

June 2016

Review

Blind Veterans UK | St Dunstan's since 1915



From the Chairman.

Your message from Tim Davis.

Over the last month, it has been rewarding to see the heightened profile and recognition of veterans who have sacrificed their lives or served and sustained life changing injuries. In addition the impact on their families and friends who also live with the consequences and continue to strive to overcome their own challenges.

When Britain is actively involved in some form of conflict, the media constantly report and highlight the contribution of our military, and this in turn encourages a growing wave of support by the public for those who need our help. Now there is not an Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia or Falkland's campaign in full swing, it is so important that no less attention is brought to those who have served and sacrificed.

We've seen the Invictus Games, and the power that these types of events bring to support the charities and the men and women who depend on them. Thanks to some of our own blind veterans they have managed to raise the profile of our charity. My congratulations go to Mark Abel who competed strongly in swimming. And to Paul Jacobs GM who sang in the Invictus Choir, and gained much coverage for the charity, both at the Games and through the two part BBC documentary that was presented by Choirmaster Gareth Malone. Well done to you both and all those who supported you through your endeavours.

Very well deserved recognition has also gone to our President, Ray Hazan OBE who was awarded the Trustees Award at the Soldiering On Awards ceremony for the 40 years of continuous support he has given to Blind Veterans UK. A massive contribution and personal commitment that I'm sure inspires us all to find ways of helping the causes close to us.

I would like to also recognise another blind veteran, David Poyner, Chairman of the British Blind Sport Archery who has done a great deal to get the visually impaired category back into the World Archery Para Championships.

And finally, congratulations to blind veterans Rob Long who cycled with Steve Mills, Mark Threadgold who cycled with Craig Brindley, and Dave Woolett who each completed the inaugural Blind Veterans UK London to Paris Cycle Ride.

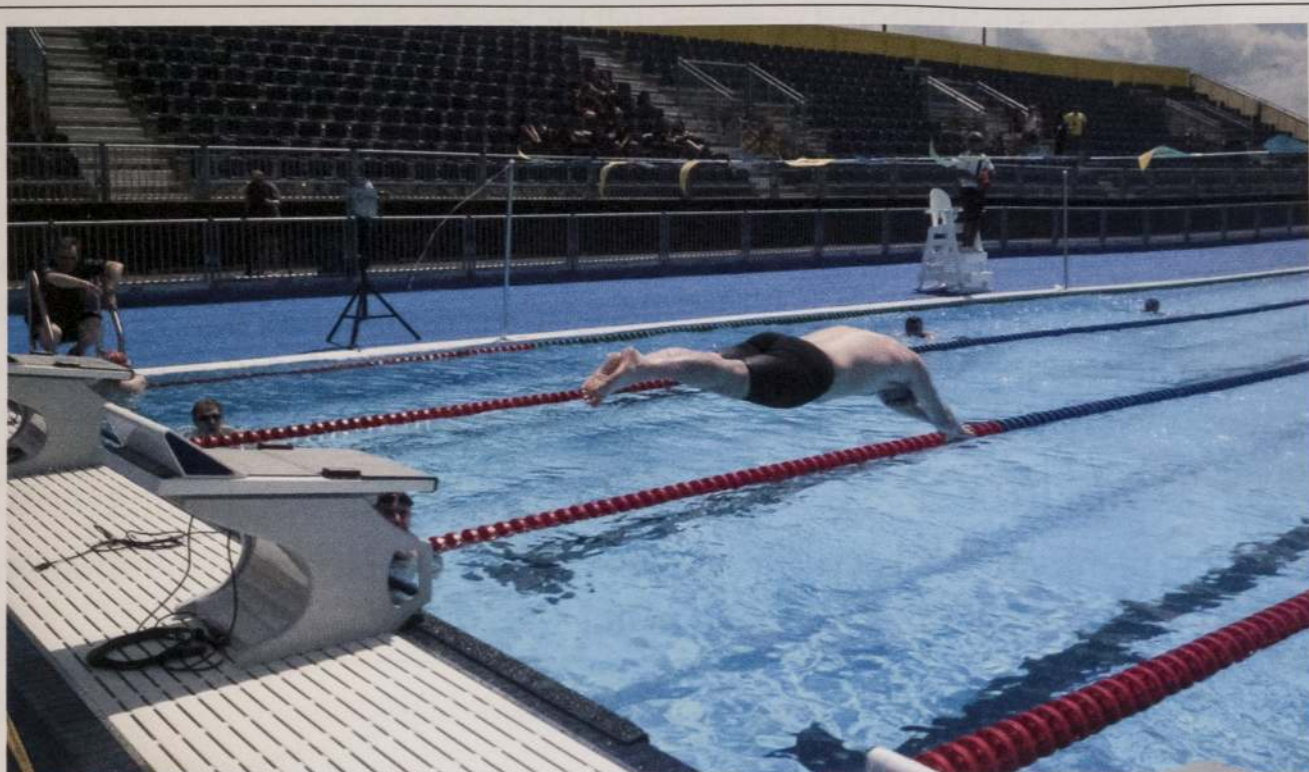
Over the coming months blind veterans will be involved in many events to continue raising awareness and the much needed funds to continue the work our charity does.

Amongst these on 18th and 19 June; Paul Jacobs will participate in our Northern 100K event challenge, along with members of his former Regiment, friends and some of the Blind Veterans UK's Trustees, all supporting him during the walk and fundraising. Please spread the word with those who you think could be supportive, and help us, help him raise money for Blind Veterans UK. The donation page is: www.justgiving.com/paulspeople

A very big thank you to all of you, who continue to make on going contributions in very many different ways in support of our 101 year old charity!



Picture: Paul's People take a break during a training walk in Brighton. From left to right: Blind Veterans UK Trustee Colonel Mike Brooke, Paul Jacobs GM, Chairman Tim Davis, Camilla Kerr and Sarah-Lucie Watson MB BS FRCOphth and Mike's dog Woody. And yes Paul is sporting a camouflage tutu!



Picture: Mark Abel dives into his lane during a training session in Florida where he competed in The Invictus Games.



Picture: Paul Jacobs GM records Flesh & Blood ahead of performing in Gareth Malone's Invictus Choir at The Invictus Games in Florida. You can download it at iTunes. **Credit:** BBC, Twenty Twenty Brighton, Mark Johnson.

On the cover: Blind Veterans UK President Ray Hazan OBE with celebrity chef and patron of the Royal London Society for Blind People, Monica Galetti, who presented Ray with the Trustees Award at this year's Soldiering On Awards.

Back page: Steve Mills, Rob Long, SSgt Paul Musk Dave Wolett, Craig Brindley and Mark Threadgold at the Eiffel Tower at the completion of the inaugural Brighton to Paris Cycle Beyond Challenge.

Contact: Review Editor, Catherine Goodier 020 7616 8367
Email: revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk



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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.

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

Booking at 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 and 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.

June.

Gardening Week 5th to 11th. Ex POW Week 26th June to 2nd July.

July/August.

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

August.

Archery Club 14th to 20th August.

Activities from the Llandudno centre.

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.

August.

Driving Week 8th to 12th August and 22nd to 26th August.

Activities from the Sheffield centre.

July.

Culture Week 18th to 22nd.

August.

Gardens Week 8th to 12th.

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.

Noticeboard.

Dates for your diary and useful information.

An exciting opportunity for painters that is open to blind veterans, volunteers and staff.

Beginners, hobby painters, experts and have a go painters all welcome!

You are invited to participate in a fundraising exhibition on the theme of Landscape, Seascape or Cityscape that will be held at the Brighton centre from Monday 17th October for two weeks.

Members, volunteers and staff may enter one painting into the exhibition which must have been painted especially for the exhibition and will be offered for sale to benefit the charity.

Paintings may be dropped off with Dave Bryant at the Brighton centre, Nadia Wazera at the Llandudno centre, or Chris Clark at the Sheffield Centre, or; sent to Dave Bryant at the Brighton centre.

The deadline for entries is September and once again entries must have been painted especially for the exhibition and be accompanied by an entry form.

If you would like to take part please request the terms and conditions, and an entry form from Dave Bryant, Art & Craft Instructor at the Brighton Art & Craft Workshop in person, by e-mail, phone or post.

Email: david.bryant@blindveterans.org.uk

Telephone: 01273 391466.

Address: Art & Craft Workshop, Blind Veterans UK, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 7BS.

Join Blind Veterans UK's Golf Club.

Blind Veterans UK's Golf Club welcomes golfers, old and young and past and present members, to join us in 2016 when we will stay at the Brighton centre over four weekends and practice and play from Rusper Golf course.

We would welcome you to join us on:

18th and 19th June

17th and 18th July

20th and 21st August

24th and 25th September

If you would like to join the Golf Club please contact Pam Crossan on telephone: 02381 787636 or mobile: 07874 655535 or email her at: pcrossan@talktalk.net

Sign up to run the Royal Parks Half Marathon with the Sports & Rec team at the Brighton centre.

The Sports & Recreation department at the Brighton centre has guaranteed places for runners in the Royal Parks Half Marathon that will take place on Sunday 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' Park and Kensington Gardens. Runners have the chance to enjoy these beautiful parks in the autumn as you run past some of London's most iconic landmarks that include the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Albert Hall.

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

If you don't have a guide Russell and his colleagues will try to match you with a sighted running guide.

Blind veteran Peter Phipps raises money through talks.

Peter Phipps who joined Blind Veterans UK in 2013 has raised more than £2,000 through travelling to Freemasons' Lodges across Oxfordshire with his guide dog Misty and fellow Mason Roger Hampshire to give talks about Blind Veterans UK.

Peter, 87, from Kidlington, said: "Being told at the eye hospital that there was nothing they could do and that I would eventually become totally blind was very hard. Joining Blind Veterans UK has been totally life-changing and I undertook the talks with Roger to raise money for the charity that has done so much for me."

The Review would like to extend its thanks to The Oxford Mail for granting permission to use the article and photograph.



Picture: Blind veteran Peter Phipps with fellow Mason Roger Hampshire and Peter's guide dog Misty.

Ray Hazan OBE receives surprise Soldiering On Trustees Award. By Mark Wheeler, PR Officer.

Blind Veterans UK President Ray Hazan OBE was awarded the Trustees Award at this year's Soldiering On Awards in recognition of the work he has carried out with our charity for more than 40 years.

This award came as a complete shock to Ray who attended the 22nd April ceremony with his wife Roberta at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel in London. Ray knew that he had been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award, but had no idea that he was in line to receive this special award.

Ray said: "I was so pleased just to be nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award so when that came and passed I was resigned to the fact that it wasn't my night but then I found that I was receiving this one. It was a lovely surprise."

The award was presented to Ray by celebrity chef and patron of the Royal London Society for Blind People, Monica Galetti. It is awarded at the discretion of the Soldiering On Through Life Trust's Trustees to recognise a person whose efforts have had a significant impact on the UK's Armed Forces Community.

The citation with the award described Ray as; 'A blind veteran who epitomises the courage, commitment and resourcefulness of Blind Veterans UK, first as a client, then as a staff member and now as an ambassador and President.'

Ray joined Blind Veterans UK in 1973. He was on his second tour of duty in Northern Ireland with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment when an IRA parcel bomb exploded in his hands. He was left totally blind, suffered severe hearing loss and lost his right hand. A fellow Officer was killed in the blast.

Ray went on to join Blind Veterans UK as a member of staff in 1977, and was elected President in 2004. He worked in the PR and Welfare departments, and was Editor of the Review, a position he retired from in 2011.

He was awarded an OBE in 2012 for his services to Blind Veterans UK and the blind community.

Chief Executive of Blind Veterans UK, Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB, says: "I am truly delighted that Ray has been recognised for his dedicated and inspiring work over the last 40 years."

"He is a shining example to all at Blind Veterans UK of what is possible and it is no exaggeration to say that his work has improved the lives of thousands of blind veterans in that time."

Ray added: "This is a huge honour and particularly pleasing as it represents a lifetime working for such a brilliant organisation in Blind Veterans UK. The path that led me to this point, winning this award and the marvellous life I have had, is because there was a charity that existed called Blind Veterans UK. It was a fantastic evening for me and my family and I will always be grateful to all of them for their support."

The Soldiering On Through Life Trust was established as a not-for-profit organisation to support Service personnel and their families throughout their lives by giving recognition of the inspirational and outstanding achievements of teams or individuals through an annual awards ceremony The Soldiering On Awards: National recognition for the whole Armed Forces Community.



Picture: Blind Veterans UK President Ray Hazan OBE poses with his Soldiering On Trustees Award.

Card and poem for Her Majesty The Queen, our Patron.

To celebrate HM The Queen's 90th Birthday blind veterans Elizabeth Sharpe-Nelson MBE and Joyce Paice made a birthday card at the Brighton centre and children's story book writer and poet Marion Sharville, also a blind veteran, wrote a special poem. This was organised through a collaboration between Zarina Casey, Group Manager PR & Marketing and Louise Timms Sports & Recreation Manager (Brighton).



Picture: Elizabeth Sharpe-Nelson MBE.



Picture: Joyce Paice.

To Her Majesty The Queen
on her 90th Birthday
from Blind Veterans UK

Our most beloved Patron
Queen Elizabeth The Second
when just a girl, quite suddenly
grew tall when duty beckoned.

Her stature has evolved through time,
through work and dedication,
her mother-love for her family
reaching out to all her nations

and beyond, to the Commonwealth
where dominion stretches further.
We wish her well on this happy day,
So honoured to have served her.

Blind veteran, Marion Sharville.



Blind Veterans UK Masonic Weekend from the Brighton centre 22nd to 25th April.

For the past 11 years Clive Jones has lived by the Freemason's creed of family first, work second and Freemasonry third. In that time, with the support of his wife, children and his Masonic family, he has dedicated much of his time to helping others through fundraising, raising in excess of £40,000.

Clive, who became a Mason on 25th April 2005, is the youngest ever Master and the first blind Master in St Mary's Lodge in the Province of Shropshire. The Province dates back to 1818. He has twice been Worshipful Master of his Lodge and will return to the Chair as Master in September 2017, an important year as it is the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England, which is situated in London.

The symbolism of Masonry is also important to Clive, and wherever he is his pocket Braille watch remains set at 9 o'clock. The time that Freemasons around the world stop to remember those from whom they are apart.

It was during the annual HMS Sultan Summer Camp that Clive rekindled his thoughts of becoming a Freemason. He spoke with Don Oliver who has volunteered at HMS Sultan for many decades and Billy Miller, a long time Freemason who came to St Dunstan's in 1946 after he was blinded in Italy during the Second World War. When Clive knew it was right for him it was Don who proposed him and Billy who seconded him.

As Chairman of Blind Veterans UK's Masonic Group Clive led the annual Masonic Weekend at the Brighton centre. The weekend started with many Masons travelling from their respective homes all around the country to meet up at the Brighton centre in Ovingdene, East Sussex.

After a nice catch up the plans for the weekend were announced. These included W.Bro Clive chairing the groups AGM on Saturday morning. Clive had arranged for the group to visit their long term friends at the Temple Lodge No 4962, where they witnessed a wonderful passing ceremony. On alternate years the members of the Blind Veterans UK Masonic group take over and perform a demonstration of a Ceremony.

Clive said: "Considering the members come from all over the country, never rehearse or practice together, it is fantastic how well these demonstrations go."

After the meeting and enjoying the company of the Temple Lodge at their festive board, the members of Blind Veterans UK returned to the Brighton centre.

On the Sunday, Clive arranged a luncheon, when he welcomed the WM of The Temple Lodge W.Bro. Peter Whiteside and his good lady Suzanne, together with Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB and his good Lady Isobel. In total 40 people enjoyed lunch in The Winter Garden, a mix of members of Blind Veterans UK Masonic Group and Masons from The Temple Lodge and their guests.

Welcome drinks were taken before the group and their guests went into dine. To create an informal atmosphere to allow conversations to flow, friends to catch up with one another and new friendships to be formed, Clive broke with tradition and seated Blind Veterans UK's Masons with those from Brighton's Temple Lodge.

In his role of President during the Sunday luncheon, W. Bro Bob Strickland thanked everyone present and mentioned Blind Veterans UK's Masons who had died during the past year, W.Bro Maurice Geere, known as Ginge, W.Bro John Morish and W.Bro Ernie Bignall. He said how all three had given Blind Veterans UK Masonic group great support over the years and that they are sadly missed. Maurice's widow Nora attended the lunch, and all there were all grateful for her presence.

Blind veteran Ron Cross MBE, acting as Chaplain said Grace. A beautiful meal was provided by TNS catering, and thanks must go to Sue Knevett and her team for their happiness, care and professionalism.

Following the meal, Clive thanked Worshipful Master, W.Bro Peter Whiteside of the Temple Lodge Brighton, presenting him with a Masonic block and gavel.

Clive said: "I asked for the block and gavel to be carved to symbolise the friendship and the bond that exists between Blind Veterans UK, formerly St Dunstan's, and The Temple Lodge Brighton. The block includes both the St Dunstan's and Blind Veterans UK emblems to show where the charity came from and where it is today and how the friendship with the Temple Lodge has been maintained throughout the years."

Accepting the block and gavel The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Peter Whiteside of the Temple Lodge Brighton said: "I've known St Dunstan's since I was 10 years old as I was one of the little runner boys who would walk with blind veterans, or St Dunstaners as we called them, along the seafront and join them for archery and board games. Each year when Temple Lodge hosts St Dunstan's Masonic Group, I still call it the St Dunstan's Masonic group, during the annual weekend it is one of the highlights of our year and I want to thank each one of you for your friendship."

Clive presented a lovely bouquet of flowers to Peter's good lady Suzanne with thanks for her friendship and continued support.

The next presentation was to Blind Veterans UK's Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB.

Clive Jones: "Sir I'd like to present you with a block and gavel, it's different to the one presented to Peter, it was made by Bill Mooney, a blind veteran, who is a past Master of his Lodge, and it has the Blind Veterans UK badge on the front. We would be honoured if you would please accept this as a gift from Blind Veterans UK Masonic group."

Nick Caplin: "Thank you. I would like to thank you, not just for today, but for everything that you and the Masons have done for our charity, in particular for the financial support you have given to the Llandudno centre. The Grand Lodge has given over £100,000 that will be used for our LifeSkills programme. Thank you to each of you for all you do for our charity."

The final presentation was a bouquet of flowers to Isobel Caplin who said: "This is the first contact I have ever had with the Masons and I have to say what a pleasure it has been for me to spend lunch time with such wonderful people, truly inspirational. Thank you."

A fantastic weekend was had by all Brethren in attendance, and the planning has already started for 2017.

Blind Veterans UK Masonic Group was established in 1929. If you are a Freemason, and you are interested in becoming part of the group, please contact the group's Chairman & Secretary W.Bro Clive Jones on mobile: 07854 800256 or email him at dragoneye67@sky.com



Picture: Representatives of Blind Veterans UK's Masonic Group with Isobel and Nick Caplin.



Picture: Blind Veterans UK Chief Executive Major General (Rtd) Nick Caplin CB, Chairman of Blind Veterans UK Masonic Group Clive Jones and Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Peter Whiteside, Temple Lodge, Brighton.

Happy Holidays. By Colin Williamson, Contributing Editor.

Everyone looks forward to going away on holiday, whether it's a relaxing country break, a beach holiday or one that gets the adrenaline flowing but it can take some serious planning to ensure that everything goes smoothly, not just whilst you are away but the actual build up to your break. This could include making sure that your passport is up to date, any relevant visa requirements, travel insurance, transport, right choice of hotel and resort and a myriad of other issues. For anyone with a disability, these issues are magnified tenfold.

When booking your holiday, it is essential that you inform the travel company about your requirements. If you require travel insurance make sure that you tell your insurer not just about your level of sight loss but also about any other illness or ailment that you are suffering from.

Overseas holidays can throw up some particular challenges and you need to be extra careful when booking a holiday overseas. Depending where you are intending to travel, some hotels may not be able to cater for a vision impaired guest and the resort itself may not be VI friendly.

There are a number of companies that offer holidays abroad for blind and vision impaired people, these include Seable, www.seable.co.uk/ which specialise in activity holidays abroad.

Another Traveleyes www.traveleyes-international.com/ specialises in groups of mixed travellers, both sighted and non-sighted and asks the sighted travellers to describe the scenery and the places that you may visit and as a bonus the sighted traveller has a fifty per cent reduction on their holiday cost.

If you are planning on holidaying in the UK, there are a number of specialist hotels that cater exclusively for the visually impaired, their friends and family and also if you are a guide dog user. Vision Hotels, part of Action for Blind, have three AA three star rated hotels situated around the country in South Devon, North Somerset and The Lake District. Details of these hotels can be found on the Vision Hotel website, www.visionhotels.co.uk.

There is an organisation called Holidays for All that is a consortium of voluntary

organisations that offer holidays for people with disabilities, their website is www.holidaysforall.org.uk and you can speak to them on 0845 1249971.

The Calvert Trust has three holiday centres throughout the UK, Kielder Forest in the very beautiful Northumberland National Park, Exmoor and The Lake District and currently offer injured or disabled ex-servicemen and women heavily discounted holidays.

The RNIB has three residential homes in Somerset, Yorkshire and East Sussex and of course, Blind Veterans UK have three superb centres in Brighton, Sheffield and the lovely seaside town of Llandudno where you can holiday confident in the knowledge that the staff are well versed in looking after the needs of the visually impaired.

There are a number of organisations that can help with sorting out a companion or escort to accompany you on holiday should you wish, although this may incur additional cost. These include the British Red Cross and the British Nursing Association. You might also want to consider Blind Veterans UK, who have a growing bank of volunteers who could assist.

Whatever you do, make sure that you have an enjoyable, safe and stress free holiday and if you do have any problems or issues whilst on your break make sure that the tour operator or the travel company are made aware as soon as possible in order to rectify the situation. The same goes if you feel that you have been unfairly discriminated against as a result of your disability when on your break.

Happy holidays!

From a Rifleman to a Field Marshal. Paul Jacobs GM speaks with Field Marshal The Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE DL.

Paul Jacobs (PJ): Good morning Sir, Field Marshal The Lord Walker.

Field Marshall The Lord Walker (LW): Good morning Paul how are you?

PJ: Very well. Thank you for coming in today Sir. I heard that you arrived on your motorbike.

LW: Well it's the quickest way to get around London most of the time.

PJ: So going into the interview my research showed that you were educated in Salisbury in Rhodesia. Is that correct?

LW: I did a bit of my education there. Most of my secondary education was done in the other big city Bulawayo.

PJ: You were born in 1944.

LW: I was.

PJ: So we've established that you received part of your education in the African continent and then in 1966, when England won the World Cup, you decided to join Her Majesty's finest Battalion and fine Regiment The Royal Anglians.

LW: Well actually not at first. I came back to England and was at school in Yorkshire and my father thought the services would be a good career for me so I went to the Royal Navy and I went for a route into Dartmouth. I went to HMS Sultan, did their selection process and they offered me a reserved Cadetship at Dartmouth at the age of 16. They said that I should go on interesting sailing holidays during my summer break, so I had an uncle who fixed me up on a trawler on the North Sea for six weeks and that cured me of the Navy.

PJ: Amen to that.

LW: And then I went to teach in Norwich and after a couple of years there I went down to the local Recruiting Office and asked them to give me a job and I enlisted into the Royal Signals. But when I got to Sandhurst our Platoon

Commander was an ex Royal Norfolk, now Royal Anglian, Officer and he was the sort of person whom we all admired, and a number of us in my Platoon converted from our original choices to the Royal Anglian Regiment. He was then given a rocket by the Commandant for poaching.

PJ: As your career went on did you catch up with him?

LW: Yes I still see him. He's now retired and lives in Bury St Edmonds. He left the Army as a Major.

PJ: So did he go through the ranks?

LW: No he was a Commissioned Officer in the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

PJ: I thought at Sandhurst it was Colour Sergeants and CSMs.

LW: They had young officers who were Regimental representatives as well as the senior ranks. I mean the senior ranks did all of the hard work. The young officers were Platoon Commanders and held various positions like that, but they also had a structure that had a Lieutenant Colonel who was the College Commander and then they had Majors and Captains further down the system as well as all the senior ranks. My Sergeant Major was WOII Day from the Grenadier Guards, probably one of the people who had the greatest influence on my life and I had enormous respect for him.

PJ: So when you left Sandhurst where was your first posting?

LW: In my day they tried a new system as they took all of the newly commissioned officers and sent them first on a skill of arms course down at Hythe and then the Platoon Commanders battle course, so that was another six months' worth of training before we were allowed to go and join our Regiments.

Then I went to join my Regiment which was based at Sellar in north rhinewestphalia in Germany, part of 7 Armoured Brigade. I spent a couple of years there before we were sent back to Catterick in the later part of 1968. They were trying out new systems where they had different numbers of units doing different things. We had I think one company's worth of the good old 432 APC

in Catterick and we picked up the rest of our vehicles when he deployed to Germany.

PJ: So then where was your first official posting?

LW: In 1969 I went out to Cyprus, I was ADC to the General Commanding the nearest land forces for a year. When I left them I went back to my Battalion which had just been posted from Catterick to Londonderry.

PJ: What rank were you at that time?

LW: By that time I was a Captain.

PJ: From what I understand you did two tours of Northern Ireland when you were also mentioned in Despatches.

LW: Well I did more than that as we did four month tours in my days. We did two and a quarter years in Londonderry at the time of Bloody Sunday. The next tour was to Armagh, the tour after that was to the city centre in Belfast. Then there was a tour when I was Commanding Officer when we were the resident Battalion in Londonderry again for just over two years.

PJ: I was based in Ballykinler. Can you tell us a bit about your time in Northern Ireland?

LW: When were you there?

PJ: I was there in 2007.

LW: Well of course the Ballykinler people we knew quite well as they were one of the other resident Battalions when we were there. You had Ballykelly, Ballykinler, Hollywood and Londonderry.

It was very interesting going through the period of the Northern Ireland troubles because right at the beginning when we first got there in 1969 the residents on both sides of the religious divide in Londonderry were terribly welcoming of us. The soldiers used to go out with their girlfriends in the Bogside. Well you can't imagine that being the case some three or four years

later because after Bloody Sunday that all changed and of course when we went back in 1985 which was the start of the second tour there was no question of soldiers going out of Barracks unless they were going out as part of a formal body. So it had changed dramatically.

PJ: Did you lose many?

LW: We lost two men in our first tour and two men in our second tour.

PJ: Is this just you working with a company or a Platoon?

LW: Well the first time I was the Signal Officer and the second time I was CO.

PJ: Did you serve with Lord Dannatt?

LW: He might have been there, but the Green Howard's took over from us and I think at that time that Colonel Dannatt had already commanded, I can't quite remember because Colonel Powell was their CO. But they took over from us and we bumped into them at a number of places as we took over from them when we were in Armagh in one of our four month tours. And they were a similar sort of Regiment to us with the same sort of folk in it. People who were slow to rile but steadfast and tough once they were.

PJ: I'm not going to comment.

LW: Well you were a Green Jacket weren't you?

PJ: Absolutely by the Grace of God a convict through and through. You obviously know our fine President, former Royal Anglian Captain Ray Hazan who was injured in Northern Ireland.

LW: We were the resident Battalion and 3rd Battalion were in the Cregan at the time when it happened and so I've known of Ray really since 1970 and I've known him for about 15 or 20 years. We went on a car rally together when I was Commander in Chief. I was driving, he was map reading with a Braille map. We had a lovely time. It was a great event.

PJ: I think through your career when you ended in 2006 we've got to keep the

younger officers underneath you and from the ranks in my position working with charities, not just Help for Heroes but with blind veterans as at the end of the day I think that a blind veteran is more severely injured than someone in a wheelchair. If he's got his eyes and his arms he can still cut around town on his own, he can still drive. I know three different triple amputees who can still drive their own cars, which I'm still amazed at, whereas I think a blind veteran is just a whole new level.

LW: I understand the loss of sight is a completely different issue to having an inability to use an arm or a leg. And I agree with you as I think that one of the things I've tried to do since leaving the Army is to give something back to a career and a profession which gave me an awful lot. I spent five years looking after the Chelsea Pensioners at the Royal Hospital and I'm on the Board of two charities, the Stoll charity and I'm also involved with Veterans Aid.

PJ: Thank you Lord Walker. Moving on to the next phase of our interview, a more philosophical phase, where was the most exciting place you served?

LW: That's a very difficult question to answer because of course when you've been in an organisation for 42 years you look back and you say to yourself 'Was there any time really that I thought I would want to leave? Did I ever feel that I wasn't doing something worthwhile? Or that I needed a change?' And the answer to that was no.

I mean it was pretty exciting as a young officer finding yourself on the streets of Londonderry. You went to Londonderry, I'm sure you must remember the first day there wondering what it was all about. Then of course as you change jobs each time they all get quite exciting. Being Commanding Officer there for over two years was a very challenging job, which I enjoyed. Commanding the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Bosnia was an exciting time. There were lots of exciting times. I can't really remember any time which I didn't enjoy and I said to myself, up with this I cannot put and I must go and find myself another profession. So I'm ducking the issue really.

PJ: Absolutely doing what all politicians do! So onto the next question — what's the best piece of advice that you've been given and who gave it to you?

LW: I think probably the best piece of advice I was ever given was by the old

Sergeant Major at Sandhurst. He took you to one side and he said, it's doesn't matter what you do, you've just got to be straight about things and make sure that if something happens you don't try and bury it. Just say what the truth is. And, he said, and behave as if you really mean to be a leader. I remember he was gripping somebody who was going to the front of the lunch queue when he was playing a role as a Platoon Commander and he should have let his Platoon go first. It was those sorts of things that show leadership so I think that was probably the best advice I ever got. I think the best advice is also to just be yourself.

PJ: Do you come from a military background? Was your father in the Forces?

LW: No my old man went out to Southern Rhodesia as it was then in 1929 at the age of 21 and he joined what was known as the British South Africa Police. Sounds as though it was the South Africa Police, but it was actually the Police Force of Southern Rhodesia and he spent 33 years as a Policeman in Zimbabwe, or Southern Rhodesia as it was. But I suppose in the context of the Colonial Police Forces of the day that they were very similar to the armed services, for a start they used the same ranks, there were Captains and Majors. They changed that later on but originally they were very service orientated and their uniforms were very similar to service uniforms, Sam Brown, swords, the usual thing. So I suppose in a funny way he encouraged me to join the services because he felt they were akin to what he'd experienced.

PJ: So why not join the Rhodesian Police Force?

LW: Well because by the time I was old enough to start looking for a profession my father had come back to London.

PJ: So Sir which qualities do you admire in others, either civilian or military personnel?

LW: Humour. Leadership. Honestly. Integrity.

PJ: So our creed.

LW: Yes the code of conduct that a soldier follows. I admire ambition, but ambition in the context of wanting to achieve something unusual. Adventurous,

you know people who go rushing up the top of mountains and trying to row the Atlantic and do all of these amazing things. So there's plenty of that I admire.

PJ: Sir what makes The Lord Walker happy?

LW: The things that make me happy are the things that I enjoy doing. The things that make me happy are my family, the kids, and grand kids. My wife makes me happy, she's always made me happy. My motorcycle, sailing, playing tennis, my mates. So I find it quite difficult at this end of the calendar to be unhappy, and if I am unhappy it's my own fault.

PJ: That's a reasonable answer [laughter]. A question for you The Lord Walker.

LW: Yes The Paul Jacobs.

PJ: What's the most important lesson that life has taught you?

LW: Well that's a good question. I've never really given it a great deal of thought, but I would have thought the most important thing in life is firstly to be yourself, don't try and be somebody you aren't, don't try and play a role to impress people as that will always go wrong. Secondly you've got to be straight. Be straight with your soldiers, be straight with your friends, be straight with people you deal with, be straight with your family. I would say those are two of the most important things in life — be yourself and be straight.

PJ: Smashing. Can you tell me when you became Field Marshal, which is an honorary title because I think the last Field Marshall was 95 year old Bramall, do you receive a medal?

LW: In the Army you get a baton that's about 14" long and on the top it has a gold St George slaying the Dragon and an inscription that reads 'Presented by Her Majesty' and to whomever it's been presented. So the Army are the only people who get them for a 5 Star rank, because the Royal Navy has something called Admiral of the Fleet and the Royal Air Force Marshal, they get the badges of rank but not the baton.

There's a saying for young officers that they go into the Regiments with a Field

Marshal's baton in their knapsack. In other words if somebody's really ambitious they're trying to get to the point where they can become a Field Marshal.

PJ: When did you have the honour of Field Marshal bestowed upon you?

LW: June 2014.

PJ: Can you tell us about that please?

LW: What happened was that in 1992 the then Chief Executive of British Telecom was engaged to conduct a review of the rank structure of the armed services on the basis they felt that there was too much redundancy and whereas commercial businesses were all flattening their structures, going straight from the Chief Executive to the newest clerk. So he did a study and he made a recommendation that said we should get rid of Lance Corporals, Staff Sergeants, WOIs, one of the two Lieutenants, one of the two Colonels, two of the three Generals and the Field Marshal.

Well you can imagine this went down a bomb because what they failed to realise is that when you're going to war, if you're fighting a battle with a section and your section commander is killed you need a Lance Corporal.

PJ: Absolutely. I became a Lance Jack on the battlefield.

LW: Yes. In the end they agreed the only rank they would get rid of was the Field Marshal, but it was a great honour for us with the previous three Chiefs, one who was Royal Navy, one who was Royal Air Force and one who was Army. So that's how it happened and it was all to do really with a review that wasn't very clever at the time.

PJ: Thank you very much for coming in to speak with us at the Review. I would like to thank The Lady Walker for the great work she does as a Trustee of Blind Veterans UK. People still talk about the time she arranged for a number of blind veterans to go onboard HMS Bulwark.

And thank you for everything you've done, not just for our charity but the other charities you are involved with. Obviously we have blind veterans who are also Chelsea Pensioners.

LW: Yes it's quite interesting because when I was there it was very difficult to persuade them to become blind veterans. You are such a wonderful charity and once the first one had become a member he became your Recruiting Sergeant. It's extraordinary there are people who deserve to be introduced to Blind Veterans UK but they resist it for some reason until they get there and then once they get there they say 'Why didn't I do this before?'

PJ: That's what I was saying earlier when you have an injury like losing your legs you don't get over it, but you can get these new false legs that are super duper, whereas blindness and war blindness or war deafness is in a whole different league and people are scared of it. Like myself I was scared. St Dunstan's then, now Blind Veterans UK, came to see me in hospital when I was injured, but I was scared for the first two years. I didn't want anything to do with them. It takes time and there are so many people in front of you who have done all of these amazing things who you can learn from. People like Billy Baxter, Ray Hazan, Terry Bullingham and Craig Lundberg who are legends.



Picture: Field Marshal The Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE DL and Paul Jacobs GM share a laugh in the Review's recording room.



Picture: Field Marshal The Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE DL.

A Nautical Excursion. By Chris Cardwell.

Readers of the February edition of Review may have noticed an invitation to have a go at sailing. Your reaction may have been similar to mine — mildly interested but not at all sure about leaving dry land. Anyhow, after taking an approach based on a "what reason do I really have for not trying it?" I duly enlisted fellow blind veteran Brian Eldridge into joining me on an excursion into the unknown.

The East Anglian Sailing Trust has, for the last 10 years or so, provided the opportunity for blind veterans and other vision impaired people to experience sailing. It is run entirely by volunteers and thanks to their generosity we can enjoy the experience of sailing whilst also learning new skills. The yachts they use are privately owned and all different, ranging from approximately 25 to 45 foot in length and accommodating several people. A sighted crew accompany one or two vision impaired people of each vessel. They sail out of the Suffolk Yacht Harbour in Levington, near Ipswich in Suffolk.

This may sound like a pastoral and tranquil location but the harbour sits on the River Orwell, sandwiched just inland between the very busy ports of Felixstowe and Harwich. Container ships, ferries, fast moving pilot boats and numerous yachts and dinghies provide a challenging environment in which to navigate. The largest container ships that dock in Felixstowe are literally huge with a deck the size of four football pitches and a draught, the distance between bottom of hull and the boat's waterline, of 50 foot. They could carry 1.15 million washing machines. Quite what you would do with so many kitchen appliances is another matter but suffice to say these vessels made our sizeable yacht feel miniscule.

So, on 17 May, we sailed on Suli", owned and skippered by Ian Jewry and crewed by Mark Askew. Ian tells me Sulis is a Sun Odyssey 37 built in 2006 at the Jeanneau factory in Les Herbiers, France. She is a typical modern, glass fibre, production yacht weighing in at just over six tonnes. The manufacturers claim seven berths, but she is much more comfortable when the compliment is four or five. Sulis has all that is needed for extended stays on board, including a galley with fridge and cooker, and heads with a shower.

For those members who are mariners, Sulis is a Masthead Bermudan Sloop — a fully battened mainsail with slab reefing and a roller furling genoa. In a decent

breeze, cruising speed is six or seven knots and when the wind dies; a 40hp diesel pushes her along at much the same speed.

I do appreciate there are sound historical reasons for the multitude of nautical terms that describe the component parts of vessels and the art of navigation, but must say I found most of them utterly perplexing. Even port and starboard defeated me whist steering, so we quickly settled upon "left a bit or right a bit," which seemed to work well enough, although a firm hand did occasionally reach out to correct the bearing when even left and right defeated me!

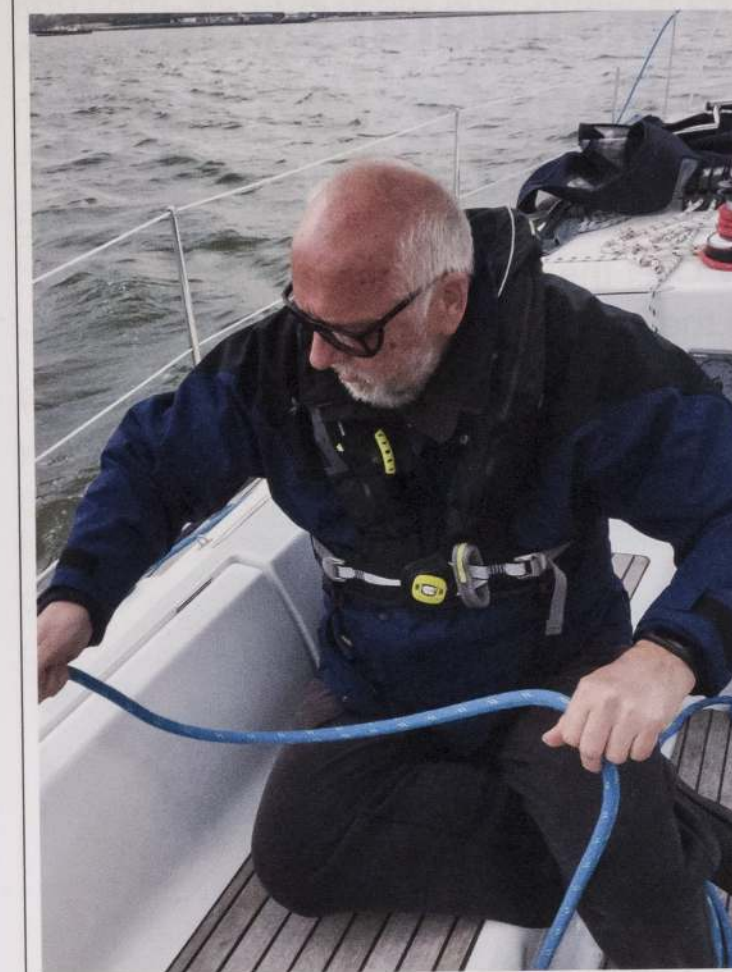
General guidance that I should steer between the green and red buoys was clear and unambiguous but doubtless easier to follow if you could see the buoys concerned. Did this matter? Not in the slightest, because the sighted crew invariably had an alternative approach to keep us safe and heading in the right direction.

Brian spent time standing confidently on the prow, that's the pointy end for those of us who didn't serve in the Royal Navy, and I did suggest that if he wished to accurately emulate a figurehead he really should be bare breasted, but perhaps my gratuitous and unheeded advice was swept away by the wind.

We sailed past the Harwich base of Trinity House which, as readers may know, is the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Isles and Gibraltar. I happen to be a volunteer guide at Southwold Lighthouse so it was only fitting that Brian and his wife Margaret then had the dubious pleasure of a Lighthouse tour. After two staircases totalling 112 steps later and much hot air on my part they knew more than they ever wished to know about the fascinating chronicle of how and why amongst others, the Emperor Trajan, Pope Clement I, Archbishop Stephen Langton, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Anne, Princess Royal have all contributed to the history of Trinity House. But that's another story.

If you would like to know more about sailing in Suffolk for the vision impaired then do contact the East Anglian Sailing Trust by telephone on 0333 088 3278 or email them crusingsec@e-a-s-t.org.uk or visit their website at www.east-anglian-sailing-trust.org.uk

They are welcoming, friendly, supportive and skilled.



Picture: Blind veteran Chris Cardwell onboard Suli with the East Anglian Sailing Trust.



Picture: Chris Cardwell and Brian Eldridge, front left and right, with fellow crew members.

Blind Veterans UK's inaugural Cycle Beyond Brighton to Paris Cycle Ride.

Congratulations to Stacey Jones, Regional Fundraising Assistant at the Brighton centre, who organised the hugely successful inaugural Cycle Beyond Brighton to Paris cycle ride from 12th to 15th May. Over the course of three days 40 cyclists took part to cover the 313 miles from the Brighton centre to the Eiffel Tower in Paris raising £29,000 for our charity.



Picture: Ready for the off from our Brighton centre.



Picture: Cycling through France en-route to Paris and the finish.

Rob Long, a former Lance Bombardier in the Royal Artillery who was blinded in Afghanistan in 2010, said: "Thank you to everyone who shared and donated to my Just Giving Page for Blind Veterans UK, Brighton to Paris bike ride. As a team we raised over £29,000. I really appreciate the support, it kept me motivated especially on the long hill climbs which were a re-occurring theme between Dieppe and Paris.

"We arrived at the base of the Eiffel Tower after a day cycling 140 miles. I was thoroughly sun burnt and my leg day quota had definitely been filled for the year! Also a big thanks to Gemma for all of her support during the training and not kicking me in the leg after dropping me off in Brighton at midnight and on hearing I had forgotten my trainers making the return trip to London so that I didn't have to cycle to Paris in my socks! And Steve Mills you were an awesome cycling partner! Thank you."



Picture: Beefcakes on bikes. Steve Mills, Sports & Recreation Supervisor at the Brighton centre front and Rob Long.

Used to pushing his physical limits, two times World Record holder Mark Threadgold teamed up with Craig Brindley Rehabilitation & Training Support Supervisor (Brighton). Mark said: "It was good fun and we had a good team. Having learnt to ride the tandem last year for the Triathlon I took to it once I got over the official fear. I thoroughly enjoyed the Brighton to Paris ride. It was really well planned, well executed, both from admin team and Paul Yates Smith did a cracking job cycling everywhere to check everyone was where they needed

to be. He did more miles than anyone else. Well done and he deserves massive congratulations. I have to keep cycling to train for the Thorpe Park Triathlon in July and Brighton in September."



Picture above left: Craig Brindley and Mark Threadgold ride tandem from Brighton to Paris. **Picture above right:** Too cute for words Owen Brindley cheers on dad Craig.

Former Corporal Dave Woollett took part with serving SSgt Paul Musk. Dave who joined Blind Veterans UK in 2013 said: "It was brilliant. The organisation was faultless and there was great support en-route. You definitely have to do the training and Paul and I managed to get five training days in beforehand. As we knew what we were up against we did three flat training days and two days training in hilly terrain. We definitely needed them! I hadn't been on a bike since 2004 and it was initially hard going during training to ride a tandem, as we also had to learn how to communicate with one another and to synchronise, but Paul was brilliant. To prepare I also did a lot of gym work. Every day was good and I'd recommended it."

Dave is no stranger to physical challenges as this year he has completed the Brighton half marathon, the London Marathon, the Brighton to Paris cycle ride and he will take on the 100K London to Brighton Challenge Walk in July.

To finish Dave said: "It's good to take on physical challenges like these to keep going."



Picture: A triumphant Dave Woollett and SSgt Paul Musk in front of the Eiffel Tower.

En-route the group took time in Dieppe to hold a service at the Canadian Memorial, when Rob Long placed the Blind Veterans UK wreath.



Picture: Rob Long places the wreath in memory of the Canadian troops who were killed during the raid on Dieppe.



Picture: Director of Fundraising Andrew Jones presented the Mayor of Dieppe with a cycling shirt.

Picture below: It was a jubilant group who arrived at the Eiffel Tower on Sunday 15th May.



Picture: Perfect planning from the support team.

Stacey Jones, Jayantilal 'Jay' Vaghadia, Nigel Beirne and Ian Kerr who acted as driver and sports masseur.



Picture: Rob Long and Mark Threadgold thank Stacey Jones for her hard work organising Cycle Beyond. **Photo credit:** All photos by Eon Matthews www.eonmatthews.co.uk who also took part in the cycle ride.

Blind Veterans UK gifts for Father's Day.

You still have time to purchase a memento for Father's Day, or perhaps you might just want to treat yourself instead with one of the gift items on the following pages. To purchase please telephone 0300 111 0440 for credit and debit cards. Quote Review plus the product code of the item you wish to buy. There is a £4.95 cost for postage and packaging. By placing an order you confirm you are of at least 18 years old. To comply with the law, we can only deliver for alcoholic purchases from us to persons over 18 years old. Orders need to be placed by Wednesday June 15th to arrive in time for Father's Day. You can also visit our on-line shop at: <http://shop.blindveterans.org.uk>

Celebrate the occasion with a drink or two.

Blind Veterans UK in partnership with Holden's Brewery have produced Blind Veterans UK centenary beer. Holden's is a family run English regional brewery that was founded in 1915 at the Park Inn in Woodsetton, Dudley, in the West Midlands. Just as we did they too celebrated their centenary in 2015.

Price: £10.00 for a pack of 8 bottles of Holden's Beer. **SKU:** SO1514.



Gift pack of two bottles of beer with a branded glass.

The gift box contains two bottles of Holden's Beer with a pint glass that has the Blind Veterans UK logo engraved onto it.

Price: £8. **SKU:** SO1513.



Blind Veterans UK's pint glasses.

A pack of six conical shaped pint glasses with the Blind Veterans UK logo engraved on them.

Price: £8. **SKU:** SO1515.



Get booted and suited on your special day.

Why not wear our silk, non-crease stripe tie with gold stripe detailing for this special occasion.

Price: £10. **SKU:** BV1232.



Tie and shirt accessory package.

This is our centenary wavy Blind Veterans UK flag accessory package that includes cufflinks, lapel badge and tie badge. One item in this package has been included for free.

Price: £14. **SKU:** SOO1512.



Boys and their toys — a cannon.

Give him his marching orders and this spring powered subaltern is off like a shot. Every tin treasure starts as a flat sheet of metal which is printed, cut and then passed through numerous tooling stations before being assembled by hand. An 18cm beautiful clockwork novelty these tin toys are sure to become collectors pieces. Warning: They are nostalgic replica products for adult collectors only and are not designed to comply with toy safety legislation.



Price: £10. **SKU:** BV1194.

Blind Veterans UK Centenary Medal.

Last year on 29th January 2015 we entered into our yearlong centenary celebrations to mark 100 years of our great and glorious charity. To mark this important date in our history a special collectable keepsake was produced, the Blind Veterans UK centenary medal. The front of the medal features the Blind Veterans UK centenary logo and on the reverse sits the St Dunstan's Torch, the name we were known by for most of our history. Measuring 50mm x 45mm the gold plated brass medal comes in a gilded presentation case.



Price: £17. **SKU:** BV1178.

Foreign Correspondent Aftershave Balm

This is the vintage cars 75ml aftershave balm, an easily absorbed moisturising balm that's enhanced with apricot kernel, grapeseed oils, shea butter, Vitamin E and witch hazel, to soothe, moisturise and protect just shaved skin. Fragranced with our especially commissioned leather and tobacco scent it is timeless and assuredly a gentleman's choice.

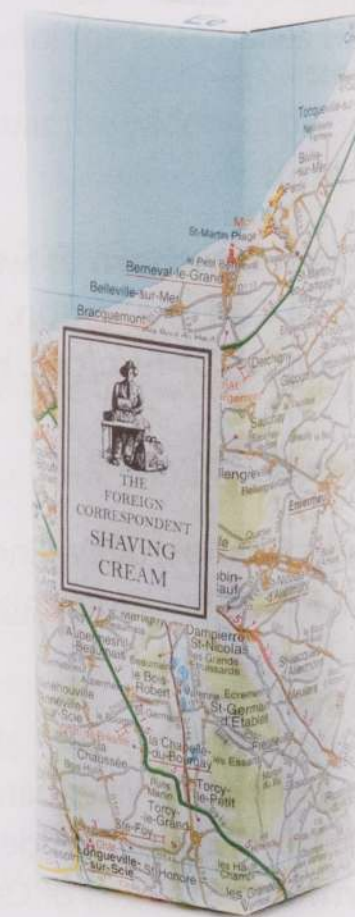
Price: £10. **SKU:** BV1154.



Foreign Correspondent Shave Cream

The vintage cars 75ml shave cream is a traditional shaving cream that is rich in coconut and almond oils, Vitamin E and witch hazel. This traditional brushed cream ensures a comfortable, smooth and close shave. Developed with professional barbers for cut throat shaving it has undergone the ultimate in testing and development. Its fragrance, called leather and tobacco, evokes vintage leather seats of a classic car or perhaps a Gentleman's Club — a great uncommon distinguished fragrance for an uncommon man.

Price: £10. **SKU:** BV1153.



Family News.

Congratulations to:

Births:

Don & Sharon Planner on the birth of granddaughter Elsie Grace who born on 6th April 2016 to Lucie and Jamie Planner.

Birthdays:

George Stringer, who celebrated his 105th birthday on 24th June.

Violet Wood, who celebrated her 105th birthday on 29th June.

Emlyn Morgan, who celebrated his 102nd birthday on 10th June.

George Haigh, who celebrated his 101st birthday on 29th June.

Alan Coburn, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 7th June.

Eve Lathom-Sharp, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 15th June.

Rose Shed, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 21st June.

Anniversaries:

Platinum (70th):

Charles & Hazel Cawthorn of Swindon, Wiltshire on 1st June.

Thomas & Jean Cull of Allenton, Derby on 15th June.

Eileen & Jim Smith of Turnford, Hertfordshire on 22nd June.

Blue Sapphire (65th):

Peter & Peggy Soanes, of Darlington, County Durham on 23rd June.

John & Irene Powell of Woodingdean, Sussex on 30th June.

Diamond (60th):

Colin & Jenny Gibbs, of Wrexham on 2nd June.

Barbara & Denis Watson of Alderbury, Salisbury on 2nd June.

John & Charmaine Stevens of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire on 30th June.

Elliott & Margaret Hall of Wigton, Cumbria on 30th June.

Golden (50th):

Peter & Sheila Lillywhite of Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire on 11th June.

Silver (25th):

Howell & Iris Williams, of Ammanford, Dyfed on 7th June.

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.

Kathleen 'Pearl' Bell who died in 2014. She was the widow of the late George Bell.

Judith Burke who died on 17th March 2016. She was the wife of Douglas Burke.

Margaret Crowley who died on 1st February 2016. She was the widow of the late William Crowley.

Harry Fleet who died on 14th April 2016. He was the husband of Joyce Fleet.

Betsy Green who died on 24th March 2016. She was the widow of the late Reginald Green.

Alexina Hix who died in 2016. She was the widow of the late Charles Hix.

Betty Lorenz who died on 22nd April 2016. She was the widow of the late Donald Lorenz.

Dorothy Newman who died on 18th September 2015. She was the widow of the late Harris Newman.

Doreen Robins who died on 30th April 2016. She was the wife of Keith Robins.

Florence Sheppard who died on 20th December 2015. She was the widow of the late Albert Sheppard.

Doreen Wallis who died on 12th April 2016. She was the widow of the late Alexander Wallis.

Kathleen 'Kath' Wiles who died on 3rd May 2016. She was the widow of the late George Wiles.

Phyllis Woolf was the widow of the late William Woolf.

Welcome to Blind Veterans UK.

Kenneth Belcher of Yate, Bristol served in the Royal Navy from 1951 to 1953.

Brian Biggin of Sheffield served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1957.

Richard Boswell of Liskeard, Cornwall served in the Royal Engineers from 1977 to 1990. Ken Connolly of Staines upon Thames, Middlesex served in the Coldstream Guards from 1943 to 1950.

Alister Brown of Ipswich served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1968 to 1969.

Marion Burrows née Nield of Urmston, Manchester served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1953.

John Calladine of Rotherham, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1956 to 1959.

Eric Corner of Truro, Cornwall served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Ted Davies of Wem served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1978.

Kenneth Farnham of Exeter served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

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

Gerry Gifford of Wickford, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Richard Glass of Scarborough, North Yorkshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Edward Gore of Felixstowe, Suffolk served in the Royal Navy from 1957 to 1969.

Norman Green of Beeston, Nottingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1953.

Alan Harvey of Worksop, Nottinghamshire served in the General Service, Corps, Royal Artillery, East Yorkshire Regiment and the Duke of Wellington's from 1943 to 1946.

Peter Hodgkinson of Belper, Derbyshire served in Royal Air Force Fighter Command from 1952 to 1955.

Jack Horne of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1947 to 1949.

Derek Jones of Llangollen, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force and the King's Own Royal Regiment from 1944 to 1947.

William Kelly of Liverpool served in the King's Regiment from 1952 to 1955.

Gerald Loret of Abingdon, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Signals from 1953 to 1955.

Toni Krasuski of Chorley, Lancashire served in the Polish Army from 1942 to 1946.

William Marrison of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham served in the Royal Navy from 1969 to 1991.

Norman Reading of Camborne, Cornwall served in the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1951.

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

Alfred Rix of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1957 to 1959.

Terence Summers of Shepley, Huddersfield served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1956 to 1959.

John Williams of Abergele, Clwyd served in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

Valerie Williams of Hove, East Sussex served in the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service from 1952 to 1955.

Frank Wilson of Witney, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1947.

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.

John Badger-Smith of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire died on 8th May 2016, aged 96. He joined the Royal Navy in 1936, training as a telegraphist and served in HMS Diana before being sunk in her in 1940. He also took part in the Norwegian campaign. He specialised in anti-submarine work taking part in the Atlantic convoys. He also went on Arctic convoys in various ships as well as serving ashore. When the war ended he served in Burma prior to returning to the UK where he served at a Naval Air Station in Oxfordshire. He was discharged in 1950 as an Acting Leading Patrolman.

Charles Bewick of Chislehurst, Kent died on 15th April 2016, aged 88. In 1945 he enlisted in the Royal Navy and served for three months. He then joined the General Service Corps in October 1945, transferring to the Royal Signals a month later. Posted to the war office as a wireless telegraphist he spent his service in Germany attached to HQ 2Gp Gutersloe with the Army Signal Group. There he spent his spare time learning to be a glider pilot with the Royal Air Force.

James 'Jim' Bourge of Cardiff, South Glamorgan died on 2nd May 2016, aged 89. He enlisted in 1944 into the Kings Own Regiment. He was posted to India and transferred to the Border Regiment in 1945. By 1947 he was in the Manchester Regiment and was discharged the following years in 1948. From 1961 to 1981 he served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (TA) from 1961 to 1981 and rose to the rank of Sergeant.

Frank Brierley of Rhyl, Denbighshire died on 16th April 2016, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and trained in Morse code as aircrew. He was in Sunderland flying boats as a wireless operator with coastal command and was discharged as an Acting Warrant Officer in 1946.

Louis Churchman of Gravesend, Kent died on 4th May 2016, aged 91. He enlisting in the Somerset Light Infantry in 1943. Posted to India and Burma he was discharged as a War Substantive Corporal in 1947.

Cecil Clark of Rotherham, South Yorkshire died on 20th April 2016, aged 87. He served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps in Germany from 1946 to 1948.

Frederick Cordery of Dyfed died on 7th April 2016, aged 91. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1943. He transferred to the Parachute Regiment in 1945 and had postings to Aldershot and the Isle of Wight. He was discharged in 1947 as a Sergeant.

William Crowley of Rhyl, Clwyd died on 1st December 2014, aged 95. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and served with 239 Squadron. He worked in the M/T section as a fitter and after 18 months was deployed to Egypt in 1942. He later went to North Africa, Algeria and Malta. He was serving in Sicily when the war ended and was discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

Anthony Davison of Warrington died on 25th April 2016, aged 84. He enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1950. He served as a Radar Operator in the Suez Canal and was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in 1953.

John Dixon of Carlisle died on 19th April 2016, aged 86. He joined the RAF for National Service in 1951 and served in Germany until 1953, discharging as a Senior Aircraftman.

William Doran of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear died on 3rd May 2016, aged 77. He joined the Royal Engineers for National Service in 1958 and after training he was posted to Cyprus. He enjoyed the Army immensely and extended his service until 1963 when he became deaf due to his work with explosives.

Charles 'Ron' Ellis of St Helens, Merseyside died on 9th April 2016, aged 93. In 1941 he joined the Royal Army Service Corps. He initially served with an anti-aircraft unit in the UK. Posted to Western Desert with the 1st Army, he moved from Algeria to Tunisia and was then posted to Italy where he moved along the Adriatic coast. He later served in Austria and was discharged as a Driver in 1947.

James 'Jimmy' Eustace of Keighley, West Yorkshire died on 11th February 2016, aged 88. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps for National Service in 1946 and served as a Clerk in Egypt and Palestine. He was discharged in 1948.

Thomas 'Tom' Ferguson of Swindon, Wiltshire died on 9th May 2016, aged 80. He volunteered for the Royal Air Force in 1954 and trained at RAF Padgate,

becoming an RAF Police dog handler. He was in charge of the dog section at RAF Lyneham and served in Hong Kong, Bahrain, Aden and Germany before retiring as a Sergeant in 1983.

Michael Flavin of Felixstowe, Suffolk died on 16th April 2016, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and was involved in the maintenance of early radar systems in the UK until 1946.

Josephine Gillett née Denbow of Amersham, Buckinghamshire died on 4th April 2016, aged 96. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and served with the HQ Maintenance Command at Burghfield Common in Reading. She was discharged as a Corporal in 1947.

Alec Glover of St Ives, Cambridgeshire died on 13th April 2016, aged 72. In 1962 he joined the RAF (boy entry) and trained in Hereford, specialising in catering as a Steward. He served in the UK then in Cyprus for 2½ years, looking after the Queen's Representative, Air Chief Marshal Barnet. He then worked on the Britannia fleet for 4½ years before discharge as a Flight Sergeants Mess Manager in 1984.

James Glover of Haddlington, East Lothian died on 11th April 2016, aged 91. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and served in the UK and Canada until discharge as a Sergeant in 1947.

John Godfrey of Clevedon, Avon died in 2016, aged 96. He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1939 and served in India and Burma until discharged as a Private in 1946.

Reginald 'Reg' Green of Barnard Castle, County Durham died on 17th April 2016, aged 82. He joined the Royal Engineers for National Service in 1952. He served in the UK and was discharged as a Sapper in 1954.

Ronald Green of Maldon, Essex died in 2016, aged 92. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1944 and trained as a radar mechanic at Yatesbury. With Transport Command he was posted to India and worked on Stirling, Halifax and Dakota aircraft before early release as a Leading Aircraftman in 1946.

William 'Eric' Hankinson of St Helens, Merseyside died on 28th April 2016, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in 1944 and qualified as a seaman. He served in HMS Despatch during the D-Day Landings and later in HMS Caradoc based at Colombo, Ceylon. He then served in the destroyers HMS Zodiac and HMS Cadiz before discharge as an Able Seaman in 1947.

Edward Hickman of Bilston, West Midlands died on 20th April 2016, aged 96. In 1941 he enlisted into the Royal Artillery and served in the Far East and Singapore. He spent two and a half years as a Prisoner of War in a Japanese prison camp where he was made to work in copper mines.

Margaret Humphries née Carnachan of Rutherglen, Glasgow died in January 2016, aged 93. She enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1942 and was posted to Grangemouth as an armourer's assistant, arming Spitfires. She then trained as a carpenter, before re-training as a Sergeant's Mess Steward and posted to RAF Kirkham. She was released from the RAF as a Corporal in 1946.

Thomas 'Pete' Jones of Seaford, East Sussex died on 25th April 2015, aged 93. He was called up for Service in April 1939 having already joined the Territorial Army. He joined an Artillery Field Regiment but later transferred to a Heavy Anti Aircraft unit where he served throughout the Blitz based in Barking. In 1942 he was embarked to Ceylon and spent some time in Colombo. He was later sent to Burma as part of the advance into Japanese held territory. He was discharged as a Bombardier in August 1946.

Sydney Johnson of Deganwy, Conway died on 13th April 2016, aged 96. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940 and served in the UK, Middle East & Eritrea. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

Eric Jones of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire died on 12th April 2016, aged 97. He joined the Royal Air Force in July 1939 and served at RAF Halton before he was discharged as an Aircraftman Second Class in 1942 as his engineering skills were required for the war effort.

Gary Largan of Gosport, Hampshire died on 6th May 2016, aged 70. He joined the Royal Navy in 1961. He served in HMS Albion as a Stoker during the Malaysia Confrontation, and then HMS Aurora. Following this he served ashore in HMS Vernon, then the minesweeper HMS Sheraton. He did a mechanics course and became a Chief Petty Officer serving in HMS Lowestoft. He was then in RFA Reliant during the evacuation of Lebanon in 1984. He left the Royal Navy in 1985 and joined the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces for 2½ years.

Lawrence Lewis of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham died on 30th December 2015, aged 90. He joined the Royal Navy in 1943 and trained at HMS Excellent, Whale Island. Serving in the cruiser HMS Glasgow he was deployed to the North Atlantic, the Far East and South Africa before discharge as an Able Seaman in 1947.

Winifred 'Mary' March of Hove, East Sussex died on 13th April 2016, aged 95. She enlisted in Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942. She was posted to Y Signals, the Intercept service of the War Office, at Keddlestone Hall. She was later posted to Loughborough where she continued with radio intercept duties until she was discharged as a Private in 1946.

Ronald MacFarlane of Newcastle Upon Tyne died on 13th April 2016, aged 83. He joined the Royal Air Force for National Service in 1954 and served as an armaments mechanic at RAF St Athan until 1956.

William 'Bill' McNaughton of Liverpool, Merseyside died on 10th May 2016, aged 88. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1942 and served with British Tankers becoming Head Chef. He also served with Shaw Savill and Union Castle, completing service in 1954.

Charles Reece of Solihull, West Midlands died on 30th April 2016, aged 98. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 serving in the UK, North Africa and Italy before discharge in 1946.

Arthur Rivers of Bexhill On Sea, East Sussex died on 1st April 2016, aged 95. He joined the Army in 1940, having initially joined the RAF and was posted to the Royal Artillery as a Gunner Surveyor. Following service in the UK he was posted to Cairo and seconded to the 1st RHA, where he was seriously wounded, leading to his evacuation and eventual medical discharge in 1944.

Kenneth Sinclair of Ashington, Northumberland died on 7th May 2016, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1946. He served at various UK locations including Accrington, Cardington and Lindholme and also served in Egypt before discharge as a Leading Aircraftman in 1956.

John Smith of Winscombe, Avon died on 5th March 2016, aged 96. He enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1937 and during WWII fought in Malta, Italy and North Africa. He was discharged in 1946 as a Gunner.

Harry Starbuck of Durham, County Durham died on 23rd April 2016, aged 92. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942. He served in "U" class submarines in home waters, the Far East and the Mediterranean and was discharged as an Able Seaman in 1946.

Tom Stooke of Bristol died in 2016, aged 88. For National Service he joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1945. Following service in Italy, France and Germany he was discharged as a Private in 1948.

Barbara Stotesbury of Steyning, West Sussex died on 24th April 2016, aged 93. She enlisted in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943. She was posted to Harrogate, Catterick, and Bletchly Park before discharging from the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1946.

Anthony Strutt of St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex died on 29th April 2016, aged 85. He joined the medical branch of the Royal Navy for National Service in 1949, trained at RNH Haslar and served at Portland Naval Hospital in the TB ward. He extended his service and was discharged in 1954 as a Leading Sick Berth Attendant.

Georgina 'Ena' Vernel née Potter of Girvan, Ayrshire died on 24th November 2012, aged 93. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942 and was firstly posted to a variety of locations in the UK. She was later sent to Egypt followed by Iraq and finally to Germany near Gütersloh before finishing her service in the UK and being discharged as a Sergeant in 1955. She continued to work for the RAF as a civilian at RAF Odiham, Wattisham and Kinloss.

Edward Wells of Wimborne, Dorset died on 11th April 2016, aged 94. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and qualified as a radar operator and served in five different V&W class destroyers on Atlantic and Arctic convoys, then the Mediterranean. He was in Singapore when the Japanese surrendered, serving in HMS Khidive, an aircraft carrier. He was discharged in 1946 as an Able Seaman.

Ralph Western of Rugby, Warwickshire died on 15th April 2016, aged 83. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1951 and served at RAF Leconfield and RAF Tarrant Rushton as an air traffic controller. He was discharged in 1953 as a Senior Aircraftsman.

Sherlock 'Willie' Wilson of Alnwick, Northumberland died on 20th April 2016, aged 89. He joined the Royal Air Force for a full career in 1951. He served at various airfields in the UK, Germany, Singapore and Cyprus and was discharged as a Warrant Officer in 1978.

