

Review



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The journal of
Blind Veterans UK

October 2026

A photograph of two men standing outdoors at a triathlon event. The man on the left is wearing sunglasses, a blue and white athletic vest, and a medal around his neck. The man on the right is also wearing a similar vest and medal. They are both smiling. In the background, there are red banners with the text 'PUSH YOURSELF FURTHER' and 'SOUTH COAST ULTRA CHALLENGE'.

Ultra unforgettable!

Our intrepid Members take on the
South Coast Ultra Challenge

Inside:

HMS Sultan Summer Camp

Ted's life with the comedy greats

Remembering Mike Tetley



Rebuilding
lives after
sight loss



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**Participants of the
South Coast Ultra –
see page 13 for more**

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On the cover

Member Stu and guide
Rich proudly displaying
their medals after the
South Coast Ultra



The spirit of community

By **Adrian Bell**, Chief Executive

Before I begin, I would like to offer a sincere apology to Member and former standard bearer John Nicol for not mentioning him when I spoke about standard bearers standing down in last month's issue. John has been a fantastic representative of the charity over many years, including featuring in the main BBC Remembrance broadcast during Covid, where he spoke movingly about the support he has received



Adrian Bell

from Blind Veterans UK and the pride he takes in representing us. I would like to thank John for everything he has done, and once again say how sorry I am for the omission.

One of the great privileges of my role is seeing first-hand the remarkable spirit that runs through our community, and there are few better examples of that than the annual Summer Camp at HMS Sultan.

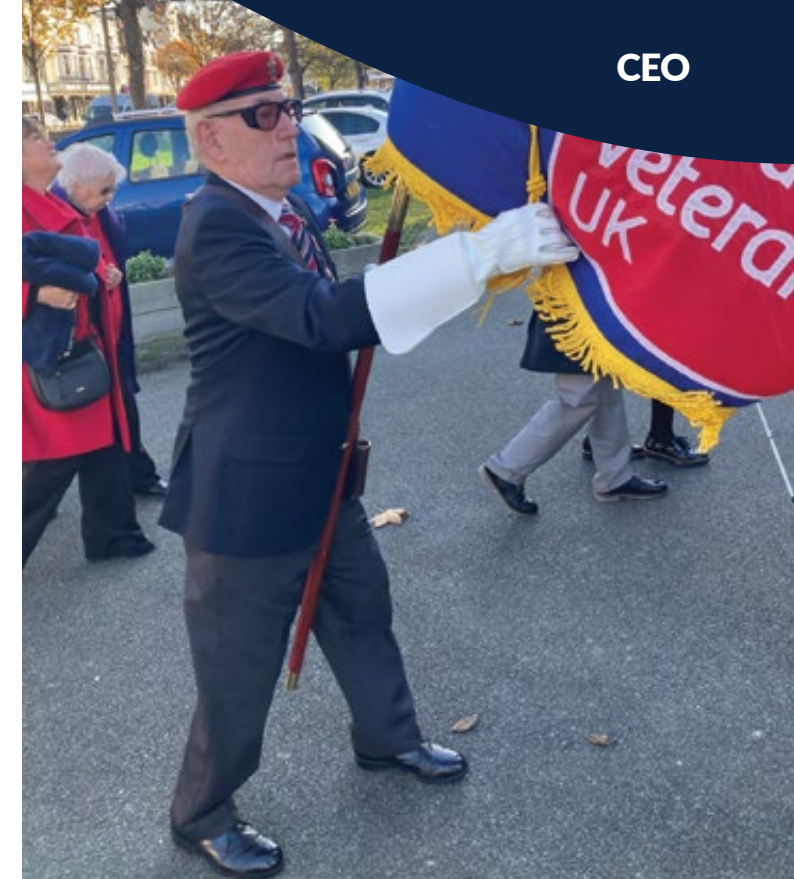
Having recently spent time with blind veterans at this year's camp, I was once again reminded why the week means so much to so many people. It's a place where long-standing friendships are renewed, new Members are welcomed into the fold, and everyone is encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and try something new. Whether taking part in activities for the first time, building new skills, or simply enjoying being among people

who understand their experiences, the week offers countless opportunities to grow in confidence and independence.

As a naval veteran myself, I know how important the sense of belonging and mutual support that service life creates can be. Seeing those same bonds flourish among our members is always inspiring. The encouragement members give one another, combined with the outstanding support of the team at HMS Sultan, helps create an environment where people can challenge themselves, achieve more than they thought possible, and leave with lasting memories. My sincere thanks go to everyone at HMS Sultan whose commitment and generosity make this exceptional week possible.

This issue also gives us an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our wider Blind Veterans UK family and I'd like to congratulate all the Members, staff and supporters who took part in last month's South Coast Ultra. Taking on such an ambitious event requires determination, teamwork and resilience, and everyone involved should be immensely proud of what they achieved. You can read more about the challenge and the people who took part on page 13.

We also pause to remember one of our longest-serving members, Mike Tetley



John Nicol

MBE, whose obituary appears on page 28. Mike was a member of Blind Veterans UK for more than 70 years and lived an extraordinary life. I was hugely impressed on meeting him to discover that his life story was featured on the television programme, This Is Your Life in 1980.

I have since learnt that Mike was the fourth St Dunstaner to have his life celebrated in this way, reflecting just how remarkable his experiences and achievements were. He will be remembered with great affection by all who knew him.

As always, thank you for being part of our community, and I hope you enjoy this edition of the Review. 🇬🇧



Standard Bearers commemorating the Siege of Malta

News

Standard bearers mark the Siege of Malta

Last month, Blind Veterans UK Standard Bearers Wayne, Dave and Rob, took part in the annual memorial service commemorating the Siege of Malta and Operation Pedestal, held at All Hallows, London. This was the first opportunity to put their standard bearing training to use for some of our new Ambassadors - and they did Blind Veterans UK proud.

All of our standard bearers will be attending a second training day in late November in preparation for taking part in the Birmingham Tattoo in February 2027. We thank them for taking on this volunteer role that is so instrumental to many of our events, and moments of remembrance and memorial across the country.

Armed Forces pension news

Veterans will be able to apply for a deferred Armed Forces Scheme forecast using a new online version of the AFPS 14 form. This new

digital form will make it easier for our veterans to receive a full pension forecast. The form can be completed and submitted by going to the GOV.UK website and can be done on any device with internet access. It will guide you through the questions step by step. There is no longer any need to print and send the form in the post, although this is still an option if preferred.

For more information on your Armed Forces Pension, recordings of the government run Armed Forces Pension Awareness week virtual events can be found via the Forces Pension Society. These include a forces pension briefing by Ensign Association, as well as factsheets covering frequently asked questions on forces pensions.

■ **Details on all of the above can be found at: www.forcespensionsociety.org.uk**

Member Penny Melville-Brown's book now available on RNIB Library

Member Penny is well known for her baking books, and is delighted to share with fellow blind veterans that you can now listen to her first book, *A Cook's*



Blind veteran author and cook Penny Melville-Brown

Tour: Baking Blind Goes Global on the RNIB audio book library.

It's the tale of Penny's prize-winning trip around the world, cooking in professional kitchens and with home cooks and you can follow the recipes as you listen if you fancy giving them a go. There are also videos available on Penny's YouTube channel to help guide you along as you cook her recipes.

■ **Simply go to [Bakingblind6744](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6744) on YouTube to find Penny's videos and visit www.rniblibrary.com to find her book.** 🎧



Listen here



Steering the long boat in Rustington



Enjoying the canal in Rustington

In your community

Just some of the social gatherings that have taken place across the country in the last month or so, bringing together Members in their local areas

In Rustington

Members from Community 14 enjoyed a successful and restorative stay at the Rustington Centre, blessed with wonderful weather. They participated in a range of

activities during the week, ending with a wonderful boat trip down the Chichester Canal on a long boat, joined by Community Support Worker, Tina Griffiths. They enjoyed lunch on the boat and had a good laugh taking over the steering before being safely returned to shore.



Members from Community 14

In Bath

Members in the Bath and Wiltshire area recently enjoyed a visit to the Roman Baths as part of their weekly wellbeing course. The fascinating site offered an engaging glimpse into Roman life, exploring how people once gathered to bathe and socialise.

To make the experience accessible, Members were able to handle artefacts excavated from the site, including an early version of a cotton bud and a pair of tweezers.



Members at the Roman Baths

Experiencing these objects through touch brought the history of the Roman Baths to life in a unique and memorable way.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the day out in the summer sunshine, although they had to resist the urge to cool off with a dip in the baths themselves! 🌊

Want to know what's going on in your local area? Contact your local community team who can tell you everything you need to know.

A lifetime of laughter

Blind veteran Ted, 95, has published his memoir chronicling his career with Britain's comedy greats

Ted Taylor has enjoyed an extraordinary career in comedy. From writing for Morecambe and Wise and The Two Ronnies to helping launch Paul Merton's broadcasting career and creating the hit BBC comedy, The Men From The Ministry, his work has entertained millions.

Now a Member of Blind Veterans UK, Ted has turned his attention to telling his own story, writing his memoir with the support of one of our volunteers. Edward "Ted" Taylor's autobiography, **90 Years in a Quandary**, recounts an

"Writing this book would simply not have been possible without the help of Sian and Blind Veterans UK"

extraordinary life that took him from National Service in the RAF, through Cambridge University and into a distinguished career at the BBC.

During more than four decades in broadcasting, Ted worked on more than 2,000 BBC productions and wrote for or worked alongside some of Britain's best-loved entertainers, including Morecambe and Wise, The Two Ronnies, Arthur Askey, Kenneth Horne and Bob Monkhouse.

Among Ted's many credits are classic programmes including Round the Horne, Just a Minute, I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again, Whack-O! and Dr Finlay's Casebook.

Ted also helped launch the broadcasting career of comedian Paul Merton, giving him his first broadcast

appearance on BBC Radio 4's Just a Minute. More than 40 years later, Merton has written the foreword to Ted's memoir.

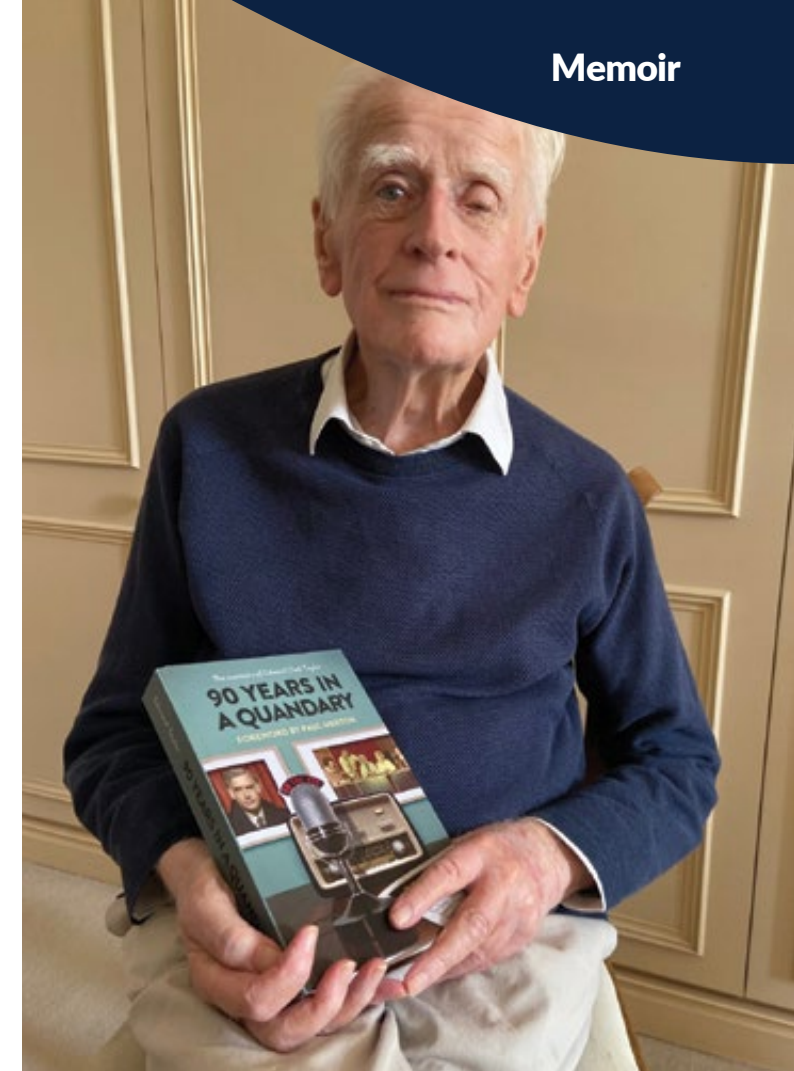
The book was made possible with the support of volunteer Sian, who met regularly with Ted over more than two years and helped him turn decades of memories into a published autobiography.

Ted said: "Writing this book would simply not have been possible without the help of Sian and Blind Veterans UK.

"I would spend the week making notes and when Sian came to visit, I would dictate the text to her. It was a wonderful thing. I'm very grateful to Sian, who remains a friend, and very grateful to Blind Veterans UK for making it possible."

Sian said: "It was a real privilege to help Ted bring his memoir to life and to hear his remarkable story directly from him. Over the two years we worked on the book together, we developed a friendship that continues today and we still keep in touch.

"When I started volunteering with Blind Veterans UK in 2019, I was looking for a way to use my time to help others and the opportunity



Ted with his book, written with the support of volunteer Sian

to support someone writing their memoir really appealed to me. Seeing the book published has been fantastic, but the best part has been knowing I was able to help Ted achieve something so important to him.

"He has lived such an interesting life and I'm delighted that his story can now be shared with others."

Born in 1931, Ted joined the Royal Air Force as part of his National Service in 1950. After initially training for aircrew duties, he was posted to a →

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“It was a real privilege to help Ted bring his memoir to life and to hear his remarkable story directly from him”

radar station on the east coast, where he monitored for approaching Soviet aircraft during the early years of the Cold War.

Following military service, Ted achieved a lifelong ambition by studying English at Cambridge University and joining the famous Footlights theatrical club. It was there that he caught the attention of a BBC talent scout who offered him a trainee writing contract. What began as a one-year opportunity became a career spanning more than four decades.

One of Ted’s proudest achievements was creating, writing and producing *The Men From The Ministry*, the long-running BBC radio comedy often described as a forerunner to *Yes Minister*. The series was broadcast internationally and adapted for audiences around the world.

Ted said: “Arthur Askey was my hero and became a great friend. I was very lucky to spend my life doing work that I loved.”

Ted began losing his sight in the mid-1980s and, despite extensive investigations, doctors were never able to determine the cause. Over time his vision deteriorated significantly and today he has only limited perception of light and shade.

Reflecting on the impact of sight loss, Ted says, “The first time I realised something was really wrong was when I looked over my balcony and couldn’t make out the things in the garden.”

As his sight deteriorated, he was forced to give up driving and adapt to life with severe sight loss. He later learned about our charity through a healthcare professional who recognised that he was an RAF veteran.

Since joining us, Ted has received regular welfare support, a talking watch and access to talking books, enabling him to continue enjoying novels, biographies and other literature. He has also enjoyed stays at Rustington and received support from the local team.

Ted said: “At 95 years old, it’s very satisfying to see the book finally published. I’m grateful to everyone who helped make it happen.”

90 Years In A Quandary: The Memoirs of Edward (Ted) Taylor is available to purchase on Amazon. 🇬🇧

Our magnificent seven take on the South Coast Ultra

Last month, seven Members and their guides challenged themselves to walk the tough terrain of the South Downs Way – and their journey was not without drama...



Andy and Angie

At 8.30am on 5 September, our intrepid group of seven Members and their guides set off from Eastbourne to walk 25km, 57km or 100km. Each Member had their own reasons for taking part and travelled their own journey to the finish line. Here’s how they got on...

Jerry

Jerry Bradley, 63, walked the full 100km but sadly his guide Anne Forsberg, who has been alongside him for two previous 100km walks, was forced to withdraw at the 57km distance. Jerry finished the challenge alongside Jack, who had been guiding fellow veteran Rob up to that point.

Jerry crossed the finish line in 28 hours and 30 minutes. He says: “It was →

another incredible weekend; I came away unscathed with only some tight calves to rest.

“My guide Anne, who works for the charity and has been by my side for two previous 100km challenges, had to withdraw. I couldn’t be more grateful to both her and to Jack who took over and got me to the finish line.”

In 2025, Jerry completed the South Coast Ultra with Anne, but this year decided to double his challenge and take on two 100km walks. In May, the pair completed the Jurassic Coast Ultra in 27 hours.

Andy

It was third time lucky for Andy Leitch, 52, and his wife Angie. In 2024 and 2025, the pair set themselves the challenge of the 100km distance but weather conditions the first year and then illness last year stopped them in their tracks at the 57km distance. So this was to be their year.

Andy says, “I was not going to let the South Downs Ultra beat me for a third time. Everything fell into place this year and I couldn’t be prouder to have crossed the line. The final rest stop was at 93km; at this point we were both tired and starting to feel the impact.

At one point, Angie stood up and fell back into her chair.

“We set off for the last 7km determined and positive that we had it in the bag this year. The distance seemed never-ending and the hills kept coming. When we eventually saw the 100-metre marker, we knew we’d done it. It felt like the longest 100 metres ever, but after one final bridge and one final right turn, staff and family were there to cheer us over the line which was an incredibly emotional moment. Of all the challenges Angie and I have taken on for the charity, we both agreed that this one was the toughest.”

Stu

Stu Rodd, 52, completed the 57km distance in 2025 but this year he was back to push himself further. He completed 100km in 30 hours and 50 minutes alongside Rich Phinbow from the Rustington Centre. He says: “Once again I lost some toenails along the way and had a few blisters to contend

“Everything fell into place this year and I couldn’t be prouder to have crossed the line”
– Andy



Steve with guide Craig before the event



Guide Aaron and Member Karl make it to the finish line in the dark



Guide Jack with Rob at the finish line



Jack and Rob take a rest stop before completing 57 km

with. I wouldn't say it was a blast, but it was an epic experience. It hasn't quite sunk in yet; nothing compares to the process of completing the challenge. I've never felt so physically, mentally and emotionally tired.

"Rich's support and guiding throughout the journey was unbelievable. Every step of the way, he was pre-empting obstacles and how to deal with them. In one place we had to climb over fallen trees. Due to the dry weather, much of the terrain felt like walking on flint and in one section, the path was only one foot wide with a sheer drop on one side and a rock face on the other.

"At 70km, my tank was empty, but I was determined to keep going. Rich and I played music throughout the night and when we came to the final kilometre, I asked Rich to play the bag pipes of the Gordon Highlanders, the regiment both my grandfather and great grandfather served with. We had it on speaker as we crossed the finish line."

Steve

Steve Williams, 63, took part in the South Coast Ultra last year and completed 25km. This year he had hoped to reach 57km, but sadly a fall at 11km forced him to withdraw from the

challenge. He says: "I'm totally gutted. All that training and then I fell. But I will be back next year and hopefully it will be third time lucky and I'll make the 57km distance. I need to go away and work on my balance as I'd already slipped four times and my guide had prevented me falling. I have a cut to the head which needed to be glued and a big lump but I'm ok."

Karl

Karl, 64, had originally hoped to complete 100km, but ongoing health issues with his eyes meant that he had to follow medical advice and instead completed the 57km distance.

He says: "I train along a canal which is a very flat route so I definitely miscalculated how long it would take me to complete the South Coast Ultra route. I hadn't taken into account the big hills we'd be facing along the way.

Together with my guide Aaron Garratt, we finished in 12 and a half hours, which is a couple of hours longer than

"At 70km, my tank was empty, but I was determined to keep going" – Stu



Jerry and his guide Anne enjoy the scenery



Member Stu and guide Rich at the 20km marker



Jerry with guides Anne and Jack



Rich and Stu at the 100km finish line...



... and proudly displaying their medals

I had anticipated so the end really seemed to drag on a bit.

“But it was fantastic to have the camaraderie of my fellow veterans. Even though you all get spread out along the course, it’s still good to know the others are there and it’s inspiring to see them take on this challenge, especially Stu who has no sight at all and completed 100km.

“I won’t say never but I won’t be back next year. I need to give my eyes time due to the health issues I’m experiencing before I push myself to do another demanding challenge.”

Rob

Rob Loseby, 57, took part in the South Coast Ultra for the first time this year and completed the distance he was aiming for, 57km.

He says: “For a couple of days after the challenge, I felt like I was moving around as if I was riding an invisible horse! I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge, and what a challenge it was! I don’t really have any hills where I live and was met by the first huge hill almost immediately. At around 37km, I suffered a diabetic hypo, but my guide Jack was on hand to tell me to rest for as long as I needed and feed me lots

of jellybeans. It was such a positive atmosphere with everyone wishing each other good luck and stopping to check on anyone who had paused by the side of the course.

“On the day itself, I said never again but by Sunday morning, I’d found myself agreeing to give 100km a try next year!

“I met my guide Jack, who’s a serving member of the British Army, for the first time on the Saturday morning and we gelled straight away. Jack’s an absolute hero; not only did he guide me for 57km, but he then stepped in without hesitation to guide Jerry from 57km to 100km! He finished the 100km on the Sunday lunchtime and was back in uniform for work on Monday morning! I’ve made a lifelong friend in Jack and I got to raise money for the charity.”

Jeff

Jeff Wright, 76, was the oldest member of our team this year. He was hoping to complete 57km but, by the 25km mark he was in too much pain to continue.

He says: “I’m disappointed to have not made it to my target distance but I want to try again now that I know better what to expect. Where I live it is very flat and the hills on the route were steep, so it was incredibly challenging.”

Jeff served in the RAF as an MT Technician for 22 years. It was at the age of 58 that he lost his sight and he was forced to retire early. He says, “I was devastated; I swapped three motorbikes for a white cane and dark glasses. I’ve experienced low mood and isolation, but Blind Veterans UK has made me feel that I’m not alone and that most things are still possible with sight loss.”

Theresa Farley, Physical and Outdoor Wellbeing Specialist at the Rustington Centre, says: “This challenge was a huge test of physical and emotional endurance for all our blind veterans that took part. They all showed such strength, resilience and determination to get to the start, let alone the finish, it’s truly inspirational.

“And our guides were all absolute heroes, without them, none of this is possible. Even when they themselves were fatigued and hurting, they persevered and enabled our veterans to cross that finish line.”

The group are now resting their aching legs, blistered feet and - in one case - glued head. And some are already considering taking on the challenge again next year. Well done to all! 🇬🇧

■ You can still show your support at justgiving.com/page/scu26



Our South Coast Ultra team before the event



Members enjoy basketball

Blind veterans enjoy camaraderie at HMS Sultan Summer Camp

Blind veterans from across the UK took part in a Sports Day as part of an exciting programme of activities on offer at the HMS Sultan Blind Veterans UK Summer Camp.

Hoopla, basketball, deck hockey and skittles... These were just some of the challenges taken on by a group of veterans, aided by their human 'dogs', a group of volunteers from HMS Sultan and the retired service community.

The veterans gathered at the Royal Navy Air and Marine Engineering Training Base as part of a week packed full of fun and exciting diverse activities, which included sailing, archery, lawn bowls, a visit to the



Blind veterans and their volunteers gather for a group photo

Royal Artillery Equestrian Centre, and a trip to the Middle Wallop Army Air Museum.

Historically supported by the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew for over 50 years, the Blind Veterans UK Summer Camp has been successfully hosted by HMS Sultan since 1996, following the closure of HMS Daedalus. Many of those Field Gunners who were associated with supporting the event prior to the move are still involved to this day.

This year's camp welcomed 17 blind veterans and 15 helpers to HMS Sultan. All the activities were aimed at encouraging those who suffer from sight loss to remain independent.

Among this year's campers was first-time attendee Steve Parnell, who served as a steward in the RAF between 1986 and 1991. Steve was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa in 1991, and was registered blind in 2004.

Steve's sight loss caused him to lose his job and he had to move back in with his parents. However, he rebuilt his life and career, initially retraining as a fitness instructor, working in the industry for 15 years, before qualifying as a remedial massage therapist, a career he continues today across a private practice and community clubs.

Alongside this, Steve has become an accomplished triathlete,



completing around 20 Olympic distance triathlons and a further 20 sprint triathlons, a journey that began with support and encouragement from Blind Veterans UK. Our staff and fellow Members helped him build the confidence and skills through learning to swim so he could take on his first full triathlon in London's Docklands.

Steve says, "This is the first time I've come to the camp, so I was a little bit nervous, but what I love about it is the camaraderie. Civilians don't really get it, but it doesn't matter if you were Air Force, Navy or Army, you've got

that military background in common. Everyone gives you encouragement, with a bit of military humour thrown in too. The volunteer 'dogs' make such a difference as well. John's helping me around this week. Having that bit of support makes it so much easier, even when it comes to finding my way back from the showers, which isn't far, but I keep losing my way.

"If I was speaking to other veterans and their families who haven't been before, I'd say just give it a go. Even though the week is full on, it gives me a chance to properly relax and recharge my

batteries away from work. Everyone here is friendly and supportive, and it doesn't matter your level of ability, there'll be something for everyone to do.

I had a go at archery yesterday, and out of all the shots I took, I think I only missed two, which I was really pleased with. But if you try something and you can't do it, that's fine - at least you've given it a go. That's exactly how I felt before my first triathlon. I hate rock climbing and I still can't do it, but I gave it a go anyway. Everyone here is so helpful. It makes all the difference."

Captain Mark Hamilton, Commanding Officer of HMS Sultan, said: "It's a privilege to welcome the veterans into HMS Sultan once again for the Blind Veterans Summer Camp. The week is crammed full of exciting and challenging activities in a unique environment, which allows them to re-engage in the camaraderie of the Armed Forces, and challenge stereotypes around disabilities.

"Every one of our campers is an outstanding example of what can be achieved with the will to overcome adversity."



Steve Parnell and fellow blind veterans enjoy the camaraderie during a break

Veterans oplay basketball together on sports day

Adrian Bell, CEO of Blind Veterans UK, says, "Every time I attend this camp, I'm reminded of why it's so special. The camaraderie, of old friends coming back together, and the integration of new campers into the community, the challenge of new activities, and the support from HMS Sultan create an environment where our Members can grow in confidence and flourish.

"As a naval veteran myself, I know how important the bonds that bind us are, and I'm proud to see the difference they make to the lives of our Members. I'm so grateful to everyone at HMS Sultan for their fantastic support which makes this exceptional week possible." 🇬🇧

Dutch dash

Blind veteran Jan shares the enormous challenges and the unforgettable highs of a recent adventure on the North Sea that proved sight loss is no barrier to taking the helm

When my Community Support Worker asked whether I fancied a “sailing adventure” with the Not Forgotten Association on the round-the-world yacht, I naturally said yes. Who wouldn’t?



Jan onboard CatZero

Note to self: next time, read the small print. Because this wasn’t a gentle pootle around the marina. This was a four-day crossing of the North Sea to Scheveningen (which nobody on board could pronounce without sounding like they were sneezing), and back again, on a 72ft yacht called CatZero.

Thanks to funding from the Royal Marines Association and Trinity House charities, the voyage was strictly for Royal Navy (RN), Royal Marines and Merchant Navy veterans. Despite nearly 30 years in the Wrens and RN, I’d never actually been to sea. I was a proper old school Jenny Wren — landbased, sensible, and blissfully unaware of what “reefing a sail” meant.

After the application process, the CatZero team rang to discuss my sight condition. We’d be sailing through the night, after all. Eventually they confirmed the skipper was happy to accept the risk and welcome me aboard as crew. Lovely. Terrifying, but lovely.

“When I first saw the yacht, my inner voice whispered, ‘What have you done?’ Then we were shown our bunks”

Packing light was easy — I’d perfected that art during years of packing for my RN husband. But this was light with a capital L. When I first saw the yacht, my inner voice whispered, “What have you done?” Then we were shown our bunks. I’ve seen fish fingers bigger than my bunk space. Mixed bunking meant that when the person above me was in bed I couldn’t turn over — my shoulders wedged neatly between the bunks making me resemble a badly parked car.

We were split into watches (or “shifts” for my lightblue friends) and given our duties: cooking, washing up, cleaning, updating logs, helming the yacht, and reefing sails. All while working a relentless four- hours-on, four-hours-off routine. In the cockpit, I stayed clipped to the jackstay — ropes, pulleys and trip hazards were everywhere. I had no desire to sample the North Sea; I was perfectly happy staying attached.

Offwatch time was for eating, hydrating, washing (no showers — just a sink and determination), and attempting sleep on my fishfinger-sized bunk. The

gentle rocking of the yacht sent me off quite nicely... until we hoisted the Stay and Yankee sails. Suddenly CatZero heeled over like she’d spotted a sale at the chandlery. Everything not strapped down relocated itself onto my bed. Gravity tried to roll me out of my bunk, but with some creative knotwork — my personal technique being, “If you can’t tie a knot, tie a lot” — I strapped myself in and slept surprisingly well.

Because of my sight condition, there were a few activities where I stayed in the cockpit for safety. But in every other respect, I was fully part of the crew. And the rewards were magical. Our watch pattern meant we saw both sunset and sunrise on the open sea. At 5am, a crewmate produced cheese toasties. There I sat, on the bow of an oceangoing yacht, tea in hand, warm toastie in the other, watching the sun climb out of the water. Bliss.

The best moment? Helming CatZero. Feeling the yacht respond, trusting the instruments and where the wind was on my face, and knowing I wasn’t getting us lost was a joy I’ll never forget. So, thank you, Lizzie, and thank you, CatZero team, for an unforgettable adventure. New friends, countless memories, and proof that even with serious sight loss, you can still steer a 72ft yacht across the North Sea without ending up in Denmark. 🇬🇧

Meet our new Ambassadors

This month, we introduce two more Members, Andy and Jan, who have stepped up to represent the charity

Andy Leitch

Andy is an Army veteran who served for 19 years with the Royal Logistics Corps. With only two years left to serve, he'd started planning his future, but a decline in his sight forced him to retire early from the military.

Initially weighed down by depression, he went on to fight serious internal battles but with the support of Blind Veterans UK and with his family by his side, he eventually managed to leave those dark days behind him.

Andy's rehabilitation has been aided by sports and fitness. In recent years, he's taken on a number of triathlons and other physical challenges. This year, he completed his 11th London Marathon.

Today, Andy is an outstanding Ambassador for the charity and his achievements have inspired many Members with their own recoveries.



Andy's achievements are inspirational



Jan was a highly experienced air engineer

Jan Price

Jan has dedicated over 40 years to serving the UK through military and civilian roles within the Ministry of Defence. Beginning her career in the Women's Royal Naval Service, she became a highly experienced air

engineer, working on Sea Harriers and serving across Navy and RAF operations. After transitioning to the civil service, she has held senior planning roles supporting defence capability.

After transitioning to the civil service, she has held senior planning roles supporting defense capability

Now living with progressive sight loss caused by autoimmune retinopathy, Jan has become an Ambassador for Blind Veterans UK. She shares her story to inspire resilience, challenge perceptions and show that, with the right support, life remains full of possibility. 🇬🇧

Remembering Mike Tetley MBE

War-blinded Member **Mike Tetley MBE** lived a remarkable life defined by resilience, adventure, humour, and an enduring determination to make the most of every opportunity



Mike modelling for a Blind Veterans UK fundraising campaign

We are saddened to share the news that Member Mike Tetley passed away on 6 July 2026 age 95, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy of courage, adventure and generosity.

Born and brought up in Kenya, Mike spent his childhood in Nairobi with his parents and younger sister, Jane. He remembered those years with great affection, particularly the freedom of growing up surrounded by wildlife.

Mike's determination had already been tested as a teenager when he contracted polio and was told he might never walk again. After a year of hard rehabilitation, he returned to school on his feet.

After university in Johannesburg, he returned to Kenya. At the beginning of 1953, at the outset of the Mau Mau



Competing in the long jump as a blind veteran

emergency, he was called up and, just four days later, joined the Kenya Regiment. His time in the regiment lasted 13 months. On 6 February 1954, he was shot through the head and lost his sight.

In the years that followed, he demonstrated extraordinary resilience in the way he approached life after sight loss. With support from St Dunstan's, his life remained incredibly full: he learned Braille, trained and qualified as a physiotherapist, met and married his wife Thelma, secured his first post at Luton and Dunstable Hospital and became a father.

Mike embraced every opportunity afforded to him by our charity and others, taking part in horse riding, swimming, running, bowling, amateur radio, curling and even skiing. He refused to allow his sight loss to define what he could achieve and his courage was formally recognised when he was awarded the MBE for Gallantry in Action, presented to him by the Queen in 1955.

In 1960, Mike was partnered with Sweep, the first of his seven guide dogs. His final one, William, retired in 2025 but remained faithfully by Mike's side until the end. →



Receiving his MBE in 1955

Mike's appetite for adventure continued throughout his life. He climbed mountains across the UK with fellow blind veterans, cycled 500 miles across Kenya on a tandem bike and hiked from Kathmandu towards Everest Base Camp with two friends acting as his eyes.

His daughters shared his adventures too. Mary guided him to the summits of Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro; Sue guided him into the Grand Canyon; Lynne accompanied him high into the Andes in Peru. His exploits even put him on national television when

he became the subject of Eamonn Andrews' *This Is Your Life* in 1980.

Alongside his adventurous spirit, Mike was a generous man who helped his fellow blind veterans through camaraderie, support, and by simply demonstrating how fulfilling and joyous life can be after sight loss.

He is remembered with great love by his daughters, the wider Tetley family, and the many friends whose lives he touched. He was one of our longest-standing Members and will be remembered fondly. 🇬🇧

Tech news

Why you shouldn't ignore digital updates

From time to time, all owners of computers and smart devices such as smartphones, tablets, computers, smart speakers, and wearable technology will receive a notification informing them an update is now available.

While many people see update notifications as an inconvenience, these updates play a vital role in maintaining the security, reliability, and accessibility of our devices. Understanding why updates occur, their benefits, and the challenges they can present is particularly important for blind and vision impaired users, who may rely heavily on accessibility features to use their technology effectively.

What are updates?

An update is a package of software improvements released by the device manufacturer or software developer. Updates may affect the operating system, individual applications, security features, or accessibility tools. Some updates install in a matter of minutes, while major updates can significantly change how a device operates.

Updates can be delivered automatically or require the user to manually download and install them. Most modern devices are designed to encourage regular updating, helping to ensure users have access to the latest features and protections. →





Updates also ensure users receive the latest improvements. Devices that are not updated may become unreliable over time or lose access to new services and applications. Updates can also improve accessibility. Technology companies frequently enhance screen readers, magnification software, voice control systems, and other accessibility features in response to feedback and evolving standards. So ignoring updates can lead to reduced device performance, security risks, and compatibility problems.

What are the common issues when completing updates?

Insufficient storage space

Updates often require temporary

storage during installation. If your storage is nearly full, the update may fail or be unable to start.

Slow downloads Large updates can take time to download, particularly on slower internet connections. Interrupted downloads may require users to restart the process.

Battery and power problems Many devices require a minimum battery level before installing updates. If power is lost during installation, the process may fail or, in rare circumstances, leave the device temporarily unusable.

Failed installations Sometimes updates fail due to software conflicts, corrupted files, or connectivity issues. Error messages can be confusing for less experienced users to understand.

Application compatibility issues Following a major operating system update, some applications may not function correctly until their developers release updated versions.

Accessibility features may change Many blind users depend on screen readers such as VoiceOver, TalkBack, Narrator, or JAWS to use their device independently. Meanwhile, vision-impaired users may rely on magnification, high contrast settings, colour filters, or large text. Following

an update, settings may be moved, renamed, or behave differently than before. Even small interface changes can significantly impact users who have learned specific navigation paths through menus.

Temporary accessibility bugs

Unfortunately, updates occasionally introduce accessibility issues. A screen reader may fail to read certain controls correctly, gesture commands may stop functioning as expected, or applications may become temporarily inaccessible. In some cases, features that worked perfectly before an update may require subsequent patches to restore full functionality.

Changes to interface design

A redesigned settings menu, modified home screen layout, or altered application interface can create confusion and take time to relearn. Blind users often develop detailed mental models of their device's structure, and sudden changes can disrupt how a person uses the device.

Dependence on assistance

If accessibility settings are reset during an update or if the update process itself contains inaccessible elements, some people may need sighted assistance to regain access to their device. This can reduce independence and cause understandable frustration,

particularly if a user relies on their device for communication, work, travel, or daily living tasks.

Training gaps

New features and interface changes are not always accompanied by accessible documentation. Blind and vision impaired users may need to seek information from specialist organisations, online communities, or training providers to understand what has changed and how to adapt.

Conclusion

Updates are essential for maintaining security, fixing software problems, improving performance, and introducing new features. Although updates can occasionally cause installation difficulties or temporary disruptions, they are generally beneficial and help ensure devices remain safe and effective.

However, for blind and vision impaired users updates can present, updates can present unique challenges, particularly when accessibility features change or new accessibility bugs are introduced.

By understanding these risks and preparing for updates, users can minimise disruption and continue to benefit from the technology that supports their independence, communication, and daily activities. 🌍

Member voice

The latest Member news and events

Bullingham Shield presented for the first time

A new award recognising courage within the Fleet Air Arm has been presented for the first time, strengthening the long-standing relationship between Blind Veterans UK and the Royal Navy.

The Blind Veterans UK Bullingham Shield was awarded yesterday at RNAS Yeovil to Royal Navy Petty Officer Chloe Cherrington. The award has been introduced in memory of war-blinded Royal Navy veteran Terry Bullingham, who lost his sight while serving during the Falklands War. Presented by his widow, Maria, the shield serves as a lasting tribute



Bullingham Shield presentation, from left: Member Ambassador Wayne Perry, Petty Officer Chloe Cherrington, Member Ambassador Gary Stevenson, Terry's wife Maria Bullingham and staff member Tim Eckersley

to Terry's courage, resilience and enduring connection to the Royal Navy.

The shield will be held in the HMS Yeovil WO&SR Mess alongside the Blind Veterans UK competition standard and will be awarded annually to the Fleet Air Arm Field Gunner who demonstrates outstanding courage.

Adding a special personal touch, the shield was handcrafted by Blind Veterans UK Member and master woodworker Gary Stevenson, ensuring that Terry's legacy will continue to inspire future generations while strengthening Blind Veterans UK's historic links with the Fleet Air Arm.

HMS Calliope Military Dinner

Date: 4 Dec 2026

Registration closes: 9 Oct 2026

Time: 2pm to 5pm

This is a fantastic opportunity to savour our military traditions at this relaxed dinner alongside serving members of the Royal Navy and our supporters of Blind Veterans UK.

HMS Calliope promises to be an afternoon of laughter, camaraderie and delicious food, in an absolutely fantastic location in central Newcastle.

■ **Register your interest at**
[www.blindveterans.org.uk/
events/military-dinner-hms-
calliope-2026/](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/events/military-dinner-hms-calliope-2026/) or call **0300 111 2233**.

Royal Welsh Military Dinner deemed a great success

Member Sheila Botley writes about her experience of attending the recent Royal Welsh Military Dinner at Maindy Barracks.

"It was a real honour and privilege to attend the Regimental Dinner as an Ambassador for Blind Veterans UK, alongside my fellow Ambassadors Steve and Margaret. The occasion was particularly special as it was the first event that we had all attended together in our Ambassador roles.

"Being given the responsibility of taking the lead on this occasion was an honour that meant a great deal to me. I felt incredibly proud to represent Blind Veterans UK and to share the experience with my fellow Ambassadors.

"I was also delighted to have my best friend, Natalie, there as my guest. This was her first ever experience of a Regimental Dinner, which made the →

day even more special for me. Being able to introduce her to the traditions, camaraderie and unique atmosphere of Mess life, and to see her experience it all for the first time, was something I will always remember.

“For the second consecutive year, the Welsh Guards welcomed us with open arms. Their warmth, friendship and hospitality were exceptional, and once again we were made to feel very much part of the Regimental family.

“On a personal level, being able to return to Mess life, even for a short time, is always incredibly special. There is something about the traditions, humour, camaraderie and sense of belonging within military life that never leaves you. To experience that again is



A recent military dinner

something I never take for granted.

“The day was about far more than attending a formal dinner. It was about friendship, shared experiences and reconnecting with that sense of military family, while proudly representing Blind Veterans UK. I came away feeling immensely proud and grateful — proud to be an Ambassador, proud of my fellow Ambassadors, delighted to have shared the occasion with Natalie, and extremely thankful to the Welsh Guards for once again making us feel so welcome.”

RAF Honington Military Dinner

Date: 12 Feb 2027

Registration closes: 18 Dec 2026

Time: 12.30pm to 5pm

This military-themed dinner in RAF Honington Officers' Mess, promises to be an afternoon filled with warmth, laughter and delicious food. Catch up with friends and Forces personnel as you enjoy our Founder's Day Awards presentations and three-course meal.

- Register your interest at www.blindveterans.org.uk/events/military-dinner-raf-honington-2027/ or call 0300 11 2233. 📞



Listen here

HARMONY VIDEO PRO / ADOBE STOCK



Controls are often the most important feature for people with sight loss

Cooking appliances that work for you

The right appliances can help you maintain your independence, confidence and safety in the kitchen and around the home

Modern kitchen appliances aren't always designed with accessibility in mind, but whether you're buying a cooker, washing machine, dishwasher or food processor, the guidance is the same:

- Look for appliances that are simple to use, easy to operate by touch and have clear, uncluttered controls.
- Good colour contrast, clear visual indicators and visible or audible on/off signals can also make →

appliances more accessible and easier to use with confidence.

- If possible, we recommend trying them out before you buy, ideally with any aids you depend on.
- Don't be tempted by the fanciest appliance; choose the model that meets your needs. Keeping functions simple and straightforward can make everyday use much easier.

Accessible controls

The controls are often the most important feature for people with sight loss. Think about the following:

- Touchscreens have little or no tactile feedback. This may not be the best option for people with low or no vision, unless they include speech output or strong accessibility features.
- Raised buttons can be user-friendly but do check whether they perform multiple functions. Some can change function depending on the setting, which can make operation confusing.
- Dials are often the most accessible option as they are tactile, easy to mark with bumpers and may even allow you to leave a dial on a preferred setting. Just watch out for dials that continuously rotate.

Microwaves

The microwave is possibly the most

popular appliance among our blind veterans.

- A simple two-dial microwave is the easiest option: one dial controls power levels and the other controls cooking time.
- The power dial can often be left on a single setting (such as full power), while the timer dial can be marked



NURUL / ADOBE STOCK

Air fryers have become increasingly popular with our Members

with tactile bumpers to indicate common cooking times.

- Some Members prefer talking microwaves, but a simple manual model is often more affordable and just as effective.
- When choosing power, higher wattage may cook slightly faster, but lower-powered microwaves are often smaller, more energy-efficient and more forgiving if timing is slightly off.

Slow cookers

Slow cookers (sometimes called crock pots) are another accessible and economical option.

- Many models have very simple controls – sometimes just a power switch and low/high settings.
- Cooking times are usually flexible (for example, 4–6 hours). Recipes typically involve preparing ingredients, placing them in the pot and turning it on.
- They are ideal for stews, curries and casseroles, but can also be used for roasts, bread and desserts.
- Since timing is less precise, slow cookers can make cooking less stressful.

Induction hobs

Induction hobs often use flat touch controls, which can be difficult for people without vision.

If considering an induction hob:

- Check whether controls provide tactile or audible feedback.
- Practise using the heat adjustment system before purchasing.
- Consider models with clear separation between cooking zones.

Gas hobs may provide more tactile feedback through physical knobs, but safety considerations should always be discussed with a professional if you are unsure.

Air fryers

These have become increasingly popular for people with sight loss as they minimise the chance of burns. Despite the name, they are best thought of as small fan-assisted ovens.

- Food can be cooked with little or no oil.
- Simple two-dial versions are widely available and relatively inexpensive.
- They usually contain a pull-out basket for food.
- As with microwaves, models with simple dials are often easier to use than digital touchscreens.

Next steps

For more information, get in touch with our Member Support Hub on **07395 600924** or contact your community team. 🇬🇧

National Creative Programme

This month's VI-friendly creative activities you can take part in – all from the comfort of your own home

The following pages list the projects available from the NCP in October. You can take part in as many as you like. To request a kit, you can leave a message on the NCP voicemail on **01273 391 447** or email us at

ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk. You can also request a kit via the member's area of the website.

Within each project type, we will list the new projects and some leftovers which will be available until stock runs out. We'll also list upcoming projects available for pre-order. These are scheduled to be sent later in the year, but you can put your name down to receive them when they are ready.

Wooden models:

All kits come with a step-by-step graphic guide and some hints and tips to help you build your model.

- **Knight's castle** – Many of you have asked for models of buildings and we hope you enjoy this 96-piece knight's castle, complete with two knights and a moving drawbridge. Moderate difficulty with some small but repeating detail.



The wooden model peacock

- **Peacock** – This is a 59-piece model. Many of these pieces are repeated pieces for the tail feathers, so this is fairly straightforward to build and suitable for beginners with some assistance.

Leftover:

- **Simple** - Locomotive, Deer Head, Mouse, Hedgehog, Squirrel.

Upcoming:

- **Carousel** – Complex, previous modelling experience recommended.

Mosaics:

Bespoke designs with a step-by-step pattern. Tiles are pre-sorted into labelled bags.

- **Flowerpot mosaic** – This is an eight-step design which uses our snippet fill technique around flowers in the centre of the base. Suitable for confident beginners.
- **Halloween mandala mosaic** – This is similar to the older mandala-style with lots of different tile styles in spooky colours and dark grout. Includes some smaller pieces so suitable for confident beginners.

Upcoming:

- **Festive mandala mosaic** (simple)
- **Christmas wreath mosaic** (complex)



Knight's castle

Art:

The following projects are available year-round:

- **Pastels kit** – A beginner's kit containing a few hints, tips and creative prompts, a pack of pastels, blending stumps, pastel paper and a specialist eraser.
- **Botanical sketchbook** – A sketching kit with specially chosen materials for bold mark making. Suitable for beginners and more experienced artists. →



Flower pot mosaic

- **Holiday landscapes** – Watercolour painting pack suitable for all abilities, containing specialist paper, brushes, a tin of watercolour paints and some high-contrast masking tape.

Craft:

- **Clay modelling kit** – This kit contains a pack of air-drying terracotta clay, some tools and silicone moulds to get started with this great tactile craft. There are some creative prompts and technique guides in your instructions.
- **Christmas cards papercraft** – Our annual papercraft project contains blank greetings cards, gift tags and

a variety of festive paper and card to create your own designs.

Upcoming:

- **Stained glass baubles**
(acrylic paint pens)

A note about indoor gardening: We have been unable to source our usual indoor bulbs project this year due to supply issues. We know many of you enjoy this project and apologise for the disappointment.

If you still have your pots from previous projects, you can repurpose them with other bulbs, or you may have been able to keep your previous bulbs healthy to bloom again this year.

Your suggestions:

Thank you for all your great ideas for upcoming projects – here's a sneak peek of what we're working on for 2027:

Mosaics – elephant, heart, various mandala mosaics, gnome

Models – windmill, swan, frog, sailing ship, London monuments, tractor

Crafts – large print knitting and crochet patterns, 3D colourful models, foil engraving, stained glass painting, decoupage.

Your feedback matters

Thanks so much for continuing to return your feedback surveys with each NCP pack. They help shape future projects and improve our offer to you

I've noticed in your feedback how many of you are embracing the challenge of a complex project and are very rightly proud of the results! Some of you are completely independent, while others are making the projects with company and conversation. This is all brilliant - thanks for sharing!

On this page, I've answered your frequently asked questions. If you'd like to discuss anything more specific, please email me at ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk – I'm always happy to hear from you.
Lucy Bradshaw, NCP Coordinator

How do I line up round tiles with straight edges on mosaics? Try not to aim for perfection with your tile spacing – there will be uneven gaps and some tiles that touch. Try putting a bit more glue on the base so you can move your tiles around once they've all been placed to even the spacing.

Why are the model hints and tips so long? I do appreciate that some people might find the instructions hard to

follow. These are written with tactile descriptions for orientating the pieces for those who can't rely on sight alone. I hope that the combination of the graphic instructions and hints and tips will make the projects accessible to as many people as possible.

What do I do with spares and leftovers from mosaics? If you're going to be doing more projects, you can hold on to them and let me know that you don't need more grout, tweezers, glue or whatever and I will leave them out of your next project. You can send spares back with your feedback survey in the freepost returns envelope.

What happens if I break an important model piece? It's not uncommon to break the thin, fragile pieces – I've done this many times when testing them! You can try repairing the piece with glue and laying it flat to dry before placing it in the model, or by glueing the surrounding parts to make the structure stable. If you're really struggling to fix it, get in touch and I can send a replacement. 🛠️



Quiz time

Our quizmaster **Ron Russell** tests your general knowledge

1. How many seconds do you get to work out your answer on the TV show Countdown?

2. On which animal would you usually use a curry comb?
3. Who wrote the 1943 book The Gremlins?

4. If you roll a four on a dice, what is the sum of the other four visible faces?

5. Who wrote Whitney Houston's hit 'I will always love you'?

6. Which famous car had the number plate GEN11?

7. What was George Michael's first solo hit?

8. Sabina Park is famous for which sport?

9. In which country is the musical 'Cabaret' set?

10. Which creatures are used as croquet balls in Alice in Wonderland?



Caption: Whitney Houston

Answers on back page



Family news

Birthdays

- Dorothea Barron who celebrates her 102nd birthday on 25 October 2026.

Arnold Bradbury who celebrates his 103rd birthday on 20 October 2026.

Olwen Cantlay who celebrates her 104th birthday on 31 October 2026.

Joseph Covell who celebrates his 104th birthday on 16 October 2026.

Dorothy Cundall who celebrates her 105th birthday on 29 October 2026.

James Finnigan who celebrates his 104th birthday on 4 October 2026.

John Haddock who celebrates his 104th birthday on 16 October 2026.

Evan Jones who celebrates his 101st birthday on 20 October 2026.

- Raymond Manville who celebrates his 100th birthday on 23 October 2026.

Phyllis Pickwell who celebrates her 102nd birthday on 11 October 2026.

Joseph Stanley who celebrates his 103rd birthday on 31 October 2026.

David Sunray who celebrates his 100th birthday on 24 October 2026.

Dewi Thomas who celebrates his 100th birthday on 14 October 2026.

Garnet Upton who celebrates his 101st birthday on 18 October 2026.

Condolences

Gillian Shoosmith who died on 1 July 2026. She was the wife of David Shoosmith.

All birthday information was correct at the time of going to press



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

Charlie Bell of Prestonpans who died on 1 August 2026 aged 88. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in The Royal Air Force.

William Bennett of Nottingham who died on 7 September 2026 aged 86. He served as a Gunner in The Army.

John Chandler of Reading who died on 23 July 2026 aged 78. He served as a Seaman in The Royal Navy.

Derrick Clamp of Northampton who died on 27 July 2026 aged 99. He served as a Staff Sargeant in The Royal Army Service Corps.

Alex Cowan of Halifax who died on 8 August 2026 aged 97. He served as a Private in The General Service Corps.

Dennis Craven of Huddersfield who died on 3 August 2026 aged 92. He served as a Private in The Army Catering Corps.

Alan Dyer of Wirral who died on 20 August 2026 aged 91. He served as a Trooper in The Royal Horse Guards.

Gerald Ethering of Horsham who died on 1 September 2026 aged 91. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

John Farrar of Bognor Regis who died on 28 August 2026 aged 93. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

Leslie Gorrill of Southport who died on 29 July 2026 aged 95. He served as a Guardsman in The Coldstream Guards.

Martin Gurney of Battle who died on 1 September 2026 aged 87. He served as a Radio Operator in The Royal Navy.

Ronald Gurney of Hove who died on 18 August 2026 aged 90. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Army Pay Corps.

Derek Harrhy of Welshpool who died on 18 July 2026 aged 89. He served as a Chief Technician in The Royal Air Force.

Brian Head of Henley-On-Thames who died on 1 August 2026 aged 92. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Medical Corps.

Rowena Hickman of Coventry who died on 12 August 2026 aged 54. She served as a Private in The Women's Royal Army Corps.

Joyce Hunter-Exall of Northampton who died on 13 August 2026 aged 96. She served as a Leading Wren in The Women's Royal Naval Service.

Dennis Ivory of Bristol who died on 22 August 2026 aged 90. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Army Service Corps.



Thomas Johnson of Welwyn Garden City who died on 9 August 2026 aged 93. He served as a Corporal in The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment.

Anthony Killick of Guilford who died on 18 August 2026 aged 93. He served as an Acting Sergeant in The Royal Air Force.

Ronald Leech of Stockport who died on 1 August 2026 aged 90. He served as a Private in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Arthur Lilley of Stockport who died on 5 September 2026 aged 103. He served as a Private in The Army Service Corps.

Ian Maclean of London who died on 23 August 2026 aged 95. He served in The Royal Army Corps Tank Regiment.

John Miller of Cardiff who died on 9 June 2026 aged 91. He served as a Private in The Royal Signals.

Peter Mullis of Derby who died on 1 September 2026 aged 89. He served as a Captain in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Brian Nelson of Eastbourne who died on 16 August 2026 aged 91. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

William Norman of Plymouth who died on 19 August 2026 aged 87. He served in The Royal Navy.

James Nugent of Alnwick who died on 1 August aged 89. He served as a Flight Sergeant in The Royal Air Force.

Christopher Ottewell of Stonehouse who died on 11 August 2026 aged 83. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Army Service Corps.

Muriel Patey of Kingsbridge who died on 6 August 2026 aged 95. She served as a Leading Wren in The Royal Navy.

Norma Phelan of Gloucester who died on 19 August 2026 aged 90. She served as a Wren in The Women's Royal Naval Service.

Henry Puttick of London who died on 2 September 2026 aged 96. He served as a Warrant Officer 2nd Class in The Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

David Ramshaw of Dereham who died on 11 July 2026 aged 90. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

William Restall of Swansea who died on 23 July 2026 aged 92. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

George Senior of Sheffield who died on 19 July 2026 aged 94. He served as a private in The Army Catering Corps.

Barrie Smith of Poulton-Le-Fylde who died on 1 August 2026 aged 92. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

Andrew Smith of Sudbury who died on 1 July 2026 aged 98. He served as a Private in The General Service Corps.

Alexander Starling of Yeovil who died on 1 August 2026 aged 89. He served as a Cook in The Royal Navy.

Leslie Sunter of Leeds who died on 1 August 2026 aged 100. He served as an Able Seaman in The Royal Navy.

Donald Tales of Sheffield who died on 6 August 2026 aged 95. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Engineers.

Shaun Taylor of Cleethorpes who died on 1 July 2026 aged 57. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.



Christopher Thompson of Darwen who died on 3 August 2026 aged 99. He served as an A.C.1 in The Royal Air Force.

Joseph Tyrrell of St Neots who died on 16 August 2026 aged 88. He served in The Army Catering Corps.

John Veale of Nottingham who died on 20 August 2026 aged 90. He served as a Chief Technician in The Royal Air Force.

Peter Wilson of Bingley who died on 24 July 2026 aged 88. He served as a Radar Operator in The Royal Navy.

Michael Wragg of Gainsborough who died on 7 June 2026 aged 89. He served as a Sergeant in The Army Pay Corps.

William Young of Aldershot who died on 8 August 2026 aged 91. He served as a Bombardier in The Royal Artillery.

Did you know that we can set up online tribute pages for the loved ones of our staff, Members and supporters? You can find out more about this at blindveteransuk.muchloved.org



At the end of the South Coast Ultra: Rich Phinbow, Stu Rodd, Andy and Angie Leitch with medals

Christmas Cheer, Delivered!



Listen
here



Stay tuned for our new collection of Christmas cards, featuring beautiful festive artwork created by our talented Member Ron Smith.



To explore more cards along with the new Christmas cards, visit our online shop at blindveterans.org.uk/shop or contact Supporter Services on 0300 111 22 33.

Quiz answers – from page 44 1. 30 seconds 2. Horse 3. Roald Dahl 4. Fourteen 5. Dolly Parton 6. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang 7. Careless Whisper 8. Cricket 9. Germany 10. Hedgehogs