centre for a feedback and farewell session.

Everyone agreed it was a great week, very well organised, very informative and that Blind Veterans UK were to be congratulated on a job well done.

Family News.

Congratulations to:

Birthdays:

Joe Burgess who celebrated his 105th birthday on 1st May.

Dick Tetlow who celebrated his 104th birthday on 20th April.

Ronald Tipple who celebrated his 102nd birthday on 13th May.

Monty Woolley who celebrated his 101st birthday on 3rd May.



Picture: Chaplain General Reverend Dr David Coulter QHC CF presents Fred Tree with a 100th birthday card from our Patron Her Majesty the Queen.
Photo Bill Lyth.

Anniversaries:

Blue Sapphire (65th):

Fred & Marion Warwick of Sherburn In Elmet, Leeds on 15th May.

Bert & Irene Dodd of Hornchurch, Essex on 19th May.

Diamond (60th):

Martin & Margaret Chandler of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk on 21st May.

Ronald & Elsie Hill of St. Helens, Merseyside on 26th May.

Golden (50th):

Peter & Caroline Ball of Sale, Cheshire on 21st May.

Barry & Susan Whitman of Bristol on 21st May.

Pearl (30th):

Stephen & Julie Donohue of Llangadog, Dyfed on 9th May.

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.

Nora Davidson who died on 7th April 2016. She was the wife of William Davidson.

Phyl Gilbert who died on 22nd March 2016. She was the wife of Tony Gilbert.

Margaret Gulley died in 2015. She was the wife of Arthur Gulley.

Patricia Lovejoy who died on 27th March 2016. She was the widow of the late Ernest Lovejoy.

Janet Moreline who died on 18th March 2016. She was the wife of Terence Moreline.

Joan Mowles who died on 31st March 2016. She was the widow of the late Ronald Mowles.

Violet Olley who died on 13th March 2016. She was the wife of John Olley.

Constance 'Connie' Riby who died on 1st December 2015. She was the widow of the late Eric Riby.

Maura Stephenson who died on 22nd March 2016. She was the wife of John Stephenson.

Eileen Wheeler who died on 27th March 2016. She was the wife of Ernest Wheeler.

Jacqueline Wilson who died on 27th March 2016. She was the widow of the late Robert Wilson.

Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

Peter Ashmore of Dudley, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

Thomas Ashton of St Helens, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1947.

Joseph Baines of Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Timothy Baker of Barnet, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1954 to 1958.

Charles Ballard of Evesham, Worcestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958.

Gilbert Barnett of Hull served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1955 to 1958.

Merton Boocock of Bradford, West Yorkshire served in the Highland Light Infantry from 1947 to 1958.

Albert Bowles of Sherborne, Dorset served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1974.

Cyril Breene of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the General Service Corps and the East Lancashire Regiment from 1946 to 1961.

Olwen Cantlay née Watters of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Edward Carr of Halewood, Liverpool served in the Army Catering Corps and the Royal Artillery from 1953 to 1960.

Joseph Charlton of Dolgellau, Gwynedd served in the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm from 1941 to 1946.

Alan Clark of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

John Cleverley of Oldham served in the 79th Armoured Division from 1942 to 1946.

Father Gerald Coates of Heathfield, East Sussex served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1947 to 1948.

Josephine Collins née Higgins of Weston Super Mare, Avon served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Peter Conway of Leyburn, North Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1959.

David Cooper of Broadstairs, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1958 to 1969.

Edward Cooper of Northampton served in the Royal Signals from 1943 to 1947.

Dennis Cruwys of Blackfield, Southampton served in the General Service Corps, Royal Hampshire Regiment and the Royal Signals from 1947 to 1961.

Graham Davies of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Artillery from 1954 to 1956.

Robert Davies of Wem, Shrewsbury served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1978.

Ronald 'Ron' Dawkins of Crediton, Devon served in the Royal Signals from 1949 to 1952.

Norah 'Anne' Day of Lowestoft, Suffolk served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1945.

Ralph Dines of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Signals from 1953 to 1955.

Sidney Dougall of Whickham, Newcastle Upon Tyne served in the Royal Artillery from 1956 to 1958.

Sheila Fahy née Duxbury of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1969 to 1971.

Frederick Finlay of Andover, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1966.

James Foley of Bristol served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1953.

Leslie Fuller of Wokingham, Berkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

John Gamble of Wigston, Leicestershire served in the Royal Marines from 1948 to 1950.

Peter Garwood of East Harling, Norwich served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1951 to 1964.

David Gemmell of Radford, Coventry served in the General Service Corps, Highland Light Infantry and the Parachute Regiment from 1943 to 1959.

Ian Gillespie of Turriff, Aberdeenshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Russell Goodley of Presteigne, Powys served in the Suffolk Regiment from 1954 to 1956.

John Griggs of Sudbury, Suffolk served in the General Service Corps, Essex Regiment and the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry from 1944 to 1948.

Joseph Guy of Huyton, Liverpool served in the Merchant Navy in 1966.

Jack Hall of Swalwell, Newcastle Upon Tyne served in the Royal Air Force in 1954.

Norman Harrison of Saltash, Cornwall served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1945.

Stanley Hawkins of Wimbledon, South West London served in the Royal Signals from 1945 to 1948.

Thomas Hedges of Edinburgh served in the Royal Engineers from 1977 to 1980.

Douglas Hewish of Pickering, North Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1960.

Douglas Hewitt of Hythe, Kent served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946.

Alan Hicks of Tiverton, Devon served in the Dorset Regiment from 1954 to 1959.

Winifred Hill of Kirby, Liverpool served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1947.

Richard Horner of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Peter Huddleston of Beeston, Nottingham served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1942 to 1947.

Jill Humphries of Skegness, Lincolnshire served in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps from 1979 to 1982.

Denys Hunter of North Baddesley, Southampton served in the Hertfordshire Regiment from 1942 to 1947.

Albert 'Bertie' Johnston of Donaghadee, County Down served in the Royal Signals and the Royal Artillery from 1954 to 1967.

George Jones of Church Stretton, Shropshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

James Jones of Peterculter, Aberdeenshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1965.

John Jones of Llandudno, Gwynedd served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1953.

Donald Kane of Lancing, West Sussex served in the 10th Royal Hussars from 1949 to 1954.

Graham Kirby of Ecclesfield, Sheffield served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1954 to 1956.

Wasył Lapko of Slough, Berkshire served in the Polish Army from 1945 to 1947.

Eric Lawton of Poulton Le Fylde, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Artillery from 1944 to 1948.

Winifred Leadbeater née Forkin of Bolton served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

James Lewis of Widnes, Cheshire served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1942 to 1947.

George Long of Cromer, Norfolk served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Tank Regiment from 1947 to 1952.

Cedric Lowther of Northampton served in the Royal Artillery from 1948 to 1950.

James Luce of Swindon, Wiltshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1944 to 1948.

John Ludlam of Newport, Gwent served in the Grenadier Guards from 1940 to 1946.

Bernard Lyford-Smith of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Charles Mann of Daventry, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1949 to 1951.

Harry Marshall of Poulton Le Fylde, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

James Marsland of Hailsham, East Sussex served in the Royal Corps of Transport from 1943 to 1947.

Joseph Martin-Covell of Cambridge served in the Home Guard from 1939 to 1945.

Leslie Martin of Filey, North Yorkshire served in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1944.

Denis Maycock of Torquay served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Cyril Mead of Winscombe, Avon served in the Suffolk Regiment from 1942 to 1947.

Gilbert Mills of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Suffolk Regiment and the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1941 to 1943.

Peter Morris of Bewdley, Worcestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1957 to 1961.

Kenneth Morrison of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan served in the Royal Corps of Transport from 1943 to 1966.

Clifford Murray of Crowthorne, Berkshire served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

James Murray of Basingstoke, Hampshire served in the Middlesex Regiment from 1952 to 1955.

Gerard Myles of Prescot, Merseyside served in the Merchant Navy from 1945 to 1952.

Madge Neal of Fakenham, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

Arthur Neighbour of Swindon, Wiltshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1946.

Thomas Nightingale of Blackburn, Lancashire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1948.

Frank Oliver of Arnold, Nottingham served in the General Service Corps, Durham Light Infantry, Duke of Wellington's and the Green Howards from 1945 to 1957.

Peter Osborne of Carnforth, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1983 to 1989.

Robert Oxenham of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Signals from 1947 to 1949.

William Parry of Newport, Gwent served in the South Wales Borderers and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1952 to 1958.

Trevor Plackett of Morecambe, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1951 to 1955.

Alma Plant of Wigan, Lancashire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945.

Slawomir Posiell of Rochdale, Lancashire served in the Polish Army from 1945 to 1948.

David 'Brian' Price of Pontypool, Gwent served in the South Wales Borderers, Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Monmouthshire Regiment from 1952 to 1957.

Iris Redgate of Birmingham, West Midlands served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946.

Peter Richardson of Pierrepont, Nottingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1958.

John Rooms of Grantham, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1947.

Norman Sankey of Liverpool served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1956 to 1959.

Stella Savage née Burton of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Auxiliary Territorial Reserves from 1942 to 1954.

James Sephton of St Helens, Merseyside served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1950.

Douglas Shakespeare of Midhurst, West Sussex served in the Royal Signals from 1959 to 1961.

Thomas Shanks MBE of Lanark served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Intelligence Corps from 1954 to 1960.

Dennis Smith of Macclesfield, Cheshire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1947.

Edward Smith of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Tank Regiment from 1944 to 1948.

Michael Smith of Letchworth Garden City served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers from 1948 to 1966.

Eric Straw of Ilkeston, Derbyshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1946 to 1948.

Betty Thomas née Moore of Aldershot, Hampshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1947.

David Thomas of Neath, West Glamorgan served in the South Wales Borderers and the Royal Military Police from 1962 to 1979.

Isobel Till of Buckingham served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1947 to 1954.

Olga Tilley née Scott of Nantwich, Cheshire served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps from 1944 to 1946.

George Todd of Cleethorpes, South Humberside served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1975.

Henry Turner of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Royal Signals from 1960 to 1965.

Donald Verity of Horsforth, Leeds served in the Royal Tank Regiment from 1952 to 1954.

Harry Walton of Camborne, Cornwall served in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1944.

John Wardlaw of Penrith, Cumbria served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1953 to 1958.

Roan Webb of Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Royal Artillery from 1986 to 1990.

John Webster of Chellaston, Derby served in the Army Catering Corps from 1946 to 1948.

Eric West of Stoke On Trent, Staffordshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1944 to 1948.

Felix Wilenius of South Shields, Tyne and Wear served in the Green Howards and the King's Own Scottish Borderers from 1943 to 1946.

James Williams of Liverpool served in the Royal Air Force and the Cameronians from 1941 to 1946.

Edward Winter of Lichfield, Staffordshire served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1946.

Dennis Woods of Ormskirk, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1949 to 1955.

Fred Worthington of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Howard Young of Lewes, East Sussex served in the Royal Marines from 1949 to 1951.

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.

Nellie 'Connie' Beat née Tyson of Scarborough, North Yorkshire died on 3rd April 2016, aged 93. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941, qualifying as a radio operator. She served at Crystal Palace, Glasgow and was in Southampton for the D-Day embarkations. She was discharged in 1945.

Yvonne Bertie née Boakes of Preston, Lancashire died on 15th March 2016, aged 91. She joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1942 and was responsible for refuelling spitfires and driving ambulances. She served at home at Tangmere, East Kirby, and at Gravesend until discharge in 1945 as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

Ernest 'Ernie' Bignell of Lancing, West Sussex died on 3rd April 2016, aged 92. He was an ARP Warden before he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1943, serving at home, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was discharged in 1947, leaving as a Lance Corporal.

William Bremer of Bethnal Green, London died on 2nd April 2016, aged 92. He joined the King's Royal Rifle Regiment in 1942 and served in the UK in North Yorkshire in a chemical warfare unit until 1945.

Patrick 'Pat' Bune of Camberley, Surrey died on 29th November 2015, aged 91. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942, qualifying as a signaller in Fareham. He served in escort tankers in the Mediterranean and was then in minesweepers in the North Sea before discharge in 1946.

William 'Billy' Butters of Norwich, Norfolk died on 2nd April 2016, aged 101. He joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1940 and was injured while loading a truck when the Germans bombed his army base in Norfolk in January 1941. He was later posted to Singapore and was captured in February 1942. He was a Japanese Prisoner of War for 3½ years and weighed six stone when he was repatriated via Australia. He was discharged in 1946.

Leslie 'Les' Cheetham of Wigan, Lancashire died on 15th March 2016, aged 88. He joined the Royal Air Force for National Service in 1946. Following service in the UK he was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1948.

Alfred Clauson of Dunstable, Bedfordshire died on 14th March 2016, aged 99. He joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in March 1941 and transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in December of the same year. He then transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on its formation in May 1942 and served mainly in India. He was discharged as a Sergeant Major in 1947.

William 'Bill' Davies of Wrexham, Clwyd died on 12th March 2016, aged 87. He joined the Royal Engineers for National Service in 1948 serving in the UK as a Sapper until discharge in 1950.

Sidonie 'Pamela' Dawson née Munday of Brighton, East Sussex died on 2nd April 2016, aged 90. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942 and having served in ack-ack batteries in Wokingham, Seaford and Oswestry she was posted to Belgium in 1944 as a radar specialist before discharge in 1945 as a Private.

Robert 'Jack' Evans of Plymouth, Devon died on 20th March 2016, aged 86. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1947 and served in Germany before being discharged in 1957. After the Army he served in the engine room branch of the Merchant Navy and sailed all around the world, mainly in cargo ships and tankers until he retired at 65.

George 'Geordie' Gates of Washington, Tyne and Wear died on 30th March 2016, aged 78. Called up for National Service in 1955 he completed his training at Richmond, Yorkshire. He was discharged as a Signaller in 1962.

Frederick Goldsmith of Seaford, East Sussex died on 27th March 2016, aged 91. He joined the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1942. He then transferred to the Middlesex Regiment later that year, where he served in the UK, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Greece and Austria. He was discharged as a Private in 1947.

Ernest 'Ernie' Griffiths of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire died on 26th March 2016, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942. Having served mainly on small ships he was demobilised as an Ordinary Seaman in 1946.

Alan Harrison of Midhurst, West Sussex died on 19th March 2016, aged 95. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served until 1946. He served in the Atlantic escorting convoys over to Nova Scotia. He also carried out the Ice Barrier Patrol in Denmark, served in the Azores and Harwich. He left the Royal Navy as a Petty Officer.

Vera Hazell of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire died on 27th March 2016, aged 96. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941, serving at Aldermaston and Devizes, before being discharged in 1942 in the rank of Private.

William 'Bill' Hopkins of Ashford, Middlesex died on 5th April 2016, aged 77. He joined the Royal Navy in 1954 and trained at HMS St Vincent, Gosport. He joined the Regulating Branch and served in HM ships Kenya, Delight, Ark Royal and Birmingham. He also had two shore drafts in Malta and was discharged as a Master at Arms in 1978.

Thomas 'Les' Horton of Newcastle, Staffordshire died on 9th April 2016, aged 89. He volunteered for the Army aged 17 and joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1944. He was attached to the 56th London Division in Italy, nicknamed the Black Cat Regiment and drove all types of vehicles ranging from motorbikes to tanks. He was discharged in 1948.

Gwynneth Howell née Phillips of Newport, Gwent died on 29th March 2016, aged 95. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1942, and serving in communications she was posted abroad. She was discharged in 1945 as a Leading Wren.

John 'Cledwyn' Hughes of Cranleigh, Surrey died on 24th March 2016, aged 89. Called up in 1945 he joined the Royal Air Force and served in the Far East and Kenya until discharge as a Temporary Corporal in 1948.

Jack Ibbotson of Barnsley, South Yorkshire died on 22nd March 2016, aged 93. He enlisted in the General Service Corps in July 1942 for initial training. Transferred to the Royal Signals in August 1942 he served in North Africa, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Austria before discharge in 1947 as a Signaller.

Cyril Inwood of Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire died on 25th March 2016, aged 93. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941, trained as an Armourer and worked with guns and bombs. He worked on Typhoon aircraft and landed on D+2 at

Normandy moving up through France, Holland and Belgium. He finished the war in Copenhagen before returning to the UK for discharge in 1947.

Reverend Hilary Jackson of Darlington, County Durham died on 22nd March 2016, aged 98. Reverend Jackson was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1940. He served in the Middle East and Italy before discharge as a Lieutenant in 1945.

John Jackson of Wallasey, Merseyside died on 2nd April 2016, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1944 and served in the Far East on minesweepers until discharge in 1948.

William Jones of Holmer, Hereford died on 14th March 2016, aged 97. He joined the Royal Armoured Corps in 1936 and was in Palestine when the war started. After taking part in the North Africa and Italian campaigns he returned to the UK and landed at Normandy after D-Day, eventually ending the war in Denmark. He was discharged as a Sergeant in 1946.

Arthur Kearney of Liverpool died on 3rd October 2015, aged 86. He joined the Royal Navy in 1946 in the last 'Hostilities Only' batch before National Service started. As a result he was always amused to be one of the last recipients of a demob suit. He served in the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious and at various naval air stations before discharge as an Acting Naval Airman 1st Class in 1949. After the Royal Navy he remained at sea with the Merchant Navy for three years.

Rahman 'Ray' Khan of Marlow, Buckinghamshire died on 2nd April 2016, aged 86. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1984. He trained at Stafford and Compton Bassett, specialising as a wireless operator before moving into telephones and teleprinters. He served in the UK, Cyprus, Singapore, Aden, Malta and Germany, leaving as a Flight Sergeant.

Enid Lander née Wildman of Seaford, East Sussex died on 12th February 2016, aged 95. She joined the Women's Royal Air Force in 1942 and was stationed all over the UK on administrative duties until 1946.

Philip 'Phil' Lewis of Cotgrave, Nottingham died on 9th March 2016, aged 67. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1965 and was posted to the UK and Singapore as an Engineering Officer before being discharged as a Flight Lieutenant in 1971.

James Parke of Birmingham, West Midlands died on 18th March 2016, aged 93. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1945 to 1948 and thereafter on reserve until 1959 leaving as a driver. He served around the UK and East Africa where he was stationed in Nairobi and Mombassa. He was then sent to Lusaka in Northern Rhodesia. He returned to Nairobi where his service ended.

Cyril Pearson of Basingstoke, Hampshire died on 23rd March 2016, aged 90. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1944 and he was later posted to Hong Kong following the surrender of Japan. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1947.

Edward Phipps of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 20th March 2016, aged 87. He was called up for National Service in 1948 and served in the UK and Egypt until discharge in 1950. He served a further five years as a civilian attached to the 14 Signals Regiment as the equivalent of Foreman of Signals.

Georgina 'Gina' Rademan née Tucker of Newtown, Powys died on 21st March 2016, aged 82. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1951 where she was a telephonist. Serving in the UK at Reading, Plymouth, Cornwall and Portsmouth she was discharged as a Leading Wren in 1955.

John Ray of Colne, Lancashire died in 2015, aged 93. He joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in 1942 and was posted to North Africa, Italy and Palestine and also served on a large Mediterranean island where he was involved with clearing the remnants of the Germany army. After WWII he stayed in the Army, served in Hong Kong for two years and then returned to the UK as an instructor. He was eventually discharged as a Sergeant in 1952.

Christopher Richards of Pershore, Worcestershire died on 1st April 2016, aged 73. He joined the Royal Navy in 1960. He retired in 1992 as a Lt Cdr having served for 11 years in submarines.

John Roebuck of Ormskirk, Lancashire died on 19th March 2016, aged 94. He enlisted into the Royal Signals in November 1941 and was posted to India via South Africa, eventually serving in various locations in the Bengal area. He returned to the UK in 1945 and discharged as a Lance Corporal in 1947.

Hubert 'Alan' Schofield of Pontypool, Gwent died on 22nd March 2016, aged 90. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1944 training as a Sapper. Later commissioned and serving mainly in Germany, he was discharged as a Captain in 1948.

Eric Sharp of Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan died on 22nd March 2016, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and served in the UK and Africa as an Officers' mess cook. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

Ronald Skinner of Beccles, Suffolk died on 7th April 2016, aged 90. He volunteered to join the Royal Air Force in 1943 and trained as a Wireless Operator/Signaller. He was posted to 625 Sqn where he flew five missions on Lancasters. After the end of the war, he was posted to Transport Command where he flew as crew in C-47s. He later served in Java on 31 Sqn where he flew VIPs before being discharged as a Warrant Officer in 1947.

Gerard 'Gerry' Smith of Liverpool died on 11th April 2016, aged 83. He was a merchant seaman before he joined the Royal Artillery in 1951 for National Service. He served in Hong Kong and Korea and was discharged as a Gunner in 1953 after which he continued with part-time National Service with the Royal Artillery/Lancastrian Brigade until 1956.

Marjorie Smart of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire died on 31st March 2016, aged 91. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943 and was attached to the Royal Army Pay Corps, then the Royal Army Service Corps in Carlisle, followed by the Royal Signals. She was discharged in 1946 as a Private.

Frank Stormont of Colchester died on 3rd April 2016, aged 95. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and served as an aero-engine fitter on Wellington Bombers until 1946 when he was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman.

John 'Keith' Sutton of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 2nd April 2016, aged 90. After a brief spell in the General Service Corps he joined the newly formed Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in July 1943. He served in the UK until 1944 following an accident.

Robert 'Bob' Williams of Windsor, Berkshire died on 23rd March 2016, aged 96. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, serving in the UK, Burma and India. Notably he fought at the Battle of Kohima which was the turning point of the Japanese offensive in 1944. He was discharged as a Sapper in 1946.



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