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Review

The journal of
Blind Veterans UK

July 2026



Going twice as far as ever before

Jerry's double ultra challenge

Inside:

Our history in Torquay

Regional Conferences 2026

Blind Veterans UK amateur radio society



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Contents

- 02** Weekly Lottery
- 04** Chairman's Welcome
- 06** News
- 10** In your community
- 14** Regional Conferences 2026
- 17** The forgotten Torquay annexe
- 21** From the Somme to today
- 23** Jerry's ultra challenge
- 26** Wayne's driving experience
- 29** Keeping the airwaves open
- 33** Meet our ambassadors
- 36** Stepping out with sight loss
- 40** Member voice
- 44** National Creative Programme
- 48** Quiz time
- 49** Family news
- 51** In Memory
- 55** Contact details

**Jerry Bradley
and Anne Forsberg
make it to 90km**

On the cover

**Jerry Bradley and
Anne Forsberg smiling
at the start of their
Ultra**



Listening and reflecting

By **Giles Peel**, Chair of the Board of Trustees

As I write this introduction to our July issue, I have just concluded my second full Board meeting as Chair. This marks an important milestone for me personally and has provided an invaluable opportunity for me to listen and reflect.



Giles Peel

A central focus of the discussion was the wealth of feedback gathered from our recent Member conferences. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended, contributed so thoughtfully, and took the time to share their perspectives. Your input is, and will always be, essential in ensuring that our direction remains aligned with the needs and ambitions of our community of blind veterans and their family members, friends, and supporters.

The conversations that emerged from those conferences were wide ranging, constructive, and encouraging. It was particularly reassuring to hear of the openness and engagement across the sessions.

I am pleased to say that this feedback is already helping to inform the charity's thinking as we move forward, and it will play an important role in shaping our priorities in the months

ahead. I look forward to sharing more updates with you as this work develops.

Member Jules has provided his own report on the conference he attended, which you can read on page 14. There, you will also find a link to a more detailed summary of all that was discussed.

I have also been delighted to hear about the strong momentum behind the new Member Ambassador programme. Even at this early stage, this initiative is resonating and beginning to make a positive difference by strengthening connections across our network. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by those already involved is inspiring, and it speaks to the strength of our Membership community.

I am confident that the programme will play a vital role in enhancing both Member engagement and the visibility of the charity as we continue to grow. You can read more about this exciting work and meet two of our new Ambassadors on page 33.

As we move into the summer months, I hope you are able to enjoy a well-earned break and take the opportunity to recharge. Whether that involves time with family and



Ambassador Clive Jones

friends, travel, or simply a change of pace, I hope it brings both rest and renewal.

There will be no issue of Review published in August, so this edition will carry us through until our next publication in September. In the meantime, thank you once again for your continued support, insights, and commitment to our community.

I wish you all a very enjoyable summer and look forward to reconnecting in the autumn with renewed energy and a shared sense of purpose. 🍷

News

Jack completes the Newport Marathon

On 19 April Jack, 26, and from Lincolnshire took on his first ever marathon in Newport alongside three of his Army friends, Zach, Kristiaan and Nathan, all of whom serve with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Jack's grandad, Terry, who is 80, started losing his sight around three years ago due to macular degeneration and has received our support since 2024. Jack says:

"I'm really happy that grandad is looked after by Blind Veterans UK. They also support my grandmother. What the charity does for people like my grandad is phenomenal and I wanted to do something to enable them to support more veterans like him."

Jack's grandad Terry served with the 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets. He joined as a rifleman in 1965 and during his service he was stationed in Hong Kong, Norway, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Germany and the Falkland Islands. He served for 22 years and retired in 1987 as a Warrant Officer class 2.



Jack and Nathan during the marathon



Jack and his grandad

Jack is keen to encourage others to take on their own fundraising challenge saying:

"As soon as I got in touch with the charity's fundraising team I've had nothing but support with a consistent back and forth of information. I was pointed in the right direction and supported to set up my own fundraising page and given tips on how to maximise my fundraising and reach more people. We were also provided with T-shirts to wear."

■ You can congratulate Jack and donate to his fundraising page at [www.blindveterans.org.uk /jack](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/jack)

Brighton Bus named after D-Day veteran Ken

A Brighton bus has been named after the late blind veteran Ken Hobbs, who was one of the first to land on Sword Beach on D-Day and later lived at our rehabilitation centres in Ovingdean and Rustington.

The Brighton & Hove Buses Coaster route bus now carries Ken's name on the front, with an information panel inside sharing his story with passengers.

The tribute is especially fitting as Ken had a strong connection to the route. After leaving the Army, he worked as a bus driver with Southdown Motor Services for eight years and drove the route now served by the bus named in his honour. The route also passes our former rehabilitation centre in Ovingdean, the place Ken called home after he lost his sight.

Ken, who was born in East Sussex, joined the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver in 1942. On 6 June 1944, he was among the Allied troops who landed in Normandy.

Before arriving on the beach, Ken helped waterproof the vehicles →

that would be driven ashore by extending the exhaust pipes and sealing them.

He drove onto Sword Beach at 7.30am. Remembering that morning, Ken said the beach was noisy and that German forces were waiting for them. When asked if he was scared, he simply said: "You had to do it. That was it."

Ken shared his memories of D-Day with us shortly before he sadly passed away in April 2024, aged 101.

He was one of the first veterans to receive the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest order of merit, in recognition of his role in the liberation of France.



Ken Hobb's sons in front of his bus

Brighton & Hove Buses has been naming its buses after people who have made a significant contribution to the local area since 1999. Other names include Norman Cook, Chris Eubank, and our founder, Sir Arthur Pearson.

Jo Parker-Smith, our Community Engagement Lead, thanked Brighton & Hove Buses for the tribute and for its ongoing dedication to providing accessible bus services in the local area, helping blind veterans regain their independence.

She says: "This is such a wonderful and fitting way to remember Ken and I know that he would think it was just marvellous."

Recruitment drive for two new Trustees

Blind Veterans UK is recruiting two new Trustees to strengthen its Board and support the charity's future direction.

One role focuses on finance, including membership of a new Finance and Investment Subcommittee, while the second seeks expertise in NHS management or healthcare, ideally with a military connection. The roles close at the beginning of August and end of July respectively.



Sopra Steria Fundraising Hike in The South Downs



Full details on both opportunities, including how to apply, can be found on the Members' Area of our website at

www.blindveterans.org.uk/trustees.

Members interested in applying can also request support by calling 0300 111 2233.

Sopra Steria Fundraising Hike

Our wonderful corporate partners from Sopra Steria joined us recently for an incredibly successful 11km fundraising hike in South Downs National Park. 55 Sopra Steria staff joined with 10 of our Members who were attending an activity taster week

at Rustington to take on the hike. This allowed our partners from Sopra Steria to get stuck in and see the success of our rehabilitation programme in action, get to know our Members and stop for a nice picnic along the way.

The general public could see our group coming a mile off as hordes of fundraisers and Members trekked over the landscape, supporting each other and chatting as they went. After the walk everyone gathered at the Rustington Centre to celebrate their achievement and enjoy a buffet and live music.

A big thank you to the Sopra Steria team for taking on this challenge to raise £20,000 and a big well done to all. 🇬🇧



Kent Volunteers get together

In your community

Read about some of the social gatherings across the country that have taken place this summer and brought together Members in their local areas

Volunteers’ week Celebrations across the country

This month our community teams have been holding a lot of volunteer focused events, coffee mornings, lunches etc. to celebrate the wonderful work our volunteers do and to give them our utmost thanks for the difference they make to our

veterans on a daily basis.

Rustington and local community volunteers gathered for a special volunteer’s week event, a morning filled with coffee, cake and meaningful conversations, followed by an afternoon of training.

In the **greater Manchester** area, three volunteer events were held in New



South Manchester, Rustington, Wirral and Neston Volunteers get together

Brighton, Walkden and Stockport, giving our volunteers an opportunity to meet others who share their mission, have a good laugh and a chat over coffee.

In **Kent**, volunteers gathered for a coffee morning where they reminisced about all of the work they’ve done and joy they’ve had over the years of volunteering, and volunteer John was presented his Founders Award in

Three volunteer events were held in New Brighton, Walkden and Stockport

recognition of all of the hours he has given to the charity over the last 15 years.

Communities in **Lancashire** and **Cumbria** took a different approach to thanking their volunteers and sent out a lovely order of letterbox cakes to their volunteers. With the support of SPONGE, volunteers received delicious delights such as Victoria sponge, and chocolate caramel fudge cake through the post.

There are a number of other volunteer events going on in communities around the country and wherever you are, we wish to say a great big thank you.





Lincolnshire driving experience

In Lincolnshire

Members rediscovered their passion for driving in an unforgettable blindfold driving experience.

Participants climbed into 4x4 off-road vehicles and took turns navigating a purpose-built course packed with challenging terrain, including mud, water, steep inclines, descents, and side slopes. With blindfolds on, each driver relied entirely on clear verbal instructions from the instructor seated beside them, guiding every turn and adjustment along the way.

After just a few moments, initial nerves gave way to confidence, and drivers quickly settled into the

experience, tackling the course with skill and enthusiasm, even as the obstacles became more demanding.

Following the recent warm weather, the rain in the days leading up to the event added an extra element of fun, creating puddles and muddy stretches to power through. Thankfully, no one needed to jump out and push their vehicle free from the deeper sections!

In North Wales

Members, widows, friends and family got together in north Wales for a coach trip around the best and most beautiful sights north Wales has to offer. The coach driver talked our



North Wales coach trip

Members through the sights and did an excellent job of explaining the history of north Wales and imparting his knowledge.

After a shopping and refreshments stop in Betws Y Coed, the group drove further into Eryri National Park (Snowdonia), enjoying the views before enjoying a lunch at Fron Coch garden centre. It was a bus full of joy and our Members had a day full of smiles, meaningful conversations and fun.

Do you 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.



Dudley Canal and Caverns

In Dudley

Members enjoyed a day out to Dudley Canal and Caverns. They took a 45 minute trip on a narrow boat down the canal, only covering 6% of the vast network of tunnels and caverns built to mine limestone.

The knowledgeable skipper guided veterans about the history of the network and ensured that the tour was as accessible as possible. Members then enjoyed each other's company over lunch in a beautiful room overlooking the canal. This was a very memorable trip and our Members had a wonderful time exploring whilst making new friends. 🇬🇧

Regional Conferences 2026

In May, the charity held 5 Regional Conferences in Grantham, Cardiff, Basingstoke, Belfast, and Edinburgh

One of the attendees in Basingstoke was new Member Ambassador **Jules Lee**. Below he writes on his experience

On Thursday 14th May, I attended the Regional Conference at Basingstoke. I wanted to write about it from the perspective of Members, so during, and in the evening after, I spoke with and listened to the views of many who attended. Hopefully, this reflects those viewpoints.

The introduction by our CEO, Adrian Bell, was appreciated by all, though many felt it could have been longer with more opportunity to raise questions. The general consensus was that the balance was right, allowing other topics on the agenda to be discussed.

One of the issues that arose was the disparity of the levels of support Members receive around the country. Whenever Members meet at national or regional events, or at Rustington, those differences become apparent.

One example was the range of opportunities Members have to attend local social coffee mornings/lunches. Some areas were well served whilst some Members felt left out.

One suggestion was made for a National list of all regular meetings be made available, a proposal many thought worthwhile.



Regional Member Conference 2025

Leading on from this, a comment was raised that our Community geographical boundaries should not preclude Members taking part in events hosted by a different Community. Speaking with some others in the evening, I was surprised by how Members felt that their involvement with Blind Veterans UK only existed in their Community.

That last point may explain why so many of those attending said it was a wonderful experience to meet so many different Members and they had learnt so much about the Charity, particularly by chatting with other Members.

Sandra Fruish, a Consultant with an impressive background of Charity work spoke about membership. Sandra gave four different wordings to describe what the Charity should be for us, as Members, and, more importantly, how we should look for all those we need to introduce to Blind Veterans UK for the future.

For those who had attended previous regional and/or national conferences, some were keen to hear a more direct update on the charity becoming a formal Membership association. This has been discussed for some time and is generally well supported, →

so a number of attendees would have welcomed a more detailed update.

At Basingstoke, Aaron Garratt, Service Development Manager, spoke about Families and Carers although different staff led this session at other conferences. A number of Members attending were accompanied by their partners and, from chatting to some, it seems a challenge for them to see themselves as 'carers'. It was welcomed that the Charity is doing more to see what it can offer family members and carers and it was recognised in the room the vital role they play.

The subject of 'Carers' week at Rustington was raised, though there was some confusion as to who looks after the Member if the carer is at the Centre. An alternative was raised, where the Member has a week at the Centre, whilst the carers have their own week at a centre, such as Warners or Potters.

Sam Dutton and Glynis Gillan talked about addressing issues which would be of importance to new Members joining the Charity and others considering it. We discussed these around each of the tables where we were seated, led by a member of staff.

I gave the final talk, a brief word about the Ambassador role and my

The majority of attendees enjoyed the conference and learned a great deal about the Charity

experiences of talking to corporate supporters along with smaller groups. The feedback was positive, with everyone agreeing the importance of spreading the word about the incredible work our Charity does.

Particularly amongst those who had attended previous conferences, there was disappointment that there was no Q&A session with Adrian. These have been quite lively previously, but a great deal can be learnt from these sessions. I know one Member had five or six questions prepared!

The majority of attendees enjoyed the conference and learned a great deal about the Charity. The facilities and location were well appreciated and it is always welcome to meet fellow Members throughout the day and at the dinner in the evening. 🇬🇧



You can read a full right up on the topics discussed at blindveterans.org.uk/conference



The forgotten Torquay annexe of St Dunstan's (1915 to 1918) Part 1

By Blind Veterans UK volunteer and amateur historian, **Andy Hayes**

By chance, I came across a photograph in a local history Facebook group showing a Torquay building captioned "Convalescent Home for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, Torquay Annexe of St Dunstan's Hostel." That single image

led me to a largely forgotten chapter in the history of support for blind veterans.

What followed was the story of a short-lived yet remarkable annexe →



The convalescence hostel in Torquay

in Torquay that operated between 1915 and 1918. Although the charity's main base was in London, Torquay became the location of a convalescent home that played an important supporting role during the First World War. While often described as an annexe of St Dunstan's, the Torquay home consistently maintained that it operated independently, a distinction that would later prove significant.

The initiative began locally. The Torquay and South Devon Home Teaching Society for the Blind, founded in 1910, provided an existing framework of support. Momentum grew after Mrs Frances Inkersley, wife

“Torquay, then regarded as one of the wealthiest towns in the country, embraced the effort wholeheartedly”

of the American journalist and author Arthur Inkersley, published an appeal in March 1915 asking whether anything could be done in Torquay for men who had lost their sight in the war. The response was immediate and generous.

Fundraising began quickly, including a concert at the Torquay Pavilion which raised £219 (£20,000 today).

This enabled the establishment of a convalescent home for wounded servicemen who needed time to recover before moving on to training at St Dunstan's in London. The aim was to support not only those who were blind, but also men recovering from multiple injuries, including amputations, paralysis, and shell shock.

Mr and Mrs Inkersley offered their home, Fairfield. The large villa, set within its own grounds, could accommodate around eight men along with a matron and nursing staff. It provided an ideal setting for recovery, offering space, fresh air, and calm surroundings. Next door stood Ashfield,

where a young Agatha Christie was living at the time, an unexpected literary connection to the story.

Torquay, then regarded as one of the wealthiest towns in the country, embraced the effort wholeheartedly. Residents organised concerts and fetes, donated food and cigarettes, and even provided seeds for gardening. The annexe became a true community endeavour, sustained by generosity and practical support.

As the lease on Fairfield neared its end in 1916, a new home was secured at Bournbrook, generously offered rent-free by local solicitor Harry →



First world war blind veterans learning to use type writers



A blind veteran, left, rowing with an instructor

Dundee Hooper. The following year the annexe relocated again to Roydon, a former nursing home taken on a seven-year lease. Its layout, with rooms opening onto gardens and space for early vocational activities such as basket-making and shoe repair, made it well suited to preparing men for the next stage of their rehabilitation.

In September 1917, Sir Arthur Pearson visited Roydon and wrote afterwards that he was delighted with everything he saw. Despite this, tensions between Pearson and the Torquay committee soon began to emerge. The question of control was central. The committee continued to emphasise its total financial independence, while St Dunstan's took an increasingly direct interest in how the home was run.

Disputes followed over staffing, governance, and funding. The committee noted that although maintenance payments were being handled through official channels, no direct financial support had been received from St Dunstan's during the three years of operation. By the end of 1917, relations had significantly deteriorated.

In February 1918, the situation reached an impasse. Sir Arthur Pearson informed the committee that all men would be withdrawn, and, soon after,

“Its legacy also lives on in the stories of the men who passed through it.”

the residents were transferred to another establishment at St Leonards-on-Sea. With their departure, the Torquay annexe came to an end.

For the people of Torquay, who had supported the home so generously with time, money, and care, its closure marked a disappointing conclusion to three years of dedicated effort. Nevertheless, its contribution should not be overlooked. The annexe provided care, dignity, and support at a time of great need, and played its part in the wider work that continues today through Blind Veterans UK.

Its legacy also lives on in the stories of the men who passed through it. Among them was one individual whose experience attracted considerable attention at the time and continues to fascinate today. His name was Alfred Percy “Charles” Appleby, and his story includes an extraordinary moment in which he was said to have regained his sight in the most unexpected way.

■ **That story, involving a Persian cat and a moment of shock that changed his life, will be explored in the next issue.** 🐾



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUMS / WIKIPEDIA



Royal Irish Rifles at the beginning of the battle.

From the Somme to today

Blind Veterans UK and 110 years of support

The origins of our charity trace right back to one of the most devastating periods in British military history: the First World War. The charity emerged in response to growing numbers of servicemen who returned from the front blinded by modern warfare. The Battle of the Somme in 1916, with its heavy artillery and shrapnel, came to symbolise both the scale of the conflict and the lifechanging injuries endured by thousands.

An estimated 30,000 veterans lost their sight during the First World War, but little could be done medically in 1916 for catastrophic eye injuries. Survivors often faced a future of isolation, poverty, and dependency. In this context, Blind Veterans UK played a revolutionary role. Rather than treating blindness as the end of a useful life, we helped veterans rebuild independence, confidence, and purpose. Training in mobility, everyday skills, and



employment challenged the assumption that people who had lost their sight were destined only for charity or institutional care.

This included many of the activities that we still facilitate today, including creating music, playing sports, woodworking, social events, and learning how to get around. There are still wooden trays, boxes and furniture in our archives made by blind veterans of the first world war.

Central to this transformation was Sir Ian Fraser, later Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. Fraser was himself a product of the Somme. Serving as a young captain with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, he was blinded by a bullet during the battle in 1916. Sent to St Dunstan's to recover, he experienced firsthand the charity's pioneering approach to rehabilitation, an experience that shaped both his own future and the organisation's direction.

Fraser became Chairman of St Dunstan's in 1921, a role he held for more than fifty years. As Lord Fraser, he was a leading national advocate for blind and disabled people. He believed rehabilitation should be practical, demanding, and rooted in dignity. Under his leadership, the charity expanded training programmes and strengthened its commitment to

supporting veterans not just at the point of injury, but throughout their lives.

Lord Fraser also became a powerful link between battlefield experience and civilian society. He demonstrated that disability need not limit ambition. Beyond the charity, he served as an MP and a Governor of the BBC, using his platform to challenge wider perceptions of blindness. His leadership helped cement St Dunstan's reputation as a forwardthinking organisation shaped by veterans, for veterans. The legacy of the Somme and the First World War remains embedded in Blind Veterans UK's identity and public memory. A statue of blind WWI soldiers has stood outside Manchester Piccadilly Station since 2018, reminding passersby of the human cost of conflict and the determination required to rebuild a life without sight.

While methods and technologies have evolved, our core mission remains unchanged from 110 years ago: to help blind veterans live lives of independence, fulfilment, and dignity. From supporting young soldiers blinded on the muddy fields of the Somme to helping modern veterans navigate life after service, we are proud of our history and how we continue to be pioneers in the field of sight loss rehabilitation. 🇬🇧



Jerry's double 100km ultra challenge

A story of Jerry's determination to go twice the distance and push himself to his limits



Jerry takes a power nap at 80km

Member, Jerry Bradley from Dorset is taking on two 100km endurance walking challenges this year to raise money for Blind Veterans UK. Jerry, 63, from Weymouth, completed the Jurassic Coast Ultra Challenge on 16 May and will be taking part in the South Coast Ultra on 5 September. Two ultras, totalling 200km and aiming to raise £2000!

In 2025 Jerry joined a team of blind veterans to take on the South Coast Ultra and this year he did it again! He walked the full 100km alongside his guide Volunteer Coordinator Anne Forsberg. The pair crossed the finish line in 28 hours and 16 minutes and Jerry was the 256th finisher for the event. He says: "The event was →

mentally and physically tough. Walking through the night was harder than I thought it would be as where my head torch shone on the ground, was just at the place I couldn't see but luckily Anne had a glow stick attached to the back of her bag and I was able to follow that.

"I wore a lot of preventative plasters and luckily escaped any blisters. We took eight breaks along the way which gradually increased in length. The final stop we had an hour-long breakfast and lots of cups of tea."

Jerry served in the RAF for 13 years. Problems with his sight surfaced

in 1996 when he left the RAF but it wasn't until 2003 that he was diagnosed with stargardt disease which is a genetic eye condition. He says: "Everyone has one blind spot in each eye but with stargardt disease you have three and mine are growing; I've lost my central vision. I also have Charles Bonnet syndrome which means I see things that are not there."

"Since being supported by the charity, my confidence to try new things has grown. I'd never walked 100k in one hit but the effort of my other blind veterans motivated me to do it. I wasn't going to let them down"



Jerry and Anne reach the 90km mark

"The organisation of the ultra events is incredible and the team behind it ensure that the events are accessible for those of us with sight loss."

Anne, who works at Blind Veterans UK as a Volunteer Coordinator, was Jerry's guide in 2025 and is joining him again for the two ultra challenges this year. He says: "I am so grateful to Anne for her ongoing support. She has enabled me to have the opportunity to take on these challenges, find purpose and build my confidence."

Jerry has gone from saying "never again" to taking on not one but two ultra challenges in 2026. He says: "It was while on an outward-bound trip in the Lake District with Blind Veterans UK that I decided to sign up again and to join my fellow blind veterans for the South Coast Ultra once more. The camaraderie is fantastic and we all support one another to take on the distances we can manage. The training is fantastic for my fitness and for filling my time. I find the empty time, the hardest thing about my sight loss but I now go out walking five days a week."

"Sometimes I am joined by friends and other times I end up joining up with people that I meet while out walking. I'm lucky to have so many lovely walks where I live."



Jerry full of smiles at the rest station

"I decided to take on the Jurassic Coast Ultra in addition to the South Coast Ultra as it's local to me and I fancied giving it a go and the double challenge pushes me a bit further. There will be no time for hanging up my boots in between as I'll need to keep my fitness up. I'm really looking forward to taking part again."

■ **If Jerry has inspired you to take on your own ultra challenge in aid of Blind Veterans UK. You can contact fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk to find out more.** 🇬🇧

Who says those with sight loss can't drive a car!

Former Blind Veterans UK Chair, and motor racing enthusiast, **Barry Coupe** tells of Member Wayne's experience driving a car again and how any Members who miss this can do the same

About a year ago, I presented a Blind Veterans UK award to Wayne Pope, one of our working age members who is succeeding in achieving Victory over Blindness. After presenting the award, I asked Wayne what he missed most as a result of his sight loss journey. "Driving my car," was his response.

His answer stayed with me. I remembered being a little boy, sitting in the back of my father's Jaguar as he drove along the runway at Wharton in Lancashire on a Saturday. I would shout, "Go on Dad, nearly 120mph!" before my uncle urgently called, "For heaven's sake, brake now Des!" It is

why I used to say, "My father is not blind, it is just that he can't see."

That memory gave me a determination to help Wayne enjoy being behind the wheel again, in a safe and legal setting. Initial approaches to Castle Combe and Goodwood were unsuccessful because of insurance restrictions. Then Wayne found Speed of Sight, a charity based at the Three Sisters race track near Wigan in Lancashire. It was founded by Mike Newman, who was born blind and dreamed of becoming a racing driver. Mike went on to achieve several world land speed records. The charity's



Wayne gets ready to drive

motto is "to prove that disability does not mean inability", a message that everyone connected with Blind Veterans UK can support.

A date was booked, and Wayne and I travelled to Wigan to experience the thrills offered by this remarkable charity. During the day, I lost count of the number of times Wayne said "wow". He was excited, and with good reason. Speed of Sight has specially prepared cars with twin steering wheels and dual controls, many also fitted with hand controls.

I also drove one of the cars

immediately behind Wayne, which allowed me to understand how they handled. At one point, I asked my instructor to guide me while I closed my eyes, so I could experience something of what it might feel like for a totally blind driver. It was amazing. His instructions and the feel of the pedals helped me understand the corners and the racing line. On the straight, he told me to press the accelerator. As the next bend approached, I felt the car slow as he applied pressure to the brake pedal. With each lap, it became easier to anticipate the next straight and corner.



“Speed of Sight has specially prepared cars with twin steering wheels and dual controls”

Wayne does have some usable vision, and he mastered the controls extremely well. It was wonderful to watch his confidence grow as he built up speed around the track. At the end of the session, the smile on his face said everything. It really was a “wow” moment.

Immediately afterwards, we began thinking about how many other Members might love the chance to drive again, especially around a racetrack.

I spoke to Mike Newman, who agreed that our veterans could really benefit from the charity’s work. I have passed the details to Adrian Bell, and I hope this article will spark interest in an activity many may have thought was out of bounds. As Speed of Sight shows so powerfully, disability does not mean inability. 🇬🇧



A specially prepared car with twin steering wheels and dual controls



Keeping the airwaves open

The magic of Blind Veterans UK amateur radio society

For many Members, radio is far more than a hobby. It is a way to stay connected, learn new skills, share experiences, and enjoy companionship across distances that might otherwise feel isolating. For nearly 50 years the Blind Veterans UK amateur radio society has provided exactly that opportunity, bringing together visually

impaired radio enthusiasts from across the UK.

The society was formed in 1976 and quickly became an important part of the Blind Veterans UK community. For many years, it operated a permanent amateur radio station from the top floor of the former centre in



“Members now also make use of digital radio systems, internet-linked communications and WhatsApp messaging groups”

Ovingdean. This allowed Members to connect with each other from across the country and the society would meet in person twice a year. These gatherings became highlights of the calendar, allowing Members to put faces to familiar voices and exchange ideas, experiences and technical knowledge.

Amateur radio operators are nothing but adaptable and have continued to meet across the air, rather than allowing the club to fade away over the years, Members continued to meet “on the air” using established radio nets and frequencies. These regular radio gatherings enable Members to remain in touch and continue enjoying the friendships and camaraderie that had always been at the heart of the society.

Technology has also helped the society evolve. Alongside traditional radio communications, Members now also make use of digital radio systems,

internet-linked communications and WhatsApp messaging groups. These tools allow Members to stay connected between radio sessions, exchange information quickly and support one another with technical advice and everyday conversation.

Despite the convenience of modern technology, Members agree that nothing quite replaces meeting in person. An exciting opportunity arose when facilities became available at the Rustington Centre, where Members were invited to establish a temporary amateur radio station. The offer was enthusiastically accepted, and the necessary arrangements were made with Ofcom, the UK’s communications regulator. A special club callsign, MXOSBV, was allocated for the operation.

The event brought together Members from across the country. Among those attending were Sue Houlihan, David Wilkinson, Alistair McGoff, John Wake, Andrew Thorpe, Joanne Thorpe, Ray Peart, Claire Peart, and volunteer of 40 years, John Houlihan.

John says, “I have found over time as a volunteer in St Dunstan’s and Blind Veterans UK, that by keeping those radio amateurs with sight loss on the air, they keep up with changing technology and continue



BVUK Radio Society Members

to enjoy the companionship of radio communications that we all value so much.”

The gathering was not only a social occasion but also an opportunity to demonstrate the enduring appeal and effectiveness of amateur radio. Members erected telescopic aerial poles and established the temporary station with the assistance of our Rustington staff. The British weather brought a few challenges, including strong winds and thunderstorms, but

the team adapted quickly and safely whenever conditions changed.

Once operational, the station made radio contacts across Europe. Using both voice and Morse code, Members communicated with amateur radio operators in locations including the Azores, Portugal, Sweden and Eastern Europe. For many participants, these contacts provided the familiar thrill of reaching distant stations using equipment they had helped to assemble and operate.





Meet our ambassadors

Introducing you to your Member ambassadors who will represent the charity as public speakers to tell their stories across the country

Clive Jones

Clive was left fighting for his life after an unprovoked attack while he was still serving in the British Army. Following the attack, he lost his sight in both eyes and has had to overcome significant challenges to rebuild his life. He has been a fantastic role model and source of support to other Members for many years and is excited to continue this as a Member Ambassador.

Clive says: “I was put in touch with the charity while I was still in hospital and after I was discharged, I spent six months at the Brighton Centre. I was taught to live again and learnt skills including cooking, ironing and using a computer. I was also trained to use a white cane which helped me to become more mobile.”

During this stay, Clive was



→ **Clive Jones**



Ray using the Radio at Rustington

The event also coincided with commemorations connected to the D-Day landings. The society's station joined a special Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society network that included a station operating from Normandy under the callsign TM82 Pegasus Bridge. Participation in this commemorative activity allowed Members to combine their interest in radio with the military history that remains important to so many of our veterans.

The Rustington event also provided an opportunity to strengthen links with the wider amateur radio community. Members were pleased to welcome Jim Dunn, founder of the Rustington Amateur Radio Group, who visited

“Amateur radio operators are nothing but adaptable and have continued to meet across the air”

the station and joined Members for dinner. Other visitors included fellow Blind Veterans Members with an interest in radio, helping to introduce more people to the possibilities offered by the hobby.

The success of the temporary station at Rustington demonstrated that amateur radio remains as relevant and enjoyable today as it was when the society was founded almost half a century ago. It offers opportunities for learning, friendship, community involvement, and personal achievement, regardless of age or level of experience.

■ **For our Members who are interested in discovering more about amateur radio, the Blind Veterans UK Amateur Radio Society extends a warm welcome. Whether you are a licensed operator, a former enthusiast returning to the hobby, or simply curious about what the society can offer, there is a place for you on the airwaves. 📻**

introduced to archery. He says: "This turned out to be a life-changing moment. I initially laughed at the thought of a blind person with a bow and arrow but gave it a go. I found it very therapeutic and soon signed up to British Blind Sport's archery section."

In blind archery, Clive has achieved significant success. He has been the British Blind Sport indoor and outdoor national champion, he is the IBSA world silver medallist and is currently ranked number four in Europe and the world. He uses his sporting platform to help others and is the Chairman of the Blind Veterans UK Bowmen, encouraging other Members to give the sport a try and showing through example what is possible with sight loss.

Clive has been supported by the charity for 25 years and he supports other Members by providing mentorship and support to help them adjust to sight loss. Clive is also an active freemason and has raised over £116,000 for various charities including Blind Veterans UK and has contributed to his community through initiatives like installing a defibrillator and making lanyards for the NHS.

Clive's dedication has been recognised with numerous accolades, including

being named as a finalist for both the Soldiering on Awards and The Pride of Britain awards, receiving two certificates of commendation from the Duke of Kent, and being made an Honorary Townsman of Market Drayton. In the 2026 New Year's Honours list Clive was appointed a Member of the British Empire for his services to Blind Veterans UK and the Military community.

Kay Godfrey

Kay enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1983 after being motivated by the Falklands War. After leaving the Navy in 1989, she worked as a bank manager before retraining as a secondary school and A Level history teacher. She says: "I loved bringing history to life in the classroom and inspiring young people with my enthusiasm."

In 2022, Kay suffered a stroke and her sight began to deteriorate rapidly over the course of six months. She says: "My vision faded like a light bulb being dimmed, until I was left with only a small amount of light perception. This time was frightening and deeply isolating."

"For months, there was no clear diagnosis, and I struggled to be understood by medical professionals. It felt as though I'd fallen into a big black hole with no clear way out."



Kay Godfrey

The sudden loss of independence was overwhelming; everyday tasks became exhausting and required intense concentration. Kay found herself sitting at home unsure how to move forward. She says: "This was the lowest point of my life, I felt that I had no sense of hope for the future."

Kay discovered Blind Veterans UK through a leaflet at an eye clinic and her first experiences with the charity marked a turning point. She says: "At the charity's rehabilitation centre, surrounded by others facing similar challenges, I found understanding,

encouragement and belief. For the first time since losing my sight, I felt listened to and supported. It was as if someone had thrown down a ladder when I needed it most."

With the help of Blind Veterans UK, Kay rebuilt her confidence and independence, learning new skills and receiving practical support, from adaptive kitchen equipment to techniques that enabled her to navigate the world again. She says: "I have regained the belief that I can try my hand at anything and can now do absolutely everything I thought I had once lost, from baking and shopping to using public transport and socialising with confidence."

Kay is excited for the opportunity to give back to the charity as an Ambassador. She says: "I am determined to raise awareness so others can access the same lifechanging support that I've received." Kay also volunteers as a telephone befriender, offering encouragement and companionship to other Members, particularly those who may feel isolated or overwhelmed.

A passionate historian, Kay also shares her knowledge through social media, continuing her love of teaching in new ways. 🌍

Stepping out confidently with sight loss

The mobility aids and equipment that can help when you're on the move

Stepping out independently with sight loss can feel daunting at first, but the right tools can make a significant difference. From traditional white canes to innovative smart technologies and wearable devices, read on to discover the wide range of options designed to help.

Foundational mobility tools

With ongoing advances in technology, an increasing range of tools are now available to help you travel more easily and confidently.

White canes

White canes are available in different styles, including long canes, symbol canes, folding canes and support canes. Choosing the right type depends on individual mobility needs and training.

Smart canes

For those who feel confident with the basic cane and are interested in enhanced navigation support, there are a growing number of technology-based solutions available.

Some smart canes now incorporate GPS navigation, object recognition using AI, Smartphone connectivity and audio and tactile feedback.

IBNU / ADOBE STOCK



Advances in technology

These devices often pair with a smartphone app and can provide spoken directions, obstacle alerts, and location tracking.

Wearable navigation devices

Emerging wearable technologies may include camera-based systems with AI object recognition, devices that provide vibration cues or spoken guidance, and tactile feedback systems worn on the body.

One example currently in development is Glide, a two-wheeled mobility device designed to guide users using sensors and artificial intelligence.

There are also experimental systems

that provide navigation cues through vibrating shoe inserts, offering discreet directional feedback through the feet.

While these technologies are promising, they may require training and smartphone integration. They should be seen as complementary to - not replacements for - core mobility skills.

Guide dogs

For some people, once they can navigate confidently with a white cane, they may find that a guide dog is a helpful next step. A guide dog works in partnership with their handler and can help speed up navigation and obstacle avoidance. →

However, a guide dog is not for everyone and there are strict criteria for applying for one, as well as a long application process. Recipients need to have core mobility and life skills before they apply.

Increasing visibility

As well as using a cane, it can be helpful to wear items that clearly signal your sight loss to others. These simple steps can make moving through public spaces less stressful and may prompt people to



BORIS DJURANOVIC / ADOBE STOCK

For some a guide dog is useful

offer appropriate support. Examples include:

Badges

Just wearing something as simple as a badge can be enough to help make other people aware of your vision impairment, especially in a small space such as a pub or community hall.

High-vis vests

A high-visibility vest can make all the difference when it comes to standing out, especially on roads or busy areas. You can buy vests designed specifically for people with sight loss.



KRAKENIMAGES.COM / ADOBE STOCK

Avoid blocking out sounds

Lanyards

Lanyards that indicate sight loss or disability can be especially helpful in places like airports, stations or large venues where staff are trained to recognise them and offer support.

General guidelines

Regardless of the equipment used, the fundamentals of safe travel remain the same:

Plan ahead

Make sure you're confident of your



SEVENTYFOUR / ADOBE STOCK

Wear sunglasses

route before you set off and try to travel at quieter times whenever possible.

Communicate clearly

Let others know your intentions when crossing roads or moving through busy areas.

Prioritise your hearing

Be as aware as you can be of what's going on around you – avoid blocking out sounds with headphones.

Use your remaining vision

Make the most of whatever vision you have – consider sunglasses, a peaked cap or a torch to improve contrast or reduce glare.

Identify landmarks

Choose distinctive features (a specific shopfront, a unique fence, a textured pavement area) to support orientation.

Take your time

It's always okay to stop, gather your thoughts and re-orientate yourself. 🇬🇧

Next steps

For more information, get in touch with MeSH on 01273391447.

Member voice

Our calendar of national events for 2026/27

We are pleased to offer a number of upcoming military dinners and events for our Members and guests to attend. These events bring our Members together and offer opportunity for camaraderie, socialising with peers, and new experiences in a welcoming environment. For the complete list of events taking place throughout the year, visit www.blindveterans.org.uk/events



The Royal Welsh cap badge

Military Dinner - The Royal Welsh

A fantastic opportunity to savour our military traditions, this formal dinner with regular members of the British Army, The Royal Welsh at Maindy Barracks promises to be an afternoon of laughter, camaraderie and delicious food.

Date: 4 September 2026
Registration Closes: 10 July 2026

Venue: 580 Squadron Reserve Centre
Maindy Barracks
Cardiff
South Glamorgan
CF14 3YE

There will be a Founder's Awards presentation during the dinner for a small number of 'Highly Commended' award recipients.

■ www.blindveterans.org.uk/hmscalliope2026 or call 0300 111 2233



A recent military dinner

Military Dinner - HMS Calliope

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.

Date: 4 December 2026
Registration closes: 9 October 2026
Venue: HMS Calliope
Shore Rd
Gateshead
NE8 2BE

There will be a Founder's Awards presentation during the dinner for a small number of 'Highly Commended' award recipients.

■ www.blindveterans.org.uk/hmscalliope2026 or call 0300 111 2233

Military Dinner - RAF Honnington

This event is a unique opportunity to savour our military history and heritage, so mark your calendars →

and get ready for a dinner to remember.

Date: 12 February 2027

Registration Closes:

18 December 2026

Venue: RAF Honington

Officers Mess

Bury St Edmunds

IP31 1EE

Founder's Day Awards will also be presented during the dinner for a small number of 'Highly Commended' award recipients.



RONNIE LEASK / WIKIPEDIA

Manchester Piccadilly

Remembrance Weekend Events

This year we are expanding our reach even further for Remembrance and will have a presence at the London Cenotaph, Manchester Piccadilly, and The City Chambers Edinburgh.

Events include:

- **Remembrance Service** – City Chambers Edinburgh – Sunday 8 November.



Edinburgh City Chambers

- **Engagement Dinner** – Double Tree Hilton Hotel Edinburgh – Sunday 8 November.
- **Service** – Manchester Piccadilly Station – Saturday 7 November.
- **Engagement Dinner** – Holiday Inn Manchester Piccadilly – Saturday 7 November.
- **Service of Remembrance** – St Peters Square Manchester – Sunday 8 November.
- **Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service** – Hampstead Cemetery London – Saturday 7 November.

- **Festival of Remembrance** – Royal Albert Hall – Saturday 7 November.
- **Victory Services Club Evening** – Trafalgar Room London – Saturday 7 November.
- **Remembrance Parade** – London Cenotaph – Sunday 8 November.
- **You can register your interest in any of the above events at www.blindveterans.org.uk/events or by calling 0300 111 2233.**



POA(PHOT) MEZ MERRILL/MOD

The ceremony at the Cenotaph in November 2010

National Creative Programme

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

Here are the projects available from the NCP in July. You can take part in as many projects 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.

Camper van model:

This is a slightly more complex vehicle model with 70 pieces in total. It will come with a step-by-step guide to help you place the pieces. This would be a great model to try painting with acrylic or water-based paints to make a brightly coloured design! Finished model is 10cm height x 10 cm width x



Camper van model



Butterfly mosaic

23cm length. (Confident beginners or more experienced model makers).

Butterfly mosaic:

We've designed this mosaic with the help of member and mosaic artist Paul Watts. You'll receive a 22cm butterfly base, and your tiles will be separated into labelled bags for you, with a step-by-step pattern guide. This pattern allows for a more individual approach: there are some parts where you can experiment and add your own personal touch with mixed bags of "filler" tiles.

Please note, tile colours may vary as we try to use our leftover stock, but the shapes and quantities for each step remain the same. (Reasonably complex, some experience needed).



Locomotive model

Locomotive model:

We have had a lot of requests for model vehicles, particularly trains. We really hope you enjoy this model of a locomotive. Some of you may have done this before, but you are welcome to take part again! This is a simpler model than some of our others with 30 pieces. The finished model is 13cm high, 23cm long and 8cm wide. (Suitable for beginners & more confident model makers).

Ice cream mosaic:

We enjoyed designing this summery mosaic for you to take part in! The design has five steps to follow and your tiles will come pre-sorted into labelled bags for you. The design is a vanilla ice cream with either chocolate or strawberry sauce, →



Beginners mosaic

and a chocolate dipped cone – unfortunately made of tiles and not edible! (Suitable for confident beginners).

Pastels kit:

Chalk pastels are a wonderful art medium used to create vivid scenes. This beginners kit contains a pack of 24 pastel chalks, blending stumps, putty eraser and specialist pastel paper. There are some hints and tips to get used to the techniques and some creative prompts to help you get started. We really help you enjoy this new medium and would love to see any artwork you create – you can share a photograph via email. (Suitable for beginners or experienced pastel artists)

Also available:

- **Beginners mosaic kit**
- **Greetings cards papercraft**
- **Botanical sketchbook drawing kit**
- **Jeep model kit (some remaining kits of this more complex model)**
- **Deer head & woodland trio simple wooden models**
- **Holiday landscapes watercolour painting**

Upcoming projects inspired by your suggestions:

Autumn indoor gardening, peacock wooden model, carousel wooden model, flowerpot mosaic, Christmas

mosaics & papercraft and more! You can register your interest for these now by leaving a message on the NCP voicemail. Please note, any pre-orders for upcoming projects will be sent out when they are ready later in the year.

- **If you would like to be added to one of our regular distribution lists to automatically receive the projects you enjoy, please give us a call and let us know your preferred craft types. You can choose from wooden models, mosaics, papercraft, drawing, sketching, indoor gardening or outdoor gardening and you're welcome to take part in as many as you like!**

Creative collaboration – butterfly mosaic

We're delighted to share our new butterfly mosaic design with you, which has been designed collaboratively with member and keen mosaic artist, Paul Watts.

Paul has been making mosaics for years, after being introduced to this hobby during a visit to a Blind Veterans UK centre of wellbeing. As his confidence has grown, he's experimented with different

techniques and has started creating his own designs. Paul uses tile cutters to create intricate designs. He designed a beautiful butterfly mosaic in 2025, using bright contrasting colours in a symmetrical pattern.

Paul has given permission for the National Creative Project to use his design as inspiration to replicate a butterfly mosaic for our members to take part in. We've created the design using shaped tiles (no tile cutters required) and our usual step by step process. This is a more complex mosaic design as we know some of you are now very familiar with the mosaic techniques we regularly use and will enjoy a challenge! If this is a bit tricky, you're welcome to use



Paul's original mosaic – an intricate butterfly with a red body. The wings are made up of different shades of blue, black and white with a vibrant yellow stripe on each wing

“Mosaic art is very tactile, you can use your sense of touch to feel where the tiles need to go”

the tiles enclosed to create your own design – and remember you can always ask family and friends for help!

Mosaic art is very tactile, you can use your sense of touch to feel where the tiles need to go, and make sure they're lined up with the edges of the base. To help make this craft more accessible we hand-sort all the tiles into labelled bags and create a step-by-step design so you don't have to sort your tiles out yourself. We also include a large piece of black paper to use as a contrast background, glue with a precision nozzle and tweezers to help with smaller pieces.

- **We hope you enjoy having a go at the butterfly mosaic – we've also got our simpler mandala mosaics and the beginners mosaic kit to get used to the technique and build up to trying something more complex. Please get in touch with Lucy Bradshaw if you'd like to discuss getting started with creating your own complex mosaic designs via ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk.**



Quiz time

Test your general knowledge

1. Which country has the bigger population, Scotland or Ireland?

2. In the website browser address bar, what does the WWW stand for?

3. Before the Beatles were formed, John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison were members of what group?

4. What is the largest mountain range in South America?

5. Which country consumes the most chocolate per person in the world?

6. How many brains does a Leech have?
7. The musical Cats is based on a book by which author?

8. In a game of poker, what does a “flush” consist of?

9. What is the only type of bird that can fly backwards?

10. What is the study of insects called?

Answers on back page 55



Caption: Which country consumes the most chocolate per person?



Family news

Birthdays

- Graham Bezer who celebrates his 100th birthday on 18 August 2026.

Mabel Boyle who celebrates her 100th birthday on 14 August 2026.

Thomas Brown who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 31 July 2026.

Denis Butcher who celebrates his 100th birthday on 15 July 2026.

Walter Butler who celebrates his 103rd birthday on 31 August 2026.

George Durrant who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 4 July 2026.
- Frank Gidlow who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 12 July 2026.

Robert Gravells who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 27 August 2026.

William Harkness who celebrates his 100th birthday on 18 July 2026.

Bernard Holt who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 20 July 2026.

Matthew Mackinnon-Pattison who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 14 August 2026.

John McCan who celebrates his 100th birthday on 12 July 2026. ➔

Kenneth Millard who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 13 July 2026.

Gwynneth Pedler who celebrates her 101st birthday on 23 July 2026.

Kenneth Phillips who celebrates his 100th birthday on 4 July 2026.

Marie Redshaw who celebrates her 101st birthday on 27 July 2026.

Norman Sims who celebrates his 100th birthday on 19 August 2026.

Joan Tanton who celebrates her 102nd birthday on 11 July 2026.

John White who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 25 August 2026.

Arnold Wilkinson who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 15 July 2026.

Michael Woods who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 12 July 2026.

Condolences

Elizabeth Fillingham who died on 14 April 2026. She was the wife of Alfred Edward Fillingham.

Jean Fowler who died on 1 June 2026. She was the wife of Stanley Fowler.

Barbara Kirton who died on 29 April 2026. She was the wife of Brian Kirton

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

Eric Ambrose of Deal who died on 17 May 2026 aged 100. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Medical Corps.

Brian Beck of Sheffield who died on 4 May 2026 aged 91. He served as a Drummer in The Lancaster Regiment.

Gordon Blundell of Hinckley who died on 29 May 2026 aged 97. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Air Force.

Thomas Botting of Maidstone who died on 20 May 2026 aged 91. He served as a Fusilier in The Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Graham Caines of Clacton-On-Sea who died on 1 April 2026 aged 83. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Peter Chalmers of Pontyclun who died on 1 May 2026 aged 80. He served as a Marine Engineer in The Royal Navy.



Ronald Chesterton of Kidderminster who died on 1 May 2026 aged 91. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

Alan Cox of Crawley who died on 12 May 2026 aged 87. He served as a Private in The Royal East Kent Regiment.

Robert Crook of Preston who died on 13 May 2026 aged 81. He served as a Warrant Officer in The King's Division.

Anthony Croxall of Matlock who died on 26 April 2026 aged 93. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

Ronald Dilworth of Bristol who died on 21 May 2026 aged 99. He served as a Sapper in The General Service Corps.

Gordon Dodd of Llandrindod Wells who died on 4 February 2026 aged 88. He served as a Craftsman in Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Joseph Elsender of Chester Le Street who died on 1 May 2026 aged 87. He served as a Driver in The Royal Army Service Corps.

Simon Evans of Birmingham who died on 1 May 2026 aged 58. He served as a Guardsman in The Coldstream Guards.

Keith Gilbert of Frodsham who died on 7 June 2026 aged 91. He served as an Able Seaman in The Royal Navy.

Kenneth Griffiths of Port Talbot who died on 23 April 2026 aged 95. He served as an A.C.1 in The Royal Air Force.

Brian Hodson of Grantham who died on 18 May 2026 aged 94. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Army Catering Corps.

John Holloway of Littlehampton who died on 21 May 2026 aged 102. He served in The Royal Navy.

Christopher Holt of Stratford-upon-Avon who died on 26 May 2026 aged 63. He served as a Private in The Royal Pioneer Corps.

Idris Hopkins of Bath who died on 24 May 2026 aged 95. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Army Pay Corps.

Roger Houlston of Maidenhead who died on 1 March 2026 aged 90. He served as a Signaller in The Royal Signals.

Brian Jackson of Portsmouth who died on 4 June 2026 aged 92. He served as a Leading Seaman in The Royal Navy.

Lawrence Jeffery of Aylesbury who died on 1 May 2026 aged 98. He served as a Regimental Sergeant in The Grenadier Guards.

John Jones of Port Talbot who died on 14 May 2026 aged 90. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Mikolaj Kudzierko of Bolton who died on 29 April 2026 aged 101. He served as a Private in The Polish Army Resettlement Corps.

Derek Leagas of Horsham who died on 1 May 2026 aged 92. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Service Corps.

Robert Leedham of Darlington who died on 1 May 2026 aged 91. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Signals.

Conway Lonsdale of Pontypool who died on 1 May 2025 aged 95. He served as a Leading Radio Mechanic in The Royal Navy.

John Marsh of Worcester Park who died on 27 May 2026 aged 94. He served as a Flying Officer in The Royal Air Force.

Alec Penstone of Shanklin who died on 28 May 2026 aged 101. He served as an Able Seaman in The Royal Navy.

Colin Perks of Ross-On-Wye who died on 21 May 2026 aged 92. He served as a Private in The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Edward Perry of Poole who died on 10 May 2026 aged 76. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Robert "Bob" Petford of Stroubridge who died on 27 May 2026 aged 89. He served as a Gunner in The BOAR. →

Ronald Pottle of Gosport who died on 11 May 2026 aged 91. He serves as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

John Reed of Seaford who died on 20 May 2026 aged 94. He served in The Royal Engineers.

Alan Rothwell of Stockport who died on 15 May 2026 aged 89. He served as a Private in The South Lancashire Regiment.

Kenneth Shufflebotham of Stoke-On-Trent who died on 29 May 2026 aged 89. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

Jack Skertchly of Derby who died on 20 May 2026 aged 93. He served as a Corporal in The Sherwood Foresters.

Barry Stevens of Aylesford who died on 1 May 2026 aged 94. He served in The Hussars.

Frank Taylor of Redcar who died on 27 May 2026 aged 98. He served as a Gunner in The General Service Corps.

Charles Tebbutt of Kettering who died on 7 June 2026 aged 86. He served as an Acting Lance Corporal in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Frank Timmiss of Shildon who died on 20 May 2026 aged 88. He served as a Private in The Durham Light Infantry.

Brian Varley of Leeds who died on 14 May 2026 aged 92. He served as a Trooper in The Royal Armoured Corps.

Did you know that we can set up online Tribute Pages for the loved ones of staff, Members and Supporters? Find out more about setting up a Tribute Page here: blindveteransuk.muchloved.org



Contact details

Contact address Blind Veterans UK,
126 Fairlie Road, Slough, SL1 4PY
0300 111 22 33

Member Support Hub (MeSH):
01273 391 447

New Members: Anyone who may be eligible to join Blind Veterans UK, can phone our Membership Department on freephone **0800 389 7979**.

Rustington Centre: 01903 945 300

Llandudno Centre: 01492 868 700



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To listen to Review on Alexa, the command is: **“Alexa, ask TuneIn to play Blind Veterans UK Review.”** If you have any problems getting it to work, please contact the MeSH helpline on **01273 391 447**.

Quiz answers – from page 48

1. Scotland. 2. World Wide Web.
3. The Quarrymen. 4. The Andes.
5. Switzerland. 6. 32. 7. T.S Eliot.
8. Five cards of the same suit.
9. Hummingbird. 10. Entomology

A different format?

If you would like to receive your copy of Review in a different format, please contact your Community Support Worker or ROVI for more information.